

(February 1825 continued)

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE

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

(9-2)at Edgeworthstown. She is a little body that has wrought
(9-2)herself about my affections very intimately, from a leal
(9-2)truth of character which she showed in the whole of our
(9-2)proceedings during this affair. By the bye there is now no
(9-2)raw. The mother was quite subdued and reconciled, and
(9-2)her daughter has behaved to her with great generosity,
(9-2)adding to her income the means of keeping a carriage if
(9-2)she likes it, that she may not feel herself the less for
(9-2)parting with her daughter. The Gods have not made
(9-2)Jane poetical, and I believe Walter likes [her] the better
(9-2)for he would rather read Euclid than Homer, and rather
(9-2)poke a military friend off his horse with a real lance
(9-2)than read of Britomarte or Bradamante with their
(9-2)enchanted spears. On my part I am rejoiced that since
(9-2)the Gods have withheld that boon the Devil has not
(9-2)supplied the void with the affectation of that which exists
(9-2)not, for a pinchbeck taste was ever my dread and detestation
(9-2)-if I cannot have a gold watch a silver one will
(9-2)serve my turn.

(9-2)You will soon know more of her than I can, for ladies
(9-2)are capital at tracing out each other's characters, which
(9-2)are rather too evanescent for us. They were married
(9-2)on 3rd February, and came here to reside quietly for a
(9-2)little. Since I joined them on the 10th we have seen
(9-2)the Scotts of Harden and the Fergusons, and my little
(9-2)landlady did the honours of her chateau with very
(9-2)pretty embarrassment. My wife was detained by a bad
(9-2)cold. We join them in Edinburgh to-morrow, and in four
(9-2)or five days afterwards [they] set out for London, and
(9-2)then for green Erin. I conceive they will be at
(9-2)Edgeworthstown about the 20; but Walter will write as soon
(9-2)as he has his foot on the sod. I could have wished to
(9-2)have kept them longer here, for Jane seemed to take

(9-2)very kindly some trifling hints I gave her, and I am sure
(9-2)I could have cured some of her little deficiencies in the
(9-2)usage de monde, as she showed great readiness and good-
(9-2)humoured shrewdness in catching a hint. This however

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-3)in good society is easily acquired. I am greatly indebted
(9-3)to Mrs. Edgeworth's extreme kindness in offering such
(9-3)a desirable place of refuge for my little wanderers. They
(9-3)leave us on Monday next and their stay in London will
(9-3)only be to make a few emplettes of what household matters
(9-3)they want for the campaign, among other things the
(9-3)necessary burden of a travelling carriage. I conceive
(9-3)they will be at Edgeworthstown about the 20 March as
(9-3)he will be under the necessity of joining his regiment at
(9-3)Cork on the 24 at the very latest and I hope he will be
(9-3)wise enough not to run himself to a day. I observe
(9-3)I said this before but that is because I began my letter
(9-3)at Abbotsford and am concluding it at Edinburgh.
(9-3)Walks and rides in the country took up a good deal of
(9-3)our leisure, and here there are visits of congratulation
(9-3)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
(9-3)torn off. MS. continues overleaf] Remember me kindly
(9-3)to your brother the gallant engineer. If he is at home
(9-3)he will find Walter something in his line as I before
(9-3)hinted. He suffers a good deal under the attentions
(9-3)often paid him by strangers as the son of a literary person
(9-3)and considers receiving them as a taking of money under
(9-3>false pretences. I trust his wife and he will draw each
(9-3)other a little out for both are bashful, she in spite of lands
(9-3)and tenements, and he notwithstanding moustaches and
(9-3)schnur-bart.1

(9-3)I parted from Abbotsford with great regret ; for Auld

(9-3)Reekie, as we fondly call her, is covered in mist and
(9-3)smoke-very picturesque indeed, but far from being
(9-3)agreeable in other respects. You have leave to continue
(9-3)in the country all the year-happy person ! But happy
(9-3)you would be anywhere, who have such powers of amusing
(9-3)and entertaining at your own command and at the service

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(9-4)of others.-Always, dear Miss E., yours with the most
(9-4)sincere regard,

(9-4)WALTER SCOTT

[Butler and Familiar Letters]

(9-4)Remember me most kindly to my friend Harriet and
(9-4)make my most respectful compts and thanks acceptable
(9-4)to Mrs. Edgeworth and your good brother. Abbotsford
(9-4)was as sunny as its sunny inhabitants. . . .

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

(9-4)MY DEAR CHARLES,-Walter as Anne would inform
(9-4)you is now Benedict the married man and behaves with
(9-4)becoming dignity under his change of condition. They
(9-4)went to Abbotsford on the third current immediately
(9-4)after the marriage. I joind them there on the tenth and
(9-4)found them living very comfortably and quietly as if
(9-4)they had been house keepers for ten years. The people
(9-4)had a dinner one day and a dance the next so that
(9-4)you may suppose the wedding made some noise in the
(9-4)parish.

(9-4)We remaind at Abbotsford till tuesday when we

(9-4)returnd together bodily and since that have been feasting
(9-4)among our friends. Yesterday Mrs Jobson gave us a very
(9-4)handsome dinner and a party in the evening today they
(9-4)dine with us quietly I hope. I like Jane very much
(9-4)she speaks little but what she says is sensible and to the
(9-4)purpose and she possesses a degree of truth and candour
(9-4)which I have rarely met with either in man or woman.
(9-4)But you will soon judge for yourself for they propose to
(9-4)take Oxford on their way to London & set out on Tuesday
(9-4)next. I suppose they will reach you about the 26th
(9-4)and conclude you will have the pleasure of showing them
(9-4)the wonders of Alma Mater and that Mr Surtees will

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-5)render them the same assistance. After some consultation
(9-5)it has been settled that Walter shall have your wine
(9-5)sent down from London when he can get some that is
(9-5)right and neat. To send it from Leith as I proposed
(9-5)would be a most roundabout concern.

(9-5)Joy and Grief mingle strangely together in this world.
(9-5)I have lost my good and tried friend Charles Erskine.
(9-5)He died of an apoplectick fit being the third by which
(9-5)he had been previously twice attackd. The day before
(9-5)he died 1 he had written me a most kind letter on Walters
(9-5)marriage begging to know the very day as he meant
(9-5)notwithstanding his regimen to drink at least one bumper
(9-5)that day- Alas ! the day before the wedding was that of
(9-5)poor Charles's burial.

(9-5)I hope the studies are advancing actively. Your future
(9-5)success in life will in part at least depend upon the figure
(9-5)you make at college wherefore Incumbite remis. God has
(9-5)given you lively enough parts but the improvement
(9-5)depends upon yourself. Mama desires me to say that a

(9-5)large hamper stockd with good things for luncheon went
(9-5)to London by sea to be forwarded down by some of the
(9-5)waggons. I trust it will reach safe and in time to give
(9-5)our travellers some picking at your chambers or rooms
(9-5)or whatever you call them. I beg to have some of your
(9-5)Oxonian news after you have seen Walter & to let me
(9-5)know how you have entertaind them Always dear
(9-5)Charles [Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT] 2

(9-5)EDINR. 17 february [1825]

[Law]

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1825

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON, WINDSOR

(9-6)MY DEAR LORD,-I have both your letters and am very
(9-6)happy Mrs. Erskine is to remain at Melrose.1 It is very
(9-6)handsomely done in Mr. Riddells & your Lordships part
(9-6)and I believe will give her great comfort. Poor Charles
(9-6)will be much misssd in the country both by poor and rich
(9-6)and the marks of respect paid to his funeral by all ranks
(9-6)were very striking. I saw Mrs. Erskine two days since
(9-6)having gone to Abbotsford to bring home my young folks.
(9-6)I have seldom seen grief make such ravages upon a
(9-6)countenance. It was a very painful interview.

(9-6)I am rather anxious about Lord John he is one of those
(9-6)sharp blades which cut the scabbard unless cautiously
(9-6)sheathed-probably he will land in the army supposing
(9-6)him to have his free choice and as the best way of managing
(9-6)such a stirring spirit is to find him employment I
(9-6)should think his education might be gradually turnd in

(9-6)that direction. The spirit of active exertion which
(9-6)possesses him (for good I trust) is also applicable to evil
(9-6)and cannot be long idle without a sphere either for useful
(9-6)or less laudable exertion. Three or four years hence a
(9-6)good commanding officer will be the best pupil 2 he can
(9-6)have.

(9-6)The moans of Maxpapple are indeed silenced for the
(9-6)present. He came to Abbotsford when I had some of
(9-6)the Mertoun folks & Sir Adam with his lady and thus so
(9-6)far laid aside his dignity as a Hidalgo that he danced
(9-6)drank & sang Blue bonnets over the border together with
(9-6)that emphatic ditty of which the burthen runs

(9-6)Let the cymbals clang with a merry merry bang.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-7)So obstreperous was he in his mirth that my little daughter
(9-7)seemd to think that she had become allied to the " dancing
(9-7)Faun."

(9-7)I am impatient to see Harriot Wilsons biography 1 and
(9-7)have sent an order for it accordingly. I remember (what
(9-7)I trust in providence she has forgotten) that I had some
(9-7)25 years ago the honour of supping with the fair authoress
(9-7)not tete a tete however but vis-a-vis at one of the evening
(9-7)parties of Matt. Lewis where the company was sometimes
(9-7)chosen in that genre. I wont give a hundred guineas
(9-7)however to be struck out of the catalogue. I remember
(9-7)she was ugly-remarkably witty-& her society men
(9-7)courted for her mental [rather] than [her] personal
(9-7)accomplishments. At that time she had a sister Lady
(9-7)Berwick who had whitewashd herself and cut Harriot.
(9-7)This was not to be forgiven and as both had boxes at the
(9-7)opera & Harriots was uppermost she had now and then

(9-7)an opportunity of revenging herself by spitting on her
(9-7)sisters head. It is impossible but that the work must be
(9-7)delicious scandal and I will bet on Cannings side without
(9-7)having seen a letter of it.

(9-7)I sent the peerage man's letter to be answered by Mr.
(9-7)Gibson knowing nothing of him but from that document
(9-7)which shews him totally incompetent for the task
(9-7)he has undertaken. Upon the subject of Lady Louisa's
(9-7)operations I will write an epistle endeavouring to show

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(9-8)cause that in most cases it would be better even to keep
(9-8)indifferent books than to be hasty in condemnation.
(9-8)I twice weeded my own collection and have bought some
(9-8)of the cast volumes back again at more than I got for
(9-8)the whole.

(9-8)I spoke about getting two volumes of the Ancient
(9-8)Scottish poetry published as I told your Lordship last year
(9-8)and have succeeded with some difficulty in getting one
(9-8)for Dalkeith one for Ditton. They are in the binders
(9-8)hands. The work will soon be introuvable so I bid them
(9-8)bind them rather smartly. I have ordered the two new
(9-8)volumes of the Dictionary as the others may be picked
(9-8)up at the sales here though the price is considerably
(9-8)enhanced. I have for your acceptance a curious glossary
(9-8)of Northern words having subscribed for three copies
(9-8)and encouraged. I intended to send the other to the Duke
(9-8)but have given it to Charles Sharpe being rather of the
(9-8)two the least able to go to those who buy and sell.

(9-8)I have to add my best respects to Lady Montagu and
(9-8)Misses M with such of the Buccleuch ladies as may be at
(9-8)Ditton and am always truly your Lordships

(9-8)WALTER SCOTT

(9-8)A curious little book on the Traditions of Edinr.1 very
(9-8)cleverly written by a young man a bookseller here calld
(9-8)Chambers is making some noise here. I will desire the
(9-8)young man to send a copy for your Lordship to Gibson.

[PM. 18th February 1825]

[Buccleuch]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(9-9)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,-Nothing but the pressure
(9-9)of engagements arising out of the existing circumstances
(9-9)to use an oer-scuted phrase could have prevented me
(9-9)from long since expressing the high sense I feel of your
(9-9)kindness and of the friendly interest you take in my
(9-9)domestic happiness. I trust what has happened will be
(9-9)a means of assuring it-At present it promises all I wish
(9-9)-for the girl is rational well accomplished and of the
(9-9)excellent old fashioned Scottish character " tender &
(9-9>true." It is an odd story and something like what would
(9-9)happen in old times for the young people had met with
(9-9)some familiarity in the country two years since and I
(9-9)suppose there had been a little flirtation indeed I saw
(9-9)enough to make me get Walter away his age not permitting
(9-9)any thought of settlement at 22 and moreover my own
(9-9)ideas [of] hunting-law being too correct to think of
(9-9)snatching up the poor hare in her form before she had a
(9-9)fair start in the gay world-I fancy it was as I believe too
(9-9)often happens

(9-9)The lad forgot but the lass thought on.

(9-9)She never encouraged any admirers though she had
(9-9)enough of followers of course and when they met again
(9-9)at a more mature age the matter was made up somewhat
(9-9)to the temporary displeasure of an old presbyterian
(9-9)mother who disliked the moustaches of the young Hussar
(9-9)the poetical renown of the old Papa the Episcopalian
(9-9)principles of the whole party and above all disliked the
(9-9)parting with the only object on which she had been long
(9-9)in the habit of inflicting her whole attention and croaking.
(9-9)However we got perfectly reconciled and all I have to
(9-9)regret is that she has given a girl naturally sweet tempered
(9-9)sensible and amiable a reserve in manner which she will
(9-9)probably never get the better of.

(9-9)I was with them for two or three days before they
(9-9)returned from Abbotsford and the little Bride became

(9-10)familiar with me and cheerful even gay within our little
(9-10)circle. But no sooner did she meet the mother again than
(9-10)the spell seemed to operate and she shrank back into
(9-10)silence. Today I had to walk with the mother and
(9-10)daughter to some distance. As wont we were all sadness
(9-10)and ceremonial, but when we returned Mamma left us
(9-10)and my little friend became lively and communicative
(9-10)and told me with great naivete and humour all her little
(9-10)puzzles about returning her visits & preparing for her
(9-10)journey and so forth. I wish to God she had been to
(9-10)stay here for some time when I could have coupled her
(9-10)up with Sophia on whose tact and taste I can so perfectly
(9-10)depend for the thawing of this species of frost is always a
(9-10)little perilous. She has however excellent sense and
(9-10)principle and Walter has seen so much of good society
(9-10)at home and abroad that I daresay her manners will be

(9-10)formed without her character being altered. It would be
(9-10)miserable work to get back instead of my simple shy
(9-10)sensitive Scottish lassie a genuine specimen of the Irish
(9-10)free and asy with a green feather and a blue one crossing
(9-10)each other saltire wise in the front of a new tangled riding
(9-10)hat. But enough of all this gossip which flows to my
(9-10)pen as it would to my tongue had I the pleasure of chatting
(9-10)to your Ladyship. I must add in case of leading to
(9-10)mistakes that I only speak of the Lady of Lochores
(9-10)manner not her acquired accomplishment of which she
(9-10)has a good deal having received an excellent education
(9-10)under the best masters both in London and Paris. And
(9-10)now about the matters of the library I only petition you
(9-10)in judgement to remember mercy.¹ Think how many

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-11)antiquarian eyes have been moistened or rather how many
(9-11)antiquarian chops have slobbered over the fiery trial the
(9-11)doleful Auto da Fe held by the relentless curate and
(9-11)Barber. How many pounds of pure gold would be
(9-11)cheerfully given for the casts to speak in horse jockey
(9-11)phrase of the Dons library. Think of this my dearest
(9-11)friend and do not let your excellent judgement mislead
(9-11)you so far as to trust much to it in a matter where value
(9-11)depends on any thing rather than sense and utility.
(9-11)Dread, my dear Lady Louisa that in preferring some
(9-11)comely quarto to a shabby duodecimo your Ladyship
(9-11)may be rejecting the editio princeps. Consider that in
(9-11)banishing some antiquated piece of polissonerie you may
(9-11)destroy the very work for which the author lost his ears

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1825

(9-12)two centuries since and which has become almost
(9-12)introuvable. Then there are so many reasons for not

(9-12)parting with duplicates for they may have a value in
(9-12)being tall or a value in being short or perhaps in having
(9-12)the leaves uncut or some peculiar and interesting misprint
(9-12)in a particular passage that there is no end to the risque
(9-12)of selection. So much for Bibliomania-But besides the
(9-12)whims of the book-collectors there are real and serious
(9-12)reasons why books should not be discarded but with the
(9-12)utmost caution. Many useless in themselves are curious as
(9-12)ma[r]king manners. Many neglected and run down when
(9-12)they appeared and ill spoken of by contemporary critics
(9-12)contain much nevertheless that is worthy of notice and
(9-12)preservation. These fall asleep like the chrysalis and
(9-12)awaken to glitter in the sun of popularity like the Butterfly
(9-12)-I firmly believe I could bring myself to send nothing
(9-12)to the bookstalls excepting school books and ordinary
(9-12)editions of English classics and that should be done with
(9-12)great caution. I do not condemn banishment to the
(9-12)garret or your ladyships more honourable species of
(9-12)relegation as the civilians call it by placing them on the
(9-12)upper shelves which will have this additional advantage
(9-12)that there may be some chance of getting an old
(9-12)antiquary's neck broken in clambering up to examine them.
(9-12)But actually parting with them is very hazardous. I
(9-12)remember when Dibdin that eminent Bibliomaniac went
(9-12)down to Lincoln and offered in the kindest manner a few
(9-12)of the best and most readable modern authors for some
(9-12)of their antiquarian treasures. They allowed him to
(9-12)take I think sixteen volumes and were confounded with
(9-12)his liberality in sending books to the extent of 300 or
(9-12)so in exchange. But Dib. like Tam o' Shanter

(9-12)Kend what was what fou brawly.

(9-12)The Lincoln nosegay 1 as it was called was sold for 1800 and

(9-13)the consequence was that when the Bibliomaniack went
(9-13)down to repeat his researches he was indignantly refused
(9-13)admission by the affronted parsons. I think here be
(9-13)feeds[?]. Adieu however dear Lady Louisa. One thing
(9-13)I am sure of that if the formation or reformation of a
(9-13)library depended upon high talent united with extensive
(9-13)information the most correct taste and the purest principle
(9-13)there could not be such a heaven born Librarian as She of
(9-13)Ditton. But you know what old Noll said to a man who
(9-13)threatened to take the sense of the house upon some
(9-13)particular point "Well" answered Noll perfectly conscious
(9-13)he was in the wrong " do so if you will and I'll take the
(9-13)nonsense of the house and see which will have the best of
(9-13)it"-Remember me most kindly to Lord & Lady
(9-13)Montagu to the former I wrote two or three days since.
(9-13)The little Buccleuch turns out a goodly youth with fine
(9-13)points of sense and generosity about him. A better
(9-13)selected course of reading & still more of conversation
(9-13)will do very much for him and I think Mr. Blakeney will
(9-13)accomplish this. Always dear Lady Louisa your truly
(9-13)honoured & obliged WALTER SCOTT

(9-13)EDIN. 21st Feby 1825.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON 1

(9-13)DEAR SIR WILLIAM,-A very ingenious mechanick Mr
(9-13)Thompson Gunsmith in this place and I believe belonging
(9-13)to the Household in that capacity has a particular wish
(9-13)to see His Majesty's Armoury with a view of perfecting

(9-14)a series of observations on the early history of fire arms.

(9-14)If such a favour can be granted I believe it will be conferred
(9-14)on a worthy and ingenious man.

(9-14)You will easily believe I was penetrated with gratitude
(9-14)for His Majesty's gracious and condescending message.
(9-14)My young people have just left us to join the 15th Hussars
(9-14)in Ireland which I fear will be a singular change for an
(9-14)only and indulged daughter but she who loves the
(9-14)soldier must carry the knapsack. Believe me with much
(9-14)regard Dear Sir William Yours most truly

(9-14)WALTER SCOTT

(9-14)EDINB. 22 Feby. [1825]

[Windsor Castle Library]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(9-14)DEAR WALTER,-I have your letter explaining all
(9-14)your negotiation about the Troop. I can without
(9-14)inconvenience advance the money for a longer or shorter
(9-14)period as the case may be and should it prove inconvenient
(9-14)to me as in some chances it may I can easily
(9-14)borrow it for you else where. But it seems to me the
(9-14)Captain elevates his terms in order to bear proportion as
(9-14)I suppose to your elevation on which with justice he
(9-14)congratulates you. I have sometimes heard matrimony
(9-14)compared in certain respects to hanging as we talk of the
(9-14)noose, turning off and so forth but the resemblance that each
(9-14)operation was an elevation never before occurred to me.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-15)It appears to me that the worthy & gallant Captain
(9-15)might have spared his hint about postponing his plans of

(9-15)advancement out of deference to you for if he cannot
(9-15)as I conceive obtain a guinea above the regulation by
(9-15)selling to another he must wait the convenience of the
(9-15)only person he can deal with. If the adjutant were to
(9-15)purchase at the regulation it would probably be by
(9-15)borrowing money with the purpose of selling again at
(9-15)advantage & I suppose were he to get 500, or 1000
(9-15)not to purchase it would be a thing he would understand
(9-15)very well & be quite willing to cede the right of purchase
(9-15)to you. So I would take good advice before I gave him
(9-15)more than 3000 which I understood to be his original
(9-15)demand. To sacrifice 600 more seems at least
(9-15)unnecessary unless you hear good reason for it. Your
(9-15)answer was quite prudent but if when in town you find
(9-15)yourself quite right at the Horse Gds. I dare say you may
(9-15)indulge him on the point of the deposit. The gentleman
(9-15)seems pretty sharp so-a brave, brave et demi-

(9-15)I am to have a meeting with Nicol Milne about the 8th
(9-15)March but I have great doubts of our making a bargain
(9-15)though we were near one last summer. He also will
(9-15)found on your elevation and though I would make some
(9-15)exertion for Faldonside as it would round us so handsomely
(9-15)yet I fear the old Nabal's demands will be higher
(9-15)than I ought to comply with.

(9-15)I presume this will find you under the hospitable roof
(9-15)of our friends at Piccadilly. I presume further your stay
(9-15)there will be short & dedicated to business and preparations.
(9-15)Respecting the latter I venture to offer one word
(9-15)of advice. Let the things you buy be good and substantial
(9-15)& have the most necessary articles of the best-but
(9-15)encumber yourself with as little as possible. A few silver
(9-15)things look well and pass off indifferent equipment of
(9-15)another kind. They are easily transported and apologize
(9-15)for want of china &c which would be soon broken on your

(9-15)travels.

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-16)We are all well here but dull from the want of Jane
(9-16)and you. I have had two divertisements however since
(9-16)you left us afire videlicet and a puppet show. I will tell Jane
(9-16)about them. Any letters you may send here put them in
(9-16)a packet addressd to me and Croker will frank them. He
(9-16)is at the Admiralty daily.

(9-16)My love attends Mrs. Nickie and Miss Dumergue.
(9-16)Always believe me Dear Walter Your affectionate papa
(9-16)WALTER SCOTT

(9-16)EDINR. 24 feby. [1825]

(9-16)I have settled to get the money forthcoming next
(9-16)month which I suppose will meet your views and wishes
(9-16)as you will not of course make any arrangement till you
(9-16)join the regiment.

(9-16)When you remember the breast clasp please observe it
(9-16)is to cost Jane and you one guinea each and is to have
(9-16)the names Jane & Wa[l]ter engraved on the inside to
(9-16)keep the old gentlemans heart the warmer.

(9-16)EDINR. 2d March [1825]

[Law]

TO MRS. WALTER SCOTT

(9-16)You must suppose my dearest Jane that the departure
(9-16)of those for whom we have been anxiously interested for
(9-16)so many weeks has made us feel rather dull here. For
(9-16)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.1

(9-16)The inclosed piece of paper will add a pen-feather to

(9-16)my pretty birds 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

17

(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 kitt 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 apothecarys

(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.

(9-17)I think however on consideration I have rather let my
(9-17)pretensions down in this same surgical simile. For as
(9-17)I intend my letters to be as elegant as Lord Chesterfields
(9-17)and as moral and instructive as that Dullest of all possible
(9-17)Doctors Dr Gregory's advice to his daughters 1 I expect
(9-17)you will fold them up read or unread and transmit them as
(9-17)a precious legacy to those who may follow you and who
(9-17)may care as little to be bored with them in their day as
(9-17)you in yours. On the other hand remember it is our
(9-17)bargain that you are never so much as to mend a pen

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-18)when you write me or think a moment either about
(9-18)subject or about expression. Sometimes perhaps I
(9-18)shall suggest topics as I did in my last which you answerd
(9-18)so faithfully from Abbotsford. I will however be
(9-18)extremely prudent in this. For instance I may ask you
(9-18)if you liked Warwick Castle or if you thought it belongd
(9-18)to the class of old chateaux which your classical neighbour
(9-18)calls stupit things. But on the other hand I will be careful
(9-18)not to enquire whether you were very glad to be rid of
(9-18)papa and his old stories as you passd the Border land &
(9-18)whether you did not feel his absence quite as great a
(9-18)relief as when you found that a certain good friend was
(9-18)only going to escort us as far as Darnwick toll and had no
(9-18)intention of being kirked alongst with us. Neither will
(9-18)I be so inquisitive as to ask how often Rebecca & pixie
(9-18)were turnd into the coach with you while the gallant
(9-18)Captain like the man in the little toy calld the Dutch
(9-18)Weatherhouse turnd out to smoke his segar al fresco upon
(9-18)the box.1

(9-18)But you will expect news instead of asking it and the
(9-18)best I have to tell you is that all were well at Shandwick

(9-18)Street and Castle Street by the last accounts. On the

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-19)night of tuesday broke out another dreadful fire in the
(9-19)High Street. I was waked at midnight with the ringing
(9-19)of bells and beating of drums and when I saw the sky
(9-19)entirely red with flame I could not help dressing myself
(9-19)& going to the scene of action where there was a most
(9-19)horrible confusion. I met our pet skeleton Major Stisted 1
(9-19)of the Royals and getting with him through the guards
(9-19)I got a fine view of the fire which destroyd all [the]
(9-19)tenement on the opposite side of the street from that
(9-19)where I had my post-the sight was terribly grand-This
(9-19)is one divertisement we have had since your departure.
(9-19)Another is an excellent exhibition of Italian puppets
(9-19)extremely well managed. We went to see it and I wishd
(9-19)for you often as the exhibition was extremely comic. A
(9-19)restive mule which flung its rider was extremely well
(9-19)managed and not less so a coach run away with by the
(9-19)horses--but the last might have awakend recollections
(9-19)of the tragical accident which befell your own chariot.

(9-19)Since I began this letter I have been over to fulfill an
(9-19)old promise which carried me for two days to Sir Robert
(9-19)Prestons at Valleyfield 2 on your side of the water. We had
(9-19)charming weather and I visited the old Monastery of
(9-19)Culross which has been a magnificent place. Moreover
(9-19)there [are] at Valleyfield the finest gardens I ever saw
(9-19)in Scotland, And to crown all Sir Robert gave me some
(9-19)fine old carved oak which had come from the church.
(9-19)I think it will make a beautiful back to a Gothick couch
(9-19)for Abbotsford Adieu my dearest Jane you are tired and
(9-19)so am I-Your affectionate father

(9-19)WALTER SCOTT

(9-20)time has made some change on the original but I must
(9-20)thank God for good health and the continued power of
(9-20)study and of amusement. Believe me Always truly yours

(9-20)WALTER SCOTT
(9-20)EDINR. 5 March [1825]

[Halliburton Scott]

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 21

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

(9-21)MY DEAR MORRITT,-I am sorry to see by yours this
(9-21)morning received that a letter of mine dated about three
(9-21)weeks since or more has not reachd you and where it is
(9-21)now must be uncertain. I directed it Brighton unless I
(9-21)had made some blunder thro' absence. It was written
(9-21)about a week before I had your former kind marks of
(9-21)remembrance 1 which by my calculation it should have
(9-21)crossd on the road. It is of no great consequence unless
(9-21)that it mentiond the particulars of poor Lady Alvanleys
(9-21)death & the circumstances of my sons then approaching
(9-21)marriage more confidentially than I would probably have
(9-21)stated either to another. I may however have it back
(9-21)from the dead Letter office unless it has fallen into the
(9-21)hands of some Curious Impertinent 2 who after all will find
(9-21)little in it to make it worth putting into his private
(9-21)collection.

(9-21)I told you therein how much the poor Miss Ardens
(9-21)were thrown on my willing but ineffectual assistance in
(9-21)their late extreme distress and what a strange contrast
(9-21)it was betwixt their deep affliction and the necessity I was
(9-21)under of passing from their chamber of mourning to
(9-21)remove obstacles and smooth difficulties and arrange

(9-21)settlements for what was to happen in my own family.
(9-21)The dear young ladies behaved themselves like themselves
(9-21)and you know it is difficult to say more. But having seen
(9-21)them so happy under the affectionate protection of our
(9-21)excellent friend during the ten or twelve days when they
(9-21)were our guests at Abbotsford it was a sight to melt a

(9-22)heart of steel to [some words written between pages] and from
(9-22)circumstances their almost solitary state of affliction.

(9-22)With the incident in my own family I have every reason
(9-22)to be pleased. There had been a little flirtation betwixt
(9-22)the young folks two years ago and more which it seems
(9-22)had not been forgotten by either. And the young ladys
(9-22)walk through the Edinburgh public where in the character
(9-22)of an heiress she did not want danglers & admirers had
(9-22)not it seems put the absent Hussar entirely out of memory
(9-22)as she was never known to have encouraged any one else.
(9-22)The mother one of the Stewarts of Stenton in Athole a
(9-22)good and excellent person but rather high in the presbyterian
(9-22)buckle was very averse to part with an only child to
(9-22)follow "a soldier laddie." So we had the old song to sing

(9-22)My bonny Lizie Baillie
(9-22)Your mither canna want ye
(9-22)Sae let the trooper gang his lane
(9-22)And carry his ain portmanteau.

(9-22)But as bonnie Lizie or rather bonnie Janie would not join
(9-22)in the chorus-as in every respect of situation character
(9-22)and so forth and even in that of fortune the match
(9-22)could not be excepted against-as the good ladys pastor
(9-22)took the pains to convince her that a hussar might get
(9-22)to heaven even though the son of a poet-as all the other

(9-22)friends of the young lady were anxiously desirous of the
(9-22)match-and above [all] as she got a little better
(9-22)acquainted with us she has ended by being very fond of her
(9-22)son in law moustaches snur-bart and all. She has done
(9-22)a great duty by her daughter breeding her up in excellent
(9-22)principles & with great care both as to useful & elegant
(9-22)accomplishments but a little too strictly which has led
(9-22)to a silence and reserve in the little ladys manner unless
(9-22)she is quite acquainted with her company when she is
(9-22)gay as well as sensible and particularly goodhumour and
(9-22)considerate. She is low in stature which is not amiss
(9-22)Walter being as you know Patagonian-has no pretensions
(9-22)to beauty but is what may be fairly calld pretty and as

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-23)she has fine eyes and regular features she looks at times
(9-23)extremely interesting. I could dispense with her extreme
(9-23)likeness to Bonaparte though it saves the trouble of a long
(9-23)description. Her father long a respectable Merchant in
(9-23)London and latterly laird of Lochore left her in lands &
(9-23)funds the value of from 50,000 to 60,000 only burthend
(9-23)with her mothers jointure which she has augmented very
(9-23)generously on this occasion. With what Walter has of
(9-23)his own and what I can afford to do for him now & hereafter
(9-23)he will be in possession of an easy though not overgrown,
(9-23)income but is very sensibly determined to push on
(9-23)in his military carrear for which to say truth he is
(9-23)singularly well calculated and would otherwise sink into a mere
(9-23)shooting hunting squire. He expects soon to get a troop
(9-23)and in the meantime joins his regiment in Ireland after a
(9-23)few days stay in London which I suppose they will reach
(9-23)by Monday next. They were to go by Oxford to see
(9-23)Charles now an inhabitant of the Classical quarters of
(9-23)Brazen Nose. I imagine with what importance he will
(9-23)do the honours of the University. Had Rokeby been

(9-23)tenanted your old fellow sportsman would certainly have
(9-23)made it a gite 1 and introduced his prize as a falcon comes
(9-23)with a dove in its clutch.

(9-23)I am truly happy to hear that Miss Morritys health is
(9-23)improving and that Anne is well. I would by no means
(9-23)expose either to the pain which must attend a visit to
(9-23)Lady Beresford who I fear by a line I had from Sir John
(9-23)is very very ill indeed. Sir John should he lose her as I
(9-23)fear is inevitable will deserve as much pity as any man
(9-23)in the world.

(9-23)Don Miguel Alava 2 always rankd very high among the

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-24)Spanish generals-it was beastly of the king to exile him.
(9-24)Hard too that a man who alone of [the] Duke [of] Wellingtons
(9-24)suit[e] escaped horse and man from the storm of
(9-24)Waterloo should suffer by so paltry an accident as you
(9-24)mention.

(9-24)I will write all about the Great Lords manuscripts when
(9-24)I hear from you having stuffd this multum in parvo letter
(9-24)with matter which I have more at heart however less
(9-24)important it may be. Lady Scott & Anne as well as
(9-24)Sophia join in kindest love to you & the ladies Ever
(9-24)yours sincerely
WALTER SCOTT

(9-24)I intended faithfully to have been in London this spring.
(9-24)But marriages are no joke and I fitted out our young
(9-24)couple suitably in the world that they might begin free
(9-24)and on their own income unanticipated so I must stay
(9-24)at home & make money instead of coming to town to
(9-24)spend it. Besides in summer I intend to go to Ireland to
(9-24)see how they come on. Why should you not toss up your

(9-24)hat for a trip to Dublin if as God grant your young ladies
(9-24)be well. You like travelling and never saw Patt in his
(9-24)own green island. Pray think of this.

[PM. 5th March 1825]

[Law]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

(9-24)CASTLE STREET Sunday the 13th March(1) [1825]

(9-24)DEAR CHARLES,-I am very glad you like your new
(9-24)Sister who seems to me a sweet girl sensible and
(9-24)affectionate and if no dasher just the more likely to make a
(9-24)domestic connection happy. I suppose you swaggerd
(9-24)about in great form at the head of your lions. Pray how
(9-24)did they stand the critique of your Oxonian loungers who
(9-24)are I know severe observers of lions of low degree & whose
(9-24)manes and tails are not managed comme il faut.

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

25

(9-25)Poor Elmesley! I I knew him very well and valued
(9-25)him as a most accomplishd scholar We have had a
(9-25)dreadful shock here with the awful catastrophe of poor
(9-25)Colonel Stanhope.² I forget if you saw him & his last wife
(9-25)Lady F[r]ederica here or at Abbotsford. He was the last
(9-25)man from whom an act so fatal was to have been anticipated
(9-25)but there is insanity in the family and he sufferd
(9-25)grievous torture from an ill cured wound. I lived much
(9-25)with him at Paris and always held him one of the most
(9-25)sensible as well as agreeable men I ever knew. But we
(9-25)hold our intellectual powers by a fea[r]fully slight tenure.
(9-25)When I saw [him] about two months since at Pennycuik
(9-25)where I passd a day chiefly to meet him I thought him
(9-25)very gloomy but did not wonder as it was the first time

(9-25)we had met since his wifes death who was also a great
(9-25)friend of ours.

(9-25)We are all here in the old way-Little Johnie is a little
(9-25)colded-that poor child is sadly delicate but I think &
(9-25)trust he will get stronger as he goes on. Lockhart remains
(9-25)chiefly in town & Sophia of course during the vacation.
(9-25)I go to Lochore today to remain tomorrow on some little

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1825

(9-26)business and when I return I will be at Abbotsford
(9-26)immediatly whither address your letters.

(9-26)I entirely approve of your accepting Dr Hughes's
(9-26)invitation it is impossible you can be with kinder or better
(9-26)friends. Mama and Anne send kind love. I will leave
(9-26)this paper in case any of them may add a few lines as it
(9-26)is not fair to send half sheets.1

(9-26)I hope Sir Alexr. Boswell 2 turns out well. He had the
(9-26)character here of being rather idle and inattentive. I will
(9-26)be glad to hear the learnd air of Oxford has worn this off.
(9-26)I am always Your affectionate father

(9-26)WALTER SCOTT

(9-26)EDINR. 13 March [PM. 1825]

(9-26)You have been long enough at Oxford to gain some
(9-26)notion of the genius Loci-how do you like it upon the
(9-26)whole and how far do you feel yourself qualified to keep
(9-26)abreast with the " right hand file" of students My
(9-26)kindest respects to Mr Surtees.

[Law]

TO THE MARCHIONESS OF HUNTLY 3

(9-26)DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,-A passage in a letter from
(9-26)your Ladyship to my friend Geo: Huntly Gordon relieved

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

27

(9-27)me from much anxiety by shewing me not that I had
(9-27)forgotten as I imagined some command of your Ladyship
(9-27)a communication from you which should have argued a
(9-27)state of dotage on my part but only that my memory had
(9-27)lost hold of some legend which I had told to you, a
(9-27)circumstance so natural to tellers of long stories that it is
(9-27)recorded to have befallen that empress of tale-tellers the
(9-27)princess Scherazade when she told stories for the benefit
(9-27)of her pretty neck.

(9-27)I quite recollect now the tale of Walter of Gaick who
(9-27)was I think a Cumming. He was not however the same
(9-27)with the Wolf of Badenoch called Alaster More Mac an Ri
(9-27)by the highlanders and who lies buried at Dunkeld that wolf
(9-27)was of a Royal Kennel being son to Robert IId or IIIId
(9-27)I forget which.1 This wolf was sire to all the Athole
(9-27)Stuarts with one family of which I am now connected by
(9-27)my little daughter in law having to her mother one of the
(9-27)Stewarts of Stenton. She had to her father what the
(9-27)world will think a better thing namely a respectable
(9-27)London Merchant who left her a considerable fortune-
(9-27)an important consideration to me, without such an
(9-27)indep[en]den[ce] my sons early settlement in life could not
(9-27)have been accomplished.

(9-27)To return to Walter of Gaick, my unlucky namesake, I
(9-27)think I had the story from Sir William Cuming Gordon 2
(9-27)who will doubtless recollect if there is more of it than my

(9-27)memory has retained. I think it continued to be an

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1825

(9-28)imprecation. May you die the death of Walter of
(9-28)Gaick.

(9-28)I fear little good can be done for Captain Fraser.¹ His
(9-28)ideas are very singular-He wants me to ask the Duke
(9-28)of Buccleuch, a minor and now studying at Cambridge
(9-28)to present his request to the King to patronise his work-
(9-28)This is out of the order of such things. Then he mingles
(9-28)even his prospectus with complaints against those whom
(9-28)he has been connected with in life and seems to intimate
(9-28)that his book is to contain an attack on individual
(9-28)characters for offences real or supposed which the public
(9-28)will not take the trouble to understand or enter into.
(9-28)Besides such private disputes are not fit subjects for a
(9-28)work inscribed to the King. Moreover he is about to
(9-28)give us a great deal of very indifferent English poetry
(9-28)which will overpower the effect of his music. If he would
(9-28)confine himself to his tunes and antiquities I have no
(9-28)doubt he might make a good deal by the publication
(9-28)but I greatly fear the plan he is adopting will be a losing
(9-28)one as it shews a want of judgement. I have great
(9-28)hesitation in writing to him not quite aware in what tone
(9-28)I should address him and something alarmed besides at
(9-28)his proposal to publish my private letters.

(9-28)With all this if I knew anything I could do for the poor
(9-28)gentleman and to save the music I would do it with all
(9-28)my heart but I fear it is impossible as his prospectus shews
(9-28)such a deal of bizarrerie. I think the best thing is to
(9-28)advise him to reserve his tracts on national matters and
(9-28)give us the music and the tradition relating to it by
(9-28)themselves and in the first instance and for such a publication

(9-29)it might be possible to get him a good list of subscribers
(9-29)which is the only way by which he will ever take
(9-29)any serious advantage from his labours. I am very sorry
(9-29)to see he talks so much about his own sufferings and
(9-29)misfortunes and the ill usage he has met with. It is
(9-29)wonderful how very little the publick cares about such
(9-29)complaints and on the other hand how easily those who
(9-29)are hasty and rash in making them may get into trouble
(9-29)from the anger they excite in the parties attacked. In
(9-29)short I am afraid our poor friend is a little too fanciful and
(9-29)irritable to be trusted with wielding that delicate and
(9-29)double-edged weapon a pen. I have given him the best
(9-29)advice I could both in respect to his real attainments and
(9-29)to the protection which your Ladyships goodness has
(9-29)extended to him. It is the last circumstance which
(9-29)induces me to give your Ladyship this trouble.

(9-29)Poor Huntly Gordon is much gratified by your Ladyships
(9-29)kindness and [the] Marquis's. I wish he had some quiet
(9-29)little kirk and some quiet little wife, the one to support
(9-29)him, and the other to converse with him for his present
(9-29)situation is rather precarious both as conversation and
(9-29)fortune are concerned and [he] deserves to be fortunate as he
(9-29)joins an excellent disposition to considerable talents and
(9-29)accomplishments.

(9-29)I must apologise for this bavardage which I will put inside
(9-29)the marquis's cover being quite unworthy of postage.
(9-29)Ever your Ladyships honoured and obliged humble
(9-29)Servant,

(9-29)WALTER SCOTT

(9-30)I think I told you in my last that I meant to go one day
(9-30)with Mr. Baillie to Lochore and take Mr. Laidlaw with
(9-30)me as he was in town at the time. It is his opinion as

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-31)well as mine that this property in which Janes confidence
(9-31)and affection have given you so deep an interest is under
(9-31)excellent management and rapidly improving in value
(9-31)with the improvement of the times. Its value may be at
(9-31)present held very low at 40,000 or from that to 45000
(9-31)but if times hold good it will reach 50000 as readily
(9-31)as any estate in that country. The parks are particularly
(9-31)excellent and it was a novelty to South Country bodies
(9-31)to hear of grass land at 3., and so far as 4., per acre.
(9-31)Allowing for the dead season of the year the grounds
(9-31)lookd very well. There is a noble screen of thriving
(9-31)planting which forms a fine background to the House and
(9-31)rises nearly to the top of Bennarty and there is a great deal
(9-31)more plantation and many full grown trees. Upon the
(9-31)whole it is a most gentlemanlike place-no rail roads
(9-31)needed there. You may send the cookmaid with the coal
(9-31)scuttle to, dig out the coals she wants for the day. Plenty
(9-31)of lime stone rock and plenty of freestone for the
(9-31)quarrying. I find Jane had orderd some spots of planting
(9-31)which were stopd till her pleasure should be known. I
(9-31)took on me to say they should be proceeded with. I can
(9-31)assure you the places were chosen with great taste though
(9-31)she was sly enough not to allow she knew any thing about
(9-31)plantations I suppose for fear she should hear more than
(9-31)enough upon that subject. I must not omit the game
(9-31)which is plenty. I sprang several pheasants in my walks
(9-31)for which you are obliged to the vicinity of the Ld. Chief
(9-31)Commissioner for as he had little corn last year the birds
(9-31)had come down upon Lochore. The gardner John
(9-31)Macleod by name reported to me that he had destroyd

(9-31)of vermin 2 wild cats 8 household cats gone wild four
(9-31)pole-cats one of terrible size & weight which I think
(9-31)must have been a marten five weasels three whittrets 1
(9-31)besides; sundry magpies. I exhorted him to continue to
(9-31)set the traps assuring him it would be held good service.
(9-31)I did not wait to see how the parks let & leave it to Mr.

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1825

(9-32)Baillie to write you about that & matters of business.
(9-32)We were most comfort[ably]1 lodged & accommodated
(9-32)during our stay & every thing seemd in perfect order on
(9-32)my arrival yesterday. I will write her fully to Edgeworthstown.
(9-32)Janes letter 2 is like herself sensible pretty
(9-32)and unaffected. I therefore[e] conclude she writes easily
(9-32)and would not willingly believe the contr[ar]y because
(9-32)I should be sorry to think that our correspondence so
(9-32)agreeable to me was very troublesome to herself.

(9-32)The Lockharts are lazy and stay in town this spring so
(9-32)we have only Mama & Anne at Abbotsford. Both join
(9-32)in kindest love to you and Jane Always your affectionate
(9-32)father

WALTER SCOTT

(9-32)Write me precisely about the troop as soon as you can
(9-32)& be sure to make your figures legible. I see you will be
(9-32)a little short having had so much to pay for but you
(9-32)know when [you] want 50., or 100 I would rather you
(9-32)would draw than get in debt & above all there can be no
(9-32)occasion for any oeconomy which can trench on Janes
(9-32)comforts. I had the great pleasure to find a very kind
(9-32)letter from her lying here.

(9-32)Mrs. Jobson was quite well on thursday I calld before
(9-32)leaving town.

[Law]

TO MRS. WALTER SCOTT, DUBLIN

(9-32)ABBOTSFORD 20th. March 1825

(9-32)MY DEAREST CHILD,-I had the great pleasure of
(9-32)receiving your kind and attentive letter from London a
(9-32)few days later than I ought to have done because it was
(9-32)lying here while I was absent on a little excursion of
(9-32)which I have to give a most interesting account. Believe

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-33)me my love I am VERY grateful for the time you bestow
(9-33)on me and that you cannot give so great happiness to any
(9-33)one as to me by saying you are well and happy. My
(9-33)daughters who deserve all the affection a father can
(9-33)bestow are both near me and in safe guardianship the
(9-33)one under the charge of a most affectionate husband &
(9-33)the other under the eye of her parents. And for my sons
(9-33)I have taught them and what was more difficult I have
(9-33)taught myself the philosophy that for their own sake and
(9-33)their necessary advancement in life their absence from
(9-33)my home must be long and their visits short and as they
(9-33)are I hope able to conduct themselves wisely and
(9-33)honourably I have learned to be contented to hope the best
(9-33)without-making myself or them uneasy by fruitless
(9-33)anxiety. But for YOU my dear Jane who have come
(9-33)among us with such generous and confiding affection my
(9-33)Stoicism must excuse me if I am more anxious than
(9-33)becomes either a philosopher or a hackneyd man of the
(9-33)world who uses in common cases to take that world as it
(9-33)goes. I cannot help worrying myself with the question
(9-33)whether the object of such constant and affectionate care
(9-33)may not feel less happy than I would wish her in scenes

(9-33)which must be so new and under privations which must
(9-33)be felt by you the more that your earlier life has been an
(9-33)entire stranger to them. I know Walters care & affection
(9-33)will soften and avert these as [much] as possible and if
(9-33)there be any thing in the power of old papa to assist him
(9-33)in the matter you will make him most happy by tasking
(9-33)that power to the utmost.

(9-33)I wrote him to Dublin post restante that he might
(9-33)proceed in bargain[ing] for the troop and write me the
(9-33)terms that I might provide the Needful as mercantile
(9-33)folks call it in time & place suitable. If he has not
(9-33)already got my letter you can tell him to enquire for it.
(9-33)The rank of Captain gives I am aware a degree of
(9-33)consideration which is worth paying for and what is still
(9-33)more my little Jane as a Captains lady takes better

(9-34)accomodation every way than is given to a Subalterns.
(9-34)So we must get the troop by all means coute que coute.
(9-34)Now I will plague you with no more business but give an
(9-34)account of myself in the manner of Mr Jonathan Old Buck
(9-34)if ever you heard of such a person-You must suppose
(9-34)that you are busy with your work and that I am telling
(9-34)you some long story or other and that you now and then
(9-34)look round and say Eh as you do when you are startled
(9-34)by a question or an assertion-it is not quite Eh neither
(9-34)but just a little quiet interjection which shews you are
(9-34)attending-You see what a close observer papa is of his
(9-34)child.

(9-34)Well then when as I calculate (as a Yankee would say)
(9-34)you were tossing on the waves of the Irish channel I was
(9-34)also tossing on the Vadum Scotticum of Ptolemy on my
(9-34)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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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)calld 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

(9-35)stock enough for boring one with his old border ballads
(9-35)and battles without raising the bones of men who have
(9-35)slept 1000 years quietly on my own estate to assist him "-
(9-35)Then I can keep silence no longer but speak in my own
(9-35)proper person. "Pray do you not bore me Mrs Jane and
(9-35)have not I a right to retaliate"-"Eh" says the Lady
(9-35)of Lochore " how is it possible I should bore you and so
(9-35)many hundred miles between us "- "That is the very
(9-35)reason " says the Laird of Abbotsford " for if you were
(9-35)near me the thing would be impossible. But being as
(9-35)you say at so many hundred miles distant I am always
(9-35)thinking about you and asking myself an hundred
(9-35)questions which I cannot answer-for instance I cannot
(9-35)go about my little improvements without teasing myself
(9-35)with thinking whether Jane would like the green house
(9-35)larger or less-and whether Jane would like such line of
(9-35)walk or such another-and whether that stile is not too
(9-35)high for Jane to step over "--" Dear papa " says Jane
(9-35)"your own stile is really too high for my comprehension "-

(9-36)Well then-I am the most indulgent papa in the world
(9-36)and so you see I have turnd over a new leaf. The plain
(9-36)sense of all this rambling stuff which escapes from my pen
(9-36)as it would from my tongue is that I have visited for a
(9-36)day with Isaack Bayley your dominions of Lochore and
(9-36)was excellently entertaind and as happy as I could be
(9-36)where every thing was putting me in mind that she was
(9-36)absent whom I could most have wishd present for where
(9-36)every thing put me in mind of my child and she was so
(9-36)far distant the predominant feeling was a sort of quiet
(9-36)melancholy. It felt somehow like an intrusion and as [if]
(9-36)it was not quite right that I should be in Janes house while
(9-36)Jane herself was amongst strangers. This is the sort of
(9-36>false colouring which imagination gives to events and

(9-36)circumstances-Well-but I was much pleased with all
(9-36)I saw & particularly with the high order Mr Bayley has
(9-36)put everything [in] & I climbd Bennarty like a wild goat
(9-36)and scrambled through the old crags like a wild cat and
(9-36)pranced through your pastures like a wild buck (fat
(9-36)enough to be in season though) and squatterd through
(9-36)your drains like a wild duck and had nearly lost myself
(9-36)in your morasses like the Ninth Legion and visited the old
(9-36)Castle which is not a stupit place and in short wanderd
(9-36)from Dan to Beersheba and tired myself as effectually in
(9-36)your dominions as I did you in mine upon a certain walk
(9-36)to the Rhymers glen. I had the offer of your poney but
(9-36)the weather being too cold I preferd walking. A cheerful
(9-36)little old gentleman Mr Burrell & Mr Greig the clergyman
(9-36)dined with us and your health was not forgotten.
(9-36)On my retreat (border-fashion) I brought away your
(9-36)poney and the little chaise believing that both will be
(9-36)better under Peter Mathisons charge than at Lochore in
(9-36)case of its being let to strangers. Dont you think Jane's
(9-36)poney will be taken care of? It has reachd this place
(9-36)in great safety.

(9-36)The first day we arrived the weather was gloomy &
(9-36)rainy the climate sorrowful for your absence I suppose

(9-37)the next a fine sunny frost-the third when I came off
(9-37)so chequerd with hail showers as to prevent a visit I had
(9-37)meditated to two very interesting persons in the
(9-37)neighbourhood. " The Chief Commissioner & Charles Adam
(9-37)I suppose ? "-No they were not at Blair Adam-Guess
(9-37)again. "O Mr Betson of Contle 1 or Mr Sym of Blair? "-
(9-37)" Not a bit. Guess again "- " I wont guess any more."
(9-37)Well then it was two honest gentlemen hewn in stone
(9-37)some of the old knights of Lochore who were described to

(9-37)me as lying under your gallery in the kirk but as I had no
(9-37)reason to expect a warm reception from them I put off
(9-37)my visit till some more genial season.

(9-37)This puts me in mind of Warwick unvisited and of my
(9-37)stupidity in not letting you know that the Church is as
(9-37)well worth seeing as the Castle & you might have seen
(9-37)that notwithstanding the badness of the morning. All
(9-37)the tombs of the mighty Beauchamps and Nevilles are to
(9-37)be seen there in the most magnificent stile of Gothick display
(9-37)and in high preservation. However this will be for
(9-37)another day and you must comfort yourself that Life has
(9-37)something still to show.

(9-37)I trust you will find yourself happy for a few days at
(9-37)Edgeworth[s]town where I know you will be received with
(9-37)open arms for Miss Edgeworths kindness is equal to her
(9-37)distinguishd talents. Meanwhile here we are till May-
(9-37)that is Lady Scott, Anne and I for the Lockharts remain
(9-37)in town. Anne is to write and to send you the news of
(9-37)the great bal pare.

(9-37)I am glad you like my old acquaintance Matthews.²
(9-37)Some day I will make him shew his talent for your amusement
(9-37)in private for I know him well. It is very odd he is
(9-37)often subject to fits of deep melancholy.

(9-37)I saw Mrs Jobson on thursday-she was very well and

(9-38)in excellent spirits. We have establishd a commercial
(9-38)treaty the object of which is to let each other know when
(9-38)we have advices for Ireland.¹ Now and then when you
(9-38)wish to send a packet of letters you can put them up
(9-38)addressd to me under an outer cover John Wilson Croker

(9-38)&c &c Admiralty London who will send them safe and
(9-38)I will transmit them when they arrive.

(9-38)This is a letter of formidable length but our bargain is
(9-38)that we are to write long or short just as the humour
(9-38)chances to be and you are never to mend a pen or think
(9-38)upon a sentence but just write whatever comes readiest.
(9-38)My Love to Walter. I am rather anxious to know if he
(9-38)has got his horses safe over and whether all his baggage
(9-38)has come safe. I am glad you have got a carriage to your
(9-38)mind ; it is the best oeconomy to get a good one at once.
(9-38)Above [all] I will be anxious to know how you like the
(9-38)society of the ladies of the 15th. I know my Jane's quiet
(9-38)prudence and good sense will save her from the risque of
(9-38)making sudden intimacies and induce her to consider for
(9-38)a little while which of her new companions may suit her
(9-38)best in the mean while being civil to all.

(9-38)You see that I make no apology for writing silly letters
(9-38)and why should you think that I can think yours stupid-
(9-38)there is not a stupid bit about them nor any word or so
(9-38)much as a comma that is not interesting to me. Lady
(9-38)Scott and Anne send their kindest love to you and
(9-38)grateful compliments to Mrs Edgeworth, Miss M. Edgeworth,

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-39)our friend Miss Harriet and all the family at
(9-39)Edgeworthstown-Buona notte amata bene. Good night
(9-39)darling and take good care of yourself. I always remain
(9-39)Your affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

(9-39)Sir Adam was over here yesterday he is still lame but
(9-39)better than when we left him. Lady Fergusson is suffering
(9-39)through her stomach complaints.

(9-39)Now have I come by such a worm-eaten sheet of paper
(9-39)-it is a shame to be seen and will cost me an envelope
(9-39)that the postman may not read it through the flaws.

(9-39)They say a mans fortune depends on a wifes pleasure.
(9-39)I do not know how that may [be] but I believe a ladys
(9-39)comfort depends much on her fille de chambre I therefore
(9-39)beg to know how Rebeccah discharges her office.

[Bayley]

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

(9-39)MY DEAREST JANE,-I am afraid you will think me a
(9-39)merciless correspondent assailing you with so close a fire
(9-39)of letters, but having a frank I thought it as well to send
(9-39)you an epistle though it can contain nothing more of
(9-39)interest excepting that we are all well. I can however
(9-39)add more particularly than formerly that I learn from
(9-39)Mrs Baillie that Mrs Jobsons health is not only good but
(9-39)her spirits are remarkably so so as to give the greatest
(9-39)pleasure to all friends. I can see I think a very good
(9-39)reason for this for after the pain of the first separation
(9-39)from so dear an object and after having brought her mind
(9-39)to believe that your present situation presented to you a
(9-39)fair chance for happiness I can easily suppose that her
(9-39)maternal anxiety is greatly relieved from fears and
(9-39)apprehensions which formerly distressed her. Nothing
(9-39)can be more kind & more handsome than the way in
(9-39)which Mrs Jobson speaks of Walter which I mention

(9-40)because it gives me sincere pleasure and will I am sure
(9-40)afford the same to you or rather much more.

(9-40)My troops here are sadly diminishd. I have only Anne
(9-40)to parade for her morning walk and to domineer over for
(9-40)going in thin slippers and silk stockings through dirty
(9-40)paths and in lace veils through bushes & thorn brakes.
(9-40)I think Jane sometimes came in for a share of the lecture
(9-40)on these occasions. So I walk my solitary rounds
(9-40)generally speaking look after my labourers & hear them
(9-40)regularly enquire if I have heard from the Captain and
(9-40)his Leddy. I wish I could answer them Yes but have no
(9-40)reason to be impatient. This is the 23d. and I suppose
(9-40)Walter will be at Corke this evening to join the 15th. and
(9-40)that you are safe at Edgeworthstown to spend your first
(9-40)short term of widowhood. I hope the necessary hospitality
(9-40)to his mess will not occasion his dissipating too much
(9-40)for to be a very stout young man I know no one with
(9-40)whom what is calld hard living agrees so ill. A happy
(9-40)change in the manners of the times fortunately renders
(9-40)such abuse of the good creature wine much less frequent
(9-40)and less fashionable than it was in my days and Sir
(9-40)Adam's. Drinking is not now the vice of the times whatever
(9-40)vices & follies they may have adopted in its stead.

(9-40)I had proceeded thus far in my valuable communication
(9-40)when lo ! I was alarmd by the entrance of that
(9-40)terrific animal a two-leggd boar-One of the largest size
(9-40)and most tremendous powers. By the way I learnd from
(9-40)no less authority than George Canning what my own
(9-40)experience has since made good that an efficient bore
(9-40)must always have something respectable about him other
(9-40)wise no one would permit him to exercise his occupation
(9-40)and bestow his tediousness upon him.-He must be for
(9-40)example a very rich man (which perhaps gives the
(9-40)greatest privilege of all)-or he must be a man of rank and
(9-40)condition too important to be treated sans ceremonie-or
(9-40)a man of learning (often a dreadful bore) or of talents
(9-40)undoubted & privileged-or of pretensions to wisdom and

(9-41)experience-or a great traveller-In short he must have
(9-41)some tangible privilege to exercize his profession. Without
(9-41)something of this kind one would treat a bor[e] as you
(9-41)do a vagrant mendicant & send him off to the workhouse
(9-41)if he presumed to annoy you. But when properly qualified
(9-41)the Bore is more like a beggar with a badge and pass from
(9-41)his parish which entitles him to disturb you with his
(9-41)importunity whether you will or no.1 Now my Bore was
(9-41)a neighbour, a complete gentleman and an old friend but
(9-41)unhappily for those who know him master of all Joe
(9-41)Millars stories of sailors and Irishmen and full of quotations
(9-41)from the classics as hackneyd as the post horses of
(9-41)Melrose. There was no remedy. I must either stand his
(9-41)shot within, doors or turn out with him for a long walk and
(9-41)for the sake of elbow room I preferd the last. Imagine an
(9-41)old gentleman who has been handsome and has still that
(9-41)sort of pretension which leads him to wear tight pantaloons
(9-41)and a smart half boot neatly adapted to shew off his leg.
(9-41)Suppose, him as upright and straight as a poker if the
(9-41)poker's head had been by some accident bent to one side.
(9-41)Add to this that he is as deaf as a post 2-consider that I was
(9-41)writing to Jane and desired not to be interrupted by much
(9-41)more entertaining society-Well I was had however-
(9-41)fairly caught-and out we sallied to make the best we
(9-41)could of each other. I felt a sort of necessity to ask him
(9-41)to dinner in mere good neighbourhood but the invitation
(9-41)like MacBeths Amen stuck in my throat. For the first hour
(9-41)he got the lead and kept it-but opportunities always
(9-41)occur to an able general if he knows how to make use of
(9-41)them. In an evil hour for him and a happy one for me he
(9-41)started the subject of the intended rail-road-there I was a
(9-41)match for him having had on tuesday last a meeting with

(9-42)Harden the two Torwoodlees and the engineer on this subject
(9-42)so that I had at my finger ends ever[y] cut every lift
(9-42)-every degree of elevation or depression-every pass in the
(9-42)country and every possible means of crossing them. My
(9-42)friend as Maisie would have it is only a renter of a place in
(9-42)my neighbour[hood] so was no way interested in what might
(9-42)have engaged the attention of a proprietor. So I kept the
(9-42)whiphand of him completely and never permitted him
(9-42)to get off the railway again to his own ground-In short
(9-42)so thoroughly did I bore my Bore that he sickend and gave
(9-42)in taking a short leave of me when I had adroitly brought
(9-42)him to the nearest turn to his own house. Seeing him in
(9-42)full retreat I then ventured to make the civil offer of a
(9-42)friends [?] dinner. But the rail-road had been breakfast
(9-42)luncheon dinner & supper to boot-he hastily excused
(9-42)himself and left me at double quick time sick of railroads
(9-42)I dare say for six months to come.-But I must not forget
(9-42)that I am perhaps abusing the privilege I have to bore
(9-42)you being that of your affectionate papa.

(9-42)How nicely we could manage without the said rail road
(9-42)now the great hobby of our Teviotdale lairds if we
(9-42)could by any process of conjuration waft to Abbotsford
(9-42)some of the coal and lime from Lochore. Though if I
(9-42)were to wish for such impossibi[li]ties I would rather
(9-42)desire Prince Hoseins tapestry in the Arabian Nights to
(9-42)bring Walter & Jane to us now and then than I would wish
(9-42)for " Fife and all the lands about it." 1

(9-42)By the bye Jane after all though she looks so demure is
(9-42)a very sly girl and keeps her accomplishments to herself.
(9-42)You would not talk with me about planting and laying
(9-42)out ground and yet from what you had been doing at
(9-42)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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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

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

[Bayley]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(9-43)ABBOTSFORD, March 23, 1825

(9-43)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,-I calculate, as the
(9-43)Americans say, that this will find the Lady of Lochore

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(9-44)with her Schwartz Ritter as a friend of mine calls Walter
(9-44)(alleging that he is a croat in disguise and that he longs
(9-44)to ask him about the battle of Austerlitz) I say I hope that
(9-44)this will find the black hussar and his little bride at quiet
(9-44)moorings at Edgeworthstown though I suppose the
(9-44)gentleman's stay will be very brief. I hope my dear little
(9-44)Jane will get over her fears, and show to such advantage
(9-44)as her quiet nature will permit as with all her humility
(9-44)and shyness she has at the foundation a strong share both
(9-44)of principle and good sense with fortitude where it is
(9-44)necessary. I am anxious to hear she is safe on your side
(9-44)of that vile channel, and under the protection of the kind
(9-44)friends who have offered her hospitality.

(9-44)You wished to have for a medical friend 1 I think one
(9-44)of Spice's puppies. I did not send you one or indeed keep
(9-44)any of the first litter which is seldom good for much but
(9-44)she will have a family this spring and as the sire is of high
(9-44)fame and she herself one of the best-bred terriers in
(9-44)Scotland I wish to know whether you still wish me to keep
(9-44)a whelp and whether it should be male or female or if

(9-44)you would prefer a brace. Spice is quite recovered of
(9-44)her asthma notwithstanding Miss Harriets most ominous
(9-44)dream. She despatches rats and vermin in the most
(9-44)knowing stile and is an extremely kind and sensible
(9-44)creature. She is a capital specimen of the

(9-44)Fierce terriers wont in high-hill'd Liddesdale
(9-44)To storm the wild cat's lodge and badgers rough.2

(9-44)How does your literary undertaking come on ? and
(9-44)have you determined to play the incognita ? If so it will
(9-44)cost you bold fibbing if it can be termed so when one denies
(9-44)what no one has a right to enquire into. Have you heard
(9-44)from Mrs. Fox Lane whose absence at this time I sincerely
(9-44)regret as I know she would have been kind to Jane. I

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-45)hope she- will bring some Venetian or Sicilian ballads
(9-45)home with her the prettiest musical importations in the
(9-45)opinion of such vulgar hearers as I am. 1 We are rather
(9-45)lonely here, having nobody but Lady S. Anne and myself
(9-45)at Abbotsford Lockharts business detaining him in
(9-45)town : the want of Sophia and little Johnie is rather
(9-45)annoying. I have given Johnie a pony so very small that
(9-45)it is less than many dogs otherwise so beautiful[ly] made
(9-45)and so active that it might serve the king of Lilliput God
(9-45)save his grace. Johnie with a little assistance rides into the
(9-45)hall and dining parlour and like the minstrels of old " up
(9-45)to the fair board-head " and the pony perfectly understands
(9-45)the value of a dainty piece of bread. When I write
(9-45)about these trifles you may be sure I have little else to say.
(9-45)The people are all mad here about joint stock companies
(9-45)and the madness which possesses John Bull has caught
(9-45)his speculative brother Sawney. No man can commit the
(9-45)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

(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.¹ 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

(9-46)attend Mrs. Edgeworth and all your kind family.-

(9-46)Always, my dear Miss Edgeworth, most respectfully yours,

(9-46)WALTER SCOTT

[Butler and Familiar Letters]

TO HIS NEPHEW WALTER SCOTT

[Extract]

(9-46)ABBOTSFORD, 23rd March 1825.

(9-46)My DEAR WALTER,-I desired your cousin to look into

(9-46)your affairs and see what cash you needed, and by his

(9-46)report I send you a cheque for 30, to pay your tailor's

(9-46)bill and other inevitables. I learn you are living with

(9-46)economy on your pay, which is very right, and a good

(9-46)lesson to begin with. Walter would give you all the last

(9-46)Edinburgh and Abbotsford news. I fancy you did not

(9-46)see his Cara Sposa. I was visiting her Fifeshire property at

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-47)her request since the Session rose, and it is a very fine

(9-47)estate indeed. Your cousin may think himself very

(9-47)fortunate in getting so handsome a property with a pretty

(9-47)and amiable young person. ...

(9-47)Let me know how you come on at your new institution,

(9-47)and what your motions are likely to be when you get your

(9-47)commission, and all about it. ...

(9-47)We are here, Anne, Lady Scott and I, rather lonely

(9-47)wanting all our natural beaux and useful persons, but

(9-47)we rub on as well as we can. Dogs, etc., are all in

(9-47)handsome enjoyment of their health, and the chateau is

(9-48)tendency and suffers usually on shipboard.

(9-48)My vexation is from finding you have not heard from
(9-48)[us] though I have written three times one to Walter Dublin
(9-48)paste restante and twice to you. The first is on business
(9-48)and I am surprized he has not had it.1 It was in general
(9-48)to apprize him of the terms on which he could agree with
(9-48)Captain Macalpine for his Troop and in addition to 2100
(9-48)(I say two thousand one hundred pounds) now [with]
(9-48)Coutts & deposited for that purpose I would find him
(9-48)the overplus which I think was to be about 1500 for
(9-48)which we can afterwards arrange together. Beg him to
(9-48)be very precise concerning what is to be done in this
(9-48)matter and you had better write me than he because
(9-48)paying money beyond regulation though every day done
(9-48)[is not] strictly regular. I fear in succeeding in this great
(9-48)object you will lose your new acquaintance Mrs
(9-48)MacAlpine whose manner you seem to be pleased with.

(9-48)My two letters addressd to you were both sent to
(9-48)Edgeworthstown not being aware of the alteration of your
(9-48)motions. I hope Walter or you have written there and
(9-48)then the letters will be sent forward as you may desire.
(9-48)The receiving old dated letters is to be sure like getting
(9-48)old newspapers which scarce reward the trouble of reading
(9-48)them. But mine to you are full of little affectionate
(9-48)nonsense which may amuse Walter and you but are not
(9-48)quite fitted for other eyes so I hope you will enquire after
(9-48)them. You must make out your visit to Edgeworthstown
(9-48)when you get to Dublin otherwise there will be little

(9-49)affronts and disappointments & they are really valuable
(9-49)people from the kindness of their hearts as well as the
(9-49)distinguishd talents of Miss Maria Edgeworth.

(9-49)I observe you have seen my very honest good-nature[d]
(9-49)and tiresome friend Mr Hartstonge one of the best
(9-49)creatures in the world could he lay aside a rage for being
(9-49)a literary character for which he has so very little
(9-49)qualification.¹ But many clever people I know might envy
(9-49)him his goodnaturd and obliging disposition.

(9-49)Mrs Jobson is quite well happy and as I hear from
(9-49)all quarters in excellent spirits which Walter ought to
(9-49)take as a great compliment since it infers her perfect
(9-49)reliance on his care of a certain person who shall be
(9-49)nameless. I dare say she had her share in a fright which all
(9-49)Shandwick place experienced from a melancholy accident
(9-49)two days since.

(9-49)An unlucky foot-boy of Colin Mackenzies chose during
(9-49)the absence of the family from town to amuse himself
(9-49)by removing the burner as it is calld from the gas-pipe in
(9-49)a small cellar in front of the house. Ask Walter if he
(9-49)knows of no young gentleman who has practised such a
(9-49)trick in his time ? The consequence was that the gas
(9-49)having no exit by door or window became inflammable
(9-49)and when the unhappy urchin instead of calling in proper
(9-49)assistance came with a lighted candle to examine the
(9-49)mischief he had done a terrific explosion took place by
(9-49)which the poor thing was killd and a maidservant much
(9-49)hurt. Though there required as much malice prepense to
(9-49)produce this catastrophe as in the very similar case of
(9-49)the monkey [who] while he put a match to the touch hole
(9-49)of a cannon peepd into the muzzle to see the effect of the
(9-49)explosion yet it will check for a time the use of gas which
(9-49)was becoming generally popular.

(9-49)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 impaired.

(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
(9-50)to you repeatedly but this has been an unusually hurried
(9-50)winter and you are aware I do not pique myself on being
(9-50)a very regular correspondent. Many thanks for your

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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

(9-51)I trust to see your portrait of Shakespeare the best
(9-51)readings of Shakespeare are with all their varieties to be
(9-51)found in the variorum editions so that I suppose Mr
(9-51)Lockheart will be satisfied with consulting them there.
(9-51)My own share in the publication (if it go on) is scarce
(9-51)worth mentioning being only the condensing the little
(9-51)which is known of Shakespeare and the quantity of
(9-51)information we possess of his time into a popular and
(9-51)readable shape in short the object is to make a deep and
(9-51)at the same time an interesting impression on the public.
(9-51)The acorn and walnut seeds look all excellently and in a

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(9-52)way of prospering and destined for favourite spots in my
(9-52)wild dominions. I hope that poor Mrs Maturins 1 matters
(9-52)will get on better, but ill luck seems to pursue the family.
(9-52)Sophia has not been quite well for which she has to thank
(9-52)parties and Balls she is better however and little John
(9-52)Hugh well and in spirits as I hear they are all in
(9-52)Edinburgh—Chiefs wood for the time solitary I am dear sir
(9-52)Your obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

(9-52)ABBOTSFORD 26th March 1825

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DANIEL TERRY, LONDON

(9-52)EDINBURGH (2) [March-April] 1825

(9-52)MY DEAR TERRY,—I received your long confidential
(9-52)letter ; and as the matter is in every respect important,
(9-52)I have given it my anxious consideration. " The plot is
(9-52)a good plot, and the friends, though I know them only
(9-52)by your report, are, I doubt not, good friends, and full

(9-53)of expectation." 1 There are, however, two particulars
(9-53)unfavourable to all theatrical speculations, and of which
(9-53)you are probably better aware than I am. The first is,
(9-53)that every scheme depending on public caprice must be
(9-53)irregular in its returns. I remember John Kemble,
(9-53)complaining to me of Harry Siddons's anxious and
(9-53)hypochondriac fears about his Edinburgh concern, said,
(9-53)" He does not consider that no theatre whatever can be
(9-53)considered as a regular source of income, but must be
(9-53)viewed as a lottery, at one time strikingly successful, at
(9-53)another a total failure." Now this affects your scheme
(9-53)in two ways. First, you can hardly expect, I fear, your
(9-53)returns to be so regular every season, even though your
(9-53)calculation be just as to the recent average. And,
(9-53)secondly, you must secure some fund, either of money or
(9-53)credit, to meet those blanks and bad seasons which must
(9-53)occasionally occur. The best business is ruined when it
(9-53)becomes pinched for money, and gets into the circle of
(9-53)discounting bills, and buying necessary articles at high
(9-53)prices and of inferior quality, for the sake of long credit.
(9-53)I own your plan would have appeared to me more solid,
(9-53)though less splendid, if Mr Jones, or any other monied
(9-53)man, had retained one-half or one-third of the adventure ;
(9-53)for every speculation requires a certain command of
(9-53)money, and cannot be conducted with any plausibility
(9-53)upon credit alone. It is easy to make it feasible on paper,
(9-53)but the times of payment arrive to a certainty. Those
(9-53)of supply are less certain, and cannot be made to meet the
(9-53)demands with the same accuracy. A month's difference
(9-53)between demand and receipt makes loss of credit ;—loss

(9-54)of credit is in such a case ruin. I would advise you and
(9-54)Mr Yates to consider this, and sacrifice some view of
(9-54)profit to obtain stability by the assistance of some monied
(9-54)man—a class of whom many are in your great city just gaping
(9-54)for such an opportunity to lay out cash to advantage.

(9-54)This difficulty—the want of solid cash—is an obstacle
(9-54)to all attempts whatsoever ; but there is something, it
(9-54)would seem, peculiarly difficult in managing a theatre.
(9-54)All who practise the fine arts in any department are, from
(9-54)the very temperament necessary to success, more irritable,
(9-54)jealous, and capricious, than other men made up of
(9-54)heavier elements ; but the jealousy among players is
(9-54)signally active, because their very persons are brought
(9-54)into direct comparison, and from the crown of the
(9-54)head to the sole of the foot they are pitted by the public
(9-54)in express rivalry against each other. Besides, greatly as
(9-54)the profession has risen in character of late years, theatrical
(9-54)talent must still be found frequently allied with imperfect
(9-54)general education, low habits, and sometimes the follies
(9-54)and vices which arise out of them. All this makes, I
(9-54)should think, a theatre very difficult to manage, and liable
(9-54)to sudden checks when your cattle jibb, or do not work
(9-54)kindly. I think you have much of the talent to manage
(9-54)this ; and bating a little indolence, which you can always
(9-54)conquer when you have a mind and a motive, I know no
(9-54)one whose taste, temper, and good sense, make him more
(9-54)likely to gain the necessary influence over the performers.
(9-54)But il faut de l'argent—you must be careful in your situation
(9-54)that a check shall not throw you on the breakers, and for
(9-54)this there is no remedy but a handsome provision of the
(9-54)blunt. This is the second particular, I think, unfavourable
(9-54)to undertakings of a theatrical description, and
(9-54)against which I would wish to see you guarded by a more
(9-54)ample fund than your plan involves.

(9-54)You have of course ascertained from the books of the
(9-54)theatre that the returns of receipts are correct; but I see
(9-54)no provision made for wear and tear of stock, expense of

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-55)setting up new pieces, &c. which, in such an undertaking,
(9-55)must be considerable. Perhaps it is included in the
(9-55)charge of 36 per night; but if not, it seems to me that
(9-55)it will materially alter your calculations for the worse,
(9-55)for you are naturally disposed to be liberal in such
(9-55)expenses, and the public will expect it. Without baits
(9-55)the fish cannot be caught. I do not state these particulars
(9-55)from any wish to avoid assisting you in this undertaking ;
(9-55)much the contrary. If I saw the prospect of your getting
(9-55)fairly on the wing, nothing could give me more pleasure
(9-55)than to assist to the extent of my means, and I shall only,
(9-55)in that case, regret that they are at present more limited
(9-55)than I could wish, by circumstances which I will presently
(9-55)tell you. But I should not like to see you take flight, like
(9-55)the ingenious mechanist in Rasselas—only to flutter a
(9-55)few yards, and fall into the lake. This would be a most
(9-55)heart-breaking business, and would hang like a millstone
(9-55)about your neck for all your life. Capital and talent will
(9-55)do excellent things together ; but depend on it, talent
(9-55)without capital will no more carry on an extensive and
(9-55)progressive undertaking of this nature, than a racehorse
(9-55)will draw a Newcastle waggon. Now, I cannot at present
(9-55)assist you with ready money, which is the great object in
(9-55)your undertaking. This year has been, owing to many
(9-55)reasons, the heaviest of my expenditure, and the least
(9-55)fruitful of profit, because various anxieties attending
(9-55)Walter's marriage, and feasting, &c. after it, have kept
(9-55)me from my usual lucrative labours. It has no doubt
(9-55)been a most advantageous concern, for he has got an
(9-55)amiable girl, whom he loves, and who is warmly attached

(9-55)to him, with a very considerable fortune. But I have had
(9-55)to find cash for the purchase of a troop for him—about
(9-55) 3500 : item, the bride's jewels, and so forth, becoming
(9-55)her situation and fortune, 500 : item, for a remount to
(9-55)him on joining his regiment, equipage for quarters,
(9-55)carriage, and other things, that they may enter life with
(9-55)a free income, 1000 at least. Moreover, I am a sharer

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(9-56)to the extent of 1500 on a railroad, which will bring
(9-56)coals and lime here at half price, and double the rent of
(9-56)the arable part of my property, but is dead outlay in the
(9-56)meantime ; and I have shares in the oil-gas, and other
(9-56)promising concerns, not having resisted the mania of the
(9-56)day, though I have yielded to it but soberly ; also, I have
(9-56)the dregs of Abbotsford House to pay for—and all besides
(9-56)my usual considerable expenditure ; so I must look for
(9-56)some months to be put to every corner of my saddle.
(9-56)I could not let my son marry her like a beggar ; but, in
(9-56)the meantime, I am like my namesake in the days of the
(9-56)crusades—Walter the Penniless.¹

(9-56)Every one grumbles at his own profession, but here is
(9-56)the devil of a calling for you, where a man pays 3000 for
(9-56)an annuity of 400 a year and less—renounces his
(9-56)freewill in almost every respect—must rise at five every
(9-56)morning to see horses curried—dare not sleep out of a
(9-56)particular town without the leave of a cross colonel, who

(9-56)is often disposed to refuse it merely because he has the
(9-56)power to do so ; and, last of all, may be sent to the most
(9-56)unhealthy climates to die of the rot, or be shot like a
(9-56)black-cock. There is a per contra, to be sure—fine
(9-56)clothes and fame ; but the first must be paid for, and the
(9-56)other is not come by by one out of the hundred. I shall

(9-56)be anxious to know what you are able to do. Your ready
(9-56)is the devil—

(9-56)" The thing may to-morrow be all in your power,
(9-56)But the money, gadzooks, must be paid in an hour."

(9-56)If you were once set a-rolling, time would come round
(9-56)with me, and then I should be able to help you a little
(9-56)more than at present. Meanwhile, I am willing to help
(9-56)you with my credit by becoming one of your guarantees
(9-56)to the extent of 1250.2

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-57)But what I am most anxious about is to know how
(9-57)you raise the 5000 cash : if by bills and discounts, I beg
(9-57)to say I must decline having to do with the business at

(9-57)all; for besides the immense expense of renewals, that
(9-57)mode of raising money is always liable to some sudden
(9-57)check, which throws you on your back at once, and I
(9-57)should then have hurt myself and deprived myself of the
(9-57)means of helping you some other way. If you can get
(9-57)such a sum in loan for a term of years certain, that would
(9-57)do well. Still better, I think, could you get a monied
(9-57)partner in the concern to pay the sum down, and hold
(9-57)some 2000 more ready for current expenses. I wish to
(9-57)know whether in the 36 for nightly expenses you include
(9-57)your own salary, within which you would probably think
(9-57)it prudent to restrain your own expenses, at least for a year
(9-57)or two ; for, believing as I do, that your calculation of
(9-57) 70 per night (five per cent. on the outlay) is rather
(9-57)sanguine, I would like to know that your own and Mr
(9-57)Yates's expenses were provided for, so as to leave the
(9-57)receipts, whatever they may be, free to answer the burdens.
(9-57)If they do so, you will have great reason to be contented.

(9-57)I need not add that Theodore Hook's assistance will be
(9-57)impayable. On the whole, my apprehension is for want
(9-57)of money in the outset. Should you either start with
(9-57)marked success, or have friends sufficient to carry on at
(9-57)some disadvantage for a season or two, I should have
(9-57)little fear; but great attention and regularity will be
(9-57)necessary. You are no great accountant yourself, any
(9-57)more than I am,—but I trust Mr Yates is. All rests with
(9-57)prudence and management. Murray is making a fortune
(9-57)for his sister and family on the very bargain which Siddons,
(9-57)poor fellow, could not have sustained for two years
(9-57)longer. If I have seemed more cautious in this matter
(9-57)than you might expect from my sincere regard for you,

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(9-58)it is because caution is as necessary for you as myself; and
(9-58)I assure you I think as deeply on your account as on my
(9-58)own. I beg kind compliments to Mrs Terry, and inclose
(9-58)a lock of my gray hair, which Jane desired me to send
(9-58)you for some brooch or clasp at Hamlet's.—Ever yours,
(9-58)very truly,

(9-58)WALTER SCOTT

[Lockhart]

TO HENRY MACKENZIE

(9-58)MY DEAR SIR,—I take the advantage of Mr. Ballantynes
(9-58)return to Edinburgh to return you in safety the collection
(9-58)of Reminiscences 1 which I am happy to find you have
(9-58)taken the trouble to write and with the same vein of
(9-58)humour with which you introduce them so happily in
(9-58)society.

(9-58)Two or three trifling remarks struck me—The flying

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

(9-58)About the Quarterly Review I certainly advised the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-59)setting it up ; but Gifford was always the manager nor
(9-59)did I contribute above five or six articles.

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

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

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

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

(9-59)About large or small houses it must be conceded to the

(9-60)ABBOTSFORD 2d April [1825]

(9-60)The deuce take your March dust: the drought which
(9-60)has produced it will lose me certain scores of pounds in
(9-60)letting grass parks this day when grass is none.

[Thompson]

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

(9-60)MY DEAR CHILDREN,—I receive[d] your joint composition
(9-60)without a date but which circumstances enabled me
(9-60)to fix as written upon the 24 or 25th. March.³ I am very

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(9-61)sorry on Janes account for the unpleasant necessity of
(9-61)night journies and the inconvenience of bad quarters.
(9-61)I almost wish you had stuck by your original plan of
(9-61)leaving Jane at Edgeworthstown. As for you Mr Walter
(9-61)I do not grudge your being obliged to pay a little
(9-61)deference to the wig and gown—Cedant arma togae is a
(9-61)lesson well taught at an assize. But although you thanks
(9-61)to the discipline of the most excellent of fathers have been
(9-61)taught not to feel greatly the inconvenience of night
(9-61)journies or bad lodgings yet my poor Jane who has not
(9-61)had these advantages must I fear feel very uncomfortable
(9-61)and I hope you will lay your plans so as that [she] shall
(9-61)be exposed to them as little as possible. I like old songs
(9-61)and I like to hear Jane sing them but I would not like
(9-61)that she had cause to sing

(9-61)Oh but I'm weary with wandering
(9-61)Oh but my fortunes are bad
(9-61)It sits not a gentle young lady

(9-61)To follow a sodger lad.

(9-61)But against the recurrence of these inconveniences I am
(9-61)sure Walter will provide as well as he can. I hope you
(9-61)have deliverd your introduction to Mrs Scott (of Hardens)
(9-61)friend in the neighbourhood of Corke—Good introductions
(9-61)should never be neglected though numerous ones
(9-61)are rather a bore—A ladys society especially when entering
(9-61)on life should be as they are said to chuse their liquor
(9-61)—little but [good] and Mrs Scott being really a woman
(9-61)of fashion a character not quite so frequent in reality as
(9-61)aspired to, and being besides such an old friend of yours
(9-61)is likely to introduce you to valuable and creditable
(9-61)society.

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(9-62)We had a visit from Lockhart yesterday. He rode out
(9-62)the Saturday with a friend and they dined here remaind
(9-62)Sunday and left us this morning early. I felt obliged to
(9-62)him for going immediatly to Mrs Jobsons when the
(9-62)explosion took place so near her in my friend Colin
(9-62)MacKenzies premises. She had experienced no
(9-62)inconvenience but the immediate fright—for the shock was
(9-62)tremendous and was rather proud of the substantial
(9-62)capacity of the house which had not a pane broken
(9-62)when many of the adjoining tenements scarce had one
(9-62)left.

(9-62)We have had our share of casualties. Sybill 1 came with
(9-62)[a blank and a blot in MS.] me but without any injury but
(9-62)Tom Purdie being sent on some business by Mr Laidlaw
(9-62)she fell with him and rolld over him and bruised him very
(9-62)much. This is rather too bad so I shall be on the pave
(9-62)for a poney my neck being rather precious.

(9-62)I am incompetent to offer advice about Capt Macalpines
(9-62)troop but I think if it is your interest to buy it is
(9-62)also his to sell. I should also suppose that he conceives
(9-62)in your situation the highest price may be asked—and that
(9-62)probably for a little delay you will get the troop cheaper.
(9-62)But as I said before it is a matter out of my sphere and I
(9-62)can only do my best to help you when you think you have
(9-62)made a reasonable bargain.

(9-62)Touching Col. Thwackwell 2 of whom I know nothing
(9-62)but the name which would bespeak him a strict
(9-62)disciplinarian I suppose you are now arrived at that time of
(9-62)life when you can take your ground from your observation
(9-62)without being influenced by the sort of cabal which often
(9-62)exists in our army especially in the corps where the
(9-62)officers are men of fortune or expectations against a
(9-62)commanding officer. The execution of his duty is not
(9-62)always popular to young men who may like the dress and

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(9-63)show of a regimental officer better than the discharge of
(9-63)his regimental duty. And it often happens that a little
(9-63)pettishness on the one side begets a little repulsiveness of
(9-63)manner on the other so that it becomes the question how
(9-63)the one shall command and the other obey in the way
(9-63)most disagreeable to the other without a responsible
(9-63)infringement of duty—This is the shame of our army—
(9-63)and in a greater degree that of our navy. A sensible and
(9-63)reflecting man keeps as much aloof as possible from such
(9-63)feuds. You have seen the world more than when you
(9-63)joined the 18th. I trust you will find a less divided
(9-63)regimental Mess but at any rate you have both the experience
(9-63)and the means to avoid mixing yourself up with idle
(9-63)factious. I will be anxious on account of my dear Jane that
(9-63)the regiment moves to Dublin on the 20th as proposed.

(9-63)I suppose the stop at Cahir is now out of the question. I
(9-63)certainly hope to see you at Dublin. Mama and Anne
(9-63)threaten to accompany me but for this I have no great
(9-63)taste. Mama especially hates the sea dislikes bad beds and
(9-63)has an utter horror for night-journeys so it would be a
(9-63)progress of penance for her in the execution whatever it
(9-63)may be in the prospect and I suspect Anne has little more
(9-63)resolution or patience.

(9-63)The Catholic question seems like to be accomodated at
(9-63)present. I hope though I doubt it a little, that Ireland
(9-63)will be the quieter & the people more happy. I suspect
(9-63)however it is laying a plaister to the foot while the head
(9-63)aches & that the fault is in the landholders extreme
(9-63)exactions not in the disabilities of the Catholics or any
(9-63)more remote cause.

(9-63)My dearest Jane pray take care of yourself and write
(9-63)me soon what you see and what you are doing. I hope
(9-63)it will contain a more pleasant account of your travels
(9-63)than the last. I trust Walters scatterd forces, his horses
(9-63)and his baggage and yours have all arrived safely at
(9-63)Corke.

(9-63)Mama and Anne send best loves. I hope my various

(9-64)letters have all come to your hand and am my dear
(9-64)children always your affectionate father

(9-64)WALTER SCOTT

(9-64)ABBOTSFORD 4th April [1825]

[Bayley]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, ADVOCATE

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

(9-64)W SCOTT

(9-64)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
(9-64)sincere and most grateful thanks for the kind manner in
(9-64)which your ladyship has condescended to attend to
(9-64)Lockhart's concern under circumstances 2 which is the
(9-64)more particularly flattering, as you could only have done
(9-64)so by overcoming upon our account feelings which it was
(9-64)both natural and proper to your ladyship to entertain.
(9-64)I have heard nothing of the matter myself for several
(9-64)weeks and months. My friend, the Advocate, was so

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(9-65)intolerably wise and mysterious on the subject the last
(9-65)time it was mentiond that I vow that to be made Sheriff
(9-65)of all Scotland either in a friends person or my own, I
(9-65)could not have attempted again to penetrate the deep and
(9-65)awful gloom. The game to be played is a sort of gambit
(9-65)at chess. First, old Mr. Ferrier is to be permitted to

(9-65)resign his office of clerk of Session on some superannuation,
(9-65)the poor gentleman being upwards of eighty years
(9-65)old, and having wasted eyes, years, and understanding to
(9-65)the last dregs in writing the judgements of the Court of
(9-65)Session for thirty or forty [years]. This old horse released
(9-65)from the carriage, James Fergusson, who vacates a place
(9-65)called a commissaryship, where he judges of all the
(9-65)iniquities of marrying and not marrying, and marrying
(9-65)once too often, and getting unmarried again altogether,
(9-65)is to be conferrd on your present sheriff, Charles Ross.
(9-65)Et puis Charles Ross, having succeeded to all these
(9-65)functions of marrying and putting asunder, I have been
(9-65)led to entertain hopes that Lockhart may succeed in his
(9-65)view. I should be delighted in it, for it is always getting
(9-65)pignon sur la vie, and I think Lord Stafford and your
(9-65)ladyship would be gratified with his acquaintance, as he
(9-65)is perfectly a gentleman, and with a very uncommon
(9-65)share of talent and information. When this happy
(9-65)consummation will take place, or whether it is likely to take
(9-65)place at all I really do not know. Like the old beggar
(9-65)with the blue cloak and the pike-staff, I can submit to
(9-65)make one bow and hold my hat out once, for what is not
(9-65)worth asking is not worth having. But I am too old
(9-65)and stiff to gird up my loins and run after folks chariot
(9-65)wheels till they give to importunity. But, after all, this
(9-65)is only a petted way of taking the little diplomatic secresy
(9-65)which great folks observe on great occasions, such as
(9-65)bestowing sheriffdoms ; and, I dare say, I am complaining
(9-65)without reason. Only, I cannot forget that I went
(9-65)expressly on purpose to Dalkeith when Lord Advocate 1

(9-66)wished to be sheriff of Edinburgh, which he got entirely
(9-66)by my interest with the late Duke of Buccleuch, and I
(9-66)never kept him a moment in suspense about the matter.

(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 bestowed 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 term'd 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.

(9-68)Touching the Clan tartans 1 I have always understood
(9-68)those distinctions to be of considerable antiquity though
(9-68)probably the distinction was neither so minute nor so
(9-68)invariably adhered to as it is in general the custom to
(9-68)suppose. I have myself known many old people that
(9-68)were out in 1715 and I have understood that generally
(9-68)speaking the clan tartans were observed by the more
(9-68)numerous & powerful names—But many used a sort of
(9-68)brown & purple tartan and there were more from remote
(9-68)corners that had no tartan at all nor plaid either but a
(9-68)sort of dress worn by children in Scotland & called a
(9-68)polony 2 (polonaise perhaps) which is just a jacket and
(9-68)petticoat all in one buttoning down in front from the
(9-68)throat to a palm's breadth above the knee. Very many
(9-68)had no bonnet their shaggy hair being tied back with a
(9-68)thong or a garter and very many had neither hose nor
(9-68)shoes. The custom of clan tartans arose very naturally
(9-68)—the weaver was, after the smith & carpenter a man of
(9-68)consequence whose art was transmitted from father to son
(9-68)and when he lighted on what he thought a good Sett or
(9-68)mixture of the colours he was unwilling to change and
(9-68)the clan creatures of habit in most instances gradually
(9-68)became attached to it and adopted it as a sort of uniform
(9-68)of the tribe. It is certain that in 1739 when the Black
(9-68)Watch or independent Companies of highlanders were
(9-68)formed into the 42d Regiment a doubt arose what tartan
(9-68)they should wear as hitherto the independent companies
(9-68)had worn the colours of those officers who commanded

(9-69)them. But none of these being entitled to a preference
(9-69)which others would probably have resented there was

(9-69)formed a new Sett composed out of different Tartans &
(9-69)still known as the 42d colour. Again and in 1745 when
(9-69)the Chevalier landed he chose a tartan for himself of a
(9-69)colour different from any clan tartan which existed to
(9-69)avoid shewing a predilection for any particular tribe and
(9-69)I have heard repeatedly that the Stewarts both of Athole
(9-69)and Appin grumbled a little that he did not take the
(9-69)colours of his own clan. Indeed a moments consideration
(9-69)will shew that if the distinction of clan tartans had not
(9-69)existed at the time of the 1745 it could never have existed
(9-69)at all. For there was neither time nor means to introduce
(9-69)it at the time of the rising when all came with such clothes
(9-69)as they had nor was there a possibility of introducing
(9-69)such distinctions after 1745 when the dress was prohibited
(9-69)by government under the penalty of imprisonment and
(9-69)transportation. The poor Highlanders were reduced
(9-69)to great distress by this law—most of them both unwilling
(9-69)and unable to obtain lowland dresses endeavoured to
(9-69)elude the law by dying their highland tartans to one
(9-69)colour dark green crimson purple or often black—I have
(9-69)seen them wearing such dresses myself as long since as
(9-69)1785. I have no doubt that Mrs. MacLeod 1 dined with a
(9-69)party of gentlemen dressed without the least respect to
(9-69)clan colours for it was no time to observe these distinctions
(9-69)when the plaid itself was an illegal garb. Her mother
(9-69)was not married till long after 1745 so she can have no
(9-69)personal recollections of what the highlanders did before
(9-69)that period. By the way the MacLeods at Dunvegan
(9-69)might drink Charles's health but they fought for King
(9-69)George and were defeated by Lord Lewis Gordon at
(9-69)Inverury. So much for Highland dress—I could say a
(9-69)great deal more but it would only be tiresome. I must

(9-70)however add that though I am sure I could show that

(9-70)the Clan tartans were in use a great many years before
(9-70)1745 I do not believe a word of the nonsense about every
(9-70)clan or name having a regular pattern which was
(9-70)undeviatingly adhered to and the idea of assigning tartans
(9-70)to the Douglasses Hamiltons & other great Lowland
(9-70)families (who never wore tartan) has become so general
(9-70)that I am sure if the Duke of Buckingham had asked at
(9-70)some of the shops in Stirling or Edinr his own family
(9-70)tartan they would not have faild to assign him one.

(9-70)As to the kissing affair 1 it was a great fashion among the
(9-70)Scots of the last generation male & female. On the other
(9-70)hand as every period has its own fanciful limits of decorum
(9-70)I remember old people being much shock'd at seeing
(9-70)the modern fashion of gentlemen affording the full
(9-70)protection of their arm in leaving the drawing room with
(9-70)their fair partners whereas old fashiond etiquette only
(9-70)permitted such a slight junction of the finger and thumb
(9-70)as was allow'd in the minuet—" I canna bide to see them
(9-70)oxtering the men that gate " was the observation of an old
(9-70)Scotch lady of fashion to me scarce a dozen years since.

(9-70)I have been horribly ungrateful not to thank Mr.
(9-70)Berens very particularly for the sketches especially poor
(9-70)Leydens. It is as far as I know the only memorial of the
(9-70)features of one who lived too short [a] time for his friends
(9-70)his country and general Knowlege and recalls him to my
(9-70)recollection in the most lively colours. I beg my most
(9-70)particular thanks to Mr. Beren[s] and am scarce able to
(9-70)believe that this is the first time I have expressed them for
(9-70)a favour so deeply valued.²

(9-70)I am much concerned about Charles's deafness especially
(9-70)as he must rise in the world by his own exertions to

(9-71)which such an infirmity is a great impediment. I have
(9-71)always thought that it was in some measure nervous and
(9-71)depended much on his state of health and spirits. It is
(9-71)combined with a tendency to abstraction and absence
(9-71)of mind which I have observed it increases as on the other
(9-71)hand it is, increased by this sort of mental deafness. I
(9-71)wish him to see or correspond with Charles Bell from
(9-71)whose prescriptions he has formerly received benefit.

(9-71)Here is an unmerciful letter. But when I begin to
(9-71)write to a valued friend I never know how to leave off
(9-71)and when I leave off I scarce know how to begin again.
(9-71)Lady Scott offers kindest & most grateful remembrances
(9-71)& I beg to be most kindly rememberd to the Dr. & Mr.
(9-71)Hughes. I am flattered that he thinks Charles worth his
(9-71)notice. I will write to Charles in a day or two. In the
(9-71)mean while perhaps you will be so good as to say to him
(9-71)that his brothers direction is 15th Hussars Barracks Corke
(9-71)Ireland. They expect soon to change for Dublin in the
(9-71)meanwhile Walters bride is like the maid of the mill in
(9-71)the Scots song

(9-71)The mill, mill O, and the kill, kill O,
(9-71)And the cogging of the wheel O,
(9-71)The sack and the sieve all these you must leave,
(9-71)And round with a sodger reel O.

(9-71)As much of this valuable letter is intended to satisfy his
(9-71)Grace of Buckingham's curiosity about the highland
(9-71)dress I take the liberty of putting it under his covers.
(9-71)There remains ample room for a most interesting and
(9-71)curious dissertation on the gradual alterations which
(9-71)were introduced in the highlands from the period of
(9-71)Montroses wars when they first began to make some figure
(9-71)in history down to the present day. This will scarce be

(9-71)done however for the highlanders contend for everything
(9-71)and are under the great misapprehension of supposing
(9-71)they derive honour from manifest fables whereas there is
(9-71)another cold-blooded set of folks who will not allow them
(9-71)the merit which they certainly deserve. Thus far is

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(9-72)certain that this is the only case in which it might be
(9-72)distinctly shown how civilization broke in on patriarchal
(9-72)habits. Many of the highland Chiefs in the earlier part
(9-72)of the 18th century had two distinct characters—that of
(9-72)an accomplished gentleman in London & beyond the
(9-72)highland line that of a chief of an almost independant
(9-72)tribe. No more room.

W. SCOTT

[Heffer and Wells]

TO GEORGE HUNTLY GORDON

[Extract]

(9-72)12th April 1825

(9-72)MY DEAR MR GORDON,—I would have made some
(9-72)additions to your sermon 1 with great pleasure, but it is
(9-72)with even more than great pleasure that I assure you it
(9-72)needs none. It is a most respectable discourse, with
(9-72)good divinity in it, which is always the marrow and bones
(9-72)of a Concio ad clerum, and you may pronounce it, meo
(9-72)periculo, without the least danger of failure or of unpleasant
(9-72)comparisons. I am not fond of Mr Irving's species of
(9-72)eloquence, consisting of outre flourishes and extravagant
(9-72)metaphors. The eloquence of the pulpit should be of a
(9-72)chaste and dignified character ; earnest, but not high-
(9-72)flown and ecstatic, and consisting as much in close

(9-72)reasoning as in elegant expression. It occurs to me as a
(9-72)good topic for more than one discourse,—the manner in
(9-72)which the heresies of the earlier Christian Church are

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(9-73)treated in the Acts and the Epistles. It is remarkable,
(9-73)that while the arguments by which they are combated are
(9-73)distinct, clear, and powerful, the inspired writers have not
(9-73)judged it proper to go beyond general expressions,
(9-73)respecting the particular heresies which they combated.
(9-73)If you look closely, there is much reason in this. ... In
(9-73)general, I would say, that on entering on the clerical
(9-73)profession, were it my case, I should be anxious to take
(9-73)much pains with my sermons, and the studies on which
(9-73)they must be founded. Nothing rewards itself so
(9-73)completely as exercise, whether of the body or mind. We
(9-73)sleep sound, and our waking hours are happy, because
(9-73)they are employed ; and a little sense of toil is necessary
(9-73)to the enjoyment of leisure, even when earned by study
(9-73)and sanctioned by the discharge of duty. I think most
(9-73)clergymen diminish their own respectability by falling
(9-73)into indolent habits, and what players call walking through
(9-73)their part. You, who have to beat up against an infirmity,
(9-73)and, it may be, against some unreasonable prejudices
(9-73)arising from that infirmity, should determine to do the
(9-73)thing not only well, but better than others. . . .

[Lockhart]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART, NORTHUMBERLAND
STREET [EDINBURGH]

(9-73)MY DEAR. LOCKHART,—I have a letter from Jane 1 which
(9-73)I inclose & request you to have the goodness to attend
(9-73)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)doomd 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]

[Law]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, B.N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

(9-74)MY DEAR CHARLES,—I am truly obliged to Dr and
(9-74)Mrs Hughes for taking such kind care of you and only
(9-74)wish I had better means than mere thanks to offer in
(9-74)requit. It was particular[ly] obliging to introduce you at

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-75)Stowe one of the first houses certainly in England and
(9-75)which has long retained that high character. There is
(9-75)this advantage in the very first society that it teaches a
(9-75)young man to hold the low strutting straddling make-
(9-75)believe sort of fashion which generally consists in
(9-75)caricaturing the manners of the great or what they conceive
(9-75)to be such with the contempt such affectation deserves. We
(9-75)should have been much honoured by receiving the Duchess
(9-75)of Buckingham because we would have been sure that
(9-75)in conferring on us the honour of her company Her Grace
(9-75)would have come prepared to make our good will supply
(9-75)any wants in the accommodation we had to offer.

(9-75)Mama Anne and I are living here as quietly as possibly
(9-75)can be : I grieve much to say we have but sorry news of
(9-75)little John Hugh—an ugly cough & fever has affected
(9-75)the poor dear child whose acute intellect and slender
(9-75)form often remind me of the line of Richd IIIId.

(9-75)So wise and young they say seldom live long.

(9-75)But I trust it will be better with the poor infant in whom
(9-75)his father & mothers happiness seem so absolutely wrapd
(9-75)up and absorbed. Children often endure much none
(9-75)more than Sophia herself who till she had the small pox

(9-75)was very sickly indeed. So we'll hope the best—what
(9-75)else have we for it.

(9-75)Walter has arrived in safety with his wife at Corke and
(9-75)joined his regiment. They march on the 20th current
(9-75)for Dublin so a letter addressd to him Kings Hussars
(9-75)Barracks Dublin will readily find him.

(9-75)I visited his newly acquired territories for a day It is
(9-75)a very classical region being the Urbs Orrea (the name is
(9-75)still preserved in Loch-Ore) where Agricola as you may
(9-75)see in Tacitus had on his retreat through Fife nearly lost
(9-75)the ninth legion. Agricolas camp is almost destroyd to
(9-75)make a farm steading but a variety of cairns & tumuli
(9-75)attest the hardness of the conflict. There was a loch
(9-75)now drained in which was built upon an islet a pretty little

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(9-76)castle still in preservation i.e. the ruins I was told of
(9-76)some curious monuments in the church but had not time
(9-76)to visit them.

(9-76)Matters here go on as usual—only Tom Purdie has
(9-76)had a dangerous fall from Sybil Grey or rather with her
(9-76)as she rolld over him and bruised him. He is recovering
(9-76)slowly and still uses a crutch.

(9-76)How does your money come on ? Look into your
(9-76)affairs & let me know [how] you stand with the world
(9-76)for habits of debt are easily acquired and are most fatal
(9-76)to honour and independence of feeling ; and I am always
(9-76)willing to do what is reasonable to prevent any apology
(9-76)of that kind.

(9-76)I am uncertain whether this will find you at [MS. cut

(9-76)here] College or still with Mrs Hughes. [MS. cut here]
(9-76)direct to B. Nose however [suppos]ing you will have left
(9-76)orders to forward your letters. Pheasants are very plenty
(9-76)with us—a cock or two may fall next season and rather do
(9-76)good. I am going to get you such a gun as Colonel
(9-76)Fergussons one of the best I ever saw. Do you prefer the
(9-76)explosive lock or the old fashiond prime and load. Forrest
(9-76)at Jedburgh is the maker. I scarce ever saw better gun-
(9-76)smiths work. All this is [in] hope you are to thump hard
(9-76)away at the studies.

(9-76)Mrs Hughes tells me—what I am much concernd to
(9-76)hear—that you are rather complaining more of your
(9-76)deafness than usual. I wish you would consult Charles
(9-76)Bell either in person or by letter. It is such a serious
(9-76)impediment to almost every professional exertion that if
(9-76)any care or remedy could prevent it, neglect would be
(9-76)unpardonable.

(9-76)Remember Mama Anne & me kindly to Dr and Mrs
(9-76)Hughes if you are still in their hospitable mansion. Anne
(9-76)and Mama send kindest love to you and I am always Dear
(9-76)Charles Your affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

(9-76)ABBOTSFORD 16 April [1825]

[Law]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[circa middle of April 1825] (1)

(9-77)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—I have not forgiven
(9-77)Walter for his breach of appointment which was very

(9-77)thoughtless after having permitted me to give you so
(9-77)much trouble. It is a very thoughtless thing in young
(9-77)people to make engagements which they do not mean to

(9-78)keep and though I can pardon a young woman just from
(9-78)her mother's charge I have [no] patience with a man
(9-78)who has seen the world and should know at least the rules
(9-78)of good breeding to the world in general if not what was
(9-78)particularly due on this occasion. Their stay in London
(9-78)was prolonged to the very last minute in order that he
(9-78)might attend a levee of the commander in chief. They
(9-78)had then a very stormy passage and fell in with the
(9-78)assizes which made their journey very uncomfortable for
(9-78)though it is quite right that, according to our old latin
(9-78)brocard, Arms should give way to the Gown yet petticoats
(9-78)do not owe the same deference. So I fancy that
(9-78)Jane had got frightend and afraid to quit convoy—at least
(9-78)this is all I can make of it. She is lucky in finding a
(9-78)married lady of good manners following the drum or
(9-78)rather the trumpet in the same regiment and they are
(9-78)both fond of Music and play duets which will help to keep
(9-78)concord between them.¹ By-the-bye I should add that
(9-78)they separated from their heavy baggage—perhaps it
(9-78)had the favourite gown in it—Who knows whether this
(9-78)might not be one spoke in the wheel—Walter used always
(9-78)to put me in mind of a character in a fairy tale called
(9-78)L'homme qui cherche ² an unfortunate heroe spell bound who
(9-78)is condemned to spend his time in collecting and threading
(9-78)a rosary from which the beads alway escape and are
(9-78)dispersed anew. Walter's moveables are often in this
(9-78)condition—He has just sent a pressing request, that a
(9-78)cartouche-box forgotten in Edinburgh shall be sent without
(9-78)delay to Dublin and, what is worse I rather suspect
(9-78)that two horses worth 200 are seeking their own[er]

(9-78)through the isle of Erin, or on the opposite shores of the
(9-78)sister kingdom—Charles on the other hand has established

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-79)himself the Lord knows how at Stowe for a part of the
(9-79)Easter holidays and seems quite at home with the Duchess
(9-79)of Buckingham to whom I am hardly known.

(9-79)I do most certainly intend to be at Dublin in the summer
(9-79)or autumn and indubitably one of my earliest objects
(9-79)will be to visit my kind friends at Edgeworthstown—so
(9-79)that any lion lovers in the neighbourhood who may have
(9-79)been disappointed at not seeing the lion's cub will be
(9-79)gratified by a sight of the old lion himself—though what
(9-79)can their curiosity desire more when they have such a
(9-79)first-rate lioness at their own door. I pique myself on
(9-79)being one of the best conditiond animals that ever was
(9-79)shown since the time of him who was in vain defied by
(9-79)the knight of the woeful figure 1 —for I get up at the first
(9-79)touch of the pole rouse myself shake my mane lick my
(9-79)chops turn round lie down and go to sleep again. I have
(9-79)seen more irritable creatures than myself bounce and
(9-79)shew temper on these occasions but I know you at least
(9-79)agree with me and Snug the joiner

(9-79)That if one should as lion come in strife
(9-79)Into such place twere pity of his life.

(9-79)Little Johnie Lockhart is not well—poor child its little
(9-79)frame is very delicate and I cannot but consider it as a
(9-79)threatening point on my horizon. A constant cough and
(9-79)low fever have sate on him for some weeks and made us
(9-79)apprehensive. But he has appetite and good spirits and
(9-79)we must hope the best—But I tremble when I think what
(9-79)a hoard of affection his parents have heaped upon the

(9-79)poor infant who is really a very engaging child. We
(9-79)must hope the best.

(9-79)Depend upon it I will not fail to possess myself of the
(9-79)books you recommend—it would be felony to neglect
(9-79)your opinion of any and high treason when Ireland is
(9-79)concerned. Jane writes me she has been much pleased

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(9-80)with the domain of a lady, Mrs. Newenham of Coolmore
(9-80)near Corke to whom they had been introduced by Mrs.
(9-80)Scott of Harden. She says that property forms a very
(9-80)agreeable contrast to other places which she has seen
(9-80)where the proprietors are absentees. I am glad she carries
(9-80)her eyes about her however.

(9-80)Your infantine work will delight me exceedingly. I am
(9-80)very fond of philological researches and should think
(9-80)language much improved by using in every possible case
(9-80)at least with children a word in its primitive and not its
(9-80)secondary or metaphorical meaning. If it were esteemd
(9-80)necessary (which I cannot see) to use an active verb to
(9-80)express what new denomination is acquired by two and
(9-80)two when put together I think two and two compose
(9-80)four would be a more proper expression than make four
(9-80)—But your are fills it up more simply and better for in
(9-80)either case you would have to explain how the eggs
(9-80)and flour and suet put together compose a pudding that
(9-80)is are united into that generous and nutritious mass
(9-80)which we Scotchmen upbraid the English with being so
(9-80)partial to. Properly speaking we might say that the
(9-80)number four like the pudding is made by the component
(9-80)integers in the first instance and the ingredients in the
(9-80)other being put together. But it is the cook and the
(9-80)arithmatician [sic] who make the dish and the sum total

(9-80)by adding these integers and these ingredients to each
(9-80)other.

(9-80)To return to my hopes of a visit to Edgeworthstown,
(9-80)Beatrice I is extremely desirous [to be] of the party and so is
(9-80)Lady Scott but I am afraid of the health of the last not
(9-80)so able now as in her younger days to endure indifferent
(9-80)accommodation and much given to be frightened where
(9-80)no fear is. I believe I must come alone unless I can bring
(9-80)Lockhart with me. Depend on it that if Walter and his
(9-80)little lady have not made the amende honorable by going
(9-80)on their knees at Edgeworthstown before I appear it

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-81)will be only that they may wish to shelter their bad
(9-81)behaviour under my countenance. Delighted I shall be
(9-81)to see Ireland but as for writing about her—it would [be]
(9-81)interfering with the office which her guardian Spirit has
(9-81)discharged and will I trust continue to discharge to
(9-81)honour of her native land and the encouragement of
(9-81)reciprocal kindness between its inhabitants and those of
(9-81)the other Island. I believe and indeed I've known many
(9-81)a poor Irish labourer against whom fifteen years ago
(9-81)men's minds would have been hardened by prejudice and
(9-81)preconception who has been treated with kindness as the
(9-81)countryman of the postillion Jervy and his ... [MS.
incomplete]

[Butler]

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

(9-81)A THOUSAND thanks my dearest Jane for your kind
(9-81)letter. We foolish old bodies were beginning to get

(9-81)anxious about you. I dont think Mrs Jobson has your
(9-81)letter yet but I sent mine to her which will make her easy
(9-81)on your behalf. After our duties to Heaven and our
(9-81)neighbours are discharged when folks are putting up
(9-81)with little inconveniences which cannot well be helped
(9-81)and enjoying with moderation the amusements within
(9-81)their reach they cannot as you say be very unhappy but
(9-81)on the contrary if they add a little employment of an
(9-81)useful kind for their leisure hours and are free from the
(9-81)presence of misfortune are perhaps as nearly being happy
(9-81)as this motley world of good and evil will permit and so
(9-81)I willingly believe that you are, my love, at this moment.

(9-81)We are rather anxious here about poor little Johnie
(9-81)Lockhart. He has a bad cough & perpetual slight fever.
(9-81)They supposed the hooping cough. Would to God it
(9-81)were that or any thing one could give a name to. But I

(9-82)fear it may be the gradual wasting of a constitution too
(9-82)feeble for the active intellect of [a] darling infant. This
(9-82)would be distressing to us all but a dreadful scene of
(9-82)misery to Sophia and Lockhart who are wrapt up in the
(9-82)poor child. Yet weakly children get through much—
(9-82)none was ever more puny than Sophia who yet grew up
(9-82)to be a very healthy young woman. So we will hope
(9-82)the best.

(9-82)Charles has establishd himself for the Easter Holidays
(9-82)of all places in the world at Stowe from which he writes
(9-82)with as much composure about the Duke & Duchess of
(9-82)Buckingham as if his being of their party was the most
(9-82)natural thing in the world and yet I know very little of
(9-82)the family.

(9-82)I am much interested in what you mention of Mr
(9-82)Newenham's plan for I have always thought that when
(9-82)proprietors desert their estates they do a most unjustifiable
(9-82)thing. The greatest miser or the most selfish spendthrift
(9-82)in the world if he is living among his dependents
(9-82)can no more help doing them some good less or more
(9-82)than the clouds can help dropping the rain they are
(9-82)charged with. But an absent landlord however beneficent
(9-82)is like a cloud dropping its rain in a distant country
(9-82)while that from which the exhalations rise which forms
(9-82)it is parched for want of moisture.

(9-82)In case any other correspondent should mention it
(9-82)I was very ill yesterday for an hour or two—a fit of bile
(9-82)I think. I had been set down at Chiefswood with the
(9-82)purpose of walking home when suddenly I began to
(9-82)shiver excessively with a violent headache & severe
(9-82)sickness. I walked to Huntly Burn with difficulty being
(9-82)unable almost to see my way and when I came there I

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-83)frightened the friendly weird-sisters by asking to lie down
(9-83)while I sent a person for the carriage. I could not hold
(9-83)up my head all the remaining day an uncommon thing
(9-83)for one who enjoys such perfect good health but today
(9-83)Richard is himself again and as well as ever I was in my
(9-83)life. I think I owe my attack partly to eating at breakfast
(9-83)some kipper made of a fish out of season which is
(9-83)sometimes very deleterious to some constitutions though I
(9-83)never before experienced inconvenience from it.

(9-83)Tell Walter our old relative and friend Sir Henry Hay
(9-83)Makdougall is dead—he will not care much nor is my grief
(9-83)excessive but he is a man I have known all my life and
(9-83)maintained a friendly intercourse with in the old-fashioned

(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)Izaak 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

(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

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

(9-84)Did you ever read the Trois princes de Sarendip ? I lay
(9-84)you sixpence—no—you have to go through a course of
(9-84)nonsense-reading which I will take in charge to superintend
(9-84)one day or other. Well but in the said Oriental
(9-84)tale there is a certain L'homme qui cherche—a spell-bound
(9-84)prince who is condemnd to spend his time day after day
(9-84)in collecting and stringing a certain rosary of beads which
(9-84)always break and are dispersed just when he has almost
(9-84)completed his task. Now Walter is always l'homme qui
(9-84)cherche some of his accoutrements are always stragglng.
(9-84)Cure him of this bad habit if you can— "Thank you for
(9-84)nothing " says Jane " I assure you Sir W. that I have
(9-84)enough to do to keep my own things in order. Rebeccah
(9-84)does flirt so much with that Sergeant that she minds
(9-84)nothing "—

(9-85)I hope this will find you settled at Dublin and free of
(9-85)Corke where your situation must be very uncomfortable
(9-85)with so much time left on your hands without either the
(9-85)usual modes of employing it or amusing it. Walter will
(9-85)be nearer you I conclude at Dublin and able to pay you
(9-85)more attention than with a towns breadth between you.
(9-85)Lady Scott and Anne are very well. Anne talks of writing
(9-85)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
(9-85)small packet of papers—or two or three letters for which
(9-85)you may not care the parties should pay postage you may
(9-85)address them in a cover to me under outward cover to
(9-85)John Wilson Croker Esq Admiralty London or to Francis
(9-85)Freling Esq P.O.G. London and I will receive them safely
(9-85)& distribute them as you may direct. But do not let
(9-85)my letters wait for any such conveyance—they are always
(9-85)worth postage. While we are on the subject of finance I
(9-85)fancy these marchings and countermarchings must have
(9-85)brought Walter near the bottom of his purse and you
(9-85)know I want him to get into no debt or even into any
(9-85)advance upon your income. Such encumbrances which
(9-85)military gentlemen call pulling the devil by the tail begin
(9-85)with trifles and become habitual. So if Walter wishes an
(9-85)extra 100 he may draw on Coutts to my accompt and
(9-85)I will advise them to answer it for you must at first have
(9-85)many disadvantages as well as a little inexperience as
(9-85)house keepers to contend with.

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

(9-86)worse complaints to make than of these little domestic
(9-86)cares.

(9-86)My kindest love attends L'homme qui cherche. Anne
(9-86)will expect your communication with impatience and
(9-86)hopes to hear of a most dashing ball. I suppose the care
(9-86)of doing the honours to the ladies would devolve in part
(9-86)on Mrs Studd and you. Mama and Anne send kind love
(9-86)Always your affectionate papa WALTER SCOTT

(9-86)You say you love long letters—do you also love those
(9-86)which are hard to be read—mine is both one & the other.
(9-86)But much was written by Candlelight and then Jane is
(9-86)the magnificent owner of three pair of spectacles & has
(9-86)plenty of time on her hand.

[PM. 21 April 1825]

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(9-86)MY DEAR WALTER,—I wrote Jane a long letter and sent
(9-86)it to the Advocate to frank but as I suspect that it followd
(9-86)him to London it may have been delayd by that circumstance.
(9-86)The cream of the correspondence was that as I
(9-86)supposed marching money would be necessary you might
(9-86)draw on me or Messrs. Coutts for 100 to help on the
(9-86)campaign. The Breast pin is arrived this morning and
(9-86)gives the old gentleman the highest satisfaction. I am
(9-86)not a little vain of it tell Jane, besides it prevents my
(9-86)displaying flannel at the throat a banner not too much
(9-86)comme il faut.

(9-86)I observe from a note from Coutts you have drawn for
(9-86) 20,, that leaves you 80 in bank. When you wish to
(9-86)have cash at a time always advise me if possible because I
(9-86)ought in regularity to apprize them of your draughts &
(9-86)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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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 Etrick 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

(9-87)and I want to know all about your menage whether your
(9-87)horses have joind yet and what is become of them whom
(9-87)you see and who are kind to you.

(9-87)Little news stirring with us but little Johnie has had
(9-87)the hooping cough. Mama Anne and I continue to
(9-87)vegetate in this quarter. The weather is now charming
(9-87)and things looking well. Ginger has puppies. Spice
(9-87)expects presently to be confind.

(9-87)I hope Jane continues to like the campaign. Her last

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(9-88)letter was a very pleasant & favourable account of
(9-88)matters & I suppose Dublin will greatly improve on
(9-88)Corke. I have a letter from Major Stisted 1 just bound
(9-88)for Ireland. You will meet I suppose with the pet spider
(9-88)and his keeper. Anne has got the chains &c and seems
(9-88)delighted. Sophia sent your Cartouche box by the mail
(9-88)coach. I trust it has reachd long since. All join in
(9-88)kindest and most affectionate love to Jane Yours
(9-88)affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

(9-88)ABBOTSFORD 21 April [1825]

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, PRINTER, HERRIOT ROW,
EDINBURGH

(9-88)DEAR JAMES,—In the paging the proof sent you will
(9-88)observe that I am repeating more numbers for the
(9-88)purpose of maintaining my calculation & making up for
(9-88)more pages necessarily added to Vol. III. I think I
(9-88)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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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

(9-90)in the present state of our affairs or rather my own I
(9-90)must consider the advance of 1500 as a loan by me to you
(9-90)or which when the transaction is closed you can give an
(9-90)acknowledgement as I shall myself be obliged to borrow
(9-90)some part of the money. I will not need I hope to plague
(9-90)about repayment very much.

(9-90)ical is certainly going to sell Faldonside.³ The Nabal

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(9-91)asks 40,000 at least 5000 too much yet in the present
(9-91)low rate of money and general thirst for Land there is no
(9-91)saying but he may get a fool to offer him his price or near
(9-91)it Our judicious neighbour M[r] Anderson considers
(9-91)after the most minute calculation that it would not be
(9-91)extravagant at 35000,, I should like to know your
(9-91)views and wishes about this matter as it is more your
(9-91)concern than mine since you will I hope have a much
(9-91)longer date of it. I think I could work off all the interest
(9-91)and much principal during my life and also improve the
(9-91)estate highly. But then it is always a heavy burthen & I
(9-91)would not like to undertake it unless I was sure that Jane
(9-91)and you desired such an augmentation of territory. I do
(9-91)not mean to do any thing hasty but as an opportunity
(9-91)may cast up suddenly I should like to know your mind.

(9-91)I conclude this being 27th. April that you are all
(9-91)snugly settled in Dublin. I am a little afraid of the
(9-91)gaieties for Jane & hope she will be gay moderately that
(9-91)she may be gay long. The frequent habit of late hours is
(9-91)always detrimental to health and sometimes has consequences
(9-91)which last for life. Avis au lecteur. Of course I
(9-91)do not expect you to shut yourselves up at your period of
(9-91)life. Your course of gaiety at Corke reminds me of Jack
(9-91)Johnstones 1 song

(9-91)Then we'll visit the Callaghans Brallaghans
(9-91)Nowlans & Dowlans likewise
(9-91)And bother them all with the beauty
(9-91)Which streams from my Judys (or Jeanie's) black eyes.

(9-91)I admire the stile in which Jane and her friend travels.
(9-91)I hope you like Mrs Studd as well as Jane seems to do.

(9-91)Mama and Anne are quite well—We dine to day with
(9-91)Sir Adam. I dare say the last time I shall dine at
(9-91)Gattonside for long enough for I feel no appetite to
(9-91)scrape acquaintance with this Bristolian 2 Bainbridge.

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(9-92)I should be less sorry if I thought Adam my excellent
(9-92)old friend was changing for the better. But I
(9-92)fear he is acting under erroneous views and will find
(9-92)in a year or two that he rode more easily at his old
(9-92)moorings.

(9-92)We have better accounts of little Johnie of late his cough
(9-92)is over for the present and the learned cannot settle whether
(9-92)it has been the hooping cough or no. Sophia talks of
(9-92)taking him to Germiston. Lockhart comes here for the
(9-92)Circuit & I expect him tomorrow.

(9-92)Sir Adam & Lady Fergusson bring most excellent
(9-92)accounts of Mrs Jobson[s] good health and spirits. Sir
(9-92)Henry Jardine 1 (he writes himself no less now) hath had
(9-92)the dignity of Knighthood inflicted on him. Mama and
(9-92)Anne join in kind love. I expect a long letter from Jane
(9-92)one of these days soon. She writes too well not to write
(9-92)with ease to herself and therefore I am resolve[d] her
(9-92)talent shall not be idle if a little jogging can prevail on

(9-93)and it is necessary to remit the balance of money
(9-93)for his troop namely 1500. I enclose a drat. on Leith
(9-93)Bank for 500 and if you will send me two notes at
(9-93)4 months for 550. each I will remit you the balance
(9-93)which will make up 1500. I have ample means of
(9-93)discot here. I wish to have the two notes by tomorrow
(9-93)post without fail so as to get them on Friday morning as I
(9-93)go to Jedburgh nextday.1

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

(9-93)WALTER SCOTT

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

[Stevenson]

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1825

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

(9-94)SIR,—I have been obliged by the courtesy which sent
(9-94)me your very interesting work on Irish Superstitions and
(9-94)no less by the amusement which it has afforded me both
(9-94)from the interest of the stories and the lively manner in
(9-94)which they are told. You are to consider this Sir as a
(9-94)high compliment from one who holds him on the subject
(9-94)of elves ghosts visions &c nearly as strong as William
(9-94)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 calld by Heywood the
(9-94)Buttery spirit which diminishd the profits of an unjust
(9-94)landlord by eating up all that he cribbd from his guests.
(9-94)The Beautiful superstition of the Banshee seems in a great

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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 Lochbuy.¹ 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 "pulld 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.² 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 mentiond 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.³

(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 Oberons 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 seemd 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 Southr'on 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 knowlege 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

(9-96)popular divertisements was one which in former days
(9-96)I would have calld a puppet show and its master a puppet
(9-96)show man. He has put me right however by informing
(9-96)me that he writes himself Artist from Vauxhall and
(9-96)that he exhibits fantocini. Call them what you will it
(9-96)seems it gave great delight to the unwashd artificers of
(9-96)Galashiels. Formerly they would have been contented
(9-96)to wonder and applaud but not so were they satisfied in
(9-96)our modern days of investigation for they broke into
(9-96)Punches sanctuary forcibly after he had been laid aside

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-97)for the evening made forcible seizure of his person and
(9-97)carried off him his spouse & heaven knows what captives
(9-97)besides in their plaid nooks to be examined at leisure.
(9-97)All this they literally did (forcing a door to accomplish
(9-97)their purpose) in the spirit of science alone or but slightly
(9-97)stimulated by that of malt whisky with which last our
(9-97)statesmen weary I suppose of our asserting superiority as a
(9-97)moral people have of late deluged us. Cool reflection
(9-97)came as they retreated by the banks of the Ettricke.—
(9-97)they made the discovery that they could no more make
(9-97)Punch move than Lord Plymouth could make him speak
(9-97)and recollecting I believe that there was such a person as
(9-97)the Sheriff in the world they abandond their prisoners in
(9-97)hopes as they pretended that they would be found and
(9-97)restored to their proper owner.

(9-97)As this somewhat tedious story contains the very last
(9-97)news from fairy-land I hope you will give it acceptance
(9-97)and beg you to believe me very much your obliged &
(9-97)thankful Servant

WALTER SCOTT

(9-97)27 April 1825 ABBOTSFORD MELROSE

[Alwin J. Schener, and Croker's Fairy Legends] 1

TO WALTER SCOTT, KINGS HUSSARS, BARRACKS, DUBLIN

(9-97)MY DEAR WALTER,—Though it put you to the charge
(9-97)of postage it may be as well that you should know the
(9-97)money is ready & that I sent it into M[r.] James Ballantyne

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(9-98)this day with directions to him to remit instantly
(9-98)to Major Lanes accot. with Minet & Stride 21 Austin
(9-98)Fryars and to advise you when [he] has done so. It will
(9-98)be therefore remitted tomorrow (Saturday 30th.) or in
(9-98)case from the Banks closing early on Saturday the
(9-98)remittance cannot be managed,- on Monday 2d. at farthest
(9-98)and will of course be at the Majors credit on the 3d day
(9-98)after such remittance say Monday 2d May or Wednesday
(9-98)5th as the case may be of which Messrs. Minet & Stride
(9-98)will doubtless give him due notice. I trust there is no
(9-98)chance of our missing stays at the Horse Gds after what
(9-98)passd betwixt His Royal Highnss. & you and your
(9-98)situation in the regiment considerd.

(9-98)I observe from your last Jane is like to have a female
(9-98)commanding officer who I suppose will take the direction
(9-98)of all the ladies belonging to the regiment. Seriously I
(9-98)hope she will be a companionable and Lad[y] like person
(9-98)as I suppose she must be a person of some influence. I
(9-98)suppose you are not sorry with the effects [of] La belle
(9-98)passion 1 on your redoubtable commandant nor excessively
(9-98)sorry that

(9-98)Grim visaged war hath smoothed his wrinkled front
(9-98)And now instead of mounting barbd steeds
(9-98)To affright the souls of fearful adversaries

(9-98)or you may read

(9-98)(To fret the souls of lazy subalterns)

(9-98)He capers nimbly in a ladys chamber

(9-98)To the lascivious soothing of a lute— 2

(9-98)If this quotation is rather threadbare I cannot but think

(9-98)it is happily applied.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-99)We are all well here and send love to Jane and you.

(9-99)I want to know how you are settled at Dublin and hope

(9-99)Jane will take the trouble to write whenever she has

(9-99)arranged herself comfortably. I will also desire to hear

(9-99)from you how your arrangement proceeds with the

(9-99)Major and tell me to whom the regulation money at

(9-99)Coutts is to be paid—to the agents I suppose. I shall be

(9-99)stationary here till after the Eleventh may when

(9-99)Edinburgh will be my address.

(9-99)Always your affectionate father

(9-99)WALTER SCOTT

(9-99)ABBOTSFORD 29th April [PM. 1825]

[Law]

TO [GABRIELE ROSSETTI ?] 1

(9-99)I AM favoured with your letter of the 19th May but have

(9-99)not yet received the packet from Mr Murray. When I do

(9-99)so you may command my opinion such as it is though I

(9-99)think you are near an adviser whose sentiments are of

(9-100)presume the ballad to be genuine, and, indeed, see no
(9-100)reason to suspect the contrary, the style being simple and
(9-100)ancient, I think you should print it exactly as you have
(9-100)taken it down, and with a reference to the person by
(9-100)whom it is preserved so special as to enable any one to

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-101)ascertain its authenticity who may think it worth while.
(9-101)I have asked, at different times, the late Mr John Home,
(9-101)concerning the ballad on which he was supposed to have
(9-101)founded " Douglas," but his memory was too imperfect
(9-101)when I knew him to admit of his giving me any
(9-101)information. I have heard my mother, who was fond of the
(9-101)ballad, say, that when Douglas was in its height of
(9-101)popularity, GIL MORRICE was, to a certain extent, rewritten,
(9-101)which renovated copy, of course, includes all the
(9-101)new stanzas about " Minerva's loom," and so forth.
(9-101)Yet there are so many fine old verses in the common set,
(9-101)that I cannot agree to have them mixed up even with your
(9-101)set, though more ancient, but would like to see them kept
(9-101)quite separate, like different sets of the same melody. In
(9-101)fact, I think I did wrong myself in endeavouring to make
(9-101)the best possible set of an ancient ballad out of several
(9-101)copies obtained from different quarters, and that, in many
(9-101)respects, if I improved the poetry, I spoiled the simplicity
(9-101)of the old song. There is no wonder this should be the
(9-101)case when one considers that the singers or reciters by
(9-101)whom these ballads were preserved and handed down,
(9-101)must, in general, have had a facility, from memory at
(9-101)least, if not from genius (which they might often possess),

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(9-102)of filling up verses which they had forgotten, or altering
(9-102)such as they might think they could improve. Passing

(9-102)Cheltenham since I must of course look to see her and the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-103)dear girls her daughters more seldom than if they had
(9-103)continued inhabitants of Scotland yet they will be so
(9-103)much more comfortably situated under your affectionate
(9-103)protection that I cannot but be happy upon their account.
(9-103)With regard to you my very dear Sir whose health is
(9-103)sometimes in a delicate state I think the quiet society
(9-103)which you have insured is the most natural consolation
(9-103)in the hours of langour & pain which indisposition brings
(9-103)with them. And although I hope the level of your
(9-103)health will become gradually more confirmd as time
(9-103)time [sic] makes you more familiar with the change of
(9-103)climate and that therefore as an invalid their attention
(9-103)will not be frequently necessary yet enjoyments of your
(9-103)hours of health cannot but be greatly increased by this
(9-103)addition to your domestic society. Indeed though they
(9-103)may be the nieces of us both & we therefore may be held
(9-103)partial judges I never [saw] better bred girls in my life
(9-103)in any class of society or better qualified by good temper
(9-103)cheerfulness and good information to add to the pleasure
(9-103)of domestic society. It gives me the greatest pleasure
(9-103)that they are under your protection as I am sure they
(9-103)will experience all the affectionate treatment which they
(9-103)deserve & Mrs Scott has conducted herself so meritoriously
(9-103)in many trying & difficult circumstances that
(9-103)she has deserved all the comforts which your fraternal
(9-103)roof may afford.

(9-103)The sword of the Sultan Tippoo—once so formidable
(9-103)will be an addition to my little collection equally valuable
(9-103)in itself and its recollections and as a mark of your kind
(9-103)remembrance and I beg to express my kind thanks to
(9-103)Mr Gillman for so great a favour when sent it had best

(9-103)be forwarded from London to Castle Street Edinburgh.

(9-103)I conclude this will find the fair travellers nearly

(9-103)arrived at their journeys end and I intend writing Mrs

(9-103)Scott in a day or two. . . .1

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(9-104)I hope one of these days you will come all bodily down

(9-104)to Abbotsford for a month or six weeks at least & regale

(9-104)us once more with such Scots music as no one possesses

(9-104)the skill of but yourself.1

(9-104)Kind love to Mrs Scott Anne & Eliza if with you. I

(9-104)have no fear of Walter doing well. He has talents & I

(9-104)think the desire to employ them to the best advantage.

(9-104)He has besides very good & popular manners so I hope

(9-104)Il parviendra. My son Walter is in immediate expectation

(9-104)of promotion. His marriage besides assuring him a very

(9-104)handsome independance seems to promise every sort of

(9-104)domestic happiness I remain my dear Sir Yours with

(9-104)most sincere regard

WALTER SCOTT

(9-104)ABBOTSFORD 3 May [1825]

(9-104)On the 11th I leave this place for Edinburgh to my

(9-104)great sorrow. Lady Scott & Anne my only guests at

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-105)present beg kind remembrances and best love to Mrs.

(9-105)Scott & the girls.

[Lady Ardwall]

TO MRS. SCOTT, 15 HUSSARS

(9-105)DEAR JANE,—You are not to be worried with a long
(9-105)letter just now first because the post is going out an
(9-105)excuse which is always used on such occasions and
(9-105)particularly in my family and then because I expect a long
(9-105)letter from you about Pat's capital and its gaieties. Take
(9-105)good care of your health among them my love for you
(9-105)know it is very precious to us all, and be gay in moderation
(9-105)that you may be gay long.

(9-105)Lockhart was here two days since to attend the circuit
(9-105)and brought us news of little Johnie's complete recovery
(9-105)to our great joy in which I am sure Walter and you will
(9-105)sympathise. That child's delicate health is rather an
(9-105)assailable point in our domestic happiness which I thank
(9-105)God has otherwise humanly speaking a very comfortable
(9-105)aspect.

(9-105)I desired Mr James Ballantyne to write by post to
(9-105)Walter when he remitted Major Lanes money as advised.
(9-105)I presume he did so & the cash (1500) having been
(9-105)sent on Saturday 1st. May is this day at the gallant
(9-105)Major's credit in London. I hope this will immediatly
(9-105)lead to your becoming " Mrs Captain " which is always
(9-105)better than even good " Mistress Lieutenant." It is as
(9-105)Hamlet says to the actress being nearer heaven by the
(9-105)altitude of a chopine.¹ Let me know if you feel yourself
(9-105)taller on the occasion.

(9-105)There is little news stirring with us only a few days
(9-105)must carry us back to the fag of Edinburgh as the session
(9-105)of the court begins on 12th so pray after you receive this
(9-105)address to Castle Street.²

(9-106)Lady Scott and Anne send kind love to Walter. It is
(9-106)odd he has never said a word about his horses. Pray what
(9-106)has he lost upon his march from Corke to Dublin ? If he
(9-106)has come through without damage you shall have all the
(9-106)credit of keeping the gear together.

(9-106)Lady Scott and Anne send kindest Compliments Adieu
(9-106)my Love God bless you Your affectionate father

(9-106)WALTER SCOTT

(9-106)ABBOTSFORD 3 May [1825]

(9-106)I inclose a letter from Mrs Jobson. She was quite well
(9-106)when I heard.

[Law]

TO THOMAS HOOD

(9-106)SIR WALTER SCOTT has to make thankful acknowledgment
(9-106)for the copy of Odes to Great People 1 with which
(9-106)he was favoured and more particularly for the amusement
(9-106)he has received from the perusal. He wishes the
(9-106)unknown author good fortune and whatever other good
(9-106)things can best support and encourage his lively vein of
(9-106)inoffensive and humorous satire.

(9-106)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 4th May [1825]

[Hood's Own]

TO HIS NEPHEW WALTER SCOTT

[Extract]

(9-106)ABBOTSFORD, 5th May [1825]

(9-106)MY DEAR WALTER,—I have been an undutiful relation
(9-106)in not writing you some time past. About making up your

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-107)kit the first thing is to know accurately what it ought to
(9-107)consist of, for young men are strangely imposed on in this
(9-107)particular, sometimes wanting things which are essential,
(9-107)and often buying a quantity of what they have as little use
(9-107)for as a highlander for knee-buckles. It is also to be
(9-107)considered that you are not quite come to your size yet, and
(9-107)that clothes made exactly for your person just now, may
(9-107)not suit so well. It seems to me also to be of consequence,
(9-107)that you should have a few good books on engineering,
(9-107)both civil and military, and I wish you to get advice as to
(9-107)what are likely to be most useful. Get a business-like list
(9-107)of the cloaths, and another of the books and sundries
(9-107)necessary, and add the prices, and let me have them for
(9-107)my consideration. . . .

(9-107)Walter is anxiously looking out for his troop, which we
(9-107)expect immediately, as the Major retires from bad health,
(9-107)and the hopeful arrangement is, that a certain Capt. Byam
(9-107)gets the Majority, and Walter Captain Byam's troop.
(9-107)Jane seems to take kindly to a military life, and writes in
(9-107)high spirits with all she has seen, and the attentions they
(9-107)have met with. By mixing in general society she will rub
(9-107)off a little of that reserve which is the great fault of her
(9-107)manner.

(9-107)I conceive your mother and sisters will now have
(9-107)reached your uncle in safety.¹ Their society cannot but be
(9-107)valuable to him in his precarious state of health, but I fear,
(9-107)unless that is considerably amended, the girls may find it

(9-107)a little gloomy. They are accustomed however to prefer
(9-107)duty to pleasure, and upon the whole the arrangement
(9-107)seems the most natural and most respectful, which could
(9-107)have been made for their comfort and protection.

(9-107)I wish to hear from you what your own motions are
(9-107)likely to be—how long you stay at Chatham—and when
(9-107)your final departure is to be expected. I should be very
(9-107)desirous that your leisure, which must I suppose be short,

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(9-108)should be employed in learning whatever may be necessary
(9-108)to forward and increase your stock of useful knowledge.
(9-108)In your profession, the best-informed man inevitably
(9-108)gets furthest forward.

(9-108)How do you get on with Col. Pasley ?

(9-108)Lady Scott, Anne, and I are the only residents here, and
(9-108)to-day our solitude is cheered by James Scott with his
(9-108)pipes, and Maxpopple 1 with his pedigree. I have given
(9-108)the latter an office of about 300 which Charles Erskine,
(9-108)poor fellow, held under me, and which seems to have made
(9-108)poor Max very happy—for look you, sir, it is no easy
(9-108)matter to find meat and cloth for twelve small children.—
(9-108)I am, with kindest wishes from Lady Scott and Anne,
(9-108)always, my dear Walter, your affectionate uncle,

(9-108)WALTER SCOTT.

[Familiar Letters]

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

(9-108)DEAR WALTER,—I subjoin a copy of a letter received

(9-108)from Sir Herbert Taylor which will be a disappointment
(9-108)to you. It appears that Major Lanes resignation not
(9-108)being for retirement but for promotion is not likely to
(9-108)be accepted. Of course there is no vacancy and as he
(9-108)retains his situation I expect replacement of 1500 paid
(9-108)into his account with Messrs. Minet and Stride as formerly
(9-108)advised. I have no doubt of Major Lanes honor on this
(9-108)occasion but as the matter stands rather loose in point of
(9-108)business I should like to have it settled by replacing the
(9-108)money to my credit with Mess[rs.] Coutts & Co/ If
(9-108)Major Lane should prefer retiring I must of course take
(9-108)the risque of carrying through your promotion which I
(9-108)do not doubt to accomplish. As this is an interesting
(9-108)matter I will beg to hear from you as soon as possible on

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-109)the subject. I wonder you had not seen that the resignation
(9-109)was unconditionally expressd. I beg kind Compliments
(9-109)to Jane Yours in haste WALTER SCOTT

(9-109)ABBOTSFORD 9th May [PM. 1825]

(9-109)Address to Edinburgh.

[Copy in Scott's hand]

(9-109)HORSE GDS. 5 May

(9-109)" I have communicated your letter of 27 April to the Commander in
(9-109)Chief who directs me to assure you that whenever a troop shall open for
(9-109)purchase in the 15 Hussars he will be glad to pay every attention in his
(9-109)power to your wishes for the promotion of Lieutenant Scott

(9-109)I must observe however that Major Lanes application has come in and
(9-109)that it is not for retirement but for Promotion which he is not very likely to

(9-109)obtain as he is one of many candidates and the youngest of all. H.R.H.
(9-109)therefore has not authorized me to give him much hope—the Senior
(9-109)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)

(9-109)MY DEAR LORD,—A great Man and Patron I take to be
(9-109)somewhat like an Indian at the stake—when he falls
(9-109)asleep from sheer lassitude no such ready way to wake
(9-109)him as by a little torment of sollicitation. Now not
(9-109)having had the honour to hear from your Lordship
(9-109)though I dare say you had plenty of more important

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(9-110)matters to attend to I begin to awaken you with a twinge
(9-110)with the pincers.

(9-110)In plain terms here is a minister dying at Roberton
(9-110)which is a crown patronage but must be within the Dukes
(9-110)influence if your Lordship thinks it proper to exert and
(9-110)if Borthwickbrae whose House and estate lies in the parish
(9-110)does not ask it which I think he would have a preferable
(9-110)right to do either from the Crown or His Grace.—But
(9-110)supposing him out of the question I would be really very
(9-110)much obliged if my poor protege George Thompson
(9-110)could have some advantage from the light of your
(9-110)countenance if it ever shines forth on these occasions. A
(9-110)pupil who has been long under his charge is now becoming
(9-110)major (though I cannot say he has attained years of
(9-110)discretion) and I suppose they must part which will leave

(9-110)poor Thompson very poorly provided for. He has had
(9-110)much credit by this charge—for the lad came to him in
(9-110)a very infirm state of mind and by a mixture of kindness
(9-110)and steadiness he has brought him wonderfully round &
(9-110)taught him even to make a plausible enough appearance
(9-110)in society. I suppose the poor creature will be ruind
(9-110)whenever he parts from him. I have now only one string
(9-110)to harp on Maxpopple being out of the way and I can say
(9-110)with truth that in that appointment I considerd the
(9-110)embarassing claim arising out of the Convention at
(9-110)Jedburgh more than my cousin-ship for there is an old
(9-110)proverb warning one " against manning himself with
(9-110)his kin." Maxpopple seems to do very well however
(9-110)and bestirs himself like a man of business so I have no
(9-110)cause to complain. He has got a residence near the
(9-110)Borough too which is convenient.

(9-110)I hope this will find Lady Montagu & the young ladies
(9-110)well and enjoying as good weather as we have had here.
(9-110)The spring was backward but has burst forth at once in
(9-110)full beauty—the hopes of the country seem high and every
(9-110)person you meet looks pleased.

(9-110)I hope the Duke is well & likes the Banks of Cam

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-111)where I conclude he is still residing Always my dear
(9-111)Lord Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(9-111)I am just—multum gemens—leaving this for Edinr.
[Buccleuch]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(9-111)DEAR SIR,—The bearer is Mr Lemare 1 the French

(9-111)Gentleman I mentiond to you. I have little doubt that
(9-111)his Greek anecdotes will be very interesting & you must
(9-111)be as kind to him as you can. He writes English very well
(9-111)& seems an accomplishd young man. I am Yours truly
(9-111)WALTER SCOTT

(9-111)CASTLE STREET 13 May [1825]

(9-111)favourd by Mons. Lemare

[Stevenson]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

(9-111)MY DEAR CHARLES,—I desired Mr. Ballantyne to send
(9-111)you your full allowance 75 which is due at or about
(9-111)this time so put your house in order and remember you
(9-111)will have another remittance of 75 due three months
(9-111)after this so that you can arrange your matters for regular
(9-111)payments

(9-111)Regardless of the wily tradesman's way
(9-111)Who hushd in grim repose expects his Christmas prey.²

(9-111)I am glad to find a good report of you from Stowe. It
(9-111)always requires some tact to live with great folks without

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(9-112)either seeming to intrude on their intimacy or observe
(9-112)an awkward degree of retenué but a sense of propriety
(9-112)mixd with a desire to please points out the just medium.

(9-112)I had a letter this morning from Jane 1 by which we
(9-112)learn the 15th have reachd Dublin where I suppose they
(9-112)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 seemd 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 orderd 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 destroyd his excellent Manton 3
(9-112)by neglect. I am sorry I gave the gun to him.

(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

(9-114)I send a lot of copy and proof.

[Stevenson]

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

(9-114)EDINBURGH 16 May 1825

(9-114)YOUR kind letter of the 9th. reached me my dearest
(9-114)Jane just as I was beginning to think you a little lazy in
(9-114)your correspondence. It followd me from Abbotsford to
(9-114)town where I arrived the last tuesday with great reluctance
(9-114)for leaving the country in its beauty is to me very like
(9-114)having a tooth drawn. Your motions being a little
(9-114)irregular owing to your marchings & countermarchings
(9-114)I see that you have not received your letters very regularly
(9-114)but I suppose you have by this time got one from Mrs.
(9-114)Jobson with a few lines from me. I had the pleasure to
(9-114)see Mrs. Jobson yesterday in perfect good health and to
(9-114)assure her of yours.

(9-114)She and I both unite in being rather glad that the gay
(9-114)season is now near over in Dublin as we are parentally
(9-114)afraid of your over-fatiguing yourself amid the
(9-114)hospitalities of the Irish capital.

(9-114)Servants are always the plagues of young house
(9-114)keepers. You should part with either or both without a
(9-114)moments ceremony the instant they begin to give you
(9-114)trouble. I remember I used to be much hurt at the idea
(9-114)of parting with an old servant but I have found from
(9-114)experience that whenever they conceive themselves
(9-114)indispensible they become abominably tyrannical & that
(9-114)the best way of compelling them to regular good

(9-115)behaviour is to change whenever they become troublesome
(9-115)either by quarrelling with you or each other. There
(9-115)never was so good a servant but with good wages and
(9-115)kind treatment you will always find as good a successor.

(9-115)I wrote Walter about his promotion which appears for
(9-115)the present to have miscarried. I hope an opportunity
(9-115)will soon offer of completing the matter.

(9-115)Chantrey the great Sculptor was with me a day before
(9-115)I left Abbotsford and went off the happiest man in the
(9-115)world having killd two salmon. I do not believe that the
(9-115)applause which he received for any of his fine works of art
(9-115)[sentence incomplete]1 He has made Lady Scott a present of
(9-115)the fine bust he cut of my poor noddle three years ago and
(9-115)of which you probably have seen casts. It is reckond (the
(9-115)subject out of the question) a very fine piece of Sculpture
(9-115)in point of execution. Chantrey himself is a right good
(9-115)John Bull blunt & honest & open without any of the
(9-115)nonsensical affectation so common among artists.

(9-115)I hope your housekeeping in St Stephens Green will go
(9-115)on well—it cannot be very different from people living in
(9-115)different families in the same hotel : and with respect to
(9-115)your servants male & female take my counsel—if you have
(9-115)an aching tooth have it drawn out—if a quarrelsome
(9-115)servant dismiss him or her. An empty house is always
(9-115)better than a bad tenant.

(9-115)I am sorry to say that your Grandmother Mrs. Stewart 2
(9-115)has been dangerously ill—indeed what illness could be
(9-115)less than [dangerous] at her advanced age. She has
(9-115)recoverd however and is to appearance in her usual state
(9-115)of health but I understand this to be quite infirm so

(9-116)that I fear you must soon hear of bad news from that
(9-116)quarter.

(9-116)There is no tidings to send from this metropolis except
(9-116)that they have taken opportunity of our absence to have
(9-116)another great fire to Annes great discontent who says that
(9-116)having heard so much of fires she has a right to see one.
(9-116)I think they are determined that the whole old town of
(9-116)Edinburgh shall be burnd to the ground piece meal.
(9-116)This last very considerable conflagration was on the
(9-116)northern side of the High Street where it joins the north
(9-116)bridge.

(9-116)You have never told me whether Walter and his horses
(9-116)ever came together or whether he is still in the state of
(9-116)Saul the son of Kish seeking his fathers asses. I suppose
(9-116)they must have reachd him but in poor plight I am afraid
(9-116)after their travels. I see you have been with my poor
(9-116)friend Hartstongue—a little tiresome or so otherwise the
(9-116)best creature in the world. It is a pity he will write books
(9-116)and poems instead of being contented with the good
(9-116)qualities of the heart which he really possesses and leaving
(9-116)those of the head to such as nature has bestowd them upon.
(9-116)But such is the usual ambition of mankind most people
(9-116)being far more desirous of being distinguishd & complimented
(9-116)for good qualities which they have not than for
(9-116)those which they really possess. Vastly grave & deep that
(9-116)observation but not particularly new and rather dull.
(9-116)If you could find out how much of the postage attachd to
(9-116)my morality you might cut it out with your scissors & send
(9-116)it back to the post office to get a discount. Were this
(9-116)permitted Lord how the Kings post office would flutter
(9-116)with scraps of morality and wisdom—all the good advice

(9-116)of rum old guardians stupid quizzes of papas & mammas
(9-116)maiden Aunts & so forth would be sent back while
(9-116)remittances news of scandal and so forth would be carefully
(9-116)retaild—by a little attention the Clerk of the department
(9-116)might compile a new edition of the proverbs of
(9-116)Solomon out of the neglected wisdom which papas [send]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-117)to and fro on the wings of the daily post. By the way your
(9-117)late remove has brought you a good deal more within
(9-117)hail as the sailors say besides giving us a sure direction
(9-117)which for some time was rather uncertain.

(9-117)Let me know my Love how the housekeeping goes on
(9-117)and whether you keep your accompts accurately and are
(9-117)a good manager. But no doubt you will give yourself an
(9-117)excellent character. I must come and see I fancy.

(9-117)Anne & Lady Scott send kindest love to Walter and
(9-117)you I expect to hear from Walter daily Always yours
(9-117)my dearest child most affectionately

(9-117)WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER, 10 STEPHENS GREEN, DUBLIN

(9-117)MY DEAR WALTER,—I am glad to see by yours 1 this
(9-117)morning received that your negotiation is still on foot.
(9-117)Of course Major Lane must either refund or give in his
(9-117)unconditional resignation so as to make way for the
(9-117)vacancy for while it stands in the present way his sudden
(9-117)death or incapacitating illness from the chance of which no
(9-117)man is free would lose me 1500 which I cannot afford.
(9-117)From the tone of Sir Herbert Taylors letter it is evident

(9-117)Major Lane will get no promotion at present. Even in
(9-117)case of his resigning there is a shade of doubt you will
(9-117)observe shown respecting Byams success but I suppose
(9-117)that gentleman has interest and will exert it at the Horse
(9-117)Guards. I have written again to Sir Herbert saying I
(9-117)understand it is probable that the Major will resign
(9-117)unconditionally.

(9-117)I am glad to see you are got by this time into a house
(9-117)of your own—fine work there will be at the house keeping
(9-117)for some time but I expect our little Janes prudence and
(9-117)sagacity will soon supply the want of experience.

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(9-118)My motions must partly depend on the dissolution of
(9-118)parliament like those of other great men. If the Catholic
(9-118)Emancipation Bill is lost in the House of Lords—as lost
(9-118)it will most unquestionably be parliament will be dissolved
(9-118)immediatly and you will if you like it have a right to have
(9-118)leave for the exercize of your franchise as a voter though
(9-118)I scarce apprehend that Fife will be contested. Now
(9-118)if this event takes place early and if you come as in
(9-118)case of a contest you will be expected to do then I can
(9-118)return with you to Ireland. If you stick fast at Dublin
(9-118)and there is little use in coming merely to eat an election
(9-118)dinner & stay a few days—and if there is no contest in
(9-118)Roxburgheshire which I do not expect—then and in that
(9-118)case I propose without trusting myself to the seductions of
(9-118)Abbotsford to set out the instant the Session rises. Mama
(9-118)talks of going to Helensburgh to the sea-bathing with
(9-118)Sophia in which case I propose to bring Anne with me &
(9-118)perhaps Lockhart for Boots to pay postillions & so forth.
(9-118)But we must not litter up your house you know as we can
(9-118)always get into a hotel. If Mama should alter her plan
(9-118)I must leave Anne with her which will be a disappointment

(9-118)to the young lady. Under the conditions above
(9-118)expressd I expect to start about 12 July. As my stay
(9-118)must necessarily be short I will like to see as much & visit
(9-118)as little as I can.

(9-118)You say nothing about Nicols property 1 I think he will
(9-118)come down to a moderate price if let alone but I want to
(9-118)know what you yourself wish about it for as I formerly
(9-118)wrote you it is more your affair than mine. By the way
(9-118)I understand from Chantrey that there is a near prospect
(9-118)of a large & fine thoroughfare being made across London
(9-118)from north to south terminating at the Musaeum on one
(9-118)extremity and Waterloo Bridge on the other. This
(9-118)magnificent Bridge has been in a manner useless & its
(9-118)toll unproductive because there is no access to it but if this

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-119)goes on it will become a great place of passage & benefit
(9-119)the Stockholders accordingly. Chantrey says people are
(9-119)buying up shares. Now Jane holds equal to 10,000
(9-119)stock in that concern which may turn out a very good
(9-119)thing I should not be surprized to see it much above
(9-119)par.1

(9-119)The Chief Commissioner has settled the 12th of June
(9-119)for our usual summer rally and very handsomely propose[s]
(9-119)to occupy part of the time in setting off a good
(9-119)access to Lochore the present one being a very circuitous
(9-119)and awkward approach. You need of course be in no
(9-119)hurry making the road or you may make a bit now & then
(9-119)but to have the power of making it will be an immense
(9-119)improvement to the place both in comfort & in value.
(9-119)I wish to know what Jane thinks of this that I may
(9-119)regulate what I have to say to Lord Chief Comr.
(9-119)accordingly.

(9-120)taking care to take good advice on what is really useful.
(9-120)I also mentioned that you would be the better, I thought,
(9-120)of some approved works on Engineering, both civil and
(9-120)military. I believe you will find that Robert Shortreed is
(9-120)getting on very well in the Engineer line, though in some
(9-120)respects an interloper, so I have great hopes for you who
(9-120)are regularly in the service. Omit no opportunity, my
(9-120)dear boy, of acquiring the knowledge necessary for availing
(9-120)yourself of opportunities which I have little doubt will
(9-120)occur to you, and let your thoughts and studies be
(9-120)turned as much as possible to science, both for civil and
(9-120)military purposes. I have a notion that you will find
(9-120)the first very useful. The last you learn as a matter of
(9-120)course.

(9-120)I heard from Walter yesterday,¹ —anxious about his
(9-120)troop, in which I hope he will succeed, as in the case of
(9-120)a Benedick, captain sounds better than sub, and besides
(9-120)Jane has better quarters. They have got a house at
(9-120)Stephen's Green however, and do not live in barracks
(9-120)just now.

(9-120)I had a letter from your Mama from Cheltenham.
(9-120)Their journey was well made out. She, as well as I, was
(9-120)rather desirous you would bestow some pains on your hand-

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-121)writing, which is however getting firmer and better than it
(9-121)was. . . —I am always, your affectionate uncle,

(9-121)WALTER SCOTT.

(9-121)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]

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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

(9-122) 1500 which is so far quite well. But I shall leave it in
(9-122)London until I hear from you whether I am to consider
(9-122)the negotiation as entirely off or whether you still expect
(9-122)the Major to resign without condition. As the money
(9-122)lies without interest in London I am losing upon it here
(9-122)so that the sooner you write whether it is like to be wanted
(9-122)within a week or two the better.

(9-122)I trust this will find you in all the dignity of
(9-122)housekeepers. We have sharp work here Mamma having got
(9-122)a housekeeper who of course hauls all the old stagers
(9-122)over the coals, sweeps clean as new brooms usually do
(9-122)and raises a dust of course.

(9-122)This being a letter on business I do not add more than
(9-122)that I wish to hear from you what is to be done about the
(9-122)money and that all here are well & long [to know] what
(9-122)you are about and how the menage goes on.

(9-122)My kindest love to Jane and tell her I expect a letter
(9-122)very soon. Mama talks of going to the seaside with
(9-122)Sophia I wish they would wait till we start for Ireland
(9-122)Always your affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

(9-122)EDINR. 21 May [PM. 1825]
[Law]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT, CARE OF DAVID MACCULLOCH ESQ.,
CHELTENHAM

(9-122)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I must no longer delay to wish
(9-122)you and my nieces joy upon arriving at a home which I
(9-122)trust will prove more comfortable and more permanent
(9-122)than any which it has been your lot to inhabit lately. I
(9-122>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

(9-123)health and spirits and entering with laudable zeal into the
(9-123)esprit de corps which induces military men to mention
(9-123)with so much emphasis the important designation of We
(9-123)and Ours. I expect Walter to do great things if it please
(9-123)God to preserve his health. His hand is getting firmer and

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(9-124)better and indeed I agree with you that both that & the
(9-124)spelling might still be amended an observation which
(9-124)extends itself to the Oxonian Charles whose latin is said
(9-124)to be good but whose English would thole a mends.1
(9-124)Walter the larger writes also with a happy resemblance to
(9-124)a partridge scratching in the dust below a hedge. It is very
(9-124)odd all the girls write good hands Anne preeminently so.

(9-124)Walter has got a good house in Dublin and is living
(9-124)quietly there. He is recommended for purchase and there
(9-124)is a prospect of his getting a troop as I hinted before. But I
(9-124)must needs say it is a hopeful profession where a man buys
(9-124)an annuity on much worse terms than he could get it upon
(9-124)Change binds himself to be a slave to the commands of
(9-124)others and occasionally to spoil his annuity bargain by
(9-124)putting himself in the way of being killd—and after all to
(9-124)be told he is very lucky & has got high promotion. If his
(9-124)Majesty's officers were to wear snuff-colour'd clothes with
(9-124)pig-tail wigs & square buckles do you think the mere
(9-124)spirit of patriotism would make commissions sell as highly.

(9-124)However whether Walter becomes a Captain or remains
(9-124)" Good master lieutenant " I intend to go and pay them
(9-124)a visit of a week or ten days at Dublin to see how they
(9-124)carry on the war. I think I shall be tempted to return
(9-124)[if] my time will permit by Cheltenham for the purpose of
(9-124)seeing you all as I cannot expect my Christmas visit
(9-124)where it is taxd with so long a journey in bad travelling

(9-124)weather. I am writing to Major Huxley as I suppose the
(9-124)river 2 will now be open.

(9-124)I am very sorry to say I think Johnie Lockhart looks very
(9-124)frail—very beautiful & very clever—but haunted with a
(9-124)cough & frequent high pulse. Our hope is that he will
(9-124)mend as he gets older & Sophia thinks of trying the sea
(9-124)air & bathing.

(9-124)Pray let me hear that this reaches safe and let me know

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-125)what folks you have at Cheltenham in case I should know
(9-125)some of them though my fashionable acquaintance is
(9-125)much decreased of late years. I wish to hear also how
(9-125)Elizas health is—in short how you come on. When you
(9-125)are lazy yourself Anne can write me a line. Yours my
(9-125)dear Sister affectionately

(9-125)WALTER SCOTT

(9-125)EDINR. 21 May [PM. 1825] (1)

(9-125)I am just going to wait on Lord Forbes 2 your old friend
(9-125)as Commissioner to the Kirk. Lady Scott & Anne send
(9-125)kind love to you & the girls. I will be happy to see the
(9-125)gentleman who brings the sabre of the redoubted Sultaun.

[Huntington]

TO MATTHEW WELD HARTSTONGE

(9-125)My DEAR SIR,—I have to return you best thanks for
(9-125)three Vols of your Legend and have looked into them but
(9-125)will not have an opportunity of perusing them regularly
(9-125)till our courts rise as my official duty owing to the illness

(9-125)of one of my colleagues presses hard on me at this time.
(9-125)I merely hope and wish the publication may answer your
(9-125)wishes but the Public is a capricious mistress in the way
(9-125)she bestows or witholds her favour. Respecting your
(9-125)dedication to my unworthy self I am always rather
(9-125)anxious to escape from such compliments and have so
(9-125)often declined them when I had an opportunity afforded
(9-125)of expressing my wishes—indeed so often that making
(9-125)exceptions might seem a little ungracious to those whose
(9-125)flattering proposals I have declined since therefore you
(9-125)wished to do such a thing I am glad you did it without
(9-125)asking me a permission which I could not have granted
(9-125)without offending other good friends whose wishes of the

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(9-126)same kind I have been obliged to evade. I am beginning
(9-126)to look at an old present of yours an Irish road book and
(9-126)a view of Dublin my going to Ireland at all especially on
(9-126)the view of seeing my son settled as a married man are
(9-126)certainly rather extraordinary and unexpected events.
(9-126)I fancy you are all in foam with the Catholic question
(9-126)respecting which we who are so sensitive to everything
(9-126)concerning popery are now completely indifferent. The
(9-126)very Catholics here seem indifferent about their franchises
(9-126)and it is quite wonderful that a question so interesting for
(9-126)one part of the empire should be so uninteresting to
(9-126)another. We are meanwhile congratulating each other
(9-126)on our prospect of fine crops and high prices our stock
(9-126)is already high in the market sheep particularly which
(9-126)[blank in copy] our valley. I find Walter has turned
(9-126)householder in Dublin and lives in Stephens green where
(9-126)he offers me quarters I am always my dear Sir Your truly
(9-126)obliged & faithful
(9-126)EDINBURGH 26th May, 1825.

WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DANIEL TERRY

[June? 1825]

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

(9-126)There is an idea among some of your acquaintance,
(9-126)which I partly acquiesce in, that you are in general
(9-126)somewhat of a procrastinator. I believe I have noticed the
(9-126)same thing [in] myself; but then I consider it the habit of
(9-126)one accustomed to alternations of severe exertion and great
(9-126)indolence ; and I have no doubt that it will give place

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-127)to the necessity of following out a regular, stated, and daily
(9-127)business—where every hour brings its own peculiar duties,
(9-127)and you feel yourself, like the mail-coach, compelled to be
(9-127)in to time. I know such routine always cures me of the habit
(9-127)of indolence, which on other occasions I give way to as much
(9-127)as any man. This objection to the success which all agree
(9-127)is in your own power, I have heard coupled with another,
(9-127)which is also founded on close observation of your character,
(9-127)and connected with an excellent point of it;—it is,
(9-127)that you will be too desirous to do things perfectly well
(9-127)to consider the petite economic necessary to a very extensive
(9-127)undertaking. This, however, is easily guarded against. 1

(9-127)I remember Mrs John Kemble telling me how much she
(9-127)had saved by degrading some unfortunate figurantes into
(9-127)paper veils and ruffles. I think it was a round sum, and
(9-127)without going such lengths, I fear severer economy than
(9-127)one would like to practise, is essential to making a theatre
(9-127)profitable. Now, I have mentioned the only two personal
(9-127)circumstances which induce envy to lift her voice against
(9-127)your prospects. I think it right you should know them,
(9-127)for there is something to be considered in both particulars ;
(9-127)I would not mention them till the affair was finished,
(9-127)because I would not have you think I was sheltering myself
(9-127)under such apologies. That the perils rising out of them
(9-127)are not formidable in my eyes, I have sufficiently shown,
(9-127)and I think it right to mention them now. I know I need
(9-127)not apologize for my frankness, nor will you regard it
(9-127)either as an undue exercise of the privilege of an adviser,
(9-127)or an abuse of the circumstances in which this matter has
(9-127)placed us.—Yours ever, with best love to Mrs Terry and
(9-127)Wat, W. SCOTT
[Lockhart]

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TO DOROTHY WORDSWORTH, GRASMERE

[early June 1825] 1

(9-128)MY DEAR Miss WORDSWORTH,—It is with particular
(9-128)pleasure that I look back on the days of our happy
(9-128)excursions both in Scotland and England and so well do
(9-128)the recollections of them survive in my memory that I
(9-128)should have thought it quite impossible that any question
(9-128)on the subject could have puzzled me. I well remember
(9-128)our journey to Cole Orton—the situation of Sir George's
(9-128)mansion and the various plans of improvement which
(9-128)under your brother's guidance and direction were then

(9-128)going on. I have often had occasion to think over your
(9-128)brother's observations on the subject of building &
(9-128)landscape and I hope should I ever have the great pleasure
(9-128)of seeing him Mrs. W. and you at Abbotsford I might
(9-128)show you some things you would like although I confess
(9-128)the place is rather too fanciful—too much like what
(9-128)Dryden calls some of his extravagant flights a Dalilah of
(9-128)the imagination.

(9-128)But to your question. If I was to trust entirely to my
(9-128)own recollection I incline to think you and Mr. Wordsworth
(9-128)went one stage or two with me towards Lichfield
(9-128)but not the whole way. My reason is that I recollect

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-129)some of his observations on the castle architecture of
(9-129)England which arose out of the sale of Lord Hastings
(9-129)place at Ashby de la Zouch. But I am pretty sure that
(9-129)I was alone when I visited another old chateau Tutbury
(9-129)I think where Queen Mary had been confined 1 and I
(9-129)do not believe we were together at Lichfield. There was
(9-129)some talk of our going together to see Miss Seward but
(9-129)somehow it went off. I have seen a letter of hers giving
(9-129)in her way a very prolix account of my visit to her and
(9-129)I am perfectly confident she would not have omitted so
(9-129)remarkable a circumstance as your brother's visit had it
(9-129)taken place as it would certainly have been much more
(9-129)worth commemorating than anything which she had
(9-129)to say of me & she was not the artist to neglect a favourable
(9-129)opportunity of drawing a sketch.

(9-129)It is a singular illustration of the uncertainty of human
(9-129)testimony that of three individuals certainly not of the
(9-129)class through whose mind incidents pass most lightly two
(9-129)should have contradictory recollections with respect to

(9-129)such a fact and the third should be unable to speak with
(9-129)any confidence or certainty. This I will say however
(9-129)that if your letter had not raised doubts in my mind that
(9-129)perhaps have no other foundation I should if asked by a
(9-129)stranger [have said] that I went alone to Lichfield.
(9-129)I do not think my memory though still strong quite so
(9-129)accurate as it used to be & I believe I never was quite
(9-129)so ready at recalling past events as passages which I have
(9-129)read since I had about four or five years ago a long &
(9-129)severe illness of a very painful description accompanied
(9-129)with cramps in the stomach which brought me to death's
(9-129)door. It pleased God however that I not only recovered
(9-129)but enjoy now as perfect health as at the youngest
(9-129)period of my life. I have resigned my high trotting
(9-129)horse however for an egg-woman's pony and would
(9-129)scarce undertake to walk over Helvellyn as I did in
(9-129)great part with Southey & your brother twenty years

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(9-130)ago.¹ This season I think of going to Dublin where my
(9-130)son is with his regiment the 15 Hussars. He was married
(9-130)[some ?] months since to a young lady of some fortune
(9-130)in the County of Fife and I want to see what sort of
(9-130)menage the young folks keep.

(9-130)I wish your brother & Mrs. Wordsworth and you would
(9-130)think of our blue hills once more they are not so romantic
(9-130)as those which surround you but I think they are not
(9-130)deficient in a peculiar interest of their own. I shall be
(9-130)back in the beginning of August to a certainty & no human
(9-130)beings I should like to see under my own roof once more
(9-130)than your brother & his : I was very unlucky when he
(9-130)was last in Teviotdale.

(9-130)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 Pittfour 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]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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

(9-131)by any means having known too many fatal accidents
(9-131)occur which neither skill of the driver nor temper of the
(9-131)horse have been able to avert. Lady Scotts sister in law
(9-131)in particular lost her health for ever by such an accident.
(9-131)I must intreat you will be extremely cautious & should
(9-131)not be sorry to hear that the gigg was in a thousand
(9-131)pieces so no one was hurt. I have more tolerance for a
(9-131)four wheeld affair like your own poney chaise.

(9-131)As for the enormities of the domestics I can only say
(9-131)that if it be a comfort to have companions in trouble I may
(9-131)say to you as Burns to the Mouse

(9-131)Mousie thou art no thy lane.

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(9-132)Our Lady here to reduce some extravagances below stairs
(9-132)thought fit to engage a housekeeper thinking with reason
(9-132)that at her age she might spare some of the personal
(9-132)inspection which is unhappily necessary to keep these
(9-132)gentry in order. But there have already been two
(9-132)rebellions against this new Vice-gerent one among the
(9-132)women one among the men and though they have been
(9-132)successfully subdued yet I fancy it will cost us some
(9-132)changes at the term.

(9-132)What is this the papers have about Walter picking a
(9-132)lady out of the canal. I I think you would have mentiond
(9-132)it if he had really been playing these Newfoundland dog
(9-132)feats of gallantry. In truth I should like to know how it
(9-132)stands ?

(9-132)Will you tell him I am out of patience with him for his
(9-132)silence. All kind remembrances attend you both from all
(9-132)here. We are well & hearty only little Johnie whoops

(9-132)away still. It is the hooping cough however & any is
(9-132)better than a nameless decline. We are not afraid of him
(9-132)now. Anne sends kindest love Yours most affectionately

(9-132)WALTER SCOTT

(9-132)EDINR. 3 June [1825]

(9-132)Mrs. Jobson & Dr. Gibson spent a very pleasant day
(9-132)here on Wednesday.

[Law]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO HIS SON WALTER, 10 STEPHENS GREEN, DUBLIN

(9-133)DEAR WALTER,—I received your letter at Abbotsford
(9-133)whither I had retreated on the 4th. June to spend the time
(9-133)betwixt that day & yesterday which I did as Robinson
(9-133)Crusoe says " to my exceeding refreshment." The
(9-133)country is looking beautiful though the weather has not
(9-133)been warm an easterly wind predominating. The only
(9-133)news is that Tom Purdies daughter (the pretty one Jenny)
(9-133)is to be married on Friday to George Fairbairn a hind
(9-133)at Loch Breast one of a family that have been long
(9-133)servants to my uncle & my Grandfather. So that being
(9-133)a bridal among our ain folks I send the bride this morning
(9-133)a present of a set of tea-things with spoons corresponding.
(9-133)The bridegroom is the lad that used to fiddle to us for
(9-133)want of a better.

(9-133)I have left Anne and Mamma in the country till
(9-133)Saturday se'nnight when I propose to fly out per mail &
(9-133)fetch them in till the Session rises. In the meantime my
(9-133)Saturdays are well filld up. On next Saturday being the
(9-133)11th I go on our usual skirmish to Blair Adam where

(9-133)the good natured Chief Commissioner proposes to lay off
(9-133)an entrance to the grounds & house of Lochor[e] along
(9-133)his own lands which [will] be a great matter for the
(9-133)property though you need not be in a hurry to make the
(9-133)road. Upon Saturday 18th. I mean to go to Abbotsford as
(9-133)already said, on the 25 I will go to Tynningham to see the
(9-133)old peer 1 and learn a few more of his stories.

(9-133)Yesterday I gave a smart party in the Character of
(9-133)Bachelor Bluff to some of my big wiggd friends & my very
(9-133)old acquaintance Lord Forbes in particular. Our new
(9-133)housekeeper sent up everything very smart.

(9-133)Little John Hugh is still hooping but I have no doubt
(9-133)now that he will do well. Sophia is to go to Abbotsford
(9-133)or Chiefswood as she may like best in the course of a week

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(9-134)when it is hoped the country air will help to set him up
(9-134)completely. Poor little fellow he is a very engaging
(9-134)child.

(9-134)To continue my account of my projected movements
(9-134)I expect to be able to set off for Glasgow on Saturday
(9-134)9th. June.1 Next day we will go to the Kirk like good
(9-134)bairns & spend the day with Dr. Lockhart and set off next
(9-134)day by the Steamer for Belfast. So with any luck of a
(9-134)tolerable passage Anne, Lockhart and I will be in St.
(9-134)Stephens Green on the evening of the 12th. or morning
(9-134)of the 13th. July. I hope nothing will occur to derange
(9-134)this arrangement to which I look forward with much hope
(9-134)of gratification. You can let us [know] what is worth
(9-134)looking at upon our route.

(9-134)Agreeably to your request I have written by first post

(9-134)to remit the 1500 to Major Lanes accompt with Messrs.
(9-134)Minet & Stride and shall be glad to see that matter
(9-134)settled.

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

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

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-135)you think you will be able to get leave for Killarney ? I
(9-135)should like much to see that celebrated scenery.

(9-135)My kind love to Jane and pray take the utmost care
(9-135)of the gig I have a holy horror for these vehicles &
(9-135)more than one accident have happend to young married
(9-135)women in my time which has been cause of distress for
(9-135)a life-time. Speaking of vehicles—I intend to have a light
(9-135)barouche for the journey which with two horses will
(9-135)trundle along like a bowl.

(9-135)To whom do Messrs. Coutts pay the cash in their
(9-135)hands when you are gazetted—let me know that I may
(9-135)give orders accordingly it would be awkward to have it
(9-135)unsettled while I am rambling about I am always Your
(9-135)affectionate father WALTER SCOTT

[PM. June 9, 1825]

[Law]

TO HIS SON CHARLES

(9-135)MY DEAR CHARLES,—You have been so long of answering
(9-135)my letter as to leave little time to determine on a plan
(9-135)which I thought of for your pleasure and advantage how
(9-135)to employ some part at least of this vacation. Shakespeare
(9-135)says that homebred youths have ever homely wits and
(9-135)besides as you think of something diplomatic the sooner
(9-135)you have a glimpse of foreign parts [the better]. Now
(9-135)suppose you had any intelligent friend Mr Surtees for
(9-135)example willing to take such a tour with you I should
(9-135)have had no objections to your going over to Paris
(9-135)running as far as the verge of Switzerland then descending
(9-135)the Rhine and returning by Brussels & Holland. I
(9-135)would do this the rather that our family will be much
(9-135)dispersed this year as Walter cannot get over and Anne,
(9-135)Lockhart & I have settled to go to Dublin as soon as the
(9-135)Session rises (9th. July). Now if it be too late as I fear it
(9-135)may be for you to think of arranging your foreign
(9-135)excursion you can come down here & be with us during
(9-135)the interval & while we are absent you could make a

(9-136)little tour through the Highlands & see something of
(9-136)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
(9-136)light barouche which will hold four we can all go jollily
(9-136)together to the land of Eirin. I should not be afraid of
(9-136)the visit incommoding Walter because he has a largish
(9-136)house & I can make the matter of the menage quite easy.
(9-136)Mamma & Sophia promise either to remain quiet at
(9-136)Abbotsford or to go to some sea bathing quarter. Mama
(9-136)dare not trust ferry boats & Irish travelling.

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

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

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

(9-136)BLAIR ADAM 12 June [PM. 1825]

(9-136)You will of course Direct to Edinr.

[Law]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(9-137)EDINBURGH 15 June [1825]

(9-137)MY DEAR MRS CLEPHANE,—Mr and Mrs Harford 1
(9-137)of Blaize Castle near Bristol one of the finest places I have
(9-137)been told in England, are bound for Staffa, and though
(9-137)I dislike very much giving you trouble, yet as they are
(9-137)pleasant folks, and as Mrs Harford before her marriage,
(9-137)which is a late event, knew and valued Lady Compton,
(9-137)I do not hesitate to give them a passport to your kind
(9-137)attention, and Anna Jane's. Where shall we meet as
(9-137)happily as we did last year when even Wealth itself, that
(9-137)dullest of all concerns, in the shape of its most favoured
(9-137)daughter 2 could not suppress our highland Hilarity.
(9-137)Alas ! We must always miss one amiable member of
(9-137)our society in poor Lady Alvanley. I heard from the
(9-137)Miss Ardens two days since. They are well, but still in
(9-137)very poor spirits as is most natural, for the loss of such a
(9-137)parent and mother is never to be forgotten.

(9-137)We are all here well. Johnie Lockhart just recovering
(9-137)from the Hooping Cough, I trust favourably. A thousand
(9-137)kind loves to Anna Jane. The price of bullocks is now
(9-137)doubled at least. Will not this tempt you from your
(9-137)lonely isle ? I go to Dublin to see Walter for 2 weeks next
(9-137)month. Then I must be stationary at home for the
(9-137)season. Adieu my dear Mrs Clephane, I think of you
(9-137)and your family very often though I am so wretched a

(9-137)letter-writer. I thought of you particularly ten days
(9-137)since when I was at Walter's estate of Lochore which
(9-137)looks full on Kirkness. Always yours most respectfully
(9-137)and affectionately
WALTER SCOTT
[Northampton]

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TO WALTER SCOTT, 10 STEVENS GREEN, DUBLIN

(9-138)EDINR. 16 June 1825

(9-138)MY DEAR WALTER,—It may be as well to let you know
(9-138)(though you would infer it from my last letter) that the
(9-138)transference of 1500 must have been made on Monday
(9-138)13th. the order having been dispatchd on friday 10th.
(9-138)June. Sooner it could not be for your letter found me in
(9-138)the country so a day was lost in my coming here and
(9-138)another thursday has no English post. So all has been
(9-138)done that man can do to secure your object. I will wait
(9-138)with some impatience for this nights gazette. I have
(9-138)written to Coutts to pay the 2000 odds of regulation so
(9-138)soon as the gazette announces you are in possession.

(9-138)On Saturday 11th. I went to Blair Adam & had a
(9-138)delicious stroll among the woods—the roedeer are lying
(9-138)as thick there as in the highlands and I dare say must be
(9-138)equally so at Lochore so you will have some of the high-
(9-138)game they are endeavouring to destroy them which they
(9-138)find very difficult. It is a pity they do so much mischief
(9-138)to the woods for otherwise they are the most beautiful
(9-138)objects in nature and were they at Abbotsford I could not
(9-138)I think have the heart to make war on them. Two little
(9-138)fawns came into the room at tea-time and drank cream.
(9-138)They had the most beautiful dark eyes and little dark
(9-138)muzzles & were scarce so big as Miss Fergussons Italian

(9-138)greyhound. The Chief Comr. offerd them to me—but to
(9-138)keep them tame would have been impossible on account
(9-138)of the dogs & to turn them loose into the woods would
(9-138)have been willfully entailing risque on the plantations
(9-138)which have cost me so much money & trouble. There
(9-138)was a talk of fattening them for the kitchen a proposal
(9-138)which would have driven Mama distracted.

(9-138)We spent Monday on a visit to Lochore and in planning
(9-138)the road which is so much wanted. The Chief Comr. is
(9-138)an excellent manager & has undertaken to treat with Mr.
(9-138)Wemyss of East Blair through a part of whose property

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-139)the line lies but just at a corner & where it will be as
(9-139)convenient for his property as for Lochore.

(9-139)I am glad Jane looks after her own affairs—it is very
(9-139)irksome to be sure but then one must do it or be eaten up
(9-139)by their servants like Actaeon by his hounds. Talking of
(9-139)hounds I have got a second Maida but he is not yet
(9-139)arrived. Nimrod is his name.

(9-139)I keep my purpose as expressd in my last but as the
(9-139)steam boats do not sail from Glasgow till tuesday & as
(9-139)one day will be enough to spend with that best & dullest
(9-139)of all possible doctors 1 at Germiston we will not start till
(9-139)Monday. I might perhaps persuade mama to come but
(9-139)she is unhappy in steam boats bad beds & all the other
(9-139)inconveniences of travelling. Sir Adam & Lady Fergusson
(9-139)as I hear are thinking of stirring towards you. I hope
(9-139)they will allow our visit to be over in the first instance
(9-139)as it would overtax Jane & you—otherwise I should like
(9-139)to see the merry knight in Ireland where I suppose he
(9-139)would prove Ipsis Hybernis Hybernior—more Irish than

(9-139)the natives.

(9-139)I have given Charles his choice between France &
(9-139)Ireland & shall have his answer in two or three days.
(9-139)Will he be de trop if we can pack him up in the little
(9-139)barouche.

(9-139)Your commentary on Sir Davie's confused hash of regulations
(9-139)which on principle might be shortend to a dozen
(9-139)puts me in mind of old Sir William Erskines speech to him
(9-139)when all was in utter confusion at the retreat from before
(9-139)Dunker and Sir William came down to protect the rear
(9-139)—In passing Sir David the tough old veteran exclaimed
(9-139)“Davie ye donnert idiot where's a' your pivot[s] the day.”

(9-139)Tell Jane with my kindest love that Mrs. Jobson is very
(9-139)well & dined here yesterday at a little party I was forced
(9-139)to give to Mr. & Mrs. Ha[r]ford of Blaize Castle near
(9-139)Bristol. Sophia was my S[t]andby [?] & I assure you

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-140)the thing went off well. Mama and Anne are still at
(9-140)Abbotsfd. On Saturday I go there & I suppose we will
(9-140)return together on Wednesday. As to your early hours
(9-140)no man ought to be in bed at seven in summer time— I
(9-140)never am—your four o'clock is rather premature Yours
(9-140)with kindest remembrances to Jane WALTER SCOTT

(9-140)Postscript. Yours just received dateless—as was your
(9-140)former I suppose it is a family fault 1 —What I have written
(9-140)will shew that the cash matters are bang up. You will easily
(9-140)believe that for as many cyphers as can be placed behind
(9-140)the figures 15 I would not suffer an engagement of honour
(9-140)enterd into by you with my approbation to remain
(9-140)unfullfilld. A comparison of the dates will shew there has

(9-140)been no voluntary delay on my part. Indeed what
(9-140)motive could I have for leaving money without interest
(9-140)in the hands of a London Banker. But we are corresponding
(9-140)at a triangle when you write to me & I to London.
(9-140)I wrote on friday last to Coutts to pay the regn. whenever
(9-140)you were gazetted so that all is right so far as I can make
(9-140)it so—I will write to Jane to scold her for her lady-like
(9-140)fears about our reception. To find you happy will be the
(9-140)principal part of my wellcome. For the rest a slice of
(9-140)plain meat of any kind—a segar & a little poteen are worth
(9-140)turtle & Burgundy to my taste—As for poor dear stupid
(9-140)Hartstongue there is only one answer which the clown in
(9-140)one [of] Shakespeares plays 2 says will be a fitting reply to
(9-140)all questions—Oh Lord Sir ! ! !—

[Bayley]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT 1

(9-141)EDINR. 17th June [1825]

(9-141)MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,—You are so much disposed to
(9-141)do kind and generous things that I daresay you are
(9-141)often unreasonably oppressed by intrusion, and now I
(9-141)come to add my stone, as the Highlanders say, to your
(9-141)cairn of troubles.

(9-141)The bearer is a modest and unfriended young man,
(9-141)Scott 2 by name and country, whose ambition has been
(9-141)excited by the praises he has received from friends, who
(9-141)were perhaps no great judges, until he conceived he had a
(9-141)decided vocation for the palette ; and, with the view of
(9-141)prosecuting his studies as a painter, he goes to London
(9-141)to suffer penury, I suppose, and daub canvas, as many

(9-141)have done before him. I am interested on his account,
(9-141)from the difficulties of his situation, and the modesty and
(9-141)simplicity of his character ; and, although I cannot
(9-141)pretend to judge of the degree, I think he certainly shows
(9-141)much aptness for the art. Perhaps you would be kind
(9-141)enough to give him a few words of advice, which he will
(9-141)greatly need, and if you think his talents are worthy of
(9-141)cultivation, your influence may remove those difficulties
(9-141)which lie in the way of a young and inexperienced
(9-141)stranger. It will add to the many obligations I owe, and
(9-141)enable me still more to subscribe myself, with best
(9-141)respects to Lady Beaumont, dear Sir George, your grateful
(9-141)humble servant, WALTER SCOTT

(9-141)I had a letter from Wordsworth and his sister 3 the other

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(9-142)day on an odd enough subject. When we went down to
(9-142)the country together in 1805,1 Miss Wordsworth thinks

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 143

(9-143)they went with me to wait on Miss Seward at Lichfield ;
(9-143)Wordsworth contends they did not see her ; and I, the
(9-143)referee, am unable to settle the point. Such is human
(9-143)evidence !

[Memorials of Coleorton]

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

(9-143)EDINBURGH 17 June 1825

(9-143)MY DARLING JANE,—You are doomed to have long

(9-143)answers even to postscripts but you deserve them were they
(9-143)worth any thing for you have been a most excellent
(9-143)correspondent. We will certainly be with you on the
(9-143)evening of Wednesday 14th. July or the morning of the
(9-143)next day. I find the steam boat does not sail till tuesday
(9-143)13th. which makes this change in our motions. Do not
(9-143)put yourself to any trouble about us. Walter will tell you
(9-143)that my delight is in pla[i]n fare and kind wellcome and
(9-143)as I am sure of the one I venture to command the other.
(9-143)When you were at Abbotsford we were you know somewhat
(9-143)in Gala—it was high holiday with us and occasion
(9-143)calld on us to be a little en seigneur. But you have never
(9-143)seen us quietly when we are very quiet from choice as well
(9-143)as propriety.

(9-143)I was at Blair Adam & Lochore the other day. I am
(9-143)very anxious to secure a good access to your mansion
(9-143)there. I think I can make you understand what I mean.
(9-143)You remember the bridge over the brook about half a
(9-143)mile to the west of your farm house of Chapel—Very well
(9-143)—A road made & metal'd as it is calld communicates
(9-143)from the bridge with the High road through Lord Morays
(9-143)lands 1 there & I have no doubt we can get the use of the

(9-144)road as well as Mr. Syme—We then cross the bridge &
(9-144)my proposal would be to carry the road along the left
(9-144)bank of the brook east-ward to join that road which
(9-144)communicate[s] with Chapel from the west & which is a very
(9-144)good one. Some part of the road from the bridge to the
(9-144)Chapel farm would be through Mr. Symes grounds of
(9-144)East Blair for the greater part through your own property
(9-144)& it would be equally useful almost to both estates &
(9-144)permit the farmers of both to communicate with the high-
(9-144)road to the Roscobie lime works &c which would be of

(9-144)great consequence.

(9-144)You will then have a level access (comparatively) to
(9-144)Lochore House without climbing up the sides of Bennarty
(9-144)merely to come down again, by driving past Chapel and
(9-144)coming round by the east avenue. This will serve present
(9-144)purposes. But you will also secure the power of making
(9-144)when you so please a very beautiful avenue from the
(9-144)south west by entering your own woods just after you
(9-144)pass the march between East Blair & Lochore and
(9-144)winding gradually through them till you gain the level
(9-144)of the mansion house. This may be made a most beautiful
(9-144)thing but there is no hurry in it. On the other hand it
(9-144)would be quite necessary to make an agreement with Mr.
(9-144)Symes agent while they are desirous (as Lord Chief
(9-144)Commissr. seems to think they are) to engage in such a
(9-144)beneficial transaction. If young Walter had been the
(9-144)surveyor instead of Old Walter he would have given you
(9-144)a sketch of the ground to assist your comprehension.
(9-144)You will always have the present approach as an entrance
(9-144)to the place from the North west or Kinross direction. If
(9-144)you approve of what I am recommending I will manage
(9-144)the expence for you for you cannot be expensive in rural
(9-144)oeconomy & improvements while you have so many
(9-144)cormorants to feed.

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-145)So Walters laurels in the case of the drownd fair one
(9-145)are transferd to the head of Hamilton Dundas. I think
(9-145)the tailor of 20 Stone has a right both in regard to his
(9-145)size & his spirit to pass for something more than the 9th.
(9-145)part of a man. I am glad there are still tailors in the
(9-145)15th. It was chiefly composed of such worthies when it
(9-145)was raised & calld Elliots Light Horse and when the
(9-145)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 widowd 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 lookd 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 Adj[e]u dearest Jane and God bless you

(9-145)WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

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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 accusomd 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

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

(9-146)I am anxious to know your Lordships motions this

(9-147)summer the rather that my own are more erratic than
(9-147)usual for I meditate a jaunt to Dublin to see how Walter
(9-147)& his cara sposa are carrying on their menage. I should
(9-147)like ill to be absent when the Duke & your Lordship are
(9-147)like to be at Bowhill for I would hope for my day as usual.
(9-147)I am in treaty for a vote for Walter in this county.

(9-147)Adam & Eve have deserted their paradise of Tweedside
(9-147)Alack & well a day. They went with a train of seventeen
(9-147)carts up Yarrow alarming the dale as an English foray
(9-147)might have done in days by past. Tom thought the
(9-147)French were come—some the day of judgement—and
(9-147)those who lived out of sight of the road held the long
(9-147)continued rumbling which attended their march to be
(9-147)nothing less than the precursor of an earthquake. The
(9-147)load of the carts too was as comically miscellaneous as
(9-147)the knights own talents. There were all sorts of poultry
(9-147)foreign & native—all sort[s] of dogs for game & for
(9-147)ornament—Two China sows and a boar their husband
(9-147)—in short a specimen of Noahs ark moving on a high
(9-147)road.

(9-147)I beg to be most respectfully & kindly rememberd to
(9-147)Lady Montagu the Buccleuch ladies & the Miss
(9-147)Montagues and believe me ever my dear Lord Your
(9-147)Lordships obliged & faithful

(9-147)WALTER SCOTF

(9-147)P.S. I am told a son of Mr. Campbell Minister at
(9-147)Ancrum is making interest for Wilton. I hope it may be
(9-147)considerd that he is a very young man just made a
(9-147)preacher and that George Thompson has filld a pulpit
(9-147)for ten years at least and is upwards of thirty years
(9-147)old.1

(9-147)ABBOTSFORD 20th. June [1825]—But pray address Edinr.

(9-148)where I will be in the course of two days. This is what
(9-148)our herds call a Start and Owerloup.1

[Buccleuch]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, EDINR.

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

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-149)of further teasing. But your ladyships great kindness
(9-149)encourages this species of persecution, and your flattering

(9-149)enquiries about Lockharts probable success as to Sutherland
(9-149)makes it incumbent on me to mention any little
(9-149)progress that has [been] made with respect to that
(9-149)sheriffdom.

(9-149)I have some reason to think that the principal obstacle
(9-149)in Lockharts way was some engagement, exprest or
(9-149)implied, in which ministers were engaged to give the first
(9-149)sheriffdom vacant to a particular individual. The
(9-149)sheriffdom of Caithness is now about to open by Mr.
(9-149)Trails resignation, who, indeed, most kindly offerd to
(9-149)make that resignation either earlier or later as it might
(9-149)suit Lockharts views, for whom he has a great regard.
(9-149)Now we are advised by those who understand such
(9-149)diplomacy that it is better that Mr. Trail resigns at once,
(9-149)so that this same favourite and preferd expectant (who by
(9-149)the way is one of the ugliest and stupidest fellows at the
(9-149)bar) may get his preferment and be out of the way, in
(9-149)which case, although our great friends are too diplomatic
(9-149)to say anything positive, they give intimation that Lockhart,
(9-149)as seconded by Lord Stafford and your ladyships good
(9-149>wishes, will have every chance of preference. I own I should
(9-149)be much better pleased with his having Sutherland rather
(9-149)than Caithness for his own sake, and being of a good
(9-149)presence and certainly clever enough, he would become the
(9-149)halls of Dunrobin 1 better than a thing disagreeable to the
(9-149)eye and very tiresome to the ear. But the whole arrangement
(9-149)about Sutherland must lie over untill James Ferriar
(9-149)retires from the clerks table to make way for James
(9-149)Fergusson, who vacates a commissariat to make way for
(9-149)Charles Ross, who leaves Sutherland to give place, I
(9-149>would fain hope, to Lockhart—upon the old principle of
(9-149)the cat to the rat, the rat to the halter, the halter to the
(9-149)butcher, the butcher to the ox, and so forth. Now there

(9-150)[is] an impediment to all these parties setting off on the
(9-150)race of preferment with their hands fast clenched on each
(9-150)others skirts, for Mr. Peel will not give Ferriar a
(9-150)superannuation pension equivalent to two thirds of his salary,
(9-150)but wishes to limit him to one half, and the stout old
(9-150)highlandman declares he will die sooner than abate his
(9-150)demand. All this will probably be settled in the course
(9-150)of the next vacation. I thought it right that your ladyship
(9-150)and my lord marquis should be master of all that I know
(9-150)of this business at the risque of writing a very dull letter.
(9-150)My informer seems to have a superstitious fear of all this
(9-150)valuable information transpiring, so it is only designed for
(9-150)your ladyships private ear. Indeed there are so many
(9-150)more amusing subjects of conversation at Cleveland
(9-150)House or the Villa that the arrangements of northern
(9-150)sheriffs has little chance to be selected.

(9-150)I dined in company with Marechal MacDonald 1 yesterday,
(9-150)and was much interested in his conversation, which
(9-150)was very agreeable and impressive. His appearance was
(9-150)far from military, much like some of these north country
(9-150)clergymen who come down to figure at the General
(9-150)Assembly ; but he has a fine eye, and what is usually
(9-150)impressive, grey hair, with dark eye brows. The whole
(9-150)expression is plain and sagacious, and he seems very
(9-150)frank and communicative. He talked a long while to
(9-150)me, notwithstanding the miserable French in which I was
(9-150)obliged to attempt a reply, for he understands no English.
(9-150)He is bound for South Uist, and to South Uist he will go.
(9-150)I have a notion the place is horribly desolate, without
(9-150)grandeur of any kind, even that of sterility. I question
(9-150)whether it will be improved by a parcel of poor smoke-
(9-150)dried relatives who will rush on him to get what they can.
(9-150)I advised Hector Buchanan MacDonald 2 to carry him to

(9-151)Bank Notes or gold) lying here for me at my return and
(9-151)3-Iso that you would remit to Messrs Coutts any day next
(9-151)week the sum of 350 begging the favour of them to send
(9-151)me a letter of credit for the same sum on any banker in
(9-151)Dublin Or you may get me such a letter from a Banker
(9-151)here which will save trouble. If the Coutts send it
(9-151)they will please advise me by a letter addressd to me at

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1825

(9-152)No 10 Stevens Green Dublin. This completes the 500
(9-152)for my personal expences etc.

(9-152)I also wish you could pay my law agent John Gibson
(9-152)Junior 10 Charlotte Street the sum of 607., 11., 4 1/2
(9-152)ballance due on the inclosed accompt—it has stood long
(9-152)over part of it. I also inclose a small accot. of 16 due
(9-152)to a poor widow which please [settle].

(9-152)Other things may lie over till we meet. I wish you
(9-152)would dine with me on Friday and come at four precisely
(9-152)with the books I will be then ready to give you all
(9-152)necessary stuff for my absence Yours etc WALTER SCOTT

(9-152)You can send me an answer tomorrow morning by
(9-152)times or come to breakfast if so early an hour as nine &
(9-152)the company of a parcel of boys should chance to suit you.

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES SKENE

(9-152)MY DEAR SKENE,—I was favoured with your kind letter,
(9-152)which I have delayed answering untill I should have
(9-152)arranged my motions for the Irish trip. I shall set out
(9-152)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

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(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

(9-153)MY DEAR LORD,—I only write to say that your letter is
(9-153)perfectly satisfactory for me—as indeed I would have
(9-153)been most unreasonable if it were otherwise. I have no
(9-153)wish to serve Mr Thompson either at the risque of his
(9-153)doing his patrons discredit or making a bad pastor.1 I
(9-153)firmly believe however he will make a very good one—
(9-153)at least he has the essential qualities.

(9-153)I rejoice to hear that the Duke has made a successful
(9-153)debut.2 Nothing encourages youth so much as the sense
(9-153)that they can succeed and I know my young freind for
(9-153)whom Fortune has done so much will feel the delight
(9-153)of acquiring for himself those accomplishments over which
(9-153)fortune has no power but which must be won by industry
(9-153)& intelligence and may then be worn as honorable
(9-153)trophies. I think the choice of his studies admirable.

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1825

(9-154)If he had diverged to Weimar I should have wishd to give
(9-154)him a letter to Goethe one of the most extraordinary men
(9-154)of his age whom advanced age has not I understand
(9-154)deprived of his energy or his interest in passing events.
(9-154)He speaks french perfectly. But this may be on another
(9-154)occasion if poor old eighty & upward survives so long.1

(9-154)I mentiond I was going to Ireland in July. As I must
(9-154)visit Lockharts brother 2 I shall have a peep at Bothwell
(9-154)Castle if it is only for half an hour. It is a place of many
(9-154)recollections to me for I cannot but think how changed I
(9-154)am from the same Walter Scott who was so passionately
(9-154)ambitious of fame when I wrote the song of Young
(9-154)Lochinvar at Bothwell. And if I could recall the same
(9-154)feelings where was I to find an audience so kind and
(9-154)partial & whose applause was at the same time so well
(9-154)worth having as Lady Dalkeith & Lady Douglas. When

(9-154)one thinks of these things there is no silencing ones regret
(9-154)but by Corporal Nym's philosophy things must be as they
(9-154)may—One generation goeth and another cometh.

(9-154)I shall be back in Roxburghshire long before your
(9-154)Lordships proposed visit to Scotland. Perhaps I may
(9-154)return through England but this is very uncertain. I have
(9-154)thoughts of going as far as Killarney unless Pat should
(9-154)happen to [be] in a pugnacious humour in which case it
(9-154)may be as well to remain under shadow of the 15th in
(9-154)which Walter has just got a troop so is now captain by
(9-154)right and not of courtesy and a very great man I suppose
(9-154)in consequence. My son Charles is come back from
(9-154)Oxford & I am pleased with his improvement in general
(9-154)manners as well as in learning. He gives an account of
(9-154)Christ Church which makes me as well pleased the Duke
(9-154)is at Cambridge which at first I rather regretted.

(9-154)I hope Lady Isabella's recovery will be as favourable as
(9-154)her freinds could desire & am with best Compliments to

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-155)Lady Montagu & all the ladies always most truly your
(9-155)obliged & fathful
(9-155)EDINR. 28th June [1825]

WALTER SCOTT

(9-155)I spent Saturday & Sunday at Tynningham and never
(9-155)saw Lord Haddington more himself excepting the
(9-155)giddiness which he complains of. His spirits memory and
(9-155)judgement were not more remarkable twenty years since.
(9-155)Yet he lives almost alone from one months end to the
(9-155)other.
[Buccleuch]

TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE

(9-155)MY DEAR ROSE,—I think it is about the time when
(9-155)good men arrange their country parties and enquire
(9-155)after the motions of their friends. How sets the Vane (I
(9-155)will not say the weather cock) of your inclinations—due
(9-155)north I trust with a resting towards Abbotsford when
(9-155)the moorfowl season sets in. I mention the moorfowl
(9-155)not only on account of your further delectation but
(9-155)because I am going for a week or two to Ireland in the
(9-155)beginning of July and shall scarce if I visit Killarney as I
(9-155)purpose get back before the first week of August. My
(9-155)principal cause of visiting the Emerald Isle is that I wish
(9-155)to see how Walter and his wife keep their menage they
(9-155)are quartered at present at Dublin. The papers seem to
(9-155)bestow on him the credit due to another officer of saving
(9-155)a young lady from drowning the other day. We can only
(9-155)hope he would have done his best had he been in the way
(9-155)and [he] certainly has thewes and sinews enough for such a
(9-155)task. Pray let the author of the Wilderness of Monkeys 1
(9-155)know I expected he would send me a copy of the work
(9-155)specially as I think he has got some of my tales and being
(9-155)generally read and admired I might as well quote the

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(9-156)best thumb'd page of our friend Joe Millar as again
(9-156)attempt to tell what is generally known so I ought in all
(9-156)justice to have a copy of the record. Mr. & Mrs. Stewart
(9-156)Mackenzie are here for a day and talk of having seen you
(9-156)at Morriffs and that both of you were very well. I think
(9-156)I must see Johanes Mauritanius as I return through
(9-156)England that is if I do take that route. Anne and Lockhart
(9-156)are to be my travelling companions. Lady Scott
(9-156)Sophia and little Johnie Hugh as he calls himself go to
(9-156)Helensburgh I believe to sea bathing quarters. Perhaps
(9-156)we might manage somewhere or somehow to pick you up

(9-156)on our return northward. After August I shall be
(9-156)stationary as usual and the Chapel 1 awaits you. Adieu
(9-156)dear Rose all at Chiefswood & Abbotsford [send] love
(9-156)and hope you will not sadden autumn by your absence.
(9-156)Address Edinr. as I came here only for a day. Yours
(9-156)with most sincere regard and affection WALTER SCOTT
(9-156)ABBOTSFORD 20th June 1825

(9-156)How does Orlando come on ? Chantrey killed two salmon
(9-156)when here a month ago.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

(9-156)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,—On receiving your letter 2 I
(9-156)exclaimed to myself "Gadzooks I have just such a thing

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

1825

(9-157)in my eye "—But on going to James Nairne to enquire
(9-157)about Newhall I found you had been nibbling but would
(9-157)not rise to the fly. In point of size and extent it is exactly
(9-157)what you want—You have a capital road and are in
(9-157)complete solitude with a perfect command of excellent
(9-157)society within a few miles—The Caddon is such a stream
(9-157)as the Glencorse water & supplies good fishing excepting
(9-157)in the very dry season and then you are within three miles
(9-157)of Ashiestiel, the best trout fishing possible. Your poney
(9-157)carries you there in half an hour and you return in two
(9-157)hours with your creelfull. You have Galashiels for an
(9-157)excellent market town within four miles, and Abbotsford
(9-157)at the right distance of a morning drive. For the value you
(9-157)have 3 per cent immediately and next to a certainty of
(9-157)4 or I would even say 4 1/2 per cent and I declare to you
(9-157)that if I wanted to [in]vest money I would buy the place on

(9-157)that accompt only. There is [a] better sort of farm house
(9-157)which may completely supply the place of your supposed
(9-157)old manse. There are a number of old trees about the
(9-157)house and admirable facilities for making beautiful copse
(9-157)plantations and standing timber both—and crede experto—
(9-157)there is no country amusement which is so delightful
(9-157)as planting and few rural improvements more certainly
(9-157)profitable. Trees are like children, interesting to
(9-157)Strangers when grown up, but to parents and planters
(9-157)from the nursery. Plant an acre of copse-wood in 1825
(9-157)for 4 which is ample—allow thinnings to be set against
(9-157)expense of keeping pruning repairing fences &c and in
(9-157)1845 you cut a crop worth 40—four ton of bark at
(9-157) 10 per acre being rather below the usual rate. You
(9-157)have ever afterwards the same return of 40 every 18 or
(9-157)20 years and you have the value of the wood against all
(9-157)attending expenses. If you chuse to incur the same
(9-157)expense every year it is clear you will after twenty years
(9-157)cut the same sum of 40 annually. I only give a hint of
(9-157)what may be done in this way by a man that is not
(9-157)pinched for the ready—Meanwhile the place is bare

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(9-158)certainly but not " in the mind's eye Horatio ". Three
(9-158)years enable your plantations to assume that boskey
(9-158)appearance fashioning out their future form even to the
(9-158)vulgar and earthly vision itself. In short the place has
(9-158)great capabilities & conveniencies and I remember
(9-158)twenty years ago wishing very much to get hold of it.
(9-158)But that I may not write upon such vague speculation I
(9-158)intend to go up there on Monday and will write on
(9-158)Tuesday 1 whether my present recollections are accurate
(9-158)or not—One thing I consider as of consequence which is
(9-158)the excellent and quiet character of our common people
(9-158)very different in this respect from manufacturing districts.

(9-158)It is impossible you can have every thing you wish in
(9-158)settling yourself but I really think Newhall may in the
(9-158)course of a short time be made all you would wish. You
(9-158)cannot carry Hampstead with you.

(9-158)If you had wished a leasehold I think I might have had
(9-158)it in my power to have suited you in case Nicol Milne
(9-158)and I should chance to agree about his property of
(9-158)Faldonside; but this is very dubious owing to his
(9-158)unreasonable demands.² The house is a new one & you
(9-158)might have a lease for any term you chose with all walks
(9-158)chasse &c. in common—But there is no denying that
(9-158)property is a more tempting thing in spite of all that sages
(9-158)can say on the subject. Mrs Scott's fortune is completely
(9-158)at her own disposal & our marriage contract provided
(9-158)for the chance of buying land in Roxburghshire. Besides
(9-158)as she has about 20,000 besides her estate of Lochore
(9-158)we might make a good purchase with my experience
(9-158)without selling her own estate which is rising in value
(9-158)daily. Mrs Scott has a very extensive interest in the
(9-158)unfortunate Waterloo Bridge from which she scarce
(9-158)draws 50 a year though the advances of her father
(9-158)amounted to 10,000 I am told this dead concern is
(9-158)likely to recover by means of a great street from the

(9-159)Museum directing on said bridge.¹ This would be a good
(9-159)object for the Captain for such he is gazetted this week in
(9-159)the 15th Hussars. He is a lucky dog but still more in the
(9-159)domestic qualities and excellent principles of his little wife
(9-159)—To return from whence I came I beg you to suspend
(9-159)our final order about Newhall till I have written to you
(9-159)on the subject from Abbotsford with an account of my
(9-159)visitation of the premises. There are other bidders but
(9-159)Nairne has promised to wait a few days.² There are

(9-159)several people who will close instantly on your final
(9-159)rejection. My factor Will Laidlaw who now my things
(9-159)are all in order complains of having too little to do would
(9-159)be delighted to superintend things for you without
(9-159)expense or at a mere trifle & this is something as he is both
(9-159)skillfull & perfectly honest. Kind compliments to Mrs
(9-159)Richardson. I hope I will have her on my side Yours
(9-159)in haste though the letter is long

(9-159)WALTER SCOTT
(9-159)EDINBURGH 30th June [1825]

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JOHN GIBSON, JUNIOR, W.S.

(9-159)MY DEAR SIR,—The charge of Mr. Baillie if not too
(9-159)little is certainly not too much—the horse is quite able to
(9-159)carry the saddle.

(9-159)I have desired Mr. Ballantyne so soon as he has settled
(9-159)with Mr. Constable for a very large sum due to me to pay
(9-159)you 607., which will pay my balance—Mr. Bayleys
(9-159)accompt and the accompt due by my son Walter to you.

(9-159)Surely I never received any interest and I reckon in
(9-159)truth that Constable was regularly paying it to Major
(9-159)Sharpe untill the article caught my eye in your accompt.

(9-159)Mrs. Burns address is Beaverhall near Edinr. but I will

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(9-160)write to her to call on you when it will be most convenient
(9-160)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 Parl.

(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

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(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

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

(9-161)Major Lane was so good as to spare me any anxiety
(9-161)about the delay of gazetting for in an answer to a letter
(9-161)of mine saying that all was right he was so attentive as
(9-161)to add that the promotion was to go in the regiment as
(9-161)he had learned at Horse Guards.

(9-161)I should like much to see the ever memorable field of
(9-161)the Boyne and I think the best way will be to sleep at
(9-161)Drogheda on the night of Wednesday 14th June 1 for
(9-161)Anne will probably be very sick on her passage and may
(9-161)require some more rest at Belfast than I would be disposed
(9-161)to spare her otherwise. So that to join at Drohedagh
(9-161)will be an easy matter. You have but to leave a letter at
(9-161)Post office poste restante stating whether we may expect
(9-161)you & at what hour. Or if you drop me a couple of lines
(9-161)in course of post I may have your instructions here for

(9-162)the post now arrives on the third day. I will have the
(9-162)greatest pleasure in dining with the mess of the regiment
(9-162)and certainly design for Wicklow & Killarney. These
(9-162)with Edgeworthstown comprize my sole plans & with
(9-162)what time I hope to pass at No 10 Stevens Green fill up
(9-162)my hopes of pleasure from the expedition. Anne is quite
(9-162)crazy with joy. She was never over the threshold before.

(9-162)Tell Jane Mrs Jobson is excellently well. She came
(9-162)in from Porto Bello where she is for country quarters to
(9-162)make us a visit the other day & has promised to have all
(9-162)her commissions ready for the 9th 1 which is our day of
(9-162)starting for Captain Do Littles—On Monday Germ[i]ston
(9-162)and on Tuesday we start in the Steam Kettle.

(9-162)Pray take care of letters & papers which may come for
(9-162)me. And if you write a line in answer to this Address to
(9-162)me at revd. Dr Lockharts Germiston near Glasgow as
(9-162)you have but little time to come and go upon.

(9-162)I have got a Barouchette for the expedition shabby
(9-162)enough which is of little consequence so it be but sound
(9-162)and convenient as it seems to be.

(9-162)Twenty loves to sweet Mrs Anne Page. Do not let her
(9-162)plague herself about her household concerns on our
(9-162)account Yours affectionately

(9-162)WALTER SCOTT

(9-162)EDINR 1st July [PM. 1825]

(9-162)I go to Abbotsford tomorrow after the court to return on
(9-162)friday night.

[Law]

TO MRS. HUGHES

[EDINBURGH, July 2, 1825]

(9-162)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,—This will find you I suppose
(9-162)retired from your rambles either into Amen-Corner or
(9-162)your more pleasant country residence. It is high time

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-163)I should thank you for a hundred instances of kindness
(9-163)both to Charles and myself. He is returned full of his
(9-163)obligations to you for your maternal attentions and I
(9-163)sincerely hope and believe that they are not thrown away.
(9-163)He is grown a good deal and I think improved in manner.
(9-163)He is at present in great embarrassment about his motions
(9-163)& indeed it is l'embaras des richesses for he has more than
(9-163)one tour of pleasure offered to him. He may go to the
(9-163)Highlands and shoot red deer with Glengarry—or he may
(9-163)so to the sea side with Lady Scott Sophia & little Johnie
(9-163)and study the topography of the field of Largs. Or lastly
(9-163)he may go if he likes it with Lockhart Anne & me to
(9-163)Ireland where I intend to be Walters guest for a fortnight
(9-163)and see Killarney & the scenery of Wicklow. He is a real
(9-163)Captain now—no travelling name—and it must be a fine
(9-163)thing to be one judging from the pleasure it seems to give.
(9-163)He breaks off a letter to me written the very moment he
(9-163)was gazette[d]1 that he may go down to the barracks to
(9-163)plead his privilege against mounting a subaltern's guard
(9-163)that evening.

(9-163)The anecdotes from Mr. Bowdler's note book 2 are
(9-163)extremely curious. The letters between Grafton & Monmouth

(9-163)have been published but I never saw so curious &
(9-163)detailed an account of the villainy of Sunderland in cutting
(9-163)off the interest of the unfortunate Monmouth with the
(9-163)King. You will observe that Sir John Dalrymple alludes
(9-163)to it in a note in his Annals but in a manner which
(9-163)expresses doubt of the authenticity of the tradition. If
(9-163)Mr. Bowdler was a man of veracity which there can be
(9-163)no reason to doubt I should suppose that such doubts are
(9-163)greatly removed. Indeed it consists very well with the
(9-163)most plausible account of what Monmouth meant when
(9-163)he offered to purchase a pardon by revealing a secret of
(9-163)the highest importance—this was doubtless the correspondence
(9-163)between Sunderland & the P[rince] of Orange

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1825

(9-164)and perhaps some instigation of his own enterprize from
(9-164)the same perfidious quarter. It was a great shame to
(9-164)King William to take into his counsels that shameless
(9-164)traitor. The other anecdote is also curious.¹ I cannot
(9-164)help thinking that Cromwell was right ²—his power was
(9-164)almost too great to keep yet it was still more perilous to
(9-164)resign it. A man may stand safer on the most giddy
(9-164)precipice than he can descend from it: such are the laws
(9-164)to which ambition subjects her votaries.

(9-164)I am pleased with the spirit of the Welch in asserting
(9-164)the superiority of their great Chief to the high Northumbrian
(9-164)Duke his relation.³ But it has been an old use if our
(9-164)Shakespeare can be credited of the Percy to treat the
(9-164)Cymmri as upon an unequal footing and our modern
(9-164)Britons may be pretty sure that the two brothers were on
(9-164)better [terms] than Hotspur & Glendower.

(9-164)Pray tell your son I am much gratified by the views of
(9-164)Provence. No. 5 safely received and as beautiful as the

(9-164)former. It is really a charming quality to be able to steal
(9-164)a country's beauties in this way for the amusement of
(9-164)another.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-165)As for your Devil's bridges your Menai pass 1 and such
(9-165)pontifical matters I have been long done with riding
(9-165)over seven inch bridges 2 upon a high-trotting horse like
(9-165)Mad Tom although I once thought there were few not
(9-165)slaters or sailors by profession who could have boasted
(9-165)more steadiness of brain where such feats were in
(9-165)question.

(9-165)I am just setting off for Abbotsford—to return on
(9-165)Wednesday which would be a feeling much like pulling a
(9-165)tooth only that I am going to see my young folks in
(9-165)Ireland. I do not intend to stay above a month in the
(9-165)Green Isle but I must see my friends at Edgeworthstown
(9-165)and I must see Wicklow and if possible Killarney. I am
(9-165)not so fond of seeing sights as formerly yet one has heard
(9-165)so much of these pieces of scenery that it would be sin
(9-165)and shame to omit seeing them when so near. My son
(9-165)has been so lucky moyennant beaucoup d'argent as to get a
(9-165)troop & is a real Captain of horse

(9-165)—— with no hand that is idle
(9-165)For one holds the sword and [the other] the bridle.

(9-165)It is a great step to get over and the duties of the higher
(9-165)command interfere less with the comforts of a mounted
(9-165)man than those of the Subaltern. The Captain has
(9-165)better accomodation—not so many night guards and
(9-165)various advantages of many kinds. But I must bid you
(9-165)good-bye with kindest wishes to the excellent Doctor
(9-165)I hope his health continues pretty well and beg kindest

(9-165)remembrances to your son. Our weather seems to be
(9-165)settling propitiously for our various purposes of
(9-165)locomotion. Believe me ever dear Madame Your honourd &
(9-165)respectful humble Servt

(9-165)WALTER SCOTT

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1825

(9-166)My address in Ireland will be No 10 Stevens Green
(9-166)Dublin. If I can execute any commands for you it will
(9-166)give me much pleasure.

[Heffer and Wells]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[ABBOTSFORD, 3rd July 1825]

(9-166)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—Much it is said happens
(9-166)between cup and lip 1 but I trust nothing will occur to
(9-166)prevent my very speedily paying my respects to you and
(9-166)your much respected family at Edgeworthstown that
(9-166)being after the pleasure of seeing my son and daughter,
(9-166)one of the greatest satisfactions which I expect in Ireland.
(9-166)Anne comes with me and is as blithe as bird on tree at
(9-166)the idea of such a party for though Sophia had seen a
(9-166)great deal of the world before she came to Anne's years
(9-166)it was the fate of the younger sister always to be left in
(9-166)the nest and she expects the pleasure of the present short
(9-166)flight with proportional delight. My objects in Ireland
(9-166)besides Dublin and Edgeworthstown are Wicklow and
(9-166)Killarney. How to attain them I cannot fix till I am in

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-167)Ireland not knowing distances and routes or being certain
(9-167)of your motions.

(9-167)Walter is just gazetted Captain and breaks off a letter
(9-167)to me on the occasion of seeing his promotion in the
(9-167)papers, to say he must hasten down to the Barracks to
(9-167)remonstrate against mounting a Subalterns guard. This
(9-167)rapid assumption of his new privilege puts me in mind
(9-167)of the officer mentioned by Swift who used to rail against
(9-167)the assumption and the oppression practised by the
(9-167)Commanding Officers of regiments but being asked what
(9-167)he thought of it when he was himself promoted confessed
(9-167)that he felt the spirit of Colonelcy coming fast upon him.
(9-167)Walters prospects of getting a little leave to go to be our
(9-167)guide at Killarney must be a check on our engagements.
(9-167)He writes me he has been securing what little privileges
(9-167)he can claim in that way by giving close attendance. But
(9-167)if you will write me a note to No. 10 Stephen's Green
(9-167)Dublin where I expect to be on the 14 current it will
(9-167)enable me to regulate my motions.

(9-167)I wish much to see my cousin, Peggie Dallas, by marriage
(9-167)Lady Foulis but on applying to her brother I could
(9-167)only learn she had given up her residence in Dublin and
(9-167)was with some friend—he knew not whom—at a town
(9-167)called Kells which I see is in the County of Kilkenny.
(9-167)I must see her if I can to talk over auld lang syne about
(9-167)which she can say more to me than most.¹ My best
(9-167)respects attend Harriet and your brother, and all the less
(9-167)known, but not less respected members of your kind
(9-167)family. I hope to greet them all soon in green Erin—
(9-167)though for the matter of that Abbotsford is just now as
(9-167)green as George-a-green's jacket. . . .²

(9-167)It will do well enough I see—We start on Tuesday by
(9-167)steam from Glasgow or Greenock to Belfast. Walter

(9-168)proposes meeting me at Drogheda to shew me the field
(9-168)of the Boyne. I suppose Anne will be deadly sick so I
(9-168)must travel slow on Wednesday.

[Butler]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

(9-168)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,—Agreeably to my last I went
(9-168)up to Newhall this day excellent road and not five miles
(9-168)from this place. In point of annual return it cannot fairly
(9-168)be estimated according to current terms lower than from
(9-168) 150 to 160 supposing it out of lease and is very
(9-168)improvable. To pay 5000 or even five thousand guineas
(9-168)for this annual return is not amiss in the present age and
(9-168)you will not buy land at a much cheaper rate in Scotland.
(9-168)I think 5000 guineas will be accepted in lieu of 5500
(9-168)asked—As to its capabilities they are much greater than
(9-168)you would apprehend from the present condition of the
(9-168)subject unplanted & unimproved and disfigured by large
(9-168)cross dikes of stone which cut through height and hollow
(9-168)in every direction save the right one. But it comprehends
(9-168)a beautiful and varied outline of hill and holm along a
(9-168)charming stream varied by a number of banks and
(9-168)acclivities where Nature cries to a purchaser come plant me
(9-168)as loudly as Sancho's dish of cow heels cried Come eat me.
(9-168)It is enclosed with large swelling hills on all sides and
(9-168)looks a little world of itself—as sequestered a spot as can
(9-168)be found and yet a quarter of an hours ride places you
(9-168)in a London or Edinburgh Mail & baiting distance you
(9-168)may carry on your business as well as at Hampstead so
(9-168)regular is the intercourse with London. The present
(9-168)lease endures for three years after the present season but

(9-168)I have little doubt that 100 would purchase it up or that
(9-168)a moderate sacrifice would command any pieces of
(9-168)ground you might wish to plant in the meantime. There
(9-168)is a park belonging to Torwoodlee of about 30 acres.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-169)The obtaining this or a few acres of it might be a
(9-169)considerable advantage. I daresay this could be managed but
(9-169)it is not indispensable. There is another bank of no value
(9-169)belonging to Pringle of Whitebank which should be
(9-169)planted to close in the gaze of the long vale but indemnity
(9-169)could be given to Whitebank off the moorground at
(9-169)another place or I have little doubt that to oblige a good
(9-169)neighbour he would plant the ground himself. If you
(9-169)make this purchase you must consider yourself as buying
(9-169)a bare doll the dressing of which your children will tell
(9-169)you is the best part of the fun but I can safely assure you
(9-169)the expence & trouble will not be thrown away since were
(9-169)Newhall properly fitted up for a shooting or fishing lodge
(9-169)it would have a very ready Currency either for lease or
(9-169)sale if you tired of it. I will own I may be a little sanguine
(9-169)about my scheme but I have the counsel & backing of an
(9-169)admirable judge George Craig Writer Galashiels for
(9-169)whose judgement sagacity and even for whose taste I have
(9-169)much respect. I took him with me as knowing the
(9-169)country & the place well and he anxiously recommends
(9-169)the purchase as safe and reasonable. For myself I am
(9-169)afraid of saying too much for I am conscious that the first
(9-169)view of the premises will disappoint Mrs Richardson or
(9-169)perhaps even yourself. But Time and I against any two
(9-169)saith Don Diego. Let my planting but rise a little and
(9-169)if you can shew me a sweeter thing between Leader
(9-169)Haugh and Yarrow I will eat the farm house (which is a
(9-169)decent cottage in a sweet enough situation) and pick my
(9-169)teeth with one of the stout ash trees which go round it.

(9-169)I own also I may have some selfish motives from the
(9-169)pleasurable hope of more frequent meeting. But yet I say
(9-169)it again that laying romantic scenery of forest rock &
(9-169)cascade out of the question I think you will find fewer
(9-169)spots more capable of being rendered exactly what you
(9-169>wish at a moderate expense which expense will add
(9-169)proportionably to the value of the place. Being all large
(9-169)proprietors around you, you can be envied by no one—I

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(9-170)have told Nairne you will write him your mind & the
(9-170)post is going off. If you offer 5000 guineas I think you are
(9-170)pretty sure. If you are off tell him so " and for my love
(9-170)I pray you scorn me not " Yours in haste

(9-170)WALTER SCOTT

(9-170)If you write to me address care of the Revd. Doctor
(9-170)Lockhart Germiston House near Glasgow. Or to
(9-170)Stephen's Green, Dublin. I start for Dublin Tuesday
(9-170)12th current.

(9-170)Monday 4 July [1825] ABBOTSFORD

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(9-170)ABBOTSFORD 4 July 1825

(9-170)MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—I sit down to write
(9-170)one of these nothings which your Ladyship is content
(9-170)to receive as letters. I am sure if I were to write twenty
(9-170)times as often my whole combined tediousness were I to
(9-170)bestow it on you with the profuse liberality of Dogberry
(9-170)himself could not [but] ill discharge the debt of kindness

(9-170)which I owe you. But you are an indulgent creditor
(9-170)who kindly takes his debtors note of hand when he has
(9-170)no other means of security to offer though pretty sure that
(9-170)what he accepts has no real or substantial value. However
(9-170)you have extended the golden sceptre to me on
(9-170)condition of my writing & so however dull a correspondent
(9-170)write I must or be very ungrateful.

(9-170)I hope you have ere now had the parcel from Coutts
(9-170)which will explain to your Ladyship though the explanation
(9-170)be a sorry one how I have been lately employd. I
(9-170)was longer of finishing what I was about from the various
(9-170)engagements arising out of my son's marriage &. also
(9-170)from some fear of gorging the public to the extent of
(9-170)nausea with this sort of food. You will observe I am about
(9-170)to find myself employment of a different kind. I am quite

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(9-171)serious in the purpose announced & have great hope to
(9-171)make the subject very popular although I am pretty
(9-171)certain to incur the censure of bigots of both sides of the
(9-171)question—if I do I shall only conclude I have come the
(9-171)nearer to the truth. If my parcel has not reached your
(9-171)Ladyship this will be a sort of enigma but must for the
(9-171)present remain such.

(9-171)I am at present on a start [?] to Abbotsford which I
(9-171)must leave on the 6th to attend the court on the three last
(9-171)days of the session. I then start for Ireland with my
(9-171)son-in-law John Lockhart & my daughter Anne who
(9-171)from circumstances has seen less of the world than she
(9-171)ought to have done—far less than her sister at her years.
(9-171)My inclinations will lead me of course to Dublin where
(9-171)I shall find my son & daughter. A brother officer also
(9-171)married has joined him in taking a house on Stevens

(9-171)Green much too large for their two selves & they have
(9-171)divided it between them so that they have their
(9-171)establishment[s] independent of each other. So much for Scotch
(9-171)economy. Walter's proportion is large enough to afford
(9-171)us all species of accomodation & so I shall hold the new
(9-171)character of my son's guest. He is now gazetted Captain
(9-171)& exceedingly rejoiced with his preferment which I
(9-171)understand contributes much to his comfort as well as to
(9-171)his advancement in rank. He broke off a most joyous
(9-171)letter to me on the occasion by stating he had run down
(9-171)to the barracks to plead the privilege of rank which
(9-171)exempted him from mounting guard at the castle for the
(9-171)evening & I on my side was infinitely diverted with his
(9-171)haste to assume without loss of time all the immunities
(9-171)due to his preferment. The only objects I feel interested
(9-171)about in Ireland are the celebrated scenery of Wicklow
(9-171)& Killarney but whether I shall get the length of either
(9-171)will depend on Walter getting leave of absence. Time
(9-171)has been that I should have had other & yet more
(9-171)interesting objects to visit but Time steals friends &
(9-171)objects of interest & we must be thankful that it leaves

(9-172)friendships worth enjoying & the power of taking the
(9-172)part in them which they deserve.

(9-172)While I am absent Lady Scott & Sophia propose to
(9-172)go to some sea-bathing village in hopes the Ocean may
(9-172)have a strengthening effect on little Johnie Lockhart
(9-172)who is so remarkably interesting & has so much intelligence
(9-172)that one always fears there is a disproportion
(9-172)between the intellect & the fragile though beautiful
(9-172)little form which it animates. The little fellow is just
(9-172)now very well however having got successfully over the
(9-172)whooping cough one of those awkward stepping stones

(9-172)by which we must cross on our entrance to life—& to
(9-172)speak truth rather a slippery one. Charles the remaining
(9-172)member of my family goes I believe on a tour through the
(9-172)highlands with two Oxonian friends. Next year I think
(9-172)he will visit the continent in which case he will have the
(9-172)personal honour of becoming known to your Ladyship
(9-172)if you chance then to be on this side of the Alps for I fear
(9-172)even the long vacation will be too short for his reaching
(9-172)Italy.

(9-172)These are all my domestic news—of others I have but
(9-172)little to say. The agricultural prosperity of the country
(9-172)seems to be returning with a spring tide & our farm
(9-172)stock has risen almost to war prices. The only reason of
(9-172)this which appears sufficient is the increase of the use of
(9-172)butchers meat amongst the manufacturers an indulgence
(9-172)which they learnt when prices were low & (as they are
(9-172)fully employed) cannot now forego when they have risen.
(9-172)The change is so great that I sold sheep within this 18
(9-172)months at 17/- per head & glad to get so much for which
(9-172)I would now have easily gotten 31/ or 32 shillings.

(9-172)The only marvellous lion in Edinr. has been Marechal
(9-172)MacDonald the Duc de Tarente. I dined with him
(9-172)one day at my friend Hector McDonalds being the
(9-172)only person not McDonald who was present. He conversed
(9-172)with me a good deal but speaking French with
(9-172)difficulty & he having no English I could not profit so

(9-173)much by his frankness as I would otherwise have done.
(9-173)He staid only two or three days in Edinburgh setting off
(9-173)full speed for South Uist (one of the bleakest of the
(9-173)Hebridean islands) the land of his ancestors. His descent
(9-173)is well known & he will find cousins enough but I fear

(9-173)he will be disgusted with the poor & wretched appearance
(9-173)of his relatives who are all low in the world. Yet they
(9-173)are an ancient race whose proper patronymick is
(9-173)MacEachin i.e. the sons of Hector & as good gentlemen as
(9-173)the king only not quite so rich. His father made some
(9-173)figure in the eventful year 1745-6 for having been bred
(9-173)at Douay for the Catholic priesthood he understood
(9-173)the various languages of Latin English French & Gaelic
(9-173)& came over with the Chevalier as a sort of interpreter.
(9-173)The Highlanders & indeed the Scots in general have the
(9-173)advantage from accurate acquaintance with their own
(9-173)descent that if they are called from a low situation into a
(9-173)higher one the idea of being a gentleman is not new to
(9-173)them nor are they very apt to play the part of Monsr.
(9-173)Jourdain. The possibility of such an event has always
(9-173)been present with them & they resume the privileges
(9-173)of their caste when the occasion serves as the Breton
(9-173)noble in Sterne's pretty story reassumes his sword.¹
(9-173)I have but room to subscribe myself your faithful &
(9-173)affectionate friend
WALTER SCOTT
[Pierpont Morgan]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(9-173)ABBOTSFORD, 5th July 1825

(9-173)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—My letter of 2d or 3d and
(9-173)yours of 29th June 2 have crossed each other and I might

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1825

(9-174)dispense with writing an answer to yours especially as it
(9-174)will cost more postage than it is worth. But I like to be
(9-174)as precise as possible in my appointments having incurred
(9-174)much disgrace for neglecting them in my youth and all
(9-174)the world knows that a prudent old age with no passions

(9-174)to disturb its tranquillity makes an easy amends at least if
(9-174)not an ample one for the erratic courses of a wayward youth.

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

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

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-175)Not hearing from you about the dog I was afraid he
(9-175)might be rather a troublesome present and gave him away
(9-175)to Chantrey the sculptor who fell in high fancy with
(9-175)him. But I will keep as fine a puppy for you next spring
(9-175)that is if you really wish to have one for I never bring up
(9-175)more than one or two puppies for fear of weakening the
(9-175)dam. In fact that designed for Edgeworthstown was
(9-175)put out to nurse. But I will keep a fine puppy for you
(9-175)next spring.

(9-175)To speak of a puppy of a different litter—I know well
(9-175)that Walter is deeply impressed with that sort of mauvaise
(9-175)honte which makes people seem uncivil when they are
(9-175)only bashful and awkward. He has a holy Dread of
(9-175)anything which he considers as highly gifted with talent
(9-175)and has not yet learned the simple fact that clever folks
(9-175)are in reality the least to be found in the shape of criticals.
(9-175)I fancy you have Janes answer, for the last time I heard
(9-175)from her she was sitting down with much apprehension
(9-175)and I daresay after a most careful mending of pens and
(9-175)folding of paper to write a note to Miss Maria Edgeworth.
(9-175)You are not aware of the terrors of your own reputation.
(9-175)But you are an old acquaintance of Janes for I found
(9-175)almost all your works in her little boudoir at Lochore
(9-175)reasonably well thumbed. Walters regimental leave
(9-175)of absence is difficult to be obtained and keeps him short
(9-175)by the halter ; and untill I learn how that stands I can
(9-175)form no definitive plan. He has hopes but no certainty,
(9-175)of getting with us to Killarney but field-days and reviews
(9-175)are things which interfere much with the plans of young
(9-175)officers. This is the reason that there is such rapid
(9-175)promotion in these light corps considering the times—
(9-175)A young man of fortune enters smitten with the delight
(9-175)of ploughing the earth with a sabre and sweeping heaven
(9-175)With a plume and in a few months he finds himself gene
(9-175)by the severity of the discipline exit Dandy and there is
(9-175)a step in the regiment.

(9-175)I have little to add except kindest love to Mrs.

(9-176)Edgeworth Harriet and all friends—known and unknown.
(9-176)We must manage to see Mr. W. Edgeworth. I regret to
(9-176)say our limited stay gives us no hope of seeing my charming
(9-176)young friend Mrs. Fox Lane or making her husbands

(9-176)acquaintance. Lady Scott begs kind love Always yours
(9-176)with equal respect and sincerity, WALTER SCOTT

[Butler]

TO LORD MONTAGU

(9-176)MY DEAR LORD,—The sight of my hand (like the
(9-176)solemn visage of Scott of Sinton) makes you tremble for
(9-176)a repetition of my clerical suit. But though I cannot
(9-176)relieve you so effectually as did said Sinton when he told
(9-176)your Lordship his candidate was departed this life
(9-176)(intelligence which I fear you received with too little
(9-176)sympathy) yet the purport of my letter was only to
(9-176)inclose one to Lady Louisa Stuart.

(9-176)Since I am writing however I will take the opportunity
(9-176)of petitioning for a bushell or two of acorns this season
(9-176)either from Boughton or Ditton. I set out this next season
(9-176)all your goodness formerly supplied me with and finer
(9-176)plants were never put into earth Always with kind
(9-176)Compliments to the Ladies Most truly yours

(9-176)WALTER SCOTT

(9-176)EDINR. 7th July [1825]

(9-176)On the 12th I start for Dublin to see my son.

[Buccleuch]

TO LADY LOUISA STUART

(9-176)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,—I write immediately to thank
(9-176)you for your kind letter 1 and to put you right especially

(9-177)about Walters alleged feat of heroics. Whether he ever
(9-177)procures any genuine plumage (or foliage as my old friend
(9-177)Balmuto used to call it) or no it imports much that he
(9-177)should parade in no borrowed feathers. He was not the
(9-177)fortunate person who saved the poor woman but a
(9-177)brother officer Hamilton Dundas son of Dundas of
(9-177)Duddingstone whom the newspapers chose to convert
(9-177)into my son from similarity of dress and some personal
(9-177)resemblance. Nay it was not even Dundas who achieved
(9-177)this feat for though he plunged in gallantly and was
(9-177)very near drowned it required the aid of a private a
(9-177)tailor of twenty stone in weight who was the final rescue
(9-177)both of the officer & the Lady. Thus it happened in
(9-177)this as in many cases that Fame sounded her trumpet in
(9-177)behalf of the wrong party besides acting according to her
(9-177)wont in heaping all the honour of the action on the officer
(9-177)and altogether omitting the merit of the private. Two
(9-177)other popular articles of creed are shaken by this same
(9-177)drowning affair, 1st Such a tailor must have been more
(9-177)than the fractional part of a man—2ndly Fat men have
(9-177)not all the same alacrity at sinking with the facetious
(9-177)Sir John. Walter was vexed enough about the mistake
(9-177)and contradicted [it] in all the newspapers but once set a

(9-178>false report afloat and it is echoed back and again like
(9-178)thunder among hills rolls into a number of remote
(9-178)recesses and penetrates where the contradiction which
(9-178)comes halting after it never reaches. If Walter had been
(9-178)present he was likely enough to have performed the feat
(9-178)for he is a bold and skillful swimmer and sufficiently
(9-178)collected in danger of any kind to make the danger as
(9-178)small as may be—We all believed in the story when it
(9-178)appeared and every body said it was so like him that our

(9-178)amour propre is a little consoled for what I may quietly
(9-178)tell your Ladyship was a considerable mortification—
(9-178)I hope please God to see my son in a few days as I propose
(9-178)going for Ireland on the 12th to spend a week or two with
(9-178)my young folks at Dublin and take a peep at Killarney
(9-178)if time and circumstance will admit. My youngest
(9-178)daughter Anne and John Lockhart go with me—the latter
(9-178)to save me all the plagues incident to travelling by acting
(9-178)as what gentlemen call Boots. Sophia stays to take care of
(9-178)her little delicate baby and of Lady Scott and my son
(9-178)Charles whom by the way I must one day introduce to
(9-178)your Ladyships notice proposes making a tour in the
(9-178)highlands during our absence so we are a family unusually
(9-178)dispersed—Charles is very different from Walter—has a
(9-178)turn for literature as the other has for the exact sciences
(9-178)which apply to the art of war and although a modest boy
(9-178)he is not indisposed to profit by those advantages which
(9-178)my connection with literature may afford him. Walter
(9-178)on the contrary conscious that the Gods have not made
(9-178)him poetical is much distressed by the attentions which
(9-178)he sometimes meets with under the impression that the
(9-178)Lions whelp is to be honoured after the Lion himself and
(9-178)he wants the experience of such an often-hunted and
(9-178)experienced lion as myself to get gracefully and
(9-178)composedly out of the toils. This has been a besetting
(9-178)grievance with the young soldier ever since he fought
(9-178)deadly battle[s] at the High school with the boys who called
(9-178)him " The Lady of the Lake " and I scarce think he has

(9-179)yet learned to reconcile himself to the reflected dignity
(9-179)of his literary descent although he should praise the bridge
(9-179)in old phrase that has carried him over for I do not know
(9-179)by what other roads I was to seek out for him a lairdship
(9-179)and a troop of horse. I have my own internal qualms

(9-179)about Dublin where I am told the Lion-hunters are
(9-179)already preparing stake and net. However as Marshal
(9-179)Macdonald will be there at the same time it will be hard
(9-179)if I cannot sculk unheeded. The worst is that the blue
(9-179)folks who are persecuted 1 in this way are positively the
(9-179)people whom one cares least to see and who can tell least
(9-179)of what one wishes to know. I am however famed for
(9-179)bearing my faculties meekly and this is only a private
(9-179)groan of apprehension in a friendly ear—

(9-179)For if I should as Lion come in strife
(9-179)Into such place 'twere pity of my life

(9-179)so says Snug the best and discreetest of Lions.

(9-179)I am heartily glad that you think well of the volumes
(9-179)I had sent your Ladyship. I say heartily glad because
(9-179)I had sinkings of the heart about them both while writing
(9-179)and when they were finished. I never read them a
(9-179)second time till printed and it does strike [me] there was
(9-179)a flatness and a labour about some passages which
(9-179)savoured of the Bishop of Granada's appoplexy. But if
(9-179)you did not discover them I would fain hope they are not
(9-179)so discernible as I had feared. Since although I have
(9-179)the vanity, now a friend of long standing, to claim some
(9-179)portion of your partiality, I am not afraid that it would
(9-179)baffle your penetration or disarm your sincerity. If I find
(9-179)any news from Ireland worth sending I will volunteer it
(9-179)but I am not now as I was forty years since convinced
(9-179)that in changing countries I shall find much that is new—
(9-179)I neither expect to kill myself with laughing at Pats jests
(9-179)and blunders nor to be beat on the head with Pats
(9-179)Shillella nor to jump out of the boat and drown myself

(9-180)with sheer delight as my road book says folks are apt to
(9-180)do at the Lake of Killarney.

(9-180)I will put this sheet of nonsense as Win Jenkins says
(9-180)under Lord Montagu's own kiver—I am delighted to
(9-180)hear the Miss Morritts are well both for the young ladies
(9-180)sakes and their uncles who has been drawn I think to
(9-180)hang up his happiness on frail supports—once more
(9-180)Dear Lady Louisa believe me your truly obliged honoured
(9-180)and grateful
WALTER SCOTT

(9-180)EDINR. 7th July 1825—
[Abbotsford Copies]

TO ROBERT CHAMBERS 1 BOOKSELLER, INDIA PLACE,
[EDINBURGH]

(9-180)DEAR MR CHAMBERS,—I have blotted out the note and
(9-180)Kidds 2 story. The last is indecent & might offend the
(9-180)living relations of the man. Many thanks for the fee [?].
(9-180)I am just going to the country & have no time to write
(9-180)more. Gavin Wilson 3 was different from Claudero. He

1825 SIR WALTER SCOTT 181

(9-181)was an ingenious artist and a humourist a great freemason
(9-181)& author of a volume of poems still to be met with which
(9-181)I dare say Constable can show you. Yours &c.

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

TO MRS. CLEPHANE

(9-181)CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH,

(9-181)8th July 1825. Nine o'clock

(9-181)MY DEAR MRS. CLEPHANE,—I have been studying every
(9-181)way how to procure myself the pleasure of spending a
(9-181)day or two at Torloisk, but it is with great pain that I find
(9-181)myself obliged on the present occasion to relinquish an
(9-181)idea which I entertained with much pleasure. My date
(9-181)of absence is strictly limited I fear, and I must, in the first
(9-181)place get as fast as I can to Dublin and then back as I
(9-181)now conceive through England. The situation of my
(9-181)sister-in-law at Cheltenham makes this an imperative
(9-181)necessity for she has a daughter who has been very ill
(9-181)and looks to me for the comfort I fear a sad one, of a visit
(9-181)on my return—Next season, if we be all spared, I hope
(9-181)to make a little excursion with the isles and highlands
(9-181)only in view, and Torloisk will certainly be my first object.

(9-181)This is the last night of my remaining here and you
(9-181)cannot conceive the plague of petty details official and
(9-181)non-official which shorten my letters. As I am on the
(9-181)eve of departure I am obliged to hand over your letter
(9-181)and the enclosure this morning received to John Gibson—
(9-181)I am sure he will attend to it, and let me know when
(9-181)I return if there is any way in which I can help to put
(9-181)matters to rights by intercession or remonstrance. I
(9-181)have no idea that you having paid your taxes and producing
(9-181)your discharges, can be called upon for a second
(9-181)Payment. I would advise your returning answer stating

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(9-182)the date of your discharges and payments, and that
(9-182)you should send them to Mr. Gibson I mean the receipts
(9-182)and mention they are in his hand. I would look
(9-182)after it myself, but my absence makes it impossible. Be
(9-182)short and general in your answer but send one. I would

(9-182)add more, but am half dead with the laborious trifles
(9-182)which our people little used to move have reserved to the
(9-182)last moment to plague me with.

(9-182)I think Charles is on a Solitary stroll to the highlands,
(9-182)and bent to get to Torloisk, if possible. As he has had a
(9-182)cold I do not know if he will make out his valourous
(9-182)intentions, but of course, Torloisk is a great object. He
(9-182)was an amusing boy, and has grown up a promising youth.
(9-182)I need not recommend him to your kindness, who were
(9-182)always too partial to me and mine. Adieu, recommend
(9-182)me in your prayers as a person intending to travel by sea and
(9-182)land, much more deserving the prayers of the church,
(9-182)if I can be a judge, than any one actually embarked.
(9-182)Love to dear Anna Jane. The whoops and hallos are
(9-182)altogether intolerable, for be it known we all start at
(9-182)once—a Jewish dispersion. Yours, dear Madam, with
(9-182)all the respect and attention my botherd brains can
(9-182)command. W. SCOTT

[Northampton and Abbotsford Copies]

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

(9-182)MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to enclose for your kind acceptance
(9-182) 176,, which please to carry to Walters credit in
(9-182)any accompts you may have with him. It is the amount
(9-182)of the very moderate recompence for your trouble on his
(9-182)accompt on a late happy occasion. We both remain your
(9-182)debtor for much kindness of which we shall be always to
(9-182)show our sense when circumstances render it proper I am
(9-182)Dear Sir Your obliged humble Servant

(9-182)WALTER SCOTT

(9-182)CASTLE STREET 8th July [1825]

(9-183)Please acknowledge to the receipt of the enclosed to Mr
 (9-183)James Ballantyne which will be his voucher on account
 (9-183)with me.

[Bayley]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

[Copy]

(9-183)DEAR CONSTABLE,—Ballantyne will give you a bill of
 (9-183)mine for 500 at six months, for which I forgot to ask your
 (9-183)permission yesterday. The purpose is a small loan to
 (9-183)my friend Terry now deep embarked in a theatrical
 (9-183)speculation 1 : as I have always called him my friend, I
 (9-183)do not like to fail him at a pinch, when his fortune may
 (9-183)be made or marred. The undertaking is said to be very
 (9-183)promising, it is the purchase of the Adelphi by him &
 (9-183)Yates. I am I believe pretty well secured by insurance
 (9-183)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
 (9-183)speak quite openly to Thomson about the letters.² In
 (9-183)point of delicacy I am quite willing to move by his
 (9-183)opinion, but all must understand I propose neither satire
 (9-183)nor panegyric.

[Stevenson]

TO PATRICK KERR, 1 LIEUTENANT, R.N., BUSH, FISHERROW,
NEAR EDINBURGH, N.B.

(9-184)DEAR SIR,—Your letter reached me just in the moment
(9-184)that I was setting off for this city on a visit to my son and
(9-184)daughter in law which of course occasions some delay in
(9-184)my replying to it.

(9-184)I assure you that you [do] not overestimate my wish
(9-184)to serve you though perhaps as is very natural you may
(9-184)put more reliance on my credit and means of serving you
(9-184)than I have reason to know from experience ought to be
(9-184)placed in them. My only claims on Lord Melville are
(9-184)those of early friendship and with a statesman these must
(9-184)in general give way to political considerations of different
(9-184)kinds. Besides my own connections of various sorts
(9-184)sometimes oblige me to be troublesome to him in matters
(9-184)in which I am interested either personally which is rarely
(9-184)the case or through near relatives and all this diminishes
(9-184)the chance of my being attended to in a case like yours.
(9-184)At the same time you may rely upon it that when I meet
(9-184)Lord Melville (knowing by experience that letters go for
(9-184)little or nothing) I will represent your case [to] him and

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-185)shall be truly happy if his engagements and inclination
(9-185)combine to render me successful in the application. I
(9-185)expect he will be down in Scotland about the time I
(9-185)return from Ireland and hope to see him at Abbotsford.
(9-185)Meantime I am with respects to Mrs Kerr Dear Sir Your
(9-185)faithful humble Servant

WALTER SCOTT

(9-185)10 STEPHENS GREEN DUBLIN 15 July [1825]

[Mackinnon]

TO MRS. JOBSON, 5 PITT STREET, PORTOBELLO, EDINBURGH,
OR 6 SHANDWICK PLACE

(9-185)14 July

(9-185)MY DEAR MRS. JOBSON,—According to my promise I
(9-185)beg to inform you that we got here yesterday 1 to dinner
(9-185)after a very disagreeable passage as we were on deck the
(9-185)whole night with much rain a[nd] a very cold wind.
(9-185)Wednesday and thursday were spent in travelling here
(9-185)through a country where the soil is extremely rich and
(9-185)the peasants beggarly in dress and appearance beyond
(9-185)description.² We had a very kind reception from our
(9-185)young folks and I have every reason to make a most
(9-185)satisfactory report respecting them. Jane is looking very
(9-185)well and in good spirits and has got a little matronly air
(9-185)about her from her new duties as mistress of a family
(9-185)which becomes her extremely well. Their society is
(9-185)small but very judiciously selected comprehending several
(9-185)of the most respectable families in Dublin. They have
(9-185)a part of a very handsome house at a cheaper rate than
(9-185)they could have got much inferior accomodation in a
(9-185)lodging by themselves ; and they seem to live very
(9-185)genteely & comfortably without any appearance of
(9-185)expencc or extravagance.

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(9-186)You will say perhaps I have had but little time to see
(9-186)all this but, besides exercizing a papa's right to ask
(9-186)questions one sees I think the marks of a well- or of an
(9-186)ill orderd family in a very short time. Jane has had I
(9-186)believe (as falls to the lot of all young house keepers)
(9-186)some trouble to get her domestics into this state of good
(9-186)order but patience and steadiness bring every thing about.

(9-186)We cannot hope that these young folks will pass through
(9-186)life without a share of distresses and calamities nor is it
(9-186)for us to presume to guess from what qua[r]ter adversity
(9-186)or sorrow may come upon them. But from all I can see
(9-186)as both are remarkably gifted with good sense and good
(9-186)temper as well as with good principles of religion and
(9-186)morality, as they seem to agree perfectly in their views
(9-186)and wishes I am confident in my hopes that with whatever
(9-186)species of distress they may be visited they will have the
(9-186)consolation of their mutual affection to enable them to
(9-186)endure it.

(9-186)Jane tells me she has written you a long letter lately
(9-186)and hopes for [an] answer soon. I was closely questiond
(9-186)about your health looks and so forth and had the pleasure
(9-186)to give the best account of all. I have seen one or two old
(9-186)friends since I came here and have heard much in praise
(9-186)of Janes good sense and propriety of conduct. Walters
(9-186)promotion I find contributes a great deal to his wifes
(9-186)personal comfort as he can be more at home as a Captain
(9-186)than as a subaltern. In his absence she has her books &
(9-186)music and other modes of amusement all around her
(9-186)besides one or two pleasant friends when she chuses
(9-186)society. In fact I came with the anxious hope to find
(9-186)them well & comfortable and to say truth the reality
(9-186)exceeds my warmest expectation. This subject is so
(9-186)interesting to [us] both that I need make no apology for
(9-186)enlarging upon it and you may be assured dear Madam
(9-186)that though I may be mistaken in my observations I
(9-186)communicate them to you without the least exaggeration
(9-186)just as they strike myself.

(9-187)Do not trouble yourself to answer this unless it be to
(9-187)let me know that I can execute any commission for you

(9-187)in this city or country. We propose a little excursion or
(9-187)two next week and I shall certainly steal Jane from home
(9-187)for a few days if Walters military duties do not permit
(9-187)him to attend—You may depend on my taking the
(9-187)utmost care of her. I have kept this letter a day
(9-187)longer than that on which it was written in case any
(9-187)thing should occur worth telling you but I have nothing
(9-187)to add. We are of course overwhelmed by the proverbial
(9-187)hospitality of Ireland but till Monday we shall prefer
(9-187)our own little circle to any invitations. We will make a
(9-187)few visits next week & go down to see the beautiful
(9-187)scenery in the County of Wicklow about thursday. I am
(9-187)dear Mrs Jobson with much respect your most obedient
(9-187)Servant
WALTER SCOTT

(9-187)10 STEVEN SQUARE DUBLIN 15 July [1825]

[Bayley]

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

(9-187)MY DEAR ADAM,—Here we are in Pat-land and almost
(9-187)killd with kindness. The emphatic personal pronoun We
(9-187)comprehends on this occasion Lockhart Anne and my
(9-187)own self. I write chiefly to tell you what I am sure Lady
(9-187)Fergusson and you will be pleased to hear—that I find
(9-187)Walter and Jane living most respectably and moderately
(9-187)in a little circle of friends of good fashion by whom the
(9-187)young folks seem to be held in much regard. Janes
(9-187)shyness is much worn off she does the honours with a
(9-187)very modest little matronly Air and it is good fun to see
(9-187)her chaperone Lady Anne who is more of a dasher than
(9-187)herself. They are very fond of each other and draw kindly

(9-188)as the Coachman says in the play. They have got a
(9-188)great large house divided betwixt them & a brother
(9-188)officer and his lady and furnishd out with a great deal of
(9-188)antiquated finery all of which stands our young friends
(9-188)about 150,, a year cheap enough for the extensive
(9-188)accomodation. The Irish have been most flatteringly
(9-188)kind in their reception. I have been made D.LL.1 and
(9-188)A double S. by Trinity College almost worried by crowds
(9-188)& acclamations. In short I begin to think there is
(9-188)something about me which I never suspected before and give
(9-188)Pat great merit for having discoverd it.

(9-188)Walter Jane Anne and Lockhart beg a thousand kind
(9-188)remembrances. The two former are in hope of seeing
(9-188)you here where they can give you excellent quarters &
(9-188)Janes cuisine is by no means to be sneezed at. She is a
(9-188)very managing little person and overhauls all her
(9-188)accompts with laudable accuracy. Walters late
(9-188)promotion is subject of much congratulation here.

(9-188)Always with kindest love to your good lady Most
(9-188)truly yours
WALTER SCOTT

(9-188)18 July [1825] 10 STEVEN'S GREEN

(9-188)Thermometer up at the heat of old Nebuchadnezers
(9-188)fiery furnace.

[Bayley]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(9-188)10 ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN,

(9-188)DUBLIN, July 18th, 1825

(9-188)MY DEAR FRIEND,—I did not trouble you with an
(9-188)immediate answer to your kind letters which I found
(9-188)lying here for me because I should have forfeited my
(9-188)character as a man of business by sending you a very

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-189)diplomatical and consequently unintelligible account of
(9-189)our motions. There are wheels it seems within wheels
(9-189)visits which must be paid regimental leave which may
(9-189)not be obtained in short a sort of negotiation which I
(9-189)certainly could not have anticipated any more than the
(9-189)kindness of those who have chosen to make my motions
(9-189)of some consequence or would persuade me at least that
(9-189)they are so. At last we have been able to fix our plans.
(9-189)We have dinner engagements in Dublin till Friday 22d
(9-189)July—On that day we go down to Wicklow with a friend
(9-189)and patron of Walter Mr. Crampton 1 the Surgeon Genl
(9-189)to the Army—next day we are to see scenery in Wicklow
(9-189)visit Mr. Attorney Genl in whom unexpectedly I find
(9-189)an old acquaintance and return about Monday at
(9-189)furthest. And here begins my diplomatic difficulty for
(9-189)Sir Colin Campbell has intimated to me that the Lord
(9-189)Lieutenant wishes to see me and as a king's man back
(9-189)and edge [I] must show proper respect to the representative
(9-189)of Majesty. I intimated however to my friend
(9-189)Sir Colin that, saving the pleasure of his Grace I wished
(9-189)to be at Edgeworthstown about Friday 29th.² We would
(9-189)reach you " time enough to go to bed with a candle "
(9-189)or about eight or nine o'clock. I speak for security for
(9-189)ladies are rarely early starters, and though I can make

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(9-190)Anne and Jane be as exact to time as the guard of a mail

(9-190)coach yet Jane has a Scotch Mrs. Petitoe 1 who way
(9-190)manage the whole of us should she be of the party. The
(9-190)result therefore is that Lockhart, Anne, and I, with Jane
(9-190)for certain and Walter by possibility will descend on you
(9-190)time and place above mentioned unless you please to say
(9-190)which I am sure you will do frankly that we will
(9-190)overcrowd you.

(9-190)Anne is dancing with joy at the idea of Harriet going
(9-190)along with us and as an old Quarter Master of dragoons
(9-190)I have taken it upon me to arrange our mode of travelling.
(9-190)We have for our own necessary transportation two low
(9-190)light carriages which defy injury each capable of carrying
(9-190)four insides of the most respectable dimensions with two
(9-190)dickies one for a male and female domestic and one for
(9-190)the gentlemen cavaliers when they chuse to smoke segars.

(9-190)Now our whole party being five insides exclusive of
(9-190)the two Dicky-ites it follows that we have three seats to
(9-190)dispose of and as Miss Harriet and you can only occupy
(9-190)one each you will make the most delightful addition to
(9-190)the spirit of the party without adding anything of
(9-190)consequence to its weight. The inns I have seen here are all
(9-190)better than we have at home and a cloak and a hay-loft
(9-190)are neither new nor unpleasant resources to either Walter
(9-190)Lockhart or myself, and we will only want the same
(9-190)number of Knockcrogheries 2 which would be indispensable
(9-190)for our own march. Having been here three days
(9-190)I am of course au fait of all particulars affecting the state
(9-190)of the country and prepared with a stock of infallible
(9-190)remedies for the grievances [of Ireland, but I will reserve
(9-190)them for a personal triumph. Dublin is splendid beyond
(9-190)my utmost expectations. I can go round its walls and
(9-190)number its palaces until I am grilled almost into a fever.
(9-190)They tell me the city is desolate, of which I can see no

(9-191)appearance, but the deprivation caused by the retreat of
 (9-191)the most noble and most opulent inhabitants must be
 (9-191)felt in a manner a]1 stranger cannot conceive. As
 (9-191)Trinculo says when the bottle was lost in the pool,
 (9-191)" there is not only dishonour in it but an infinite loss " 2—
 (9-191)It is a loss however which time will make good if I may
 (9-191)judge from what I have heard old people say of Edinr
 (9-191)after 1707 which removed the crown from our Israel an
 (9-191)event which had I lived in that day I would have resigned
 (9-191)my life to have prevented but which being done before
 (9-191)my day I am sensible was a wise turn. So says the
 (9-191)advising Ape whose tail was cut off 120 years since, to
 (9-191)the ape whose tail has not had time to cicatrize since its
 (9-191)abscission. Perhaps it is like the Priest to the Gascon
 (9-191)upon the scaffold

(9-191)Courage friend for to night is your period of sorrow
 (9-191)And things will go better believe me to-morrow.

(9-191)Walter and Spouse thof unknown Lockhart and Anne
 (9-191)send all love and respects to the known and unknown of
 (9-191)Edgeworthstown particularly Mrs. Edgeworth and your
 (9-191)brother. I have a hint from Sir Colin Campbell that
 (9-191)Walter will have his leave but we must manage not to
 (9-191)commit him by getting it in any way disagreeable to his
 (9-191)commanding officer as 3 these gentlemen are apt to be
 (9-191)punctilious.—Yours, my dearest Miss Edgeworth, with
 (9-191)sincere pleasure at the hope of again meeting one for
 (9-191)whom I have so much respect and regard,

(9-191)WALTER SCOTT

[Butler and Familiar Letters]

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 addressd to me care of David Macculloch Esq

(9-192)Cheltenham at which place I will stop a day to see my sister
(9-192)in law. I expect to be at Abbotsford by 20th and I will

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(9-193)set to work immediatly. I hope Constable has done
(9-193)something about collecting books for this 1 is one of the
(9-193)Brickworks which cannot be carried on without straw.

(9-193)I found Walter and his little bride very well Living in
(9-193)reason & sweet sobriety Yours truly

(9-193)WALTER SCOTT

(9-193)10 STEPHENS GREEN DUBLIN 27 July [PM. 1825]

[Glen]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

(9-193)STEVEN'S GREEN, 27th July 1825

(9-193)MY DEAR FRIEND,—I am just returned from Wicklow
(9-193)delighted with all I have seen. The mere wood water
(9-193)and wilderness have not so much the charm of novelty for
(9-193)a north as for a South Briton. But these are intermingled
(9-193)with an appearance of fertility which never accompanies
(9-193)them in our land and with a brilliancy of verdure which
(9-193)justifies your favourite epithet of the green Isle. The
(9-193)ruins at the Seven Churches are singularly curious—the
(9-193)oldest places perhaps where the Christian faith was
(9-193)taught and which still remain standing. I fear they will
(9-193)not stand long unless measures are taken to preserve them.
(9-193)I was seized with a return of a spirit of enterprise once
(9-193)the most familiar of my attributes, and scrambled up
(9-193)into St. Kevins bed. My Kathleen on the occasion was

(9-193)an old soldiers wife of the bloody Connaughts as she
(9-193)called them. She was much offended at some one who
(9-193)told her afterwards that I was a poet—for she was sure
(9-193)she said I was no poet but a noble generous gentleman
(9-193)FOR I had given her half a crown.²

(9-193)At the risque of saying Monseigneur vient once too often,
(9-193)I drop you this line merely to say that we begin our

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(9-194)journey nominally at seven o'clock on Friday as performer
(9-194)advice and hope to be at Edgeworthstown Knockcrogherrys
(9-194)being bespoken by your dinner hour. The
(9-194)Surgeon Genl talks of coming with us for a day. We can
(9-194)easily give him room with us and undoubtedly he knows
(9-194)better than we whether he is like to incommode you for
(9-194)lodging room. In every other respect he must be an
(9-194)addition. My womankind hold out gallantly upon forced
(9-194)marches long walks and so forth. I never feared for
(9-194)Anne and my new daughter seems quite alert at everything
(9-194)but talking much. A good listener is no bad thing
(9-194)however, and she always laughs in the right place.

(9-194)Yesterday I had the honour to lunch with the ViceRoys 1
(9-194)own self, and, " Kings chaff being better than other folks
(9-194)corn " his Excellencys lunch served me for my dinner and
(9-194)I had a long chat with Jane in the evening about all her
(9-194)little matters of business and her plans which I thought
(9-194)very prudent. They are living comfortably but without
(9-194)extravagance of any kind. But this is hors de propos.

(9-194)Walters leave is not yet arranged but I trust to attain it.
(9-194)I wish we had a good route from Edgeworthstown to
(9-194)Killarney.² I matter not going out of the way to see what
(9-194)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]

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TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY PARK

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

(9-195)YOUR kind letter my dear Morrith 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[il]y believe the story of the
(9-195)Irish harper who condemnd 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

(9-195)merit I should think like the booby in Steele's play that
(9-195)I had been kept back 2 and that there was something more

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

(9-196)In sober sadness to talk of the misery of Ireland at this
(9-196)time is to speak of the illness of a malade imaginaire.
(9-196)Well she is not but she is rapidly becoming so. There are
(9-196)all the outward and visible tokens of convalescence.
(9-196)Every thing is mending—the houses that arise are better
(9-196)a hundredfold than the cabbins which are falling—the
(9-196)peasants of the younger class are dressd a great deal
(9-196)better than with the rags which clothe the persons of the
(9-196)more ancient Teagues which realize the wardrope of
(9-196)Jenny Sutton of whom Morris 1 sweetly sings

(9-196)One single pin at night let loose
(9-196)The robes which veild her beauty.

(9-196)I am sure I have seen with apprehension a single button
(9-196)perform the same feat and when this mad scarecrow hath
(9-196)girded up his loins to run hastily by the side of the chaise
(9-196)I have feared it would give way and that then as King
(9-196)Lears fool says we should be all shamed. But this which
(9-196)seems even to have [been] generally the attire of the sons

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(9-197)of the Green isle probably since the time of King Malachie
(9-197)& the collar of gold is now fast disappearing and the
(9-197)habit of the more youthful Pats and Pattesses is decent
(9-197)and comely. Item they all look well colourd and wellfed
(9-197)and well contented. And as I see in most places great
(9-197)exertions making to reclaim bogs upon a large scale and
(9-197)generally to improve ground I must needs hold that they
(9-197)are in constant employment. With all this there is
(9-197)much that remains to be amended & which time & the
(9-197)increase of capital only can amend. The price of labour
(9-197)is far too low and this naturally reduces the labouring
(9-197)poor beyond their just level in society. The behaviour
(9-197)of the gentry to the labourers is systematically harsh
(9-197)and this arrogance is received with a servile deference
(9-197)which argues any thing excepting affection. This
(9-197)however is also in the course of amending. I have heard
(9-197)a great deal of [the] far famed Catholic question from
(9-197)both sides and I think I see its bearings better than I did
(9-197)but these are for your ear when we meet as meet we will
(9-197)if no accident prevent it. I return from Ireland through
(9-197)England via Holyhead as I wish to show Anne something
(9-197)of England and you may believe that we will take Rokeby
(9-197)in our way. Tomorrow 1 I go to Killarney which will
(9-197)occupy most part of the week. About Saturday I shall
(9-197)be back at Dublin to take leave of friends & then for
(9-197)England ho! I will stop a day at Cheltenham to see
(9-197)my poor sister in law and then avoiding London seek a

(9-197)pleasant route to Rokeby. Fate will only allow us to rest
(9-197)there for a day or two because I have some desire to see
(9-197)Canning who is to be on the lakes about that time et puis
(9-197)my leave will be exhausted.

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(9-198)Anne & Lockhart send kindest love to you & the ladies.
(9-198)I am truly rejoiced that Mr Morrill is better. Indeed
(9-198)I had learned that agreeable intelligence from Lady
(9-198)Louisa Stuart. I found Walter and his wife living happily
(9-198)and rationally, affectionately and prudently. With no
(9-198)show about her there is great good sense and quietness
(9-198)about all Jane's domestic arrangements & she plays the
(9-198)leisure lady very prettily. I will write when I come to
(9-198)Britain and direct [you] of my own motions & learn yours

(9-198)WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

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

(9-198)August 5 [1825]

(9-198)MY DEAR SIR,—If anything could have added to the
(9-198)pleasure I must necessarily feel at the warm reception
(9-198)which the Irish nation have honoured me with, or if any
(9-198)thing could abate my own sense that I am noways worth
(9-198)the coil that has been made about me, it must be the
(9-198)assurance that you partake and approve of the feelings of
(9-198)your kind-hearted countryfolks.²

(9-198)In Ireland I have met with everything that was kind,
(9-198)and have seen much which is never to be forgotten. What
(9-198)I have seen has, in general, given me great pleasure ; for

(9-199)it appears to me that the adverse circumstances which
(9-199)have so long withered the prosperity of this rich and
(9-199)powerful country are losing their force, and that a gradual
(9-199)but steady spirit of progressive improvement is effectually,
(9-199)though tacitly, counteracting their bad effects. The next
(9-199)twenty-five years will probably be the most important in
(9-199)their results that Ireland ever knew. So prophesies a sharp-
(9-199)sighted Sennachie from the land of mist and snow, aware
(9-199)that, though his opinion may be unfounded, he cannot
(9-199)please your ear better than by presaging the prosperity of
(9-199)Ireland.

(9-199)And so, to descend from such high matters, I hope you
(9-199)will consider me as having left my card for you by this
(9-199)visit, although I have not been happy enough to find you
(9-199)at home. You are bound by the ordinary forms of society
(9-199)to return the call, and come to see Scotland. Bring wife
(9-199)and bairns. We have plenty of room, and plenty of oat-
(9-199)meal, and, entre nous, a bottle or two of good claret to which
(9-199)I think you have as little objection as I have. We will talk
(9-199)of poor Byron, who was dear to us both, and regret that
(9-199)such a rose should have fallen from the chaplet of his
(9-199)country so untimely. I very often think of him almost
(9-199)with tears. Surely you, who have the means, should do
(9-199)something for his literary life at least. You might easily
(9-199)avoid tearing open old wounds. Then, returning to our
(9-199)proposed meeting, you know folks call me a Jacobite, and
(9-199)you a Jacobin ; so it is quite clear that we agree to a T.
(9-199)Having uttered this vile pun, which is only pardonable
(9-199)because the subject of politics deserves no better, it is high
(9-199)time to conclude.

(9-199)I return through England, yet, I am afraid, with little
(9-199)chance of seeing you, which I should wish to do, were it

(9-199)but for half an hour. I have come thus far on my way to
(9-199)Killarney, where Hallam 1 is lying with a broken leg. So

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(9-200)much for middle-aged gentlemen climbing precipices. I,
(9-200)who have been regularly inducted into the bed of St
(9-200)Kevin at the Seven Churches, trust I shall bear charmed
(9-200)limbs upon this occasion.—I am very much, dear sir, your
(9-200)obliged and faithful

(9-200)[Lockhart]

WALTER SCOTT.

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, MELROSE

(9-200)MY DEAR WILLIE,—I conclude you are now returned,
(9-200)with wife and bairns, to Kaeside, and not the worse
(9-200)of your tour. I have been the better of mine ; and
(9-200)Killarney being the extreme point, I am just about to
(9-200)commence my return to Dublin, where I only intend to
(9-200)remain two or three days at farthest. I should like to find
(9-200)a line from you, addressed " Care of David Macculloch,
(9-200)Esq., Cheltenham," letting me know how matters go on
(9-200)at Abbotsford—if you want money (as I suppose you do),
(9-200)and so forth.

(9-200)I have every reason to make a good report of Ireland,
(9-200)having been received with distinction, which is flattering,
(9-200)and with warm-hearted kindness, which is much better.
(9-200)I am happy to say the country is rapidly improving every
(9-200)year, so argues the spirit that is afloat, and indicates that
(9-200)British capital is finding its way into a country where it
(9-200)can be employed to much advantage. The idea of security
(9-200)is gaining ground even in those districts which are, or
(9-200)rather were, the most unsettled, and plenty has brought
(9-200)its usual companion content, in her hand. But the

(9-200)public peace is secured chiefly by large bodies of an armed
(9-200)police, called by the civil term of constables, but very
(9-200)unlike the Dogberries of Old England, being, in fact, soldiers
(9-200)on foot and horse, well armed and mounted, and dressed
(9-200)exactly like our yeomen. It is not pleasant to see this,

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-201)but it is absolutely necessary for some time at least; and
(9-201)from [what] I can hear, the men are under strict discipline,
(9-201)and behave well. They are commanded by the Magistracy,
(9-201)and are very alert.

(9-201)The soil is in most places extremely rich, but cultivation
(9-201)is not as yet well understood. That accursed system of
(9-201)making peats interferes with everything ; and I have
(9-201)passed through whole counties where a very noble harvest,
(9-201)ripe for the sickle, was waiting for the next shower of rain ;
(9-201)while all the population who should cut were up to the
(9-201)middle in the bogs. Not a single field of turnips have I
(9-201)seen, owing probably to the same reason.

(9-201)Her political disputes are of far less consequence here
(9-201)than we think in Britain ; but, on the whole, it would be
(9-201)highly desirable that the Catholic Bill should pass. It
(9-201)would satisfy most of the higher classes of that persuasion,
(9-201)who seem much inclined to form a sort of Low Church,
(9-201)differing in ceremonies more than essential points from
(9-201)that of the English Church. I mean they would do
(9-201)this tacitly and gradually. The lower class will probably
(9-201)continue for a long time bigoted Papists ; but education
(9-201)becoming general, it is to be supposed that popery, in its
(9-201)violent tenets, will decline even amongst them. By the
(9-201)way, education is already far more general than in
(9-201)England. I saw in the same village four hundred
(9-201)Catholic children attending school, and about two

(9-201)hundred Protestants attending another. The peculiar
(9-201)doctrines of neither church were permitted to be taught;
(9-201)and there were Protestants amongst the Papist children,
(9-201)and Papists among the Protestant.

(9-201)The general condition of the peasantry requires much
(9-201)improvement—their cabins are wretched, and their
(9-201)dress such a labyrinth of rags, that I have often feared
(9-201)some button would give way, and shame us all. But this
(9-201)is mending, and the younger people are all more decently
(9-201)dressed, and the new huts which are arising are greatly
(9-201)better than the old pigsties. In short, all is on the move

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(9-202)and the mend. But as I must be on the move myself, I
(9-202)must defer the rest of my discoveries till we meet. We
(9-202)have in our party, Anne, Lockhart, Walter and his wife,
(9-202)and two Miss Edgeworths, so we are a jolly party. Will
(9-202)you shew this to Lady Scott ? I wrote to her two days
(9-202)since.—Always truly yours, WALTER SCOTT
(9-202)

(9-202)KILLARNEY, 8th Aug [PM. 10 August 1825]

[Ballantyne and Notanda]

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

(9-202)DEAR MRS JOBSON,—I promised to write you a few
(9-202)lines before I left Ireland were it but to say that I left
(9-202)our young people happy and comfortable. We made two
(9-202)tours in company one to the county of Wicklow where
(9-202)we staid two or three days with the Attorney Genl Mr
(9-202)Plunket making excursions to the objects worthy of notice

(9-202)and another of a fortnight which took us through great
(9-202)part of Ireland and especially to the celebrated Lakes of
(9-202)Killarney. We had good weather and traveld generally
(9-202)speaking through a most beautiful and plentiful country
(9-202)in the full pride of harvest. All is perfectly quiet and like
(9-202)to continue so, so that you may be quite easy my dear
(9-202)Madam on account of Walters occupation leading him
(9-202)into danger. The country is completely filld at every
(9-202)point with an armed police on horseback and foot regimented
(9-202)and in uniform like regular soldiers so that there
(9-202)is little danger of the renewal of former violences as
(9-202)escape or resistance must be very difficult. We passed
(9-202)where the country was much disturbd two years ago
(9-202)without the least cause for apprehension.

(9-202)Jane made an excellent traveller and as I was careful
(9-202)to avoid fatigue she seemd to enjoy very much the beautiful
(9-202)& interesting scenes which we visit[ed]. Two night 3
(9-202)we were obliged to travel later than I would have chosen

(9-203)with ladies in the party from not finding good sleeping
(9-203)accomodations and I do not think Jane liked the night
(9-203)stages much although she did not complain.

(9-203)I am very happy to say that the young people have
(9-203)adopted a way of living and domestic arrangement which
(9-203)is at the same time quiet and respectable and they are
(9-203)liked by their acquaintances which are all families of
(9-203)worth & respectability. Jane sums up her bills and looks
(9-203)after her accompts like one who had kept house ten years.
(9-203)I must make them a present of a pair of carriage horses
(9-203)which will make it more easy to her to pay visits without
(9-203)materially adding to their expence as the King keeps
(9-203)three horses for a Captain so that he would only have to

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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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 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 concernd 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
(9-206)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
(9-206)to Morritts 2 for a day and thereafter return to Abbotsford

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(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 WI[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 passd 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

(9-208)little breeze of wind to manoeuvre with but that were you
(9-208)here is the last thing you would wish for.

(9-208)Tomorrow I go down to Keswick to see Southey who
(9-208)is unwell. Wordsworth I saw yesterday much the worse
(9-208)for wear—he looks so old that I begin to think I must
(9-208)be getting old myself—a secret which I am by no means
(9-208)fond of prying into. On Wednesday we go over to
(9-208)Patterdale down the Lake of Ullswater & so to Lowther
(9-208)Castle where I found myself obliged to pass a day. Next
(9-208)day to Morritts at Rokeby and from thence home where
(9-208)we will arrive on Saturday or Sunday. We have tarried
(9-208)so long that I am apt to doubt we will be received with
(9-208)a good scolding.

(9-208)I hope to hear from you soon directed to Abbotsford.
(9-208)You can be at no loss for subjects of correspondence for I
(9-208)am quite en pais de connaissance when you talk of the
(9-208)regiment and of our Dublin friends. I long to know whether
(9-208)Mrs Thackwell proves a strict disciplinarian amongst
(9-208)the ladies of the 15th. and the other tidings.

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-209)My Love to Walter. I do not say how sensible I am of
(9-209)all your affectionate kindness during the last pleasant
(9-209)weeks because [that] you will easily suppose. I hope
(9-209)circumstances will permit us to pass much of our time
(9-209)together as far as Walters military duties will permit.

(9-209)Finding Lord Frederick Bentinck I here—an old &
(9-209)intelligent soldier—I asked him the question about the
(9-209)Aid de Camp business. H[e] askd if my son were
(9-209)immediatly expecting regimental promotion & when I
(9-209)replied that I could not expect it for some years he said
(9-209)in that case he considered his taking the situation as highly

(9-209)adviseable since he could hold it for a little time and
(9-209)afterwards join and serve with the corps long enough to
(9-209)secure his share in any promotion which might occur.
(9-209)He also said that to have been the Aid de camp of a
(9-209)Lord Lieutenant always gave right to be included in a
(9-209)brevet and might help any interest that should be made
(9-209)to get Walter hereafter named one of the Kings Aids de
(9-209)camp which is a rapid way of getting on. If Walter is
(9-209)named one of the regular Aids de camp there are also
(9-209)appointments additional pay forage & other advantages.
(9-209)But I suppose his situation would be extra. I mentiond
(9-209)to Lord Frederick Walters taste for regimental duty to
(9-209)which he replied that when the regiment was dispersed
(9-209)as it must be in spring there could be no duty of that sort.
(9-209)On the whole he considerd the thing as not to be rashly
(9-209)neglected or passd over. You & Walter will judge of
(9-209)all this better than I can. I have some fears of your
(9-209)being ill accomodated & uncomfortable in thes[e] little
(9-209)country towns if Walter & his troop are sent there in
(9-209)summer. I am calld to breakfast. Anne sends kindes[t]
(9-209)love Adieu my dearest Child direct Abbotsford

(9-209)WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

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LETTERS OF

1825

TO J. B. S. MORRITT

(9-210)MY DEAR MORRITT,—I am disappointed at finding no
(9-210)note from you at Penrith and conclude my letter from
(9-210)Holyhead or thereabout 1 has not found you at home or
(9-210)has otherwise miscarried. It is of the less consequence
(9-210)as we could only have staid at Rokeby today and
(9-210)tomorrow which would have been but a shabby visit and
(9-210)our wishes as well as our duties begin to point homewards

(9-210)after so long an absence from Scotland. I had half a
(9-210)mind to have taken the height of Stanmore on a venture
(9-210)but as it would be 40 miles going & as much returning
(9-210)out of our road and as every chance is against your being
(9-210)at home I must take this way of sending kind wishes and
(9-210)reserve my personal greetings till another time. The
(9-210)loss is you will not have my Irish news in their racy
(9-210)freshness. They are of a pleasant description as I think
(9-210)the country is settling fast notwithstanding the exertions
(9-210)of factious men to set matters in a blaze. Men of property
(9-210)begin to feel that the publick eye is upon them and are
(9-210)lightening the burthens of the lower orders giving them
(9-210)more wages and apparently consider them as entitled to
(9-210)something better than dogs allowance—a crust & a kennel.
(9-210)On the other hand the lower classes are restrained in the
(9-210)excesses to which wretchedness and evil counsellors are
(9-210)driving them by a very strict police which reminds me
(9-210)more of the Gensdarmerie of France than any other
(9-210)institution. These are taken from under the authority
(9-210)of the local magistrates who seem to have jobbd the
(9-210)matter sadly and are commanded by special inspectors &
(9-210)regulators named by government and connected with
(9-210)& corresponding with the administration directly. This
(9-210)would seem a violent & unconstitutional proceeding in
(9-210)Britain but in Ireland it works well. We passd in
(9-210)absolute safety through the parts of the country where

(9-211)18 months since a mail coach could not travel without the
(9-211)escort of a corporal & five soldiers & was sometimes robbd
(9-211)and the passengers murderd notwithstanding. I own
(9-211)one felt a little queer at a pass called Shanes Inn near
(9-211)Millstreet where they cut an unfortunate inspector of
(9-211)the Mail coach[e]s who had come out in defiance of the
(9-211)insurgents to pieces with scythes especially as we knew

(9-211)the very same Paddies who were joking & laughing with
(9-211)us had been all in the affair. One of them described the
(9-211)man that was murderd as he that hangd the men at
(9-211)Carlow meaning he for whose murder they had been
(9-211)hung. A savage old mine host of an Orange-man
(9-211)described the battle of Skibbereen subsequent to the
(9-211)murder in 1823 if I mistake not in which his sons and
(9-211)he and other two protestants of the loyal town or village
(9-211)of Millstreet had been active on the Kings side. He
(9-211)spoke before the whole kitchen household of the papist
(9-211)dogs as if killing them had been the natest thing in the
(9-211)world. They are certainly a very odd people and but for
(9-211)that ugly humour of murdering which is in full decline they
(9-211)would be the most amusing & easy to live with in the world.

(9-211)Anne sends love to the young ladies in which Lockhart
(9-211)and I sincerely join. I saw Canning at Storrs 1 for two

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-212)days. He seemd much faggd by public business but was
(9-212)picking up by dint of quiet and exercise. I came, here
(9-212)yesterday with the purpose of leaving this morning for
(9-212)Rokeby and breakfasting at Appleby but neither yesterday
(9-212)nor this mornings post bringing any news from you I
(9-212)shall remain in these hospitable halls for this day and be
(9-212)off tomorrow by six oclock & sup at Abbotsford. Adieu
(9-212)dearest Morritt it is a great satisfaction for me to entertain
(9-212)the strong confidence that it is no cause of health which
(9-212)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
(9-212)paternal care of Charles who I hope has improved the
(9-212)opportunity your kindness has afforded him. I am sure
(9-212)he is so far deserving of your goodness that he is very
(9-212)gratefully sensible of it.

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

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-213)cursing & his wifes praying for a fortnights fit by all that
(9-213)is worth swearing by I will fire the house and roast them
(9-213)like pratties.

(9-213)My kindest love attends Mrs Buchanan Missie Flora &
(9-213)Jemima. I found Walter carrying on the war in Ireland
(9-213)steadily & correctly and delighted with his troop and his
(9-213)horse—the fifteen acres seem to be the Arena in which he is
(9-213)to shine to greatest advantage being held a good drill.

(9-213)I hope they will make no positive regulations about our
(9-213)business in the new act but leave us to accomodate

(9-213)ourselves to the business in our own way. Were the Court
(9-213)to make a regulation expressly dispensing with the
(9-213)attendance of one Clerk from each division we should
(9-213)soon have our numbers curtailed. I think we may manage
(9-213)the matter so as to give us the full benefit of such a
(9-213)regulation without its being expressd. Compliments to Brother
(9-213)& sister Mackenzie Always affectionately yours

(9-213)WALTER SCOTT

(9-213)ABBOTSFORD 25 [27th] Augt. [PM. 1825]

(9-213)I came home last night. Saw Canning for two days at
(9-213)Windermere & was glad to find him much better than
(9-213)I had expected.

[Lady Leith-Buchanan]

TO SIR GEORGE BEAUMONT

[Extract]

(9-213)ABBOTSFORD 28th August [1825]

(9-213)MY DEAR SIR GEORGE,—I found your kind letter here
(9-213)yesterday, when I returned to my Lares after a long and
(9-213)most agreeable excursion, during which I saw the greater
(9-213)part of Ireland, which, despite all past and present feuds,
(9-213)is certainly one day destined to be the fairest portion of
(9-213)the Empire. I was happy to find it in a progressive
(9-213)state of improvement. They have got a very strict and

(9-214)efficient police, dressed and armed and disciplined like
(9-214)soldiers, and directed, not by the caprice of the local

(9-214)magistrates, who misused their official powers as much as
(9-214)Falstaff did the king's press, but by superintendents, and
(9-214)inspectors, whose situations depend on their good conduct,
(9-214)and who are highly responsible for the least irregularity
(9-214)on the part of themselves or their subordinates.
(9-214)This system, like that of the gens d'armes in France,
(9-214)which it strongly resembles, is certainly not comely to the
(9-214)eye in a free country, but it is found to work well, and it
(9-214)is better that for a time the country should be under
(9-214)this restraint than subjected to the violence of carders,
(9-214)thrashers,¹ and all the other gangs who stop mail-coaches,
(9-214)cut throats, and burn houses. Meantime, a sense of
(9-214)security is gradually giving confidence to capitalists,
(9-214)who are directing their attention to a soil and country
(9-214)which can so richly repay their outlay. The old cabins
(9-214)begin to disappear, the huge bogs are getting into cultivation,
(9-214)and the young people are ambitious of being better
(9-214)dressed than scarecrows. In them the spirit of improvement
(9-214)is fairly afloat, and will not, I venture to prophesy,
(9-214)be the less efficient that it proceeds, in Scottish phrase,
(9-214)hooly and fairly.²

(9-214)I was deeply grieved indeed to receive, from one so
(9-214)well qualified to judge, the very melancholy account of
(9-214)poor Wilkie.³ It is impossible for any man to have more

(9-215)admiration of his talents than I have, and yet even that
(9-215)was inferior to the regard inspired by the virtuous
(9-215)simplicity of his character. And must such a bowl be broken
(9-215)at the very fountain ? He was with me two or three days
(9-215)last summer, making a sketch of me to be introduced into
(9-215)the Holyrood picture, and I observed with regret he was
(9-215)in very low spirits, which I imputed to the illness of his
(9-215)mother. It is singular that poor Bird, who had considerable

(9-215)powers, should have broken down under a similar
(9-215)task—the parting, I think, of the King and Louis xviii.
(9-215)I am convinced that mere men of the world have not the
(9-215)slightest conception of the tax paid by artists, poets, and
(9-215)musicians for the power of giving them pleasure.

(9-215)An anxious stomach well
(9-215)May be endured, so may the throbbing head ;
(9-215)But such a dim delirium, such a dream
(9-215)Involves them, such a dastardly despair
(9-215)Unmans their soul, as maddening Pentheus felt
(9-215)When, baited round Cithaeron's cruel sides,
(9-215)He saw two suns, and double Thebes appear.¹

(9-215)I hope in God ease and quiet will do much for Wilkie,
(9-215)and I am sure that as no man possesses more justly the
(9-215)general esteem and affection, the tone of his mind may
(9-215)be restored by the general sympathy of his friends. That
(9-215)he should have your friendship is most fortunate, since,
(9-215)if any one can encourage and strengthen his flagging
(9-215)spirits, it must be he who first encouraged his early efforts
(9-215)towards eminence. I returned by the Lakes, and saw
(9-215)both Southey and Wordsworth. I was sorry to see the
(9-215)former in rather indifferent health. A poisonous insect
(9-215)had stung him in Holland, and though the wound was
(9-215)healed, he was in some apprehension of erysipelas. Wordsworth's

(9-216)eyes were troubling him a little, otherwise he
(9-216)was as well as he deserves to be—that is, as well as
(9-216)possible. We kept company for two days, during which
(9-216)time his conversation, as much distinguished by manly
(9-216)sense and candour as by talent and principle, was like a
(9-216)fountain in the desert. We did not omit to talk of
(9-216)Coleorton, and of the improvements which were meditated

(9-216)while I was there in 1806,¹ and which I hope one
(9-216)day to see in their perfection. Anch' io son' pittore,² in the
(9-216)sense of plantations and buildings, for I have made a
(9-216)kind of bravura of a house here, a little fantastic, I own,
(9-216)but convenient, . . . well surrounded with infant woods.
(9-216)By the way, it is ungracious to complain of Nature for not
(9-216)bestowing more determined and marked beauty on
(9-216)Coleorton without doors, since she gave its lord the power
(9-216)of transferring to its interior all that art can copy from
(9-216)Nature. It would have been a prodigal excess of bounty
(9-216)to have given you more. I wish Lady Beaumont and
(9-216)you would come and see this place, such as it is. We
(9-216)could lodge you comfortably, and the neighbourhood
(9-216)would amuse you for a few days. Many thanks for your
(9-216)kindness to Scott,³ for which the poor lad in a letter
(9-216)expresses himself duly grateful. I know nothing of his
(9-216)qualifications to become an artist, but think highly of
(9-216)him as a simple-minded, honourable, and patient youth.

(9-216)Lady Scott joins in best respects to Lady Beaumont;
(9-216)and I am, dear sir, your much obliged and faithful

(9-216)WALTER SCOTT
[Memorials of Coleorton]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO J. B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY PARK

(9-217)YOUR letter my dear Morrutt gave me most sincere
(9-217)pleasure on your account and also on my own as it
(9-217)reconciled me to myself for my stupidity in misdirecting
(9-217)my letters to Charlotte and you from Wales. I was
(9-217)sincerely vexed when I found out my bevue but am now well
(9-217)pleased that it happend since we might otherwise have
(9-217)arrived at Rokeby at a time when we must necessarily

(9-217)have been a little in the way. I wish you joy most
(9-217)sincerely of your nephews 1 settling in life in a manner so
(9-217)agreeably to your wishes and views. Bella gerant alii—
(9-217)he will have seen enough of the world abroad to qualify
(9-217)him fully to estimate & discharge the duties of an English
(9-217)country gentleman and with your example before him
(9-217)& your advice to resort [to] he cannot with the talents he
(9-217)possesses fail to fill honorably that most honourable &
(9-217)important rank in society. You will probably in due
(9-217)time think of parliament for him where there is a fine
(9-217)sphere for young men of talents at present all the old
(9-217)political posthorses being as Sir Pertinax says dry
(9-217)founder.d.2

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

(9-218)I passd a couple of days at Lowther to make up in some
(9-218)degree to Anne for her disappointment in not getting to
(9-218)Rokeby. I was seduced there by Lady Frederic Benrinck 1
(9-218)whom I had long known as a very agreeable person and
(9-218)who was very kind to Anne. This wore out my proposed
(9-218)leisure & from Lowther we reachd Abbotsford in one day
(9-218)and now the old bore feeds in the old frank.2

(9-218)I had the great pleasure of leaving Walter and his little

(9-218)wife well happy and as they seem perfectly to understand
(9-218)each other, likely to continue so. His ardour for military
(9-218)affairs continues unabated and his great scene of activity
(9-218)is the fifteen acres so the Irish denominate the exercising
(9-218)ground consisting of about 50 acres in the Phoenix park
(9-218)which induced an Attorney writing a challenge to a
(9-218)brother of the trade to name as a place of meeting the
(9-218)fifteen acres adding with professional accuracy " be they
(9-218)more or less." Here about 3000 men the garrison of
(9-218)Dublin are to be seen exercising ever and anon in order
(9-218)that Pat may be aware how the report of some 2400
(9-218)muskets assisted by the discharge of twenty field pieces &
(9-218)the tramp of 500 or 600 horse sound in comparasion to
(9-218)the thunder of Mr O Connells evidence.³ This is Walters
(9-218)chosen place of pleasure and there he works constantly
(9-218)with the great approbation of his superiors. I have had
(9-218)an intimation that he may perhaps have the offer of being
(9-218)Aid de camp to the Lord Lieutenant but being independant
(9-218)in point of income he seems to be rather disposed
(9-218)at present to continue a regimental officer although in
(9-218)the event of the 15th Hussars leaving Dublin as must take
(9-218)place next year if not sooner he must be a little puzzld to
(9-218)find comfortable quarters for the little lady in many of
(9-218)the out-quarters to which he may be sent. Thus your

(9-219)plan and mine in something like the same circumstance
(9-219)lead us to different places with our young people but
(9-219)Walter has neither the same extensive prospect of duties
(9-219)at home which are like to open to your nephew nor the
(9-219)literary acquisitions necessary to distinguish himself in
(9-219)a civil carreer while he has in a remarkable degree the
(9-219)peculiar qualities which seem to suit the military
(9-219)profession.

(9-219)All this travelling & wooing is like to prevent our
(9-219)meeting this season. I hope to make up for it the next.
(9-219)Lady Scott Anne & Sophia join Lockhart & me in best
(9-219>wishes to the happy two who are to be soon one. My
(9-219)best respects attend the Miss Morriffs & I ever am most
(9-219)truly yours
WALTER SCOTT

(9-219)ABBOTSFORD 1st September [1825]

[Law]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(9-219)DEAR CONSTABLE,—I am here once more stationary &
(9-219)received your letter yesterday. I want to get to work
(9-219)again as soon as possible for idleness does not suit me.
(9-219)I cannot however call myself idle since I am reading and
(9-219)making notes. I shall be very desirous to have the books
(9-219)as soon as possible.

(9-219)J. Ballantyne is also very hungry for business and I beg
(9-219)of you to lend him a shove just now which we may pay
(9-219)back another day in some equivalent piece of kindness.
(9-219)I will be glad to have the prefatory Memoirs etc with a
(9-219)note of the order in which they are to be publishd. They
(9-219)will occupy my leisure very well just now before I set
(9-219)seriously to the Memoirs I should therefore wish to have
(9-219)them without delay per Blucher.

(9-219)I have no doubt that your talent & experience will hit
(9-219)on the best possible mode of publishing the Memoirs.
(9-219)I am in my own secret soul a little afraid of quartos but
(9-219)you know the matter best and so far as I am concernd

(9-220)I resign myself to your better judgement, well aware that

(9-220)you will consider the credit of the work & author as more
(9-220)important than any immediate pecuniary advantages.

(9-220)I am sorry you find obstacles to executing your admirable
(9-220)plan of the Miscellany.¹ I will be happy to talk the
(9-220)subject over with you and for that and many other reasons
(9-220)besides those of good fellowship I embrace your kind offer
(9-220)of coming here and will be most happy to receive you
(9-220)on Wednesday which day I only name because Monday
(9-220)might be too early for you & tuesday is the Forest Club.²
(9-220)If Mrs Constable can accompany you Lady Scott will
(9-220)be delighted to see her & claims I think a promise of
(9-220)the kind.

(9-220)Milliken of Dublin was to send a considerable package
(9-220)of books for me under the charge of your house. Are
(9-220)there any tidings of it yet? I want much the Memoires
(9-220)of Segur—not those respecting the Russian campaign
(9-220)which I have, but the memoirs of Segur the father who was
(9-220)Master of Ceremonies to Buonaparte.³ His personal
(9-220)access to the Emperor must have given him many opportunities
(9-220)to see & record. I want also to see a book calld
(9-220)Today in Ireland much spoken of in that country. There
(9-220)is also an old picture an original I think of James VI
(9-220)coming to your charge in a box I wish you would open it
(9-220)and see whether it would be worth while to have it a
(9-220)little repaired & framed.

(9-220)Our post hours here are alterd & the days post reaches

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-221)me betwixt four & five p.m. this for information. I will
(9-221)bespeak Lockhart to meet you on tuesday Yours truly

(9-221)ABBOTSFORD Friday [9th Sept. 1825] WALTER SCOTT

(9-221)There is to be a publication of Mathurins Miscellanies
(9-221)Vid. poetry & novels for the benefit of his family which
(9-221)I am to put in order & to which I will give a critical
(9-221)preface.¹ All the booksellers concernd have most
(9-221)handsomely agreed to this & I took you in my own hand.
(9-221)What I think of is a small edition such as of the Edgeworth
(9-221)or Waverley novels and I think a good list of subscribers
(9-221)might be had. Mr Plunket the Attorney general has
(9-221)promised to look after the boy. You can talk to Rees
(9-221)about this to whom I mentiond it in Dublin. I fancy all
(9-221)the publishers concernd would like to have their names
(9-221)on the imprint.

[Stevenson]

TO JOHN RICHARDSON

(9-221)MY DEAR RICHARDSON,—Nothing will give us more
(9-221)pleasure than to receive you here on the 22nd current or
(9-221)about that day & I hope Mr Bell will come with you.
(9-221)I have many things to thank him for and should wish to
(9-221)do it under this roof. Rain I think you will have enough
(9-221)of. I wish we could promise ourselves blinks of fine
(9-221)weather now the flood-gates are open but it would be
(9-221)most unreasonable to complain—

(9-221)I had a delightful tour in Ireland and am quite enchanted
(9-221)with the fertility of the country & kindness of the
(9-221)people. They will soon take the start both of England
(9-221)& Scotland in point of improvement for the obstacles to

(9-222)progress are slowly & gradually disappearing & the Irish
(9-222)are no more the Irish of 1797 than the Scotch are the

(9-222)Scotch of 1745. All this & much more when we meet

(9-222)Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

(9-222)Our dinner hour is five o'clock.

[Sept. 16—1825]

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO DANIEL TERRY

[Extract]

(9-222)17th September 1825

(9-222)MY DEAR TERRY,— ... I left Ireland with a mind

(9-222)much enlarged by the information which I collected concerning

(9-222)that fine country, and the comfortable conviction

(9-222)that it is every day becoming a more valuable part of the

(9-222)empire. I had also the domestic satisfaction to leave my

(9-222)son and daughter well and happy, attached to each other,

(9-222)living with prudence, and at the same time in good society

(9-222)and with the best-informed people. There is a haunted

(9-222)house in the fine square they inhabit, one of the most

(9-222)striking mansions you ever saw. If I had time I would

(9-222)write you out the story, for it would make an admirable

(9-222)incident in a romantic drama or pantomime, but on

(9-222)consideration there are too many living people of high birth

(9-222)and circumstances implicated in the tragedy. It was the

(9-222)tale of an Irish Don Juan.

(9-222)Pray do you ever look into the book-shops now ? Pray

(9-222)keep in mind the drama. I have always a 10 to spend

(9-222)on good bargains of that sort. There is a song-book I

(9-222)would much like to see again called the Roundelay,¹ with a

(9-222)frontispiece of Mrs. Bellamy (I think) and the motto—

(9-222)" Marinetta

(9-222)Claimed the merry, merry Roundelay."

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-223)The collection is curious, and contains some good songs
(9-223)now out of fashion. It was published about 30 or 40 years
(9-223)since. You are so capital a grubber that I have little
(9-223)doubt you will light upon it sooner or later. . . .

[Familiar Letters]

[without signature]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(9-223)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,—I have your letter and am
(9-223)obliged by the information which it contains. The 3d.
(9-223)volume of miscellaneous works is finishd all but one or
(9-223)two extracts on which Gordon is busy. They will come
(9-223)by Saturdays Mail or Mondays Blucher. It was very
(9-223)stupid in me to make the misdirection 1 you notice. By
(9-223)the bye in the lives of the Novelists I have struck out
(9-223)Swift which is merely an abridgement of what was said
(9-223)in the proceeding volume. I would insert in its stead
(9-223)the life of De Foe to be found in the Novelist which is
(9-223)not among the number sent to me. Poor J. Ballantyne
(9-223)drew up the narrative but I wrote the critical remarks
(9-223)which I propose to enlarge a little. You can send me
(9-223)the copy.

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

(9-223)indispensible.

(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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LETTERS OF

1825

(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)ABBOTSFORD 22 Sepr. [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

(9-224)DEAR JAMES,—I send you the copy for Charlotte Smith.2

(9-224)I do not know how the volume will run out. If it is like

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-225)to be thin we might include a life of De Foe of which poor

(9-225)John laid the foundation though I think there was a

(9-225)superstructure of mine but I have not seen it since it was

(9-225)written. I sent the omitted proof but have received not

(9-225)of those you threatened. Yours truly W SCOTT

[September 1825]

[Stevenson]

TO THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY,
DRUMLANRICK CASTLE

(9-225)MY DEAR LORD DUKE,—Many thanks for your generous

(9-225)offer of a brace of greyhounds. But times are so much

(9-225)changed with me of late years that I have given up

(9-225)coursing almost entirely and I must therefore decline

(9-225)what will be a present better bestowed on some of your

(9-225)Graces younger and more active friends.

(9-225)I trust we are to have a glimpse of Lord Montagu and

(9-225)you in this quarter. I have much to tell you about my

(9-225)late Irish tour which was inexpressibly amusing. Fancy

(9-225)this—We were stopped in our carriage by the annunciation

(9-225)that they were going to blow up a piece of rock just by

(9-225)the roadside. Some dozen of car[s] were stationary at

(9-225)the same place. All of a sudden we were all put in

(9-225)motion by the order of the overseer and the postillions

(9-225)kept galloping on in the middle of the cars. You would

(9-225)have thought as I did that the blast had failed & that they

(9-225)were hurrying us on in order to prepare another. No such

(9-225)thing—the reason of our being set in motion was that the
(9-225)match having burnd so slowly hitherto it was thought
(9-225)possible we might get passd before the powder exploded.
(9-225)You may be sure this beautiful process of argument was
(9-225)not explaind to me till afterwards. We nickd our time so
(9-225)exactly that the blast went off when we were within
(9-225)twelve yards of it fortunately without damage. If the horses
(9-225)had been able to have gone but a little faster we should
(9-225)have arrived exactly in time to be knockd on the head.

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(9-226)All this & much more your Grace shall hear if you can
(9-226)spare us a day to learn the last news of the Isle of Saints :
(9-226)it will not be indifferent to Your Grace that I found my
(9-226)son well and happy in his wife & his troop—he has been
(9-226)made one of Lord Lieutenants Aid de Camp. Respects
(9-226)to Lord Montagu and all freinds Always your Graces
(9-226)truly obliged & faithful WALTER SCOTT

(9-226)ABBOTSFORD 28 September [1825]
[Buccleuch]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-226)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I inclose Murrays letter. I own
(9-226)I like not Bardolphs security & weighing certainties
(9-226)against uncertainties & strong probabilities against
(9-226)possibilities I incline at present to pause on the whole
(9-226)affair. I will look in at breakfast either tomorrow or more
(9-226)probably next day as it will give time to your hearing
(9-226)from Wright. I have also to consult you about the
(9-226)inclosed though I thought myself unhandsomely used by
(9-226)poor Russell yet that is no reason for not helping his
(9-226)widow Yours ever W. SCOTT

(9-226)28th Septr [1825]

[Law]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO THOMAS MOORE 1

[About autumn 1825]

(9-227)MY DEAR MOORE,—Nothing has vexd me more than
(9-227)the loss of three or four of Byrons letters which I am still
(9-227)inclined to hope are only mislaid. I have sought for
(9-227)them every where without effect but my papers are in a
(9-227)sad state of insurrection and it absolutely turns my head
(9-227)when I sit to ransack such a miscellaneous mass indicating
(9-227)forgotten or at [least] child friendships blighted
(9-227)schemes disconcerted hopes and all the vexations of a
(9-227)passed life. Unless Byrons letters have been stolen 2 which
(9-227)I think unlikely having only trusted one person with the
(9-227)key of these drawers of chaos I hope I may still lay my
(9-227)hand on them.

(9-227)What I can tell of Byron shall be told although unless
(9-227)I could have noted down his conversation it cannot be
(9-227)much.

[Unsigned]

(9-227)Care of J. Moore [Murray] Esq 50 Albemarle Street
[John Murray]

TO HIS SON WALTER

[September-October 1825]

(9-227)MY DEAR WALTER,—I am afraid Jane and you have
(9-227)forgot your late guests or are so glad to get rid of them
(9-227)as not to think of inquiring any more about them. Surely

(9-227)with ten pair of fingers between you you might find ten
(9-227)minutes to let us know what you are doing even though
(9-227)you should chuse them just when the post is going off.
(9-227)I wrote to Jane very shortly [after] we arrived in England
(9-227)and Anne tells me she has written since.

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-228)We know so much of Dublin and of Ireland now that
(9-228)you can be under no trouble to find subjects for a letter
(9-228)as you can tell us about the Blakes Plunkets and all our
(9-228)late and kind friends. I hope the stone lion of the
(9-228)Whalleys has not been shaking the Square with its
(9-228)howlings since our departure.

(9-228)We have been constant at Abbotsford since our return
(9-228)and it may be my vanity but I think it as convenient and
(9-228)comfortable a dwelling as we saw in our travels. The
(9-228)weather is now breaking but not without fine intervals
(9-228)of fine sunshine.

(9-228)Old Nicol 1 still talks to every one of selling his land to
(9-228)me but the proposition must come directly from himself
(9-228)and at a different price from that which he held out
(9-228)otherwise I will not touch collar.

(9-228)Our harvest has been most abundant and every thing
(9-228)seems to promise quiet and prosperity. I hope Pat
(9-228)keeps in good order he is a capital fellow and I think
(9-228)another score of years will lead him to a very different
(9-228)point of estimation among the British subjects.

(9-228)Let me know if you have heard any more of the Aid de
(9-228)camp business and what you have determined about it
(9-228)whether there is any news of your regiment moving in
(9-228)spring and so forth. Also whether Rebecca has cast

(9-228)any more real aspersions upon Mrs. M'A.'s Abigail. Charles
(9-228)is here pelting away daily at Black-cock and partridges
(9-228)with indifferent success worse I think than last year.
(9-228)He has got a new fowling piece from Jedburgh. Pray
(9-228)did you bespeak one from Forrest for there is one there
(9-228)supposed to be for you unless he had got two orders from
(9-228)different people for one gun?

(9-228)Mamma and Anne are quite well. They are with me
(9-228)on a visit to Sir Alexr. Don and his new lady 2 who is a
(9-228)very pleasant woman and plays on the harp delightfully.
(9-228)The Lockharts are of the party. Sophia is looking better

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-229)than I have seen her this many a day and positively is
(9-229)getting fat again. The same may be said of little Johnie.
(9-229)I found both mother and child greatly improved on my
(9-229)return which shows a little absence may do good now
(9-229)and then.

(9-229)Tell my little Jane I am tiring for a letter from her.
(9-229)Mrs. Jobson is I believe with Sir Adam and Lady F. in
(9-229)Dumfriesshire. I hear the merry knight is already looking
(9-229)back to his old quarters and heartily tired of his new.
(9-229)Young Lyon has given up thoughts of building at present
(9-229)in which I think he acts wisely. A young man of twenty
(9-229)one can scarcely know what sort of a house is like to suit
(9-229)him and Sir Adam might have found the task of building
(9-229)a mansion for another person a very troublesome one and
(9-229)thankless after it was done.

(9-229)If Nick and I were to agree perhaps Sir Adm. would
(9-229)like to take new Faldonside as you I think would prefer
(9-229)the upper for a shooting box. But I fear the glories of
(9-229)Gattonside would prevent their being comfortable in a

(9-229)house so much smaller though it is a good one. The
(9-229)Colonel 1 has not yet appeared—but has written that he is
(9-229)going to Lincoln or to York—he is not sure which—and
(9-229)to return by the lakes. He has been both at Oxford and
(9-229)Cambridge but has been made a Doctor at neither university.
(9-229)I believe his mode of traveling is to get into the
(9-229)first coach where he sees a place vacant and after he has
(9-229)had his umbrella and portmanteau accommodated and
(9-229)himself comfortably fixed asks which way they are going.
(9-229)He would [be] an admirable subject for the barkers who
(9-229)ply at the Gloster coffee house and White horse cellar—
(9-229)a sort of natural prey to these vociferating animals.

(9-229)Remember [me] most kindly to all my friends in the
(9-229)Kings Hussars—young Rose especially—and to all our
(9-229)other friends civil and military. All join in love to you
(9-229)and your sposetta (an elegant diminutive of sposa) and I
(9-229)beg you will write immediatly. When you want a troop

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LETTERS OF

1825

(9-230)your correspondence is much more regular. Yours
(9-230)affectionately notwithstanding WALTER SCOTT
(9-230)NEWTON DON Saturday

[Law]

TO WILLIAM STEWART WATSON,¹ ARTIST

(9-230)DEAR MR. WATSON,—Your packet reached me in
(9-230)perfect safety, and the contents gave us great pleasure,
(9-230)both on account of the strong resemblances of the
(9-230)Miniatures and the stile of execution. I am particularly
(9-230)pleased with my wife's picture, as her features and
(9-230)expression are not easily hit, and I think you have been
(9-230)very successful. I have no doubt that, by continuing

(9-230)to bestow much pains (for that is everything in all difficult
(9-230)arts), you will soon place yourself high in your profession.

(9-230)My Wife is greatly obliged by the two screens so
(9-230)beautifully pencilled, and begs me to make her best
(9-230)acknowledgement. I am not less obliged by your
(9-230)attention to my blazonry, which is in no sort of hurry ;
(9-230)if you look at it at a perfectly idle moment it is quite
(9-230)enough. Hoggie nam Bo {in modern Gaelic, " Thogail
(9-230)nam bo," to the lifting of the cows) will I dare [say] cast
(9-230)up among the Me farlanes in due time.²—I am, dear Mr.
(9-230)Watson your obliged humble servant,

(9-230)WALTER SCOTT

(9-230)ABBOTSFORD, 4 October 1825.

(9-230)I will be much obliged to you to look in upon the Glass-
(9-230)painter now and then

[1871 Exhibition Catalogue]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-231)DEAR JAMES,—I rejoice you have got home safe. I
(9-231)inclose 1400 to accompt of Constables two acceptances
(9-231)of 700 each with Courts.

(9-231)The 1st. Volume of Bony is finishd except revising &
(9-231)adding authorities. I suppose you have quite settled with
(9-231)Constable in which case I will get it transcribed by Gordon
(9-231)here and send in the copy to you. The first volume is
(9-231)entirely preliminary a sketch of the Revolution. I
(9-231)believe the work will run to five volumes—in truth she'll

(9-231)be nae cheaper.

(9-231)If you can conveniently settle the amount of the within
(9-231)peoples accompt it will oblige me I do not know the exact
(9-231)amount as I thought I had left it with you.

(9-231)Lockhart has good hope of the book he has looked it
(9-231)over

(9-231)W SCOTT

(9-231)7 October [PM. 1825]
(9-231)My Bramahs wax low.

[Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-231)DEAR JAMES,—I am glad things are getting right & sorry
(9-231)for the great blunder in the proofs which I return corrected.
(9-231)I find gravel in the bladder hyasymus in the brain
(9-231)and vexation at the heart will bother any one. I drew
(9-231)on you yesterday for 50 I should have my rents coming
(9-231)in which ought to keep me off you from this quarter in
(9-231)Town I have 300 of my own. If I want a couple more
(9-231)I will apply.

(9-231)I send the leaves of original Manuscript for W[oodstoc]k
(9-231)also some new copy. The friend who lent six
(9-231)hundred should be repaid when convenient you can
(9-231)send a Cheque to my order Believe me yours truly

(9-231)WALTER SCOTT

(9-232)I return Mr Hogarths letter and will act accordingly.

(9-232)Tuesday [October 1825] 1

(9-232)I observe the proof sheets sent have not been corrected

(9-232)by my reviser.

[Stevenson]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(9-232)DEAR CONSTABLE,—I suppose this will find you deep in

(9-232)all your plans. Lockhart goes to London for a few days &

(9-232)will take care of this. I take the opportunity to say that

(9-232)I want much to have " L'Histoire Militaire de la Campagne

(9-232)de Russie 1812 par le Colonel Boutourlin Aid de

(9-232)Camp de S.M. L'Empereur de Russie Paris 1824." 2 It

(9-232)will be time enough two or three weeks hence. I will be

(9-232)glad to hear from you when you have a minutes leisure

(9-232)Yours truly

WALTER SCOTT

(9-232)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [9 Oct 1825]

[Stevenson]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(9-232)MY DEAR WALTER,—I had duly your letter with an

(9-232)accmpt of your late proceedings and congratulate you

(9-232)on your escape after breaking your sword in single combat

(9-232)with a post. I must conclude Monsr. Du Bois behaved

(9-232)handsomely and took no advantage of an accident which

(9-232)might have been fatal if you had had to do with a more

(9-232)active antagonist.

(9-233)Winter is now coming seriously upon us. I really
(9-233)thought it was going to forget us the weather was so
(9-233)exquisite down [to] a late period. Charles left us last
(9-233)week for Oxford and Lockhart is gone to London 1 on
(9-233)some special business which is not however to detain him
(9-233)long. I suppose he will take up his abode at the Blue
(9-233)postesses.

(9-233)I am very glad you are fixd for a while in Lord Wellesleys
(9-233)family. He is so very well bred a person that I think
(9-233)it must be very pleasant to make part of his society. As
(9-233)for the riding horse and the tandem I have so little
(9-233)mettle left that I would rather hear that Jane had a couple
(9-233)of decent horses to your chariot to " carry her through
(9-233)the dub and the lairie." The household appointment
(9-233)at least secures you from the comforts of an out quarter
(9-233)where you might live and diet with as little comfort as
(9-233)our friend the Dandy at Shanes Inn or what do they call
(9-233)the place. I saw Waldie brother of Mrs. Griffith whose
(9-233)obliging attentions frightend us from Mallow.² He
(9-233)upbraided me for not visiting Kilcoman and other
(9-233)remarkables in that neighbourhood but I did not think it
(9-233)necessary to tell the real reason of our retreat.

(9-233)We have a large houseful just now Lord & Lady

(9-234)Gifford Lord Chief Baron 1 & Lady Shepherd besides
(9-234)two friends of Lord Sidmouth. If it were good weather
(9-234)all is well enough but ones friends are not so easily entertaind
(9-234)on such a sulky day as this. There is the solicitor 2
(9-234)too by the bye. However this will be so far [good] that
(9-234)they will find a frank among them.

(9-234)I cannot say Mama has been very well this season she

(9-234)had a severe attack of something like a determination of
(9-234)blood to the head—from knowing her constitution this
(9-234)alarmd me extremely. She had some blood taken from
(9-234)[her] (almost by force by the way) and it was in a bad
(9-234)& inflamed state. After all however the ground of her
(9-234)complaint proved bilious and she was relieved in the
(9-234)usual way by calomel. She was very unwell for about a
(9-234)week.

(9-234)We had the Russells with us for ten days. Jane talks
(9-234)as well as ever she did in her life and moves as well too
(9-234)though a little awkward in going up stairs when alone
(9-234)she feels a little weakness in the spine. Their brother 3
(9-234)is coming home and there is a letter from him dated from
(9-234)Teflis in Georgia 4 he will be here in this month. It must
(9-234)be with curious & bewildering sensations that a man of
(9-234)fifty and upwards returns to the country which he last
(9-234)[saw] at fifteen. All objects on which the mind has dwelt
(9-234)are so much magnified by imagination that generally
(9-234)there is great disappointment. The mountains seem like
(9-234)molehills the houses like ruinous huts the rivers like
(9-234)kennels and what is worse than all the rest old friends left
(9-234)in the bloom of youth have ceased to be as strong as
(9-234)Sampson without becoming as wise as Solomon and have
(9-234)become in a few words doited old bodies. You know this

(9-235)was not unlikely to have been your own lot and you
(9-235)should be thankful it is orderd other[wi]se. Mr. Milliken
(9-235)is a treacherous man though a member of the household.
(9-235)He has not sent me my box of books. At least I have
(9-235)not received it nor the picture neither. I beg you will
(9-235)with the least possible delay inquire into this matter.
(9-235)Fifty pounds worth of books is too much to lose.

(9-235)Anne is very well and sends kind love. I advise her
(9-235)to set her cap at Cousin Colonel but she seems to think
(9-235)he must be an ugly old Quihi 1 altho she pretends her
(9-235)reason is not to poach on the Miss Pringles' manor. It is
(9-235)funny enough to see the court Mrs. Pringle pays to the two
(9-235)sisters whom she used to sufficiently [ignore ?] when time
(9-235)was. Give my dear Jane all love for me and ask her
(9-235)what has happend to her little fingers that she does not
(9-235)write me a line. Anne had a long letter the other day and
(9-235)I will begin to take the pet. There is now to be no
(9-235)dissolution till next year. But I have settled that it is
(9-235)best on all hands that you should make such a stay in
(9-235)Ireland as will entitle you to make us a comfortable visit
(9-235)of two or three months. Travelling is always both
(9-235)troublesome & expensive and one likes to have pennyworths
(9-235)for money and fatigue.

(9-235)Nicol Milne was tumultuous about selling after I came
(9-235)Back but as he stuck to his old sum of 40,000 I begd him
(9-235)civilly to sell where he pleased I could not afford to
(9-235)purchase at such a price. I think the outside of the rent
(9-235)is a 1000 counting every thing so he asks forty years
(9-235)purchase. If the Nabal would come to 35000 we might
(9-235)consider it for the convenience is very great though even
(9-235)that price would be excessive.² I am dear Walter your
(9-235)affectionate father

(9-235)WALTER SCOTT

(9-235)ABBOTSFORD 11 October [1825]

(9-236)Let me know about your Castle and Malahide existence.¹
(9-236)I fear Jane will be lonely in Stevens Green.
(9-236)Do not forget to enquire at Milliken sans faute.

[Law]

TO JOANNA BAILLIE

[ABBOTSFORD, October 12, 1825]

(9-236)IT did not require your kind token of undeserved
(9-236)remembrance my dear friend to remind me that I was
(9-236)guilty of very criminal negligence in our epistolary
(9-236)correspondence.² How this sin comes to possess me I really
(9-236)do not know but it arises out of any source but that of
(9-236)ingratitude to my friends or thoughtless forgetfulness of
(9-236)my duty to them, but on the contrary I think always most
(9-236)of those to whom I do owe letters for when my conscience
(9-236)is satisfied on that subject their perturbed spirits remain
(9-236)at rest and at least do not haunt me as the injured spirits
(9-236)do the surviving murderers.—I hope I have made up
(9-236)matters with Miss Holford for I had the honour of a letter ³
(9-236)from that lady favoured by a Russian whose name I will
(9-236)not pretend to write but which began with something like

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-237)Sil. He was a very accomplished and well informed man
(9-237)and I had much pleasure in offering as much civility as
(9-237)he could be induced to accept as much on Miss Holford's
(9-237)account as his own.

(9-237)I well intended to have written from Ireland. But alas
(9-237)hell as some stern old divine says is paved with good
(9-237)intentions. There was such a whirl of visiting and taking
(9-237)and boating and wandering and shouting and laughing
(9-237)and carousing so much to be seen and so little time to
(9-237)see it so much to be heard and only two ears to listen to
(9-237)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.1 I do not however like her last
(9-237)book on education considered 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

(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.1 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

(9-238)of education and converting scholars into makers of toys.
(9-238)Men like Watt whose genius tends strongly to invent
(9-238)and execute those wonderful combinations which extend
(9-238)in such an incalculable degree the human force and
(9-238)command over the physical world do not come within
(9-238)ordinary rules. But your ordinary Harry should be kept
(9-238)to his grammar and your Lucy of most common occurrence
(9-238)will be best employd on her sampler instead of
(9-238)wasting wood and cutting their fingers which I am convinced
(9-238)they did though their historian says nothing of it.

(9-238)Well but I did not mean to say anything about Lucy
(9-238)and Harry whose dialogues are very interesting after all
(9-238)but about Ireland which I could prophesy for as well as
(9-238)[if] I were Thomas the Rhymer. Its natural advantages
(9-238)are so great that despite all the disadvantages which have
(9-238)hitherto retarded her [sic] progress She will I believe be
(9-238)queen of the trefoil of Kingdoms. I never saw a richer
(9-238)country or to speak my mind a finer people. The worst
(9-238)of them is the bitter and envenomd dislike which they
(9-238)have to each other their factions have been so long
(9-238)envenomd and having so little ground to fight their battle
(9-238)in that they are like people fighting with daggers in a

(9-239)hogshead. This however is getting better for as the
(9-239)government temporises between the parties and does not
(9-239)throw as formerly its whole weight into the protestant
(9-239)scale there is more appearance of things settling into
(9-239)concord and good order. The protestants of the old
(9-239)school or determined Orangemen are a very fine race but
(9-239)dangerous for the quiet of a country. They reminded me
(9-239)of the Spaniard in Mexico and seemd still to walk among
(9-239)the Catholics with all the pride of the Conquerors of the
(9-239)Boyne and the Captors of Limerick. Their own belief is

(9-239)completely fixd that there are enough of men in Down
(9-239)and Antrim to conquer all Ireland again and when one
(9-239)considers the habitual authority they have exercized
(9-239)their energetic and military character and the singular
(9-239)way in which they are banded and united together they
(9-239)may be right enough for what I know for they have all
(9-239)one mind and one way of pursuing it. But the Catholic is
(9-239)holding up his head now in a different way from what
(9-239)they did in former days though still with a touch of the
(9-239)savage about them. It is after all a helpless sort of
(9-239)superstition which with its saints days and the influence
(9-239)of its ignorant bigotted priesthood destroys ambition and
(9-239)industrious exertion. It is rare to see the Catholic rise
(9-239)above the line he is born in, the protestant part of the
(9-239)country is as highly improved as any part of England.
(9-239)Education is much more frequent in Ireland than England.
(9-239)In Kerry one of the wildest counties you find peasants
(9-239)who speak latin. It is not the art of reading however but
(9-239)the use which is made of it that is to mend. It is much to
(9-239)be wishd that the priests themselves were better educated,
(9-239)but the college at Maynooth has been a failure. The
(9-239)students all men of the lower orders are educated there in
(9-239)all the bigotry of the Catholic religion unmitigated by
(9-239)any of the knowledge of the world which they used to
(9-239)acquire in Italy France or Spain from which they returnd
(9-239)very often highly accomplishd and companionable men.
(9-239)I do not believe either party care a bit for what is calld

(9-240)emancipation only that the Catholics desire it because
(9-240)the protestants are not willing they should have it and
(9-240)the protestants desire to withhold it because the want of
(9-240)it mortifies the Catholic[s]. The best informd Catholics
(9-240)said it had no interest for the common people whose
(9-240)distresses had nothing to do with Catholic emancipation

(9-240)but that they the higher order of Catholics are interested
(9-240)in it as a point of honour the withholding of which
(9-240)prevented their throwing their strength into the hands of
(9-240)government. But on the whole I think Government have
(9-240)given the Catholics so much that withholding this is just
(9-240)giving them something to grumble about without its operating
(9-240)to diminish in a single instance the extent of popery.

(9-240)Then we had beautiful lakes " those vast inland seas,"
(9-240)as Spenser terms them and hills which they call mountains
(9-240)and dargles and dingles and most superb ruins of castles
(9-240)and abbies and live nuns in strict retreat not permitted
(9-240)to speak but who read their breviaries with one eye and
(9-240)looked at their visitors with the other. Then we had Miss
(9-240)Edgeworth and the kind-natured clever Harriet who
(9-240)moved and thought and acted for everybody's comforts
(9-240)rather than her own. We had Lockhart to say clever
(9-240)things and Walter with his whiskers to overawe obstinate
(9-240)postillions and impudent beggars and Jane to bless herself
(9-240)that the folks had neither houses clothes nor furniture
(9-240)and Anne to make fun from morning to night

(9-240)" And merry folks were we ".

(9-240)John Richardson has been looking at a wild domain 1
(9-240)within five miles of us and left us in the earnest
(9-240)determination to buy it having caught a basket of trouts in the
(9-240)space of two hours in the stream he is to call his own.
(9-240)It is a good purchase I think. He had promised to see me
(9-240)on his return and carry you up a bottle of whisky which
(9-240)if you will but take enough of will operate as a peace
(9-240)offering should and make you forget all my epistolary

(9-241)failures. I beg kind respects to dear Mrs Agnes and to

(9-241)Mrs Baillie. Lady Scott and Anne send best respects.

(9-241)I have but room to say that I am always yours

(9-241)WALTER SCOTT

[Royal College of Surgeons, London]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT

(9-241)MY DEAR MR[S] SCOTT,—I slide a note under Annes
(9-241)cover to say that I have rather been disappointed about
(9-241)Walter as I had hoped to get him down to some engineer
(9-241)of eminence where he could see civil engineering in some
(9-241)at least of its branches. I fear he must now trust to doing
(9-241)what he can for himself under advice of Colonel Pasley 1
(9-241)for after all I am not a competent adviser in a subject on
(9-241)which I am very ignorant. I only know that dedicating
(9-241)some time to these studies is likely to produce rich fruit
(9-241)in India. I must therefore trust a good deal to his own
(9-241)sense in improving the interval which he is to spend
(9-241)in Britain to improve himself in useful knowlege. Of
(9-241)course it will be his wish and duty [to] spend some time
(9-241)with you but your own good sense and his must determine
(9-241)time and space. We shall also wish to see him here to
(9-241)bid him poor fellow a long farewell. I have little doubt
(9-241)that he will make the best use of the confidence which
(9-241)leaves his time much at his own command and I will
(9-241)write to him to correspond with you about the time he
(9-241)should be at Cheltenham. I am grieved our poor dear
(9-241)Eliza is not yet quite stout again but I trust she is getting
(9-241)round. Love to her & to Anne. Always your
(9-241)affectionate Brother

(9-241)ABBOTSFORD 12 October [1825]

WALTER SCOTT

(9-241)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
(9-242)you some time past, but you seem to stand upon regularity
(9-242)of correspondence, and like a ghost are determined not to
(9-242)speak till you are spoken to. But you should remember
(9-242)that you have more to tell me than I can have to say to
(9-242)you. You are aware that the way in which I wish you to
(9-242)pass as much as possible of the time you are to remain in
(9-242)Scotland is to make yourself generally acquainted with
(9-242)some of the most useful branches of civil engineering ;
(9-242)but I am ill qualified to direct how this is to be done, and
(9-242)should wish you to advise with some competent person.
(9-242)I know my friend Mr. Watt,1 son of the celebrated Mr.
(9-242)Watt of Soho, would give his best advice, but I do not
(9-242)know where he now is. But you have Colonel Pasley to
(9-242)advise with, and all I can say is, that I will pay with
(9-242)pleasure any expense which may attend your endeavouring
(9-242)to gain this sort of information, as I am sure it may
(9-242)determine your future.

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

(9-242)Let me know what you think can be best done to attain
(9-242)this object, and remember I trust to you as a young man of
(9-242)prudence and sense, who knows the value of time and has
(9-242)shown himself desirous to collect the means of information.

(9-242)Every hour is precious to you just now. Let me know also
(9-242)what things you have bought, and I will make remittances
(9-242)for the payment. Lady Scott sends best love. Anne was

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-243)with me in Ireland and made a capital traveller. She
(9-243)sends kind compliments.—Believe me, dear Walter, yours
(9-243)with much affection,

(9-243)WALTER SCOTT

[Familiar Letters]

TO WILLIAM STEWART ROSE, CHELTENHAM

(9-243)ABBOTSFORD Octr 12. 1825

(9-243)MY DEAR ROSE,—I have just received your letter 1 and
(9-243)but that it is a proof of your continued & inexhaustible
(9-243)kindness I should have been sorry that Goosequill had
(9-243)the trouble of writing out the ballad as I know it well am
(9-243)possessed of the book you mention now very rare & knew
(9-243)the Editor intimately. He was a grim old antiquary of
(9-243)the real Scottish caste, all for parchment, snuff, & an
(9-243)occasional deep glass of Whisky toddy. This wight was
(9-243)benempt David Herd an accomptant 2 by profession, by
(9-243)taste a collector of old songs and ballads. The story of
(9-243)the Flowers of the Forest is well known. The only good
(9-243)stanzas beginning, " There was a liling, at our ewes
(9-243)milking," were written by Miss Elliot aunt of the late

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(9-244)Lord Minto in imitation of an old song now forgotten—
(9-244)I have spoken to her about it—she said the first verse was

(9-244)original and that there were others but she only remember'd

(9-244)one line

(9-244)I ride single on my saddle

(9-244)Since the flowers of the forest are all wed away

(9-244)Dr. Somerville 1 still alive was in the house of Minto tutor

(9-244)of the late Lord Minto when the imitation was written.

(9-244)Apparently some indifferent poetaster patched up the ballad

(9-244)by adding the stanzas " from Spey to the border " which

(9-244)are a few years later than Miss Elliots beautiful song.

(9-244)It does not end there, for Mrs Cockburn my old friend &

(9-244)my mothers relative wrote another fine set of verses to the

(9-244)same tunes.² She was born Miss Rutherford of Fairnalie

(9-244)& when there was a great deal of distress & misfortune

(9-244)come upon the Forest by seven Lairds becoming ruined in

(9-244)one year she composed the fine verses beginning

(9-244)I have seen the smiling of Fortune beguiling.

(9-244)David Herd I think publishes them altogether. He could

(9-244)not, or would not, tell me who wrote what may be called the

(9-244)historical part of the ballad but I believe it must have been

(9-244)himself for old Graysteel, a name which I gave him & which

(9-244)he loved to be called by, was a bit of a poet. His collection

(9-244)was a curious one for the time & I have had on my hands

(9-244)a large collection of songs and ballads from which he

(9-244)selected it. I took one or two for the Border Minstrelsy &

(9-244)you will see it quoted off as Herds manuscript 3 in that

(9-244)work where I think you will find so far as the flowers of the

(9-244)forest are concerned the saddle put on the right horse or

(9-244)rather the right mare : I never thought it ancient though

(9-245)Bentrovato. I can tell you many funny tales of Graysteel
(9-245)but as they chanced over a bottle of wine or a tumbler of
(9-245)toddy (which he rather affected) or a Welch rabbit & a
(9-245)tankard of ale which he liked best of all, they require
(9-245)the atmosphere of a cigar & the amalgam of a sum'mat
(9-245)comfortable. He was a fine figure with a real Scotch face
(9-245)of the harsh but manly & intelligent cast & a profusion
(9-245)of grey hair—a determined misogynist, & always
(9-245)stipulated for the absence of my womankind when he came
(9-245)to see me & for the presence of Constable the
(9-245)bookseller.

(9-245)How could you stay from the North this whole season.
(9-245)No wonder you are afraid of the Devil. However if it has
(9-245)done you good we will forgive you. Here has been a visitor
(9-245)of Lockharts a sprig of the rod of Aaron, young d'Israeli.
(9-245)In point of talents he reminded us of his father for sayth
(9-245)Mungo's garland 1

(9-245)" Crapaud pickanini
(9-245) Crapaud himself

(9-245)which means a young coxcomb is like the old one who got
(9-245)him. He said he was known to you & gave me an
(9-245)account of your having lost a Canto of Orlando in
(9-245)Manuscript which I hope is not accurate.

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

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(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

(9-246)arrived later than it should have done. I lose no time
(9-246)in saying that you and Mrs. Hall cannot come but as
(9-246)welcome guests any day next week which may best suit
(9-246)you. If you have time to drop a line, we will make our
(9-246)dinner hour suit your arrival, but you cannot come amiss
(9-246)to us. I am infinitely obliged to you for Capt. Maitland's

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-247)plain, manly, and interesting narrative.1 It is very
(9-247)interesting and clears Bonaparte of much egotism imputed
(9-247)to him. I am making a copy which, however, I will make
(9-247)no use of except as extracts ; and am very much indebted
(9-247)to Captain Maitland for the privilege.

(9-247)Constable proposed a thing to me which was of so much
(9-247)delicacy that I scarce know how to set about it, and
(9-247)thought of nursing it till you and I meet. It relates to
(9-247)that most interesting and affecting journal kept by my
(9-247)regretted and amiable friend Mrs. Harvey during poor
(9-247)De Lancy's 2 illness. He thought with great truth that it
(9-247)would add very great interest as an addition to the letters
(9-247)which I wrote from Paris soon after Waterloo, and certainly
(9-247)I would consider it as one of the most valuable and
(9-247)important documents which could be published as

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(9-248)illustrative of the woes of war. But whether this could
(9-248)be done without injury to the feelings of survivors is a
(9-248)question not for me to decide, and indeed I feel
(9-248)unaffected pain in even submitting it to your friendly ear
(9-248)who, I know, will put no harsh construction upon my
(9-248)motive, which can be no other than such as would do
(9-248)honour to the amiable and lamented authoress. I never
(9-248)read any thing which affected my own feelings more

(9-248)strongly or which, I am sure, would have a deeper
(9-248)interest on those of the public. Still the work is of a
(9-248)domestic nature and its publication, however honourable
(9-248)to all concerned, might perhaps give pain where. God
(9-248)knows, I should be sorry any proposal of mine should
(9-248)awaken the distresses which time may have in some
(9-248)degree abated. You are the only person who can judge
(9-248)of this with any certainty or who at least can easily gain
(9-248)the means of ascertaining it, and as Constable seemed to
(9-248)think there was a possibility that, after the lapse of so
(9-248)much time, it might be required as a matter of history
(9-248)and as a record of the amiable character of your
(9-248)accomplished sister, and seemed to suppose there was some
(9-248)possibility of such a favour being granted, you will
(9-248)consider me as putting the question on his suggestion. It
(9-248)could be printed as the journal of a lady during the last
(9-248)illness of a general officer of distinction, during her
(9-248)attendance upon his last illness, or something to that
(9-248)purpose. Perhaps it may be my own high estimation of
(9-248)the contents of the heart-rending diary which makes me
(9-248)suppose a possibility that, after such a lapse of years,
(9-248)the publication may possibly (as that which cannot but
(9-248)do the highest honour to the memory of the amiable
(9-248)authoress) not be judged altogether inadmissible. You may
(9-248)and will, of course, act in this matter with your natural
(9-248)feelings of propriety, and consider or ascertain whether that
(9-248)which cannot but do honour to the memory of those who
(9-248)are gone can be made public with the sacred regard due
(9-248)to the feelings of survivors. Lady Scott begs to add the

(9-249)pleasure she must have in seeing Mrs. Hall and you at
(9-249)Abbotsford ; and in speedy expectation of that honour,—
(9-249)I am always, dear Sir, most truly yours,

(9-249)W. SCOTT

(9-249)It is not necessary to write as you will be sure to find us
(9-249)on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. We dine at half-
(9-249)past five o'clock. I need not say Mr. James Hall will be
(9-249)a most welcome addition to your party ; you will find his
(9-249)monster just where he left him on the hall chimney-piece.
(9-249)Come to dinner if you can ; if not, welcome at any hour.

[Major Scott and Rosebery]

TO JOHN MURRAY

(9-249)MY DEAR SIR,—Lockhart seems to wish that I would
(9-249)express my opinion of the plans which you have had the
(9-249)kindness to submit to him 1 and I am myself glad of an
(9-249)opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the great
(9-249)confidence you are willing to repose in one so near to me
(9-249)and whom I value so highly. There is nothing in life
(9-249)that can be more interesting to me than his prosperity
(9-249)and should there eventually appear a serious prospect
(9-249)of his bettering his fortunes by quitting Scotland I have
(9-249)too much regard for him to desire him to remain notwithstanding
(9-249)all the happiness I must lose by his absence and
(9-249)that of my daughter. The present state however of the
(9-249)negotiation leaves me little or no reason to think that I
(9-249)will be subjected to this deprivation for I cannot conceive
(9-249)it advisable that he should leave Scotland on the speculation

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(9-250)of becoming Editor of a Newspaper. It is very true
(9-250)that this department of literature may & ought to be
(9-250)renderd more respectable than it is at present but I think
(9-250)this a reformation more to be wishd than hoped for and
(9-250)should think it rash for any young man of whatever talent

(9-250)to sacrifice, nominally at least, a considerable portion of
(9-250)his respectability in society in hopes of being admitted as
(9-250)an exception to a rule which is at present pretty general.
(9-250)This might open the door to love of money but it would
(9-250)effectually shut it against ambition.

(9-250)To leave Scotland Lockhart must make very great
(9-250)sacrifices for his views here though moderate are certain
(9-250)—his situation in public estimation and in private society
(9-250)as high as those of any one at our bar & his road to the
(9-250)public open if he chuses to assist his income by literary
(9-250)resources. But of the extent and value of these sacrifices
(9-250)he must be himself a judge & a more unprejudiced one
(9-250)probably than I am.

(9-250)I am very glad he meets your wishes by going up to
(9-250)town as this though it should have no further consequences
(9-250)cannot but serve to show a grateful sense of the confidence
(9-250)and kindness of the parties concernd and yours in
(9-250)particular.

(9-250)I beg kind compliments to Mr D'Israeli & am Dear Sir
(9-250)with best wishes for the success of your great national plan
(9-250)Yours very truly
WALTER SCOTT

(9-250)ABBOTSFORD Sunday [9th October 1825] (1)
[John Murray]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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

(9-251)ABBOTSFORD 15 October [PM. 1825]

(9-251)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I received a letter from Mr.

(9-251)Murray 1 being distinctly to the same purpose of that
(9-251)which you wrote to Sophia on thursday viz. proposing
(9-251) 1000 a year for Editorship of the Review which he
(9-251)calculates may with writing articles be easily raised to
(9-251) 1500,, Also contributions to the intended paper to be
(9-251)insured 1500. The first of these is quite certain—the
(9-251)paper may not answer their object but yet I think with
(9-251)the care necessary to stamp an independent manly and
(9-251)national character on the publication [it] may be also
(9-251)renderd effectual. Another thing I certainly believe—namely
(9-251)that personal violence and abuse is now stale and tiresome
(9-251)and though its novelty took at first yet I have a notion
(9-251)people are disgusted with it and that a controversialist
(9-251)had better shoot balls than pelt with rotten eggs. A
(9-251)general tone of manly candour and civility gives much

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(9-252)vigour to occasional severity. I conclude you will see
(9-252)Ellis as you proposed and be made acquainted with the
(9-252)interior machinery proposed to carry on their grand
(9-252)engine. You may be sure I have no desire to know more
(9-252)of the unbekanten obern 1 than that Murray is their sword and
(9-252)D'Israeli their shield ; but your own information should
(9-252)be complete of course.

(9-252)Two things I am anxious about—both are in your
(9-252)power—the one is your health for which you should keep
(9-252)a poney and ride not once a week but regularly. The
(9-252)other is your society. You will have great temptation to
(9-252)drop into the gown and slipper garb of life and live with
(9-252)funny easy companions whose company like Lucio's is
(9-252)fairer than it is honest 2 and who you can slip on or off at
(9-252)pleasure. But noscitur a socio is a maxim very generally
(9-252)adopted in London society—many eyes will be on you
(9-252)and some of them malignant and if you fraternize too

(9-252)much with our friend Theodore 3 you must be content
(9-252)to be set down as altogether one like himself and not fit
(9-252)therefore for very good society. You will not I know
(9-252)misconstrue what I say at this anxious moment when I
(9-252)recommend great circumspection concerning this point
(9-252)for the outset at least. It will save you much mortification
(9-252)and even distress hereafter—nay will have no inconsiderable
(9-252)influence on the success of your undertaking
(9-252)which will never do if considered merely as a second part
(9-252)of John Bull.

(9-252)I have written to Murray 4 stating that I cannot object
(9-252)to your changing scene upon the very advantageous
(9-252)prospects which he holds out and particularly the
(9-252)Editorship of the Review. But I mentioned to him both on
(9-252)your account Sophia's and your present and future
(9-252)family I held it my duty to suggest the propriety of
(9-252)matters being legally arranged before you left London.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-253)I shewd him that your sacrifice of views here would be
(9-253)completed the instant the transaction was known and
(9-253)that your new prospects must therefore be put beyond
(9-253)question. I added that you might have delicacy in entering
(9-253)into these details of business but that we should be
(9-253)perfectly [content] with such arrangements as might be
(9-253)made under the eye of our mutual friend Mr. Wright.

(9-253)There is nothing about the seat in parliament in
(9-253)Murray's letter 1—it would be no doubt very desirable if
(9-253)you would bind your brows and speak like a man and
(9-253)give Abercromby and Tom Kennedy a little dry rubbing
(9-253)which God knows would be no hard task. But it would
(9-253)be useless to sit there as a mere dumble. Indeed I am
(9-253)a little afraid the late hours and hard work of the House

(9-253)might add too much to your other heavy duties.

(9-253)On the subject of finance I should think if these views
(9-253)are realized you would get on well enough. The Editorship
(9-253)of the Review is a sure card the other lasts for three
(9-253)years and supposing it fails I think there is little doubt
(9-253)that something else will cast up for as the failure would
(9-253)set your time at liberty it must be hard if you could not
(9-253)make 1000 or 1200 besides carrying on the Review :
(9-253)and out of such an income with other odds and ends to
(9-253)help it you might live at the rate of 2000 a year or
(9-253)less and lay by the balance which even if the Newspaper
(9-253)should not turn out as expected (of which I cannot help
(9-253)having doubts) will make a tolerable nest-egg.

(9-253)Wrights plans of the law are not to be neglected.
(9-253)Yet I pickd up one unfavourable opinion from Lord
(9-253)Gifford the other day. Coleridge 2 was mentiond and

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(9-254)his situation in the review. Lord Gifford said it might be
(9-254)better for him to lose it as it would prevent his progress
(9-254)in his profession in which he had fair prospects. I said
(9-254)we had an instance of law and literature being successfully
(9-254)pursued by the same person Jeffrey. He said he did not
(9-254)think that would do in England—the prejudices of
(9-254)attornies would be too strong—and there the conversation
(9-254)stopd.

(9-254)I think it will not be amiss that I trouble Mr. Wright
(9-254)with two or three lines to serve as a sort of authority
(9-254)to him to enter upon the subject of a legal settlement in
(9-254)case Murray should purpose speaking to him.1 I conclude
(9-254)this letter at Chiefswood being desirous to see Sophia in
(9-254)case she had any thing to suggest. Johnie is quite well.

(9-254)I send a bundle of what seems proof Sheets under Mr.
(9-254)Frelings frank. What will Croker say to all this.² Yours
(9-254)affectionately WALTER SCOTT

(9-254)CHIEFSWOOD 16 October [PM. 1825]
[Law]

255 SIR WALTER SCOTT 1825

TO MRS. W. SCOTT, 10 STEVENS GREEN, BUBLIN 1

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

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

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

(9-256)that he changes his residence from Edinr. to London and
(9-256)goes to the English Bar instead of the Scotch.

(9-256)You are aware what a sufferer I must be as you know
(9-256)very well that Lockhart always shewd me the duty and
(9-256)affection of a son and that Sophia was a most kind and
(9-256)attentive daughter. But there is an end of all our Sunday
(9-256)dinner parties en famille and my rides over to breakfast
(9-256)to Chiefswood and so many other comforts which their
(9-256)society afforded me and which was the more precious to
(9-256)me as both Walter and Charles are like to be little at
(9-256)home during my time. I ought not however to admit
(9-256)of selfish regret upon this occasion but rather to be happy
(9-256)that Lockharts extraordinary talents have brought him
(9-256)into a situation by which his ambition may be gratified
(9-256)and his income advanced. I suppose if he made 1000
(9-256)a year here it would be the utmost. Sophia managed by
(9-256)oeconomy and attention to live very decently within that
(9-256)income and though London is more expensive yet their
(9-256)income is so much as to give room for saving upon 3000.
(9-256)I think it likely Lockhart will go into parliament next
(9-256)General Election. He will have it in his power at least
(9-256)—and then we will all get franks. The worst of the
(9-256)business is the little boy being so delicate but Lockhart
(9-256)is looking for a house that opens on the park and I hope
(9-256)Johnies health will not suffer. The poor boy is very
(9-256)delicate but a most engaging boy. To conclude this
(9-256)subject the Lockharts do not propose to go to Edinburgh

(9-257)which would engage them in a round of farewell visits
(9-257)to little good purpose. They remain fast at Chiefswood
(9-257)till the New year 1 and then weigh anchor for their new
(9-257)residence.

(9-257)We expect the great Mrs. Coutts here today bringing
(9-257)in her train the duke of St. Albans and his sister—the
(9-257)former the newspapers will have it is slave to her beaux
(9-257)yeux or more properly the beaux yeux de sa cassette. I think
(9-257)she is scarce such a fool as to marry him 2 but to be a
(9-257)duchess is a pretty thing. I will know better when I see
(9-257)them together. I could heartily have wishd to have
(9-257)forfeited their good company on this occasion being by
(9-257)no means in the humour to entertain strangers. His
(9-257)Grace shall give me a frank (as Lockhart is not yet in
(9-257)Parliament) and so you will be 2/6 the better for the visit
(9-257)and that is more than I shall.

(9-257)I am glad you like your Colonels lady and your new
(9-257)horse. I beg pardon for putting them together but I
(9-257)have turnd my fourth leaf and must be concise. I am
(9-257)also glad you have courage but courage as Bob Acres
(9-257)says in the play will come and go 3 so do not be over
(9-257)venturous lest it fail you in some moment of emergency.
(9-257)I never see a lady ride but with a secret sense of insecurity
(9-257)and yet I have known the best horsewomen of my time—
(9-257)have seen old Lady Salisbury 4 ride and Lady Anne
(9-257)Hamilton break a restive and runaway horse a sort of
(9-257)Spring with a side saddle on him.

(9-257)I would rather somehow you had a quiet pair for the

(9-258)chariot. Walters duties as a courtier seem long of
(9-258)commencing. I shall be curious to hear how he performs in
(9-258)his new Capacity. Make my best Compliments to the
(9-258)Blakes 1 the good-humourd Hartstonges whose voices still
(9-258)ring in my ears and all our kind friends of Merry Dublin.
(9-258)Ballinrobe says the Gazetteer and he ought to know " is
(9-258)a town in Ireland where assizes are sometimes held "—

(9-258)you have a luck to assizes 2 Jane—15 miles south from
(9-258)Castlebar 112 miles from Dublin. This hath a sound
(9-258)of banishment about it. I hope you will get good
(9-258)accommodation. Let me know all about it.

(9-258)We expect Sir Adam and my Lady Eve almost every day
(9-258)in this corner but the Colonel has concluded his round
(9-258)of travels and dissipation with a fit of the gout which
(9-258)luxurious visitor I suppose detains them at Tinwald
(9-258)House.

(9-258)It is odd I can hear no tidings of the box with books
(9-258)and numberless etceteras, some things of yours by the
(9-258)way which Mr. Milliken the bookseller undertook to
(9-258)forward to me. I wrote to Walter to make some inquiries.
(9-258)There are 50 worth of one ware and another besides
(9-258)things which I can never replace—pickd up in the course
(9-258)of our memorable travels through Ireland.

(9-258)Lady Scott and Anne send their best love. Anne
(9-258)proposes to write immediatly—quaere what space of time
(9-258)does the word immediatly intimate when it is the expression
(9-258)of a young lady. I will keep the frank open however.
(9-258)Always my dear love your affectionate father

(9-258)WALTER SCOTT

(9-258)ABBOTSFORD 25 October [PM. 1825]

[Law]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO CHARLES SCOTT, BRAZEN NOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD

(9-259)October Twentysix 1825 (1)

(9-259)DEAR CHARLES,—I had your short letter and heard of
(9-259)you again through Anne from which I observe you are
(9-259)at College and working hard. Incumbite remis—men
(9-259)labour to most advantage in the morning of life.

(9-259)I have a piece of news for you which will surprize you
(9-259)as it has done us all. Lockhart and Sophia leave Scotland
(9-259)to settle in London. This is in consequence of a negociation
(9-259)about the Editorship of the Quarterly Review with
(9-259)appointments 1500 a year at least and other engagements
(9-259)professional and literary to the amount of as much
(9-259)more all ratified and renderd certain. It would be
(9-259)absurd in him to decline appointments of so valuable a
(9-259)description and in a line where he can distinguish himself
(9-259)so highly as take literature talents and good sense
(9-259)altogether he certainly is as likely as any man to play his
(9-259)part well. But it is a sore deprivation to us who remain
(9-259)behind and I cannot help feeling it as such personally.
(9-259)Sophia pleases herself with the idea of coming down to
(9-259)the Chiefswood cottage for a few weeks every year but
(9-259)that she will find difficult after a season or two and I
(9-259)for[e]see it will be

(9-259)Ha til mi tullidh—We return no more— 2

(9-259)It would be very selfish however to see their removal with
(9-259)selfish sorrow. I am and ought to be more interested in
(9-259)my childrens advantage than in that which I myself
(9-259)derive from their Society.

(9-259)We have here Mrs Coutts and the Duke of Saint
(9-259)Albans and Lady Charlotte Beauclerk his Graces sister.
(9-259)It is ridiculous to see a young man of his high situation,
(9-259)modest too and gentlemanlike led about in a sort of

(9-260)triumph by this Dame of diamonds. His being here
(9-260)however will save you a shillings postage which entre nous
(9-260)is more than I would give for the pleasure of the visit :
(9-260)though Mrs Coutts and the old gentleman that was have
(9-260)been uniformly civil and even kind to me and I owe her
(9-260)attention accordingly.

(9-260)Anne is downcast at the idea of losing Sophia. Mama
(9-260)faces it better than I could have expected and we all look
(9-260)at the bright side as well as we can and turn from the
(9-260)separation.

(9-260)I must add that the precise nature of Lockharts views
(9-260)is yet a secret because the Review remains under the
(9-260)present management for a season longer namely till 1st
(9-260)January and any annunciation of the change would be
(9-260)premature. You will be benefited by Sophia coming
(9-260)to town as I suppose she will afford you a bed at a
(9-260)time.

(9-260)Adieu my dear Charles work hard and you will
(9-260)qualify yourself to enjoy good fortune in your turn. Wind
(9-260)and tide—mere chance I mean may be in one mans
(9-260)favour more than in anothers but if he cannot hand reef
(9-260)and steer he will make little of the voyage. All here send
(9-260)love. In the inclosed letter to Surtees I have mentiond
(9-260)Lockharts views only generally as being literary and
(9-260)professional and well secured. I would not [the remainder
(9-260)of the MS. has been cut off]

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-260)MY DEAR JAMES,—Two bills of 700 one yours one
(9-260)Constables & one of 600,, will suit me best and you
(9-260)shall have the Cash forthwith. I return the notes
(9-260)inclosed. I have no hesitation to take 2000 for December
(9-260)perhaps more for I have now no debts. I have insurances
(9-260)however to pay which must be lookd to. Cadell
(9-260)must let us have what he can in December and we must

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-261)make what other fence we can in January which I have
(9-261)no doubt will be good. I can also I hope do something
(9-261)then to purpose.

(9-261)I am obliged by your criticisms but I must not let them
(9-261)sink so deep into my mind as last year when your molligrunts
(9-261)so hamperd me as to cost us at least one novel for
(9-261)when you are out of spirits I am suspicious of myself and
(9-261)this I neither must nor will be. This is using you ill for
(9-261)your kind interference which after all is the most genuine
(9-261)proof of freindship. But I like particular criticism better
(9-261)than general & find it more useful.

(9-261)I have a great business in my mind as mixed like other
(9-261)things of this life with much good and evil.

(9-261)Lockhart leaves Edinr & establishes himself in London
(9-261)upon very advantageous prospects. He goes to the English
(9-261)bar under certain assurances of patronage and support.
(9-261)This is all we say as yet to the world—But to you I mention
(9-261)in confidence that he has agreed to take the Quarterly
(9-261)with 1500 a year together with other employment of a
(9-261)professional description insured for as much more.

(9-261)There is no setting [aside] such a call but alas ! alas ! I
(9-261)lose my daughter & a son in law who has always shewn me

(9-261)the duty & affection of a son but it is the law we live on
(9-261)and to sorrow because our comforts slip from us is to
(9-261)grieve that smoke goes up and water rushes down. What
(9-261)is the use of philosophy if it cannot teach man to bear
(9-261)deprivations.

(9-261)Here is Mrs Coutts good lady has taken possession of
(9-261)my house & kicks up a row which would be less
(9-261)troublesome at any other time Yours truly

(9-261)W S

(9-261)Wednesday [26th October 1825]
[Abbotsford Copies]

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TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON

(9-262)MY DEAR SIR,—I have somewhat intruded on his
(9-262)Majesty's condescension through your obliging channel,
(9-262)when anything occurred in literature which was worthy (at
(9-262)least seemed to me worthy) his Majesty's royal attendance
(9-262)or patronage. But the present is a very remarkable case
(9-262)indeed, and makes part of a great change which is about
(9-262)to take place in Britain, and which sooner or later will
(9-262)work great consequences for good and evil. The general
(9-262)pains which has been bestowed on the education of the
(9-262)poor begins to have a general effect upon the nation at
(9-262)large ; for folks who read are naturally as desirous to have
(9-262)books, as folks who have appetites are to procure food. In
(9-262)both cases it is of much consequence that wholesome and
(9-262)nourishing diet be placed within the reach of those who
(9-262)are hungry, otherwise they will be willing to eat trash
(9-262)and poison.

(9-262)Our great publisher 1 in Scotland has formed a plan
(9-262)which, though intended for his profit in the first instance,
(9-262)cannot, I think, but have the best possible effect in
(9-262)supplying this new and extended demand for literature among
(9-262)the lower classes, by reprinting at a moderate rate, and
(9-262)selling at a low profit, a great number of the most standard
(9-262)English works both in history, in the belles lettres, as well
(9-262)as in science, and in the department of voyages and
(9-262)travels, natural history, and so forth. The object is
(9-262)generally to place the best and soundest works of every
(9-262)kind within the reach of the lower classes, whose shelves
(9-262)will be otherwise unquestionably filled with that sort of
(9-262)trash which is peculiarly dangerous both to their morals
(9-262)as men and their loyalty as subjects. The publisher, who
(9-262)is one of the most sagacious men I know in such matters,

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-263)considers this not unjustly as a great national work, and
(9-263)is naturally desirous to place it under the most exalted
(9-263)patronage.

(9-263)If I may presume to express an opinion, I do think that
(9-263)a work likely to be spread so widely among his Majesty's
(9-263)subjects, and calculated to place useful information within
(9-263)their reach, may not ungracefully be placed under his
(9-263)Majesty's immediate protection. I think I can pledge
(9-263)myself that the selection of works in this extensive
(9-263)miscellany will be such as to turn men's minds into such a
(9-263)channel as may render the power of reading a blessing,
(9-263)and without which it may very well turn out a curse to
(9-263)themselves and the State. It is not the power of reading,
(9-263)but the character of the works which are read, that is to
(9-263)form the advantage derived from general education. I
(9-263)enclose a prospectus of the work, and a letter from
(9-263)Constable, which I would beg you to take the trouble of

(9-263)considering.

(9-263)I have only to add, that this popular miscellany is
(9-263)to be cheap indeed, but yet handsomely and correctly
(9-263)printed,—the bookseller trusting for his profit to the
(9-263)quantity sold. The present prospect seems to intimate
(9-263)that it will be immense.

(9-263)I spent a part of this fine summer in Ireland, and have
(9-263)returned delighted with that warm-hearted and hospitable
(9-263)country. Whatever people may say, its grievances are
(9-263)fast abating—much English capital has been introduced of
(9-263)late years ; new cabbins which arise are more decent than
(9-263)the old ones ; and the dress of the younger people does
(9-263)not exhibit such a variety of patchwork as that of the true
(9-263)old Milesian. I went through the greater part of the
(9-263)island, and saw much ground which might rival any part
(9-263)of England in wealth, and much scenery which might vie
(9-263)with any part of Scotland in picturesque beauty; and
(9-263)the inhabitants, from the peer to the peasant, are certainly
(9-263)the kindest people in the world.

(9-263)May I request you to place my most humble duty at

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(9-264)his Majesty's feet and believe me, my dear Sir, Your
(9-264)most obedient, very faithful servant,

(9-264)WALTER SCOTT

(9-264)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, 30th October [1825]

[Brotherton and Memoirs of Sir William Knighton]

TO LADY ABERCORN

(9-264)MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—Your very kind letter
(9-264)reached me just as I was going to write to tell you with
(9-264)what pleasure & satisfaction I visited your fair country I
(9-264)& how much I was gratified by the more than kind
(9-264)reception which I met with on the part of its hospitable
(9-264)inhabitants. Ireland has certainly the capability of
(9-264)becoming perhaps the finest portion of the Empire—it
(9-264)possesses everything requisite—a most fertile soil a high-
(9-264)spirited & kind-hearted population—rivers navigable
(9-264)canals besides the opportunities of internal communication
(9-264)afforded by those noble lakes which are like so many
(9-264)inland seas—fuel as far as inexhaustible quantities of
(9-264)turf goes—quantities of pastoral hills excellently fitted

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(9-265)for sheep which however they do not raise to the best
(9-265)advantage—plenty of opulent gentry & nobility to form
(9-265)a powerful aristocracy & rather too many peasants for
(9-265)the present state of labour—All that it possesses is the
(9-265)gift of nature & what it seems only to want is the proper
(9-265)direction of a spirit of industry which is rising fast in
(9-265)various parts of the country. I saw a great deal of the
(9-265)middle & eastern countries [sic] little of the North where
(9-265)I was haunted by some sad reflections with which you my
(9-265)dear friend were often mingled. I thought what a kind
(9-265)reception I would have been honored with in these
(9-265)provinces & I felt a little heartache which induced
(9-265)me to leave them for the present unvisited. You will be
(9-265)pleased to hear my sincere opinion that I think the state
(9-265)of the country is mending if not rapidly at least with a
(9-265)steady & gradual progress. Much English Capital is
(9-265)flowing to Ireland from the difficulty of employing it to
(9-265)advantage in England—manufactures are spreading—
(9-265)many undertakings and other improvements are undertaken

(9-265)with spirit—some will undoubtedly fail but others
(9-265)will as undoubtedly succeed. In the meanwhile many
(9-265)hands are employed & men when they are busy & paid
(9-265)acquire the habits of regular industry & set an example
(9-265)to others. Meanwhile the younger people have not the
(9-265)squalid wretchedness which afflicts the eye in the older
(9-265)folks—their dress is more decent & their cabbins more
(9-265)comfortable—better huts are built when the old pigsties
(9-265)are falling to pieces—the gentry seem returning to their
(9-265)country seats & attending to the improvement of their
(9-265)estates & the decoration of their demesnes. There are
(9-265)however still remaining the deep & visible scars of old
(9-265>wounds & much which offends the eye of a Scotchman
(9-265)accustomed to the extreme quiet of this country. The
(9-265)new police have a very formidable aspect. None of your
(9-265)Dogberries & Verges but considerable bodies of well-
(9-265)armed men—soldiers entirely in appearance arms &
(9-265)appointments & most of them serving on horseback.

(9-266)They are like the French gens d'armes in this particular
(9-266)& also in a species of omnipresence—in the remotest
(9-266)& most retired scenes you see parties of them. It seems
(9-266)to be generally allowed that this species of surveillance is
(9-266)for a time absolutely necessary to prevent scenes of
(9-266)nocturnal violence which the presence of so ready &
(9-266)efficient a force renders far more rare than formerly. We
(9-266>were in one or two places supposed to be unsafe but
(9-266)being a large party three gentlemen two of them young
(9-266)& active with servants & well armed we were not in the
(9-266)least danger only once or twice par precaution we slept
(9-266)outside the ladies rooms as the stags lie always on the
(9-266)outside of the herd of doe. But we saw nothing but
(9-266)extreme courtesy & kindness & I was almost ashamed
(9-266)of the precaution. The county of Wicklow contains

(9-266)fine scenery & we saw it all making headquarters at the
(9-266)Attorney General's Mr Plunkets who is an exceedingly
(9-266)agreeable man. The lake of Glendalough with its
(9-266)seven old churches of which the architecture is most
(9-266)curious & extremely ancient. Like an old fool I must
(9-266)needs remember that I was once the best climber in
(9-266)the High School & had even scaled the castle rock by
(9-266)the precarious path called the kittle (i.e. ticklish) nine
(9-266)steps. In the strength of these reminiscences I ascended
(9-266)an almost precipitous rock to place myself in Saint
(9-266)Kevin's bed a little cavern about 50 feet above the
(9-266)lake & in the very face of the precipice. My kind
(9-266)Cathleen on the occasion was an old hag of a soldiers
(9-266)wife—but I treated her more kindly than the saint did
(9-266)his Cathleen whom he is said to have pitched from the
(9-266)cliff for invading his retirement. She was grateful
(9-266)accordingly for some malicious persons having circulated
(9-266)a report that I was a poet she refuted the accusation
(9-266)saying I was no poet but a noble & generous gentleman
(9-266)for I had given her a crown. The professed poet of
(9-266)Glendalough was not probably in the habit of making such
(9-266)donations for my son-in-law Lockhart having given him

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-267)half the sum the bard remained on his knees in his potatoe
(9-267)guardiner [sic] in a rapture of thankfulness as long as we
(9-267)were in sight. Killarney is very fair indeed. I think
(9-267)as a general view that it may be matched in our highlands
(9-267)& in the Westmoreland lakes but the details of the
(9-267)old monastery of Muc[k]ross & the island of Innisfallen
(9-267)I do not think are equalled in Britain. They struck
(9-267)us very much. I must not dismiss Ireland without
(9-267)mentioning the kindness of your Ladyship's brother
(9-267)Colonel Gore 1 who showed us very much attention.
(9-267)He has a fine family of young people. A thing has

(9-267)befallen us most unexpectedly in which you will not be
(9-267)uninterested. My son-in-law Lockhart has been applied
(9-267)to to become Conductor of the Quarterly Review with
(9-267)an appointment of 1500 a year & appointments
(9-267)professional & literary of a collateral nature which will
(9-267)produce more than an additional 1500. But alas they
(9-267)must exchange Scotland for London & I shall lose their
(9-267)society one of the greatest comforts of my life. But it
(9-267)would be selfish to complain of this deprivation. He is
(9-267)in the age of honourable ambition & active exertion
(9-267)& must pursue fortune where she presents herself. At
(9-267)present his appointment is a secret because he does not
(9-267)go to London till the New Year & a No. of the review
(9-267)must appear in the meanwhile under the old management.
(9-267)Lord Wellesley has done me the great honour to
(9-267)take Walter as one of his Aides de Camp a thing desirable
(9-267)every way but especially as it will enable him to remain
(9-267)at Dublin should his regiment move to out-quarters which
(9-267)though indifferent [to himself] will be pleasant to his
(9-267)wife barracks accomodation being indifferent & lodgings
(9-267)not always to be had. Our friend Mrs Coutts left us
(9-267)today after a visit of two days. She had the Duke of St
(9-267)Albans & his sister in her train. She told me she had
(9-267)declined his addresses & intends to be positive in her

(9-268)refusal. I think however she may change her mind. He
(9-268)seems good tempered modest & quiet and no way brilliant
(9-268)or dashing—if she inclines to give her wealth & freedom
(9-268)for a coronet she could not perhaps make a better bargain
(9-268)but the difference of age is awful being on the wrong
(9-268)side too. Here is a long letter & little in it—but you say
(9-268)my dearest friend that you like to hear from me & so I
(9-268)write without apology for my dullness Always truly &
(9-268)gratefully yours

WALTER SCOTT

(9-268)ABBOTSFORD 26 October 1825

[Pierpont Morgan]

TO THOMAS MOORE, SLOPERTON COTTAGE, DEVIZES

(9-268)ABBOTSFORD, Thursday [October 1825]1

(9-268)MY DEAR SIR,—DAMN SIR—MY DEAR MOORE,—Few

(9-268)things could give me more pleasure than your realizing

(9-268)the prospect your letter holds out to me. We are at

(9-268)Abbotsford fixtures till 10th November, when my official

(9-268)duty, for I am " slave to an hour and vassal to a bell," 2

(9-268)calls me to Edinburgh. I hope you will give me as much

(9-268)of your time as you can—no one will value it more highly.

(9-268)You keep the great north road till you come to the last

(9-268)stage in England, Cornhill, and then take up the Tweed to

(9-268)Kelso. If I knew what day you would be at Kelso, I

(9-268)would come down and do the honours of Tweedside, by

(9-268)bringing you here, and showing you anything that is

(9-268)remarkable by the way ; but though I could start at a

(9-268)moment's warning, I should scarce, I fear, have time to

(9-268)receive a note from Newcastle soon enough to admit of

(9-268)my reaching you at Kelso. Drop me a line, however, at

(9-268)all events ; and, in coming from Kelso to Melrose and

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-269)Abbotsford, be sure to keep the southern side of the

(9-269)Tweed, both because it is far the pleasantest route, and

(9-269)because I will come a few miles to take the chance of

(9-269)meeting you. You do not mention whether you have any

(9-269)fellow-travellers. We have plenty of accommodation for

(9-269)any part of your family, or any friend, who may be with

(9-269)you.—Yours, in great joy and expectation,

(9-270)support of your mother and sisters. I do not claim any
(9-270)merit for doing so—it is the duty of an affectionate relation.
(9-270)But this state of matters renders it indispensable on
(9-270)your part, that by every honourable exertion and every
(9-270)sacrifice and self-denial that may be called for, you ought
(9-270)to get into a situation,—one which may be useful to your
(9-270)family. This cannot be without strict economy, for let a
(9-270)man's talents and acquirements be what they may, he will
(9-270)fall into disrespect unless he is independent; and he who
(9-270)grasps at means of indulgence to-day without considering
(9-270)the wants of to-morrow never can be so. When you land
(9-270)in India you must make your pay answer your support.
(9-270)You must therefore practise in time that method and order
(9-270)from which you have a little departed. To close the
(9-270)lecture I send a note payable to your order for 60,
(9-270)which will clear out your debts. I do not even deduct the
(9-270) 12, because I wish you to start free and with a few
(9-270)guineas beforehand.

(9-270)I expect almost daily to get an introduction to you to
(9-270)Mr. Telford,¹ who I hope will permit you to attend to his
(9-270)office. He is now the first engineer in the civil line, and
(9-270)Dr. Brewster ² has applied for his permission. I hope it will
(9-270)be granted, and that you will use all industry in availing
(9-270)yourself of it.

(9-270)Your list of necessaries seems very moderate, and you
(9-270)may proceed to get them, and to send me the exact
(9-270)amount, which I will remit. . . .

(9-270)Let me know when this arrives to hand, and how I am
(9-270)to direct to you when you leave Brompton. I wish your

(9-271)uncle Robert would invite you to live with him. It might

(9-271)be dull, but these must be months of labour, and folks that
(9-271)are industrious do not tire for want of amusement.

(9-271)Adieu, my dear Walter; I should be cruelly disappointed
(9-271)if I should ever be deceived in the high hopes I
(9-271)have formed in you. You have, I believe, peculiar talents
(9-271)for the profession you have embraced. You have besides
(9-271)a quick observation, (a little too satirical, which is a
(9-271>woman's fault), good sense, and a good disposition. I will
(9-271)endeavour to procure you the best recommendations ;
(9-271)therefore there is no fear of you if you be your own friend,
(9-271)as I trust and hope will be the case.—Always, my dear
(9-271)Walter, your affectionate uncle,

(9-271)WALTER SCOTT

(9-271)Lady Scott and Anne join in kindest regards.

[Familiar Letters]

TO CHARLES MILLS 1

[Copy]

LONDON 24 NORFOLK STREET 1st Novr 1825

(9-271)SIR,—I have been requested by the Author of Waverley
(9-271)to make a communication to you on the subject of a
(9-271)passage in the Talisman, which I now try to do in the
(9-271)Authors own words. ... I have no doubt this will be
(9-271)satisfactory to you, and I have the honor to be Sir Your
(9-271)most obedt Humble Servt

(9-271)(signed) ARCHD. CONSTABLE

[Enclosure]

(9-271)The Author of Waverley is concernd to find that Mr
(9-271)Milne has misconceived entirely the purpose of a passage 2

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(9-272)in the Talisman. It was neither the intention of the
(9-272)Author to charge Mr Milne for whose talents & industry
(9-272)he has the greatest respect with ignorance nor to impose
(9-272)a fictitious genealogy upon the public as a real one a deceit
(9-272)which would have in no respect added to the effect of his
(9-272)narrative. But most Authors of romance are in the habit
(9-272)of referring to imaginary authorities accessible to
(9-272)themselves alone as Cervantes quotes Cid Hamet Benengeli.¹
(9-272)And when such an author in a profesd work of fiction
(9-272)refers to historical documents for one part of his narrative
(9-272)& requires the rest to be taken upon his own authority
(9-272)he means to intimate a distinction between that which is
(9-272>true & that which is imaginary. It was of consequence
(9-272)to the Author to show that the extraordinary fact of a
(9-272)proper marriage between Saladin & one of Richards
(9-272)relations was grounded in history although history gave
(9-272)no countenance to the colouring of the tale. The Author
(9-272)of Waverley begs to assure Mr Milne that if he had
(9-272)seriously meant to question any of his Statements he
(9-272)would have done so in respectful terms and supported
(9-272)his opinion by historical authorities.

[Stevenson]

TO ELIZABETH, MARCHIONESS OF STAFFORD

(9-272)MY DEAR LADY MARCHIONESS,—The very flattering
(9-272)interest which your ladyship was so good as to take in
(9-272)favour of my son-in-law, Mr. Lockhart, in the event of a
(9-272)vacancy in the sherifffdom of Sutherland,² induces me to

(9-273)mention to you that he has been tempted to exchange his
(9-273)views in this country for others which are opening to
(9-273)him in London, and which in point of emolument are
(9-273)much more flattering. It is a little point of confidence as
(9-273)yet, but I may mention to your ladyship that he has
(9-273)accepted the management of the Quarterly Review, the
(9-273)appointments of which are about 1500 yearly, with the
(9-273)most favourable opening and indeed assurance of
(9-273)professional employment to a very considerable extent.
(9-273)I should be glad of all this, and I am, but not with unmixd
(9-273)gladness, for I must necessarily lose the greatest comfort
(9-273)in my life in my daughters and son-in-laws society.
(9-273)Sophia has been always a ladylike young woman, and
(9-273)accustomed to take a little part in the best society in this
(9-273)country. Her object will be to be very quiet in London,
(9-273)but I should feel it a great addition to the many obligations
(9-273)which I owe your ladyship if you would spare her a
(9-273)little occasional notice, as it is of so much consequence
(9-273)that she should take her ground under good auspices in
(9-273)this new scene of life. I think your ladyship will neither
(9-273)find her ungrateful nor undeserving such kindness.

(9-273)Another favour I have to ask of your ladyship, if it were
(9-273)not the trouble which it may give you. I am busied
(9-273)with something like a view of the French Revolution, and
(9-273)I wish much to do justice to my distinguished country-
(9-273)woman Lady Sutherlands gallant efforts in favour of
(9-273)Marie Antoinette. Can your recollection, my dear
(9-273)lady, supply me with any notes of that period and the
(9-273)events connected with it which may be useful to such a
(9-273)sketch as I meditate ? I do not mean to involve myself
(9-273)in an actual historical work, but merely to give some
(9-273)general, and, if I can, striking views of a course of events
(9-273)which I think we have almost lost sight of.1

(9-274)I have had Tom Moore here for three days, singing like
 (9-274)a cherubim. I told him (for it was long since we had
 (9-274)met) that as the world calld him a Jacobin and me a
 (9-274)Jacobite, it was clear that we agreed to a T, and we proved
 (9-274)good friends accordingly.¹ Believe me, dear Lady Stafford,
 (9-274)with respectful compliments to lord marquis, ever
 (9-274)your ladyships obliged and grateful humble servant,

(9-274)WALTER SCOTT

(9-274)ABBOTSFORD, 5 November 1825.

(9-274)Most noble the Marchioness of Stafford, etc. etc. etc.
 [Fraser's Sutherland Book]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(9-274)DEAR WALTER,—I mentiond the box and books in my
 (9-274)last letter to Jane.² It is arrived quite safe after being
 (9-274)forwarded by Mr. Milliken on 26 August it has lain two
 (9-274)months at Belfast I suppose. This is not very regular
 (9-274)communication. I see you are to have a vice Queen and

(9-275)I beg you, time and place permitting, to make my most
 (9-275)respectful compliments of congratulation to the Marquis
 (9-275)and Marchioness when she shall have attained that dignity.
 (9-275)I think she will look and do the dignified part of the thing
 (9-275)extremely well. Here has been Mrs. Coutts with the
 (9-275)Duke of St. Albans and his sister in her train. He is an
 (9-275)avowd swain—a rejected one at present—but on a footing
 (9-275)as a friend and so forth so that his chance is a good one of

(9-275)carrying off this Mistress of Millions. He seems very
(9-275)spoony indeed. Mamma is greatly better. She takes
(9-275)care of herself but is I think rather too inactive.

(9-275)I had just got this far when your letter arrived giving
(9-275)me news of the great Mans actual marriage.1 Well
(9-275)the brid[e] groom is no chicken but neither is the lady
(9-275)and if they are pleased I am sure I am. The circumstance
(9-275)of the brides being catholic will make a great sensation
(9-275)and no less outcry. Tom Moore who is our guest at
(9-275)present thinks it will cost him the Lieutenancy. I do
(9-275)not think so. He holds fast by Canning whom they
(9-275)cannot do without.

(9-275)I am dreadfully sorry at what has chanced at Old
(9-275)Connaught. I am always an enemy to letting young
(9-275)girls be so much with teachers of drawing and teachers
(9-275)of music and so forth without a duenna's superintendence.
(9-275)Such blackguards have too great an advantage over mere
(9-275)children. They seemd all of them as innocent good
(9-275)humour'd girls as one would wish to see.

(9-275)I promised Mr. Crampton a model of an engine for
(9-275)lifting stones but I cannot get a right one here. When I
(9-275)go to Edinburgh I will take care to forward one. We have
(9-275)his friend Tom Moore here singing like a Cherubim.

(9-275)I hope in God you will not break Jane's neck with
(9-275)your horsemanship experiments. I would rather have
(9-275)heard you had got two useful brutes for the carriage.

(9-276)Remember young married ladies are sometimes liable to
(9-276)be injured by any accident. I do pray you to be cautious,
(9-276)and remember she has not been brought up to horse-play

(9-276)and as you are strong be merciful.

(9-276)Lockhart and Sophia are in Edinburgh letting their
(9-276)house and preparing for their grand remove to London
(9-276)which takes place at Christmas.¹ Soph seems to take it
(9-276)much more discreetly and quietly than I could have
(9-276)anticipated but why should she not ? Lockhart has high
(9-276)talents and is ambitious—the road to wealth and fame
(9-276)is as open to him as to most young men and why should
(9-276)he not press forward in the path that lies open. He
(9-276)wishes some house about Westminster and if possible
(9-276)looking on to the park. I am more afraid of little Johnie
(9-276)than any of the party—he has been so well accustomed to
(9-276)fresh air and the side of the little burn and [he] is such a
(9-276)delicate creature. But it is all in Gods hands. After all
(9-276)it is a doleful change on all sides.

(9-276)Sir Adam and Lady Fergusson are at Huntliburn just
(9-276)now and dined with us twice to hear Moore sing which
(9-276)is really a delightful treat.

(9-276)I like your last way of writing very well I mean your
(9-276)beginning a letter and filling it from time to time as
(9-276)occasion furnishes new subjects. I suppose the vice regal
(9-276)marriage may afford [matter] for a paragraph for I see you and
(9-276)Jane came in for a share of the wedding supper. Always
(9-276)supposing that the newspapers are to be trusted on this
(9-276)blissful occasion as one of them calls it. I am not apt
(9-276)however to place implicit trust in the said publick
(9-276)intelligencers because if I did I must needs suppose that
(9-276)I am at this moment in Paris whereas the evidence of my
(9-276)senses assures me I am seated in my black arm-chair in
(9-276)my own room at Abbotsford. These things are hard to
(9-276)reconcile.

(9-276)I have discontinued the Abbotsford Hunt this year—

(9-276)the croud became rather too great and so many of the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-277)old stagers are gone besides that I have no young folks
(9-277)to head the field.

(9-277)My kind Love attends my dear Jane with that of Mama
(9-277)and Anne. We go to Edinr. next week so pray direct
(9-277)Castle Street. Love to the Blakes Mr. Crampton etc
(9-277)and do not forget my respectful duty to the Vice Roy
(9-277)which is really due from me. Always yours affectionately

(9-277)WALTER SCOTT

(9-277)ABBOTSFORD 5 November [PM. 1825]

(9-277)The Gunpowder plot
(9-277)Shall never be forgot.
[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-277)My DEAR JAMES,—Your notes only reachd yesterday &
(9-277)there is no business at Banks on Saturday. Tomorrow
(9-277)I expect to forward part of the [illegible] the rest will be
(9-277)tuesday or Wednesday.

(9-277)I am glad you like what you have had. I would fain
(9-277)think I may keep it up. Pray be careful in noticing
(9-277)repetitions of expression of which I am but too guilty.

(9-277)Thomas Moore is here and in grand feather. In these
(9-277)ticklish times I dare not ask you to leave head quarters.
(9-277)I would have otherwise been glad you had met him.

(9-277)I have begun " Woodstock "—your doubt about the

(9-278)of St. Albans and Lady Charlotte Beauclerk. The swain
(9-278)has been rejected but is on the footing of freindship and
(9-278)all that. I think if she must purchase a ducal coronet with
(9-278)her millions she can scarce have a better bargain for she
(9-278)may remain Mistress both of them & him which could
(9-278)hardly be expected in any other case. He is very Spoony.

(9-278)I have an affliction waiting me in the removal of Lockhart
(9-278)& his wife to reside in London which takes place at
(9-278)Christmas. We do not as yet mention particularly the
(9-278)views or rather certainties on which they remove but to
(9-278)your Lordship I may say that he has been offerd the
(9-278)management of the Quarterly revw. for a given term of
(9-278)years for better than 1500,, This however he declined
(9-278)for considering the expenc[e] of living in London separation
(9-278)from freinds &c it did not make a temptation but
(9-278)other advantages have been offerd of a professional nature

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(9-279)which will double the above income & give fair hopes of
(9-279)living decently & even saving a little money besides
(9-279)ulterior probabilities. It is natural for a young man to
(9-279)be ambitious and [no] man is better qualified by learning
(9-279)and talents to wield so powerful an engine than Lockhart is.

(9-279)I am sure Lady Montagu's constant kindness will
(9-279)excuse my hope that her Ladyship will not forget poor
(9-279)Sophia when in Edinburgh. I remember a tenant of
(9-279)your father writing to ask him to attend a probationary
(9-279)sermon to be preachd by the writers son at Ayr where the
(9-279)South Fencibles were then quarterd for without the Dukes
(9-279)countenance he said the poor lad would be like a cow in
(9-279)a fremd loaning.

(9-279)They propose of course to live very quietly and I have

(9-279)the utmost confidence in Sophias natural good sense and
(9-279)domestic habits in establishing her household on a right
(9-279)footing. At the same time the notice of any of our freinds
(9-279)whose rank and character place them in the highest station
(9-279)of society must always be of the last consequence to young
(9-279)persons entering so new a scene.

(9-279)I think I was a petitioner for a bag of acorns : the
(9-279)season has been so fine that I fancy they must be finely
(9-279)ripend. Indeed I have pickd up very fine ones at Huntley
(9-279)Burn where there is some old wood. I beg my respects
(9-279)to Lady Montagu and all the family at Bothwell
(9-279)particularly Mr. Charles Douglas. Always my dear Lord
(9-279)Most truly yours
WALTER SCOTT

(9-279)ABBOTSFORD 8th November [PM. 1825]

(9-279)We go to Edinburgh on the 11th current.
[Buccleuch]

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TO [UNKNOWN CORRESPONDENT]

(9-280)DEAR SIR,—Two or three days since I safely received
(9-280)a most curious case 1 containing the watch of the
(9-280)celebrated Tam of Shanter and composed of such a variety
(9-280)of different lands of woods as to form a most entertaining
(9-280)commentary on the works of the great bard who celebrated
(9-280)that most inimitable personage. I consider my
(9-280)winnock bunker is greatly enriched by this your great
(9-280)kindness.

(9-280)Lady Scott did not find the sea bath answer so well
(9-280)for my grandchild as she had hoped from which she was
(9-280)obliged to bid an earlier farewell than she intended to the

(9-280)Bonnie banks of Ayrshire. Otherwise she would have
(9-280)been very easily accommodated for we are very quiet
(9-280)folks.

(9-280)I am very sorry anything should have happened to
(9-280)interfere with your labours especially of a kind that goes
(9-280)near the heart but I am glad to observe that you are
(9-280)targing [?] the bairns again. I have had my own vexations
(9-280)of late, the more provoking as I must not complain
(9-280)of them. My son-in-law, Lockhart, has had such
(9-280)advantageous proposals opened to him in London, the great
(9-280)motif lucre, that he has been tempted to give his consent
(9-280)for more wealth though perhaps less freedom and comfort.
(9-280)He is at the age when young men are ambitious, but I feel
(9-280)the loss of my daughter's society will be a great deprivation
(9-280)though I have still a very good girl in family with me.

(9-280)I fully sympathise in your admiration of Burns and his
(9-280)form is at this moment imprinted in my mind's eye
(9-280)although Virgilium vidi tantum. I once dined in company
(9-280)with him, and remember well the flash of his dark
(9-280)brown eye. I think his pictures are not like him.

(9-280)I do not think the little box and contents will ever pass

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-281)from my possession to that of any friend however dear.
(9-281)I will be most happy if at any time I can shew my sense
(9-281)of your kindness, being dear Sir Very much your obliged
(9-281)humble Servant WALTER SCOTT
(9-281)ABBOTSFORD 8th November [1825]

(9-281)We are now stirring winterward after the finest season
(9-281)I remember.

[Sir Alfred J. Law]

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 attached 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 swallowd up in additional expence 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 concernd that they returnd 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

(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)accustomd to fresh air. But they have a very faithful
(9-282)childsmid a stout Aberdeen woman of some forty five &

(9-282)so harsh featured that she may walk the park with all the
(9-282)safety of Hecate herself. So that Johnie will have regular
(9-282)exercise & fresh air as they propose to settle very near the
(9-282)Lungs of London as the parks have been calld.

(9-282)For my own part Sophia has always been a favourite
(9-282)daughter and Lockhart besides the similarity of our
(9-282)pursuits has always shewn me the duty and affection of a son.
(9-282)The privation will therefore be very great but it must be
(9-282)born[e] with other privations which God sends us. I have
(9-282)the consolation to think that the separation is not only
(9-282)greatly to their emolument but also upon grounds highly
(9-282)honourable to Lockhart who has been on the general
(9-282)opinion of his talents & learning selected and urged to fill
(9-282)a situation of first rate importance. So we must see the
(9-282)thing as much in the pleasant light as we can since there
(9-282)is a sunny side to look upon.

(9-282)I dined yesterday with Mr. Macculloch, Ardwall and
(9-282)found him and all his family well. I saw Craigdarroch 1
(9-282)there for the first time these twenty years. Time has made
(9-282)little impression on him his hair is not grey and no longer
(9-282)a young[s]ter is still a well looking man. I felt myself
(9-282)much older by comparaison but I am older in fact so have
(9-282)little reason to complain.

(9-282)I must also mention the return of our cousin Colonel
(9-282)Russell from India overland. He also is in great preservation.
(9-282)I was extremely glad to find that in her extremely
(9-282)nervous state Jane Russell was able to sustain the arrival
(9-282)of her brother so joyful in itself but mixd with so many
(9-282)agitating feelings without any inconvenient consequences.

(9-283)He seems to be a fine fellow of the right soldier caste gay

(9-283)openhearted and straight forward. But I wish this country
(9-283)may answer him as well as he seems to expect. I never
(9-283)recognized a stronger 1 likeness than between James
(9-283)Russell and his father.

(9-283)Our family here are in the usual health. Walter as you
(9-283)may have seen is Aid-de-Camp without solicitation to
(9-283)Lord Wellesley and become[s] of course a courtier in a
(9-283)small way. Charles is working hard to face his first
(9-283)examinations at Oxford. Sophia and Lockhart remain at
(9-283)Chiefswood till they change for London wisely thinking
(9-283)that a round of farewell dinners are but unnecessary
(9-283)ceremony. They keep Chiefswood and nourish the idea of
(9-283)being there once every year but tho' I keep silence I
(9-283)cannot see how that is to be.

(9-283)Dr. Brewster has been writing to London in Walters
(9-283)behalf to get him into Telfords office if possible & I trust
(9-283)he will succeed. I [am] much bent on his employing his
(9-283)remaining time in Europe excepting what it is fitting and
(9-283)necessary that he should spend with his sisters and you in
(9-283)acquiring useful knowlege. I even think at present of
(9-283)denying ourselves the great pleasure of seeing him before
(9-283)he goes away unless I can make interest for his staying a
(9-283)month or two longer in Britain.

(9-283)Brewster is at Gattonside or I should have heard from
(9-283)him ere now. My kindest love attends Eliza and little
(9-283)Anne. Pray say all kind things to Mr. Macculloch from
(9-283)your affectionate Brother

(9-283)WALTER SCOTT

(9-283)EDINBURGH 16 November [1825]

[Huntington]

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 considered 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)distinguishd 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 communicated 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

(9-285)in his own country and amongst his own friends for a
 (9-285)larger income perhaps but a highly responsible situation

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

(9-285)It seems extremely hard (though not perhaps to be
(9-285)wondered at) that the follies of three or four & twenty
(9-285)should be remembered against a man of thirty who has
(9-285)abstained during the interval from giving the least cause
(9-285)of offence. There are few men of any rank in letters who
(9-285)have not at some time or other been guilty of some abuse
(9-285)of their satirical [gift] & very few who have not seen reason
(9-285)to wish that they had restrained their vein of pleasantry.
(9-285)Thinking over Lockhart's offences with my own & other
(9-285)men whom either politics or literary controversy has
(9-285)led into such effusions I cannot help thinking that five
(9-285)years proscription ought to obtain a full immunity on

(9-286)their account. There were none of them which could
(9-286)be ascribed to any worse motive than a wicked wit and
(9-286)many of the individuals against whom they were directed
(9-286)were worthy of more severe chastizement—the blame was
(9-286)in meddling with such men at all. Lockhart is reckond
(9-286)an excellent scholar & Oxford has said so—he is born a
(9-286)gentleman has always kept the best society & his personal
(9-286)character without a shadow of blame. In the most
(9-286)unfortunate affair of his life he did all that man could do
(9-286)and the unhappy tragedy was the result of the poor
(9-286)sufferers after thought to get out of a scrape. Of his
(9-286)general talents I will not presume to speak but they are
(9-286)generally allowd to be of the first order. This however
(9-286)I will say that I have known the most able men of my time
(9-286)and I never met any one who had such ready command
(9-286)of his own mind or possessd in a greater degree the power
(9-286)of making his talents available upon the shortest notice &
(9-286)upon any subject. He is also remarkably docile and
(9-286)willing to receive advice or admonition from the old and
(9-286)experienced. He is a fond husband & almost a doating
(9-286)father seeks no amusement out of his own family and is not
(9-286)only addicted to no bad habits but averse to spending time
(9-286)in society or the dissipations connected with it. Speaking
(9-286)upon my honour as a gentleman & my credit as a man of
(9-286)letters I do not know a person so well qualified for the
(9-286)very difficult and responsible task he has undertaken &
(9-286)I think the distinct testimony of one who must know the
(9-286)individual well ought to bear weight against all vague
(9-286)rumours whether arising from idle squibs he may have
(9-286)been guilty of when he came from college—and I know
(9-286)none of these which indicate a bad heart in the jester—
(9-286)or as is much more likely from those which have been
(9-286)rashly and falsely ascribed to him.

(9-286)Had any shadow of this want of confidence been expressd
(9-286)in the beginning of the business I for one would
(9-286)have advised Lockhart to have nothing to do with a
(9-286)concern for which his capacity was calld in question.

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(9-287)But now what can be done—A liberal offer handsomely
(9-287)made has been accepted with the same confidence it was
(9-287)offerd. Lockhart has resigned his office in Exchequer
(9-287)given up his business taken a house in London and has let
(9-287)or is on the eve of letting his house here. The thing is so
(9-287)publick that about thirty of the most respectable gentlemen
(9-287)in Edinburgh have proposed to me.¹ The ground is
(9-287)cut away behind him for a retreat nor can such a thing
(9-287)be proposed as matters now stand.

(9-287)Upon what grounds or by whom Lockhart was first
(9-287)recommended to you ² I have no right or wish to inquire
(9-287)having no access whatever to the negotiation the result of
(9-287)which must be in every event painful enough to me. But
(9-287)as their advice must in addition to your own judgment
(9-287)have had great weight with you I conceive they will join
(9-287)with me in the expectation that the other respectable
(9-287)friends of this important work will not form any decision
(9-287)to Lockharts prejudice till they shall see how the business
(9-287)is conducted. By a different conduct they may do harm
(9-287)to the Editor, Publisher and the work itself as far as the
(9-287)withdrawing of their countenance must necessarily be
(9-287)prejudicial to its currency. But [if] it shall prove that
(9-287)their suspicions prove unfounded I am sure it will give
(9-287)pain to them to have listend to them for a moment. It
(9-287)has been my lot twice before now to stand forward to the
(9-287)best of my power as the assistant of two individuals
(9-287)against whom a party run was made.

(9-287)The one case was that of Wilson to whom a thousand
(9-287)idle pranks were imputed of a character very different &
(9-287)far more eccentric than anything that ever attached to

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(9-288)Lockhart. We carried him through upon the fair principle
(9-288)that in the case of good morals & perfect talents for
(9-288)a situation where vice or crimes are not alleged the follies
(9-288)of youth should not obstruct the fair prospects of advanced
(9-288)manhood—God help us all if some such modification of
(9-288)censure is not extended to us since most men have sown
(9-288)wild oats enough. Wilson was made a professor as you
(9-288)know has one of the fullest classes in the University
(9-288)lectures most eloquently & is much beloved by his pupils.
(9-288)The other was the case of John Williams now rector of our
(9-288)new Academy here, who was opposed most violently upon
(9-288)what on examination proved to be exaggerated rumours
(9-288)of old Winchester stories.¹ He got the situation chiefly I
(9-288)think by my own standing firm & keeping others
(9-288)together. And the gentlemen who opposed him most
(9-288)violently have repeatedly told me that I did the utmost
(9-288)service to the Academy by bringing him for never was a
(9-288)man in such a situation so eminently qualified for the task
(9-288)of education.

(9-288)I only mention these things to show that it is not in my
(9-288)son in laws affair alone that I would endeavour to remove
(9-288)that sort of prejudice which envy and party zeal are
(9-288)always ready to throw in the way of rising talent. Those
(9-288)who are interested in the matter may be well assured that
(9-288)with whatever prejudice they may receive Lockhart at
(9-288)first all who have candour enough to wait till he can
(9-288)afford them the means of judging will be of opinion that
(9-288)they have got a Person possibly as well situated for the

(9-288)duties of such an office as any man that England could
(9-288)afford them.

(9-288)I would rather have written a letter of this kind
(9-288)concerning any other person than one connected with myself
(9-288)but it is every word true were there neither son nor
(9-288)daughter in the case. And as such I leave it at your
(9-288)discretion to show it not generally but to such friends and
(9-288)patrons of the review as in your opinion have a title to

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-289)know the contents.1 Believe me Dear Sir your most
(9-289)obedient Servt. WALTER SCOTT

(9-289)ABBOTSFORD [EDINBURGH] 17 November [1825]
[John Murray]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

(9-289)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have written to Murray as
(9-289)you desire and will also write to one or two of the others.
(9-289)But I cannot conceive what the object of all this is. If
(9-289)merely to remove the prejudices of Barrow or others I
(9-289)think a No. or two will do that more completely than any
(9-289)arguments which I could use. I almost wish you had
(9-289)come to town 2 to state distinctly the nature of the charge to
(9-289)which I am to frame an answer. To your general disposition
(9-289)to take advice I can bear ample testimony and I can
(9-289)assure them that you have not in your disposition a grain
(9-289)of petulance. But I really do not know how much or how
(9-289)little you have been concernd in Blackwood which is the
(9-289)only distinct charge. I remember well your undertaking
(9-289)when your marriage was in treaty to break off that sort
(9-289)of satirical warfare. But I have always felt a delicacy in
(9-289)inquiring how far that was strictly complied with or how

(9-289)far your roguery carried you again among the Ambrosians.

(9-289)It is necessary I speak with certainty and exactness when

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(9-290)I interpose my testimony on such a subject and in behalf
(9-290)of so near a connection. But what is to be the upshot of
(9-290)this ? Mr. Murray cannot surely expect that you will
(9-290)break off a contract in which you have acted so far as to
(9-290)make a retreat positive ruin. The thing is now fixed & you
(9-290)must mount the box and for my part I am not for personally
(9-290)using any kind of intercession which too generally
(9-290)and anxiously employed might lead men to think that
(9-290)your appointment depended on the pleasure of these
(9-290)people. Nothing is more valueless than the opinion of
(9-290)literary people of London coteries although it is
(9-290)unnecessary to tell them so.

(9-290)They quickly take the tone from the public instead of
(9-290)giving it and are never to be feared unless they can stop
(9-290)you at the starting. You will find them troublesome
(9-290)enough if you play the old man and his ass and defer to
(9-290)their judgement too submissively. And I really think
(9-290)that after the situation has been offered and even pressed
(9-290)on you when you were not thinking of it by those who
(9-290)were most interested in bestowing it on a fit person there
(9-290)would be something ridiculous in going about to half the
(9-290)world to explain that you are not subject to failings which
(9-290)if they existed ought to have excluded you from the
(9-290)situation altogether.

(9-290)You must just harden your face against all this nonsense
(9-290)or consider it as " penance for past folly." You
(9-290)must mount the box and when you have driven a stage
(9-290)or two folks will know what to think of you on better
(9-290)grounds than mere rumour. Murray though a good

(9-290)fellow is in point of steadiness a reed shaken with the
(9-290)wind.² Ever Gramercy stampd paper or we should have

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(9-291)a retrocession with a vengeance. I have taken some
(9-291)pains to show that there are vestigia nulla retrorsum.

(9-291)If this makes you really unhappy far the best way is to
(9-291)accelerate your going to town. When on the spot you
(9-291)know what is to be admitted or contradicted. Ever
(9-291)yours

(9-291)WALTER SCOTT

(9-291)17 November [PM. 1825] EDINBURGH

(9-291)You know I told you to expect this. For my part if
(9-291)Barrow were to wheel himself to the North pole I cant see
(9-291)the work would be less saleable. Love to Sophia and
(9-291)Johnie.

[Law]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

(9-291)DEAR LOCKHART,—Your kind and attentive letter gave
(9-291)me a shock for though I thought myself pretty safe knowing
(9-291)the situation of the House in question two years ago
(9-291)when their business was examined by an accomptant to
(9-291)settle matters between the partners—although I also

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(9-292)knew that since that time the dogged and calculating
(9-292)prudence of Cadell 1 had been a check on the adventurous

(9-292)spirit of his partner and had sufferd nothing to be undertaken
(9-292)without a sure view of the funds—although besides
(9-292)I knew that a Bond of 2500 to myself had been paid to
(9-292)my agent John Gibson on the term day Messrs. Constable
(9-292)declining to hold the money though offerd in case they
(9-292)judged it an accomodation. Although besides all this I
(9-292)knew that Cadell had laid down a plan of retrenching
(9-292)discounts which made him wish to put off payment of
(9-292)some cash due to me from November till January & that
(9-292)nevertheless he had offerd since I came to town to shell out
(9-292)the ready if my occasions required it—an offer voluntarily
(9-292)made—Although I say I knew thes[e] things yet I could
(9-292)not read your note without painful anxiety as doubtless I
(9-292)must have been put to great inconveni[en]ce probably to
(9-292)loss by any such event.

(9-292)I saw Cadell and told him that I had heard from a
(9-292)friendly person towards them and me & by a letter from
(9-292)London that their affairs were in bad order & that
(9-292)Constable had left town in consequence of his Bankers
(9-292)having abruptly closed his accompt.² He listend gravely

(9-293)but without the least concern & for answer shewd a letter
(9-293)received that morning from Messrs. Dickson & Co/ whom
(9-293)I have known for their Bankers in London for many years
(9-293)& do not believe they ever employd another. It
(9-293)acknowledged a Drat. from Constable for 2000 discounted a
(9-293)large number of bills and concluded with declaring themselves
(9-293)highly satisfied with the way in which their business
(9-293)was managed in these times when money was less readily
(9-293)found than in the summer. It was the letter of men
(9-293)highly satisfied with their customers and apparently
(9-293)ready to do more than had been askd. Cadell told me
(9-293)they had in their chest which I might see if I liked 25000

(9-293)of bills which they kept out of the market at present not
(9-293)wishing to push their Bankers.

(9-293)I mentiond the circumstance of Mr Robinson having

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(9-294)been engaged in business out of the bookselling line.

(9-294)Cadell said that more than a year ago he knew that when
(9-294)money was plenty he had advanced 1000,, on a speculation
(9-294)about hops which had brought immense profit but
(9-294)did not believe he was engaged in any other. He added
(9-294)that Constable had done no business in London except
(9-294)about the Miscellany.

(9-294)All this especially the bankers letter and the fact that
(9-294)they paid to myself within these four days 2500 which
(9-294)they might have retaind and were willing if I pleased to
(9-294)pay me as much more since to put the matter entirely at
(9-294)rest on which I heartily felicitate myself & you. I have
(9-294)no objection that these circumstances be stated to Murray.
(9-294)Cadell seemd to care very little about the matter saying
(9-294)that they had no engagements either present or future
(9-294)that they were not amply prepared to fullfil. Of course
(9-294)I avoided using Murrays name or any name whatsoever
(9-294)only stated the information came from a London friend.

(9-294)I think the report has originated in the difficulties of the
(9-294)moneyd markets which even the greatest houses must feel
(9-294)a little and in the bankruptcy of a great bookseller lately
(9-294)which always sets on foot s[i]milar reports of failures in
(9-294)the same line & Constable may have had some pinch for
(9-294)the moment. But men who refuse the loan of 2500 when
(9-294)offerd and offer an advance of the same sum when it was
(9-294)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

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(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
(9-295)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

(9-295)raffish entre nous.1

[Law]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

(9-295)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have just received both your
(9-295)letters. You have taken exactly the ground you ought to
(9-295)stand upon as a man and a gentleman. If you were to
(9-295)mind Murrays Backshop the thing would never do.
(9-295)Before Barrow and such gentlemen who like Tristram
(9-295)Shandys bull gain a character by going gravely through
(9-295)their business think of giving up the review or

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(9-296)correspondence with it they will do well to consider whether
(9-296)they have served its turn or whether it has not rather
(9-296)served theirs.

(9-296)There is no danger now that Murray is fixd by the foot.
(9-296)I shall certainly write to Giffbrd and Heber but on the
(9-296)general footing of kindness to you and friendship to them
(9-296)touching very briefly on the case in hand. I do not see
(9-296)what dearer pledge you can throw into such a concern
(9-296)than your whole income or nearly so your friends and
(9-296)your future hopes. All thes[e] stand pledged to warrant
(9-296)your doing your best and is it to [be] supposed you will
(9-296)permit them to be rashly or idly forfeited.

(9-296)Though it is against my own interest as I wish you
(9-296)could have spent this Christmas en famille yet I really
(9-296)think your own presence in London will spare you some
(9-296)uneasy reports and keep the Timorous 1 from swerving. You
(9-296)will of course spend Sunday with us and will part without
(9-296)leave taking. I may perhaps see you in Spring at all

(9-296)events summer comes round fast enough in its turn and
(9-296)we will write often.

(9-296)I admire your goodnatured way of getting rid of
(9-296)MacGinn. Let us know if we can do anything for you
(9-296)here as you must be a little hurried. Always yours

(9-296)WALTER SCOTT

(9-296)Love to Sophia and Johnie. I cannot say how I shall
(9-296)miss you all.

(9-296)I think it will be highly indelicate nay impruden[t] in
(9-296)Murray to delay a decisive settlement with Mr. Coleridge.
(9-296)If your journey to London were to precede his dismissal
(9-296)his friends would say you had urged or hastend it and we
(9-296)have too many misrepresentations to omit prudent means
(9-296)of avoiding others.² Besides the work will be injured by
(9-296)the least uncertainty in the line adopted.

[PM. 21 November 1825]

[Law]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO ROBERT SOUTHEY, KESWICK

(9-297)EDINR. 22 Novr. 1825

(9-297)MY DEAR SOUTHEY,—I have intended for some time
(9-297)to write to you about the change about to take place in
(9-297)the management of the Quarterly which is about to
(9-297)devolve upon my son-in-law Lockhart to whom your
(9-297)aid & counsel will be most acceptable & most useful.
(9-297)There have few things come upon me more suddenly than
(9-297)this unexpected change which withdraws from me two

(9-297)persons in whose society I have received so much
(9-297)satisfaction and whose removal from this country I had never
(9-297)contemplated as even a possible event. When I had the
(9-297)pleasure of seeing you at the Lakes I had not the most
(9-297)remote idea that such an idea had entered into the head
(9-297)of any one or indeed that any change was intended. On
(9-297)the contrary I was exerting what influence I had to secure
(9-297)for Lockhart the Sheriffdom either of Caithness or
(9-297)Sutherland which would have added 300 or 400 to an
(9-297)income of about 1000,, on which my daughter & he
(9-297)were living very comfortably & economically. In the
(9-297)course of October a friend 1 of John Murray came down
(9-297)with some very flattering & advantageous proposals

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(9-298)to Lockhart which inferred however his removing to
(9-298)London. Neither he nor I considered that upon the
(9-298)whole the advantages presented counterbalanced the
(9-298)great comfort of dwelling amongst your own people.
(9-298)Lockhart however agreed to go to London to see Murray
(9-298)when he heard for the first time that there was decidedly
(9-298)to be a change in the management of the Quarterly &
(9-298)the situation of Editor was offered to him coupled wt.
(9-298)such views as to his profession &c. as made the offering a
(9-298)very tempting one. A letter from Lockhart from London
(9-298)was the first intimation that I had of the subject and as
(9-298)the advantageous character of the transaction was
(9-298)sufficient I had no right, to whatever privations I might
(9-298)be subjected, to prevent my young friend from following
(9-298)where his better fortunes called him or seemed to call
(9-298)him. And in the end of October the transaction was
(9-298)regularly concluded. I mention these particulars because
(9-298)you might think it odd that when we spoke together at
(9-298)Keswick on the subject of the Quarterly I never hinted at
(9-298)this transaction in which I was so nearly connected. Still

(9-298)worse would I like you to entertain an idea that either
(9-298)Lockhart or I had thought of soliciting or manoeuvring
(9-298)for such a situation while it was in the hands of another
(9-298)& most respectable gentleman.¹ The most distant idea
(9-298)of such a thing never crossed my head until I had Murray's
(9-298)answer from London in answer to one of mine stating
(9-298)that my son-in-laws views were sure though moderate—I
(9-298)believe Lockhart's scholarship (of which however I am
(9-298)no great judge) his ready powers of composition &
(9-298)willingness to labour, his general knowledge & especially
(9-298)his docility & tractability of temper may make him as
(9-298)proper a person as could well be found to take this
(9-298)weighty matter in hand since a change was to be. Some
(9-298)satirical follies in Blackwood's Magazine ere he was
(9-298)twenty four years old will doubtless be remembered to
(9-298)his prejudice. When he married my daughter six years

(9-299)ago I pointedly objected to this application of his talents
(9-299)as what was not respectable in itself & tended to
(9-299)compromise my daughter's happiness. He promised me to
(9-299)forbear & accordingly never did afterwards mingle in
(9-299)that species of personal warfare waged in Blackwood's
(9-299)Magazine nor was there the least foundation for supposing
(9-299)that he had any the least interest in that work as a
(9-299)proprietor, Editor or regular contributor of any kind. I
(9-299)have not the least reason to think that the man of thirty
(9-299)& upwards a most affectionate husband and father is
(9-299)likely to relapse into the satirical & freakish humours of
(9-299)his inexperienced youth. Still however the early frolics
(9-299)of his pen added to the continued effusions of the same
(9-299)kind by some of his friends must lead him to be suspected
(9-299)by some & accused by others of this species of imprudence
(9-299)& indifferent taste until his own course of acting shall
(9-299)prove these accusations false. This he must lay his

(9-299)account with. But I wish him to stand rectus in curia with
(9-299)you & I need scarce tell you that without the most
(9-299)perfect belief in this steadiness which I ascribe to him I
(9-299)know no worldly bribe would have induced me to consent
(9-299)to his holding the situation in question since I should
(9-299)have thought it likely to be attended with nothing save
(9-299)discredit & loss to himself & all his friends 1—I cannot tell

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(9-300)you with what pleasure I saw your fair young Ladies &
(9-300)Miss Coleridge. It had been so long since I saw them
(9-300)absolute children & they are now fine young women.
(9-300)I trust your own health is better. Mine is stouter than
(9-300)even in my best days but I am no longer able to take the
(9-300)same exercise either on foot or horseback—

(9-300)A thousand thanks for the tale of Paraguay 1 I am sure
(9-300)you can almost at once illustrate the history of a country
(9-300)& enrich its poetry—it is felling the jungle with one hand
(9-300)& gathering flowers with the other Believe me Dear
(9-300)Southey Yours very truly WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO LORD MELVILLE

(9-300)MY DEAR LORD,—I regretted much not seeing your
(9-300)Lordship when in Edinburgh but two attempts which I
(9-300)made were abortive and the confusion attending the fire
(9-300)interferd greatly with visit-making.

(9-300)My present cause of intruding on you is the very general
(9-300)and as I understand not entirely groundless report that a
(9-300)vacancy is like to take place in Sutherland in which case
(9-300)I hope you will permit me to mention my son-in-law

(9-301)I hope to be at home all tomorrow being Teind Wednesday 3
(9-301)and shall only be visible to you or Constable. After
(9-301)looking into my own affairs I am much comforted. By
(9-301)merely fullfilling engagements I can bring 10,000
(9-301)betwixt [now] & Midsummer and I cannot want above
(9-301) 1000 of the sum for any private purpose of my own. I

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(9-302)have about 4000 par ci par la and a good property
(9-302)under my feet besides an estate of 1500 a year and
(9-302)offices to the amount of 1600 besides—

[unsigned]

[Stevenson]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

(9-302)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I received the letter which you
(9-302)will find on the other side this morning. It is a backing
(9-302)out of the alarm which Murray by this time sees he had
(9-302)been hasty in raising. I have answerd it telling him the
(9-302)truth that besides himself I wrote to Heber on whose
(9-302)friendship & prudence I have the most absolute reliance.
(9-302)I have also written as I tell him to Southey but such a
(9-302)letter as I would have written to him at any rate I mean
(9-302)explaining to him that I knew nothing of the proposed
(9-302)change in the Quarterly when I was at Keswick. I
(9-302)thought it necessary to do this both because as an old
(9-302)friend of my own and valuable contributor to the Review
(9-302)he might have expected me to be frank with him on such
(9-302)a subject and also lest he should suppose I had been
(9-302)meddling about Canning and manoeuvring by my
(9-302)interest with Canning to edge out Coleridge and put in
(9-302)my own son-in-law. In the same letter I am incidentally
(9-302)& naturally led to explain the Blackwood affair and make

(9-302)him aware that you were in no shape answerable for the
(9-302)mauvaises plaisanteries which Wordsworth and he have
(9-302)sustained in that frisky publication. This is all which I
(9-302)think I can or ought to do in the case. As for Canning &
(9-302)Croker I take it they would not care sixpence if you had
(9-302)[been] Kit North from beginning to end—I will swear for
(9-302)the last at any rate. In short I think the matter is to be at
(9-302)rest and to rest let it be laid. You will have the making of
(9-302)your own character and you will make it I am sure to
(9-302)purpose.

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-303)The inclosed was franked by Barrow and I believe the
(9-303)interlineation to be his hand. Love to Sophia and Johnie

(9-303)W. SCOTT

(9-303)26 November [PM. 1825]

[Law]

TO SIR WALTER SCOTT 1

(9-303)WHITEHALL PLACE NOV. 31. 1825

(9-303)DEAR SIR WALTER,—I had just finished an answer to yr Letter received
(9-303)this morning when young Disraeli arrived & completed my conviction
(9-303)that he had totally mistaken the object of his mission—which was to tell
(9-303)you alone the apprehensions which had been expressed by the most valuable
(9-303)friends of the Quarterly Rev. at

(9-303)NO ONE HAS ANY ILL WILL AGAINST MR LOCKHART !!! 2

(9-303)the appointment of one who had so long been connected with Blackwoods
(9-303)Mag. but which could be instantly dissipated by the influence of yr name
(9-303)—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
(9-303)not to have been told of it by any means—for it could be of no possible use
(9-303)& might as it has done have led to great evil—I am sorry to find that Mr
(9-303)Lockhart has written to anyone this can not amend the matter—But pray
(9-303)let him stop & I will write fully to you tomorrow—There is nothing to
(9-303)apprehend & if I had written instead of sending to you—it would have
(9-303)been settled in a moment—Mr Coleridge has acted in the most truly noble
(9-303)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.
(9-303)Besides yourself I only wrote to Heber on whose friendship
(9-303)long tried, and prudence I could perfectly rely mentioning
(9-303)the rumours in question and my reasons for being
(9-303)confident that they were perfectly groundless so far as
(9-303)Lockharts temper and disposition were implicated. In
(9-303)fact I think that in sacrificing a competent revenue
(9-303)leaving his native country and quitting at once his views
(9-303)in life and his natural connections he gives the deepest
(9-303)pledge he can do that no light or trivial temptation

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(9-304)would induce him to risk the safety of the concern in
(9-304)which he may be now said to have embarked his all. If
(9-304)I had not felt absolutely confident that Lockhart had the
(9-304)same deep & serious views in the matter which I have
(9-304)expressed I would not for half my fortune have given my
(9-304)opinion in favour of his removal. I have written also to
(9-304)Southey not with reference to this subject in particular
(9-304)but because I thought he might with justice suppose that
(9-304)I knew all about this change while at his house in September

(9-304)and that I ought to have spoken to him about it as an
(9-304)old friend. I think this was incumbent on me at any
(9-304)rate and took the opportunity to rectify any opinions
(9-304)which he might have entertained of Lockhart arising from
(9-304)some passages in Blackwood which could not but be
(9-304)disagreeable to himself and Wordsworth & which I was
(9-304)instructed positively to deny.

(9-304)I thought this species of explanation due to Southey
(9-304)both as my own much respected friend and as an old
(9-304)contributor to the Review indeed a most valued supporter
(9-304)of it.

(9-304)I never thought Mr Barrow had the least personal ill-
(9-304)will against Lockhart but it was easy for him to be led into
(9-304)forming an erroneous opinion of his character by hearing
(9-304)old stories imperfectly mixed up with new matter to which
(9-304)he had no access. Some of his earlier flights are certainly
(9-304)not prudent but I am sure there was none of them
(9-304)different in character from the frolics which young men
(9-304)of talent so often indulge in. I am sure he has now
(9-304)added both prudence & experience to his considerable
(9-304)talents & hope he will do well for himself and you.

(9-304)Believe me your etc WALTER SCOTT

(9-304)EDINR. 26 November [1825]
[John Murray]

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT, CHELTENHAM

(9-305)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I received your letter this
(9-305)morning and was greatly relieved by it as I began to
(9-305)entertain some apprehensions for Eliza. I delight to hear
(9-305)she is getting so much better, and am not alarmed at any

(9-305)nervous symptoms which may remain since the consequences
(9-305)of so severe an attack cannot pass away at once.
(9-305)I am glad this will find Walter with you and should wish
(9-305)him to stay there till he hears from me. Dr. Brewster
(9-305)has written a fortnight since to Major Colby who is at the
(9-305)head of the National Survey to ask his advice in the case
(9-305)& both he and I are impatient for an answer. Assure
(9-305)yourself I deeply sympathise with you in parting with
(9-305)Walter who I trust will behave so as to be a credit to us
(9-305)all. I feel it the more that I am myself like to be lonely
(9-305)enough as my day draws to evening. If any fitting
(9-305)person should take a fancy for our [Anne] the old couple
(9-305)would be left to comfort each other as they could.

(9-305)I am truly glad to see there is a prospect of getting
(9-305)free of a matter so very unpleasant as these government
(9-305)claims. Poor Tom was careless enough God knows but
(9-305)yet there is no mode I can imagine in which such sums
(9-305)of money could have been either applied or misapplied
(9-305)without leaving some trace of the way they went. I hope
(9-305)now the business will be brought to a settlement and that

(9-306)you will get the pension which will be a comfortable
(9-306)addition.

(9-306)My kind compliments to Mr David M'Culloch. I have
(9-306)begg[ed] Tom Moore to call on you should he come to
(9-306)Cheltenham. He is a very pleasant creature & has
(9-306)most excellent manners. If your brother's health allows
(9-306)him to match "sang about" I don't believe there were ever
(9-306)two such singers in the same room, and both of the kind
(9-306)which addresses itself to the heart.¹ He spent two or
(9-306)three days at Abbotsford, and I being a Jacobite, and he
(9-306)a Jacobin, we agreed to a TE. But as I see the papers

(9-306)have got my joke it is scarce fair to duplicate it upon my
(9-306)friends.

(9-306)I sincerely hope my dear nieces will reap in future
(9-306)life a reward for the troubles in which their career has
(9-306)begun, poor bodies. I sincerely hope that the worst is
(9-306)past, and the habit of patience is in fact its own best
(9-306)reward.

(9-306)Just as you surmise, I will be in London in Spring, &
(9-306)will certainly make out Cheltenham at all rates. Sophia
(9-306)starts about the 8th or 10 (2) for the Great City,

(9-306)Not stranger like or sojourner,
(9-306)But to inhabit there,

(9-306)as our precentor Lawrie Lathem 3 used devoutly to scream
(9-306)through the Auld Greyfriars. It is a sad separation
(9-306)after all but I shrug my shoulders & think as little as I
(9-306)can about the disagreeable part of it. Lady Scott is
(9-306)indifferent well, but begs with Anne a thousand kind
(9-306)remembrances. I write this immediately because I wish
(9-306)you to be aware of the cause of the delay about Walter
(9-306)which I dare say you will not in your heart be extremely
(9-306)sorry for. He cannot be better than with you ready to
(9-306)start for London or elsewhere as we may be advised the
(9-306)best.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-307)I see with great pleasure that the Huxleys are comfortable.
(9-307)Walter you are aware is also an aide-de-camp &
(9-307)Courtier in a small way which is in his favour and particularly
(9-307)in his wife's as it gives habits of good society and
(9-307)varies the gossiping of regimental Ladies and the Tom-
(9-307)Dickery of a military mess. Kiss my dear nieces for me

(9-307)and believe me always your affectionate Brother

(9-307)WALTER SCOTT

(9-307)EDINR. 26 Novr. [1825]

[Francis Edwards]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, CHIEFSWOOD

(9-307)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have your letter of yesterday.

(9-307)You will have received mine from Murray which though

(9-307)in the best stile of diplomati[c]al confusion implies that

(9-307)all apprehension on the score we apprehended is quite at

(9-307)an end. In my former letter I thought it becoming to

(9-307)be pretty firm though I took care to mix nothing of the

(9-307)Phrygian in my musick. I am glad we made no more

(9-307)fuss about it for to plead high defences to such an

(9-307)indictment seems to infer a conscious feeling that defence is

(9-307)necessary. I am glad for his own sake & for yours that

(9-307)Coleridge has behaved so handsomely. His assistance

(9-307)cannot but be useful & what is more—it shews union &

(9-307)firmness among people whose sentiments all go one way.

(9-307)You are wellcome to my best exertions for Pepys and

(9-307)I think of a gay trifle—a review of the Account of

(9-307)Granbourn Chase 1 which may be made funny enough. I fear

(9-307)my services cannot be made very useful to you unless

(9-307)ventum est ad Triarios when I never flinch. In ordinary

(9-307)cases I never write about politics or literature of a

(9-307)serious kind. I think the last is unfair in one who writes

(9-307)so much himself. It is as if I swept away the snow to

(9-307)prepare smoot[h] ice for my own cast. If you are a

(9-308)curler you will understand this simile if not I must refer

(9-308)you to Captain Orm[i]ston.1

(9-308)I chiefly write to beg that if possible Sophia and you
(9-308)will anticipate your visit to Edinburgh on[e] day and dine
(9-308)here on friday next to meet a few family friends and one
(9-308)or two of your own as Admiral Wilson 2 and Gay. I
(9-308)intend to ask them at all events knowing that if possible
(9-308)you will give us that day also. We have a bed for Sophia
(9-308)and can secure one for you in the vicinity. The Keiths
(9-308)and Col. Russell will form our family forces—pray come
(9-308)if you can possibly. The dinner hour will be six o'clock.

(9-308)This is Sunday and we have dined quite alone. But we
(9-308)will get used to this while we know you and Soph are well
(9-308)and prosperous.

(9-308)On Sunday next we will be quite alone and I will
(9-308)submit to you the few ideas which occur to me about
(9-308)your new and important task—not that I think I can
(9-308)suggest any which will not occur to yourself only it is not
(9-308)altogether useless to know how a vieux routier like myself
(9-308)thinks on such matters.

(9-308)I have had the readiest and kindest assurances (unsolicited
(9-308)of course) from Lady Melville and Miss Dundas of
(9-308)their wish to shew civility to Sophia in her new sphere
(9-308)and the same warmly offerd by Lord and Lady Montagu.

(9-308)Mama and Anne join in kindest love to Sophia and
(9-308)poor little Johnie. Affectionately yours W. SCOTT

(9-308)26 Nov. [PM. 1825]

(9-308)27 I mean. Pray write by return of post.

[Law]

TO ROBERT SOUTHEY

(9-309)EDINBURGH, 28th November [1825]

(9-309)I received your letter this morning, and have to thank
(9-309)you both for its frankness and its kind expressions as far as
(9-309)I am concerned. Believe me, they are perfectly reciprocal,
(9-309)nor is there occasion for them being otherwise.
(9-309)Whatever you may have to complain of with respect to
(9-309)Murray's conduct, I was totally unknown to me. Till the
(9-309)middle or rather the end of October, I had no more idea
(9-309)of Lockhart's being manager of the Quarterly than of my
(9-309)being to-night on the top of Skiddaw. Neither do I know
(9-309)at this moment with whom the plan originated, or how
(9-309)many or how few of those connected with the Review were
(9-309)concerned. Indeed, I neither wrote nor spoke to any
(9-309)friend that I have in the world on the subject, until I
(9-309)wrote on the same day to Heber and yourself—to both my
(9-309)old friends, and literary men, and to you as a most valuable
(9-309)contributor to the work. I was by no means anxious
(9-309)on the subject of his getting the situation, foreseeing some

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(9-310)difficulties, and feeling sufficiently strongly the pain of
(9-310)parting with my son-in-law, daughter, and grandchild.
(9-310)So that whatever has been done or left undone by Murray,
(9-310)I neither had nor could have the slightest accession to it.
(9-310)If I had wished to make an interest among friends of the
(9-310)Review, I would have written to you among the foremost,
(9-310)being aware of the title you had to be consulted in the
(9-310)matter, and having the highest confidence in your kind
(9-310)feelings towards myself. In respect to Mr. Coleridge,
(9-310)nothing would give me more pain than the idea that either

(9-310)Lockhart or I were edging him out of a lucrative and
(9-310)honourable situation. The situation was offered to
(9-310)Lockhart by Mr. Murray as open and disengaged; he put the
(9-310)question whether Mr. Coleridge's retiring was a thing
(9-310)determined on, and he received a positive answer in the
(9-310)affirmative. He had no access to Mr. Coleridge personally,
(9-310)but never doubted that a full explanation had takep
(9-310)place between Mr. Murray and him.

(9-310)The first, question I asked was concerning Mr. Coleridge's
(9-310)connection with the Review, and I was assured it
(9-310)terminated with the new year's commencement. An
(9-310)accident would have confirmed me in this belief had I
(9-310)doubted it for a moment. Lord Gifford, in my house, and
(9-310)in conversation, mentioned Mr. Coleridge's prospects of
(9-310)rising at the bar, and his Lordship expressed a regret that
(9-310)his management of the Quarterly was like to interfere with
(9-310)them. This seemed perfectly to explain why the situation
(9-310)was open. The fact I own I never doubted. I have only
(9-310)to add that Mr. Coleridge has most handsomely offered to
(9-310)continue his support to the Review by the contribution of
(9-310)articles—a circumstance which is valuable of itself, and
(9-310)will be most grateful to Lockhart's feelings. It is possible,
(9-310)as you say, his friends may resent what he himself has no
(9-310)cause for resenting. But I should think it improbable,
(9-310)because I have observed that in such cases there are usually
(9-310)some private motives of the resenters' own, which are
(9-310)conveniently carried by affectation of zeal for a friend,

(9-311)and I know no ground for the existence of such motives in
(9-311)this case.

(9-311)The circumstances mentioned by your fair correspondent
(9-311)are such as I doubt not will be the sentiments of many

(9-311)and disseminated by more than believe in or feel them.
(9-311)But there is nothing which some experience with letters
(9-311)has brought me more to despise than the puffing of friends,
(9-311)or the rumours circulated by enemies. I would as soon
(9-311)buffet with the snow-flakes which are falling on my
(9-311>window at this moment, as I would try to contradict idle
(9-311)rumours and combat unfounded imaginations. A work
(9-311)like the Quarterly is sure to have the fair play of perusal, and
(9-311)then the public at large, who care for neither our friends
(9-311)nor our enemies, will judge for themselves.

(9-311)With respect to Murray's undertaking a newspaper, I
(9-311)suppose it is by no means unlikely ; but I am certain
(9-311)Lockhart will not accept an office so toilsome and laborious
(9-311)as that of Editor, and that he will have no connection with
(9-311)that or any other speculation which can interfere with
(9-311)doing his duty to the Quarterly.

(9-311)As for Joannes de Moravia, I think his conduct to you is
(9-311)indefensible, but I am perfectly convinced it arose out of a
(9-311)constitutional timidity, and I am sure it could not be any
(9-311)depreciatory feeling of the great services you have
(9-311)rendered to the Quarterly, to which we can all bear witness,
(9-311)or a want of sense of the great loss which the work would
(9-311)sustain by your withdrawing, which occasioned his
(9-311)putting off the proper communication to you on the subject,
(9-311)but that in fact he anticipated objections on your part
(9-311)to a greater degree than I hope you will find cause for,
(9-311)and put off apprising you, as men are apt to delay
(9-311)encountering an apprehended difficulty, however that very
(9-311)delay may increase it. I am sensible that it requires an
(9-311)effort, however, to overcome the very natural feeling
(9-311)arising from ill-treatment, whether it arise from the
(9-311)weakness or the malice prepense of him by whom it has been
(9-311)offered. I am at the same time truly affected with your

(9-312)kind message overcoming that effort, in consequence of
(9-312)our old and mutual friendship. Believe me, you will not
(9-312)repent it. It requires some time to know John Lockhart,
(9-312)and you have been accustomed to associate his name with
(9-312)disagreeable matters. But when you do know him, remember
(9-312)I tell you beforehand, you will like him.

(9-312)If I had not occasion to know him to be both safe,
(9-312)well-tempered, and competent, with a high feeling of
(9-312)honour and public principle, I would rather put my
(9-312)hand in the fire than accept of your generous offer to
(9-312)continue on my account your support to the work which he
(9-312)must in future manage. I shall mention to him when he
(9-312)comes to town this week, that although you are not satisfied
(9-312)with the manner in which the change of Editorship has
(9-312)been intimated to you, yet in consideration of our old
(9-312)friendship, you are not disposed to withdraw from the
(9-312)work an assistance which I know Lockhart will highly
(9-312)appreciate.¹ If you would have me say less or more, or
(9-312)wait till a future season for saying anything, you will have
(9-312)time to write, as Lockhart does not come to town till
(9-312)Friday, to receive a parting entertainment from some of
(9-312)his young friends here, which, Whigs excepted, comprehend
(9-312)the first young men at our bar. It was not Sophia
(9-312)but Anne who was called Madame French,—the black-
(9-312)eyed lass you saw at Keswick.—God bless you, my good
(9-312)friend,

(9-312)WALTER SCOTT

(9-312)Lockhart has had the most flattering assurances of support
(9-312)from the literary patrons of the Quarterly. Barrow had
(9-312)some doubts, which are satisfied.²

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

(9-313)MY DEAR COLIN,—You know all matters at this time
(9-313)are prorogated to the recess and therefore I add my
(9-313)particular entreaties that you will prorogate your return
(9-313)(9-313)from Harcus till the first sederunt day in January next.
(9-313)This is the anxious wish of all our brethren and by
(9-313)giving a very little attention to my own 1 in the early part
(9-313)of the morning enables me to come here and discharge
(9-313)yours after the court sits down. The business is very
(9-313)easy and you will really act very unwisely as well as
(9-313)unkindly if you do not leave us to manage it, but endanger
(9-313)your health so deservedly valued by your bretheren and
(9-313)many others and I need not say by me in particular.
(9-313)So pray do not think of coming here till you see how the
(9-313)country agrees with [you].

(9-313)Our petition to Excheqr. has been refused and what to
(9-313)do next I know not. There are two courses. Hector
(9-313)opines that we should again solicit the attention of the
(9-313)Treasury and Lord Melville seemed to say to Sir Robert
(9-313)that they mistook our situation and confounded it with
(9-313)that of the English Clerks who purchase their situations.
(9-313)I have little hopes from this measure having always seen
(9-313)that those who have taken up a threap 2 as we Scots folk say
(9-313)are far worse to convince than men who are actually
(9-313)founding on some thing like reason. Still more do I
(9-313)doubt Hector's second plan of referring to the House
(9-313)of Commons. Official persons in our situation seldom
(9-313)can excite a very strong interest. Our salaries are
(9-313)exactly qualified to illustrate Pompey Bums assertion that
(9-313)every true mans apparel fits your thief.³ If the rate

(9-313)is too high it cannot be doubted that we the receivers

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(9-314)will think it little enough—and let it be supposed they
(9-314)are too little the ex-official folks will think it large
(9-314)enough. In short I think we should not rashly venture
(9-314)into parliament. If we remain as hitherto on
(9-314)the defensive (which is the other course) one of two,
(9-314)things must happen—either that we shall shuffle on
(9-314)with more or less inconvenience untill poor father
(9-314)Ferriar drops off in which case we shall not [be] foreclosed
(9-314)by any example founded upon his retirement—or else
(9-314)that the business will get so much embroiled that the
(9-314)court must take it up and interpose in our behalf with the
(9-314)treasury—or perhaps the Minister may try his brain
(9-314)against Ferriar and in that case I should think that he
(9-314)being defensive would have a far better chance of being
(9-314)listened to than if he were initiating the business himself
(9-314)in the House of Commons of which it is no treason to say
(9-314)that no man can foresee what they may do. In a word I
(9-314)would make Government understand that we will not
(9-314)permit a retirement unless on the terms which we are
(9-314)entitled to hold and when Ferriar becomes unable to
(9-314)attend they must come into our terms or the business
(9-314)must go into arrear. We have this compulsitor in our
(9-314)hands and I think it as well to trust to it. For observe
(9-314)if we once stir in the House of Commons and they decide
(9-314)against us actum est—there is a decision on our case and
(9-314)that by a body whose authority is not the less that they
(9-314)have no legal character.

(9-314)Here is bitter cold weather—in the midst of which
(9-314)Lockhart and Sophia are setting off for London. If our
(9-314)friend I had as much civil courage as he has personal

(9-315)spirit I might have been spared the great pain of this
 (9-315)separation. But I suppress these unpleasant reflections
 (9-315)for perhaps I am not in a mood to judge of the matter
 (9-315)with perfect candour.

(9-315)Lord Montague is sitting at the bottom of the table
 (9-315)cocked and primed to repeat {obliterated} much in terms
 (9-315)of the Act of Sederunt where the same act has no terms
 (9-315)applicable to the matter. He has par parenthis desired
 (9-315)me to add his entreaties to ours that you will remain
 (9-315)rusticated till January at soonest. Yours affectionately,
 (9-315)WALTER SCOTT

(9-315)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
 (9-315)few lines by the son 1 of my old and faithful bottle holder
 (9-315)Tom Purdie who has got a place as a gardner in the sweet
 (9-315)County of Limeric[k]. I saw Mrs. Jobson two days since
 (9-315)and let her know of this opportunity. She was very well
 (9-315)and Lady Fergusson staying with her. The worthy
 (9-315)knight is himself at Meigle visiting his old friend and
 (9-315)mine Peter Murray of Symprim.² I hope all goes on well
 (9-315)that the palfrey ambles easy and the Colonels Lady
 (9-315)carries her dignities meekly towards the Ladies of the
 (9-315)regiment that the parties are gay the snacks better orderd

(9-316)than at Lucan and laughing as merry as it [was] wont to
(9-316)be. Above all how do ye like your vice regal mistress. I
(9-316)You are I suppose one of the little stars which wait upon
(9-316)her Majesty the moon of Ireland. We had little Moore
(9-316)with us about three weeks since. He and I went to the
(9-316)play once when it happend to be a pretty good house.
(9-316)Moore was discoverd and received a great deal of applause
(9-316)at which I was particularly pleased as Saunders was in
(9-316)giving him a good reception paying a part of my debt to
(9-316)Paddy-land.

(9-316)All our thoughts are turnd to our approaching parting
(9-316)with the Lockharts; knowing how intimately we all
(9-316)live together you will have no difficulty in supposing
(9-316)that this must be an unpleasing anticipation. But what
(9-316)is thought best for the young folks must satisfy the old.
(9-316)They come on thursday & remain till Monday or Tuesday
(9-316)next then back to Chiefswood and from thence immediatly
(9-316)to London. It is time, they were there for Lockhart
(9-316)must have much to do in his new department[t]. Sophia
(9-316)has all her domestic establishment to arrange and as to
(9-316)our losing them a few days sooner one must piece it out
(9-316)with the old proverb " better a finger off than aye
(9-316)wagging."

(9-316)You would see a notice in the newspapers that I had
(9-316)gone to the Marshal MacDonaldis at Paris. There was a
(9-316)letter from him yesterday to Hector MacDonaldis which is
(9-316)a very funny one. He complains very politely that while
(9-316)he had not the pleasure and so forth of receiving the
(9-316)person in question he had a whole host of literary ladies
(9-316)some begging scraps of hand writing some locks of hair
(9-316)and several sending verses which they wish the Scottish
(9-316)author should revise and criticize.

(9-316)We are all in tolerable good health and walking through
(9-316)the world in its old fashion eating drinking scribbling
(9-316)and waking and sleeping without much to interfere with
(9-316)our very mechanical operations. Only Lord Melville

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-317)being down here I have been more about than lately
(9-317)being askd to meet him. About 24th. Decr. we crawl out
(9-317)to Abbotsford and wish we had Prince Housseins tapestry
(9-317)to transport you there to eat your Christmas pies. We
(9-317)must comfort ourselves with the hope of seeing you in
(9-317)better travelling weather, worse it cannot well be for
(9-317)as the old hunting[-song] says

(9-317)" My dear it hails, it rains, it blows."

(9-317)All which elemental discords clattering against the
(9-317)windows of our old halls of justice do not at all relieve the
(9-317)dulness of a November day or enliven the eloquence of
(9-317)two or three drowsy advocates. So if I am dull there is
(9-317)a reason for it.

(9-317)I hope your maids have found a more agreeable mode
(9-317)of amusing themselves than by keeping the house litterally
(9-317)in hot water. When such accidents happen it is now I
(9-317)believe agreed that cotton (supposing the skin is broken)
(9-317)is the most effectual application. Vinegar and Lime
(9-317)water is a specifick and oil is also good but I should
(9-317)greatly doubt salt though the favourite recipe of your
(9-317)Abigails.

(9-317)I beg my particular regards to the Surgeon Genl 1
(9-317)Attorney General and family the Blake family and Dr.
(9-317)Brinkley not forgetting poor Paddy Hartstonge and
(9-317)sisters. Alway[s] my dear little woman your affectionate

(9-317)father

WALTER SCOTT

(9-317)EDINR. 29 November [1825]

(9-317)If you write soon it will be as Judy says a great consola—2

(9-317)I am sorry to say that since I wrote the inclosed Mrs

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(9-318)Jobson has had an alarming accident from the effects of
(9-318)which she is now much recoverd. Lady Fergusson who is
(9-318)in Shandwick place just now was taken suddenly ill in the
(9-318)night and Mrs Jobson getting up hastily went to get her
(9-318)some assistance and it being in the dark met with a severe
(9-318)fall on the stairs. Luckily she got off with a slight sprain
(9-318)and some bruises which are getting quite well again but it
(9-318)might have been an alarming accident in its consequence.
(9-318)Write soon.

(9-318)4th December [1825]

[Law]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(9-318)DEAR WALTER,—I take the opportunity of Charles
(9-318)Purdie going to Dublin to send you a letter. It is always
(9-318)good to save postage. Charles is going to be a gardener
(9-318)somewhere near the sweet town of Limerick to which you
(9-318)made your advances by that famous night march. He is
(9-318)a clever fellow and I hope will do. He has a book from
(9-318)me to give to the Head gardner at the Lodge who I
(9-318)suppose will have no objection to let him see the Gardens
(9-318)there. If you can give him quarters in your hotel- for
(9-318)the day or two he must stay at Dublin I am aware you
(9-318)will do it for old Toms sake. I also intend to give him
(9-318)the superintendence of a book 1 containing some copper

(9-318)and bronze implements for Dr Tuke your neighbour
(9-318)in the square who has so beautiful a Musaeum. I
(9-318)promised to add one or two articles to it and now send
(9-318)these old rattle-traps as Capt. John would call them to
(9-318)make my word good. Will you be so good as pay for
(9-318)the carriage of the box if it has cost Purdie anything.

(9-318)Since we came to Edinburgh I have been askd to meet
(9-318)Lord Melville at several parties which has made me more

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-319)of a junketter than usual but as it was chiefly among old
(9-319)friends it was not so tiresome as such [things usually are].

(9-319)On thursday Lockhart and Soph come to town alas to
(9-319)take leave which will make our future life the sadder.
(9-319)He has a rough sea before him for many will envy and
(9-319)abuse him for his own sake some perhaps from thinking
(9-319)the world has given me more than my due and many more
(9-319)from political hatred. But he is very clever and
(9-319)sufficiently hard-bitten to make him indifferent to much of
(9-319)this sort of petty warfare and then his talents are of a
(9-319)kind that must [tell] now that he has fair scope for
(9-319)exertion. He has besides the good backing of Canning
(9-319)Ellis Heber Bishop Bloomfield 1 and all the contributors I
(9-319)believe of the review so that Vogue la Galere. I hope he
(9-319)will dissolve the goodnatured club except when the
(9-319)original members have the happiness to meet. Seriously
(9-319)his satirical propensities make him enemies which his
(9-319)good nature does not deserve. But as Corporal Nym
(9-319)says things must be as they may.

(9-319)We have had bitter weather here Sunday and yesterday
(9-319)the ground was coverd with snow and the snow [was] 2
(9-319)falling till ten o'clock at night when I retu[r]nd from

(9-319)Melville Castle. This threatens an early and severe
(9-319)winter.

(9-319)Colonel Russell my cousin has come home a fine
(9-319)dashing soldier looking fellow who has suffered less from
(9-319)India though he has been there near thirty years than
(9-319)most folks I know. His manners are not very elegant
(9-319)but he is a kind hearted warm-feeling man and I have
(9-319)been heartily glad to meet him again.

(9-319)Mama is upon the whole I think better sleeps well and
(9-319)has more appetite but is still annoyed with the swelling
(9-319)in her ankles. Little Johnie is very well I hear. Poor

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(9-320)little fellow he is most likely to suffer by this change of
(9-320)residence.

(9-320)We are very desirous to have your court news. The
(9-320)Viceroy is a person so particularly well bred that I think
(9-320)it must be comfortable to be near him sometimes. I hope
(9-320)the Marchioness gives satisfaction. I think she will bear
(9-320)her state bravely. But I do not suppose brother Jonathan 1
(9-320)would like much so large a fortune passing out [of] his
(9-320)continent to gild a Marchioness's coronet in Britain. I
(9-320)should rather think it would gall his republican pride.

(9-320)How does the riding come on ? But I will ask Mrs,
(9-320)Jane herself about that matter only I fear my correspondence
(9-320)will be none of the brightest just now for I am
(9-320)writing in the Court very cold and very dull and little
(9-320)warmed or enlivened by the thrumming of two very dull
(9-320)pleaders. You would of course let Mr. Milliken know
(9-320)that the Box with the Books came at length in great
(9-320)safety. I was afraid they might have suffered from damp

(9-320)but they were all in good order. Anne and Mama join
(9-320)in kind love to you and Jane. Always your affectionate
(9-320)father
WALTER SCOTT

(9-320)EDINR. 29 November [1825]

(9-320)Our Xmas vacation begins on 24 December our festival
(9-320)will be an awfully dull one this season. There will be no
(9-320)dealing with Nicol in these times for the money market
(9-320)is in such a state of agitation that I would not like to
(9-320)embark in so large a transaction without I saw [it] settled
(9-320)which will happen in a month or two. I presume you
(9-320)settle your accompts regularly with your agent Mr. Isaac
(9-320)Baillie. He is I am sure a good and honest fellow. But
(9-320)right reckoning and short reckoning make long friends
(9-320)and terrible accidents sometimes happen from neglecting
(9-320)to make regular inspections and settlements. A writer
(9-320)to the Signet, a gentleman and excellently connected and

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(9-321)generally well liked, was drownd in the unfortunate
(9-321)Steamboat 1 and was at first much lamented. But in truth
(9-321)he spoild an old proverb and showd that a man might be
(9-321)drownd whose actions deservd a dryer death. He had
(9-321)cheated one gentleman Lord Balgray of many thousand
(9-321)pounds which had been put into his hands as the manager
(9-321)of a trust.

(9-321)Concluded this letter 4 December

(9-321)More last words of Mr. Baxter. After all Charles
(9-321)Purdie has got a berth in a vessell going direct from
(9-321)Glasgow to Limerick so Mr. Walter Hamilton takes care
(9-321)of this letter the book for the gardner and a box of
(9-321)trumpery for Dr Tuke. I have something also to send

(9-321)to the Surgeon General when I can get an opportunity.
(9-321)Lockharts friends gave him a dinner on Saturday a very
(9-321)stylish one. About fifty people were present Solicitor
(9-321)General praeses Robt. Dundas of Arnistoun Croupier and
(9-321)much wine shed. Many songs and speeches to the
(9-321)honour and glory of the said Don Giovanni who fell
(9-321)asleep in his chair about one in the morning to the sound
(9-321)of his own praises. Mr. Williams wakend him and the
(9-321)whole company with bouncing sentence[s] of Latin that
(9-321)sounded like a discharge of artillery and I suppose was
(9-321)by that time nearly as intelligible to most of the company.
(9-321)These things I only know by report having left at ten as a
(9-321)sober man should. Yesterday Lockhart dine[d] with us
(9-321)consuming little meat and much small beer.

(9-321)This morning Sophia and he took French leave de-camping
(9-321)about seven in the morning. I was glad of it for
(9-321)as the song says

(9-321)" What argufies snivelling and piping ones eye."

(9-321)I hope the parting is for their advantage and that must
(9-321)make me acquiesce in it although it is hard to be separated
(9-321)from almost all my children.

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(9-322)But we hope to see Jane and you in a few months.
(9-322)Yours affectionately, WALTER SCOTT
(9-322)5th December [1825]

(9-322)More last words yet. 6th December
(9-322)After all Walter Hamilton will not bear this letter which
(9-322)has had its destinies alterd so often. He does not set off
(9-322)untill next week and will take charge of the box to the
(9-322)Dr and the letter which I send to that learnd collector.

(9-322)Meanwhile I send the Gardners book. The mans name
(9-322)is Robson I think.

[Law]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(9-322)EDINBURGH, 3d Decr.(1) [1825]

(9-322)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES,—I have owed both Mr. Hughes
(9-322)and you a letter for a long time but I am as you well
(9-322)know terribly dilatory in the matters of correspondence
(9-322)and particularly since my eyes have begun to make
(9-322)writing more inconvenient to me and more troublesome
(9-322)in necessary consequence to the reader than it formerly
(9-322)used to be. I have been besides under some anxiety at
(9-322)the thoughts of parting with Lockhart and my daughter
(9-322)whose good fortune (I hope at least it is to prove such
(9-322)ultimately) bring[s] me some discomfort in the outset. I
(9-322)have not the slightest idea who or what determined
(9-322)Murray on making a change.² I only know that the offer

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(9-323)of the situation was not made till the end of October
(9-323)when without a word of previous intimation the situation
(9-323)was offered to Lockhart who had not the most distant
(9-323)thoughts of it The surprize was equal to me who was
(9-323)at that very time engaged in soliciting a situation in this
(9-323)country on which Lockhart had some claims. We were
(9-323)then given to understand distinctly that Mr. Coleridge
(9-323)retired from the situation though why or when we were
(9-323)not informd. Mr. Coleridge has behaved as handsomely
(9-323)as possible and continues I hope his assistance to the
(9-323)Review. I am sure nothing could be more agreeable to
(9-323)Lockhart's feelings for altho' he neither had nor could

(9-323)have the least accession to Mr. Coleridge[']s] giving up
(9-323)the critical sceptre yet if Mr. Coleridge had behaved
(9-323)otherwise under the circumstances the good natured world
(9-323)would have accused Lockhart of wrenching it out of his
(9-323)hands whereas he only succeeded to it when it was
(9-323)unswayed. I have little doubt that Lockhart will do the
(9-323)business well. But he had in his own country and among
(9-323)his old friends enough for all the comforts and most of
(9-323)the elegancies of life and I wish he may have no reason
(9-323)[to repent] 1 for exchanging his quiet life at Ghiefswood
(9-323)for the more feverish and ambitious occupation which he
(9-323)is now about to assume. I have been entirely passive
(9-323)in the matter. I could not exert any influence to prevent
(9-323)my son in law from accepting an honourable mode of
(9-323)distinguishing himself in the eyes of the world and which
(9-323)was offered to him in a manner so creditable to his
(9-323)character in literature and frankly I feel more and more
(9-323)as the moment approaches of separation circumstances

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(9-324)which make it peculiarly painful to me.¹ I have not the
(9-324)least apprehension of Lockharts getting on well as he is
(9-324)passed the age when his talents for satire might have led
(9-324)him a little too far. But I am anxious for the health of
(9-324)my daughter and still more of the poor frail little child
(9-324)whom they are so much wrapt up in he is very very
(9-324)delicate and fear the spine is affected : in which case—
(9-324)but it is needless to write about it.

(9-324)I am much obliged to you my dearest Madam for your
(9-324)attention to Charles I have not heard from him for some
(9-324)time but shall be most happy to think he is near you.² The
(9-324)last time I heard he was busy studying for his first

(9-324)examination. I owe Mr. Hughes my best thanks for a cheese
(9-324)which showed the mettle of the pasture where the cows
(9-324)were fed. Make my kind love to him and my best thanks
(9-324)acceptable. I will not forget your little dog—but it must
(9-324)be next summer for puppies whelped in winter seldom give
(9-324)satisfaction being usually paltry beasts.

(9-324)My wife who is much obliged by your inquiries has
(9-324)rather got better but asthmatic complaints are of a very
(9-324)tedious kind and her fits of breathlessness return very often.

(9-324)We have had real northern weather of late the snow is
(9-324)lying very deep on our mountains, and I question whether

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(9-325)the Lockharts who are coming to Edinburgh to day to bid
(9-325)their friends adieu will get through the Moorfoot Hills
(9-325)and I shall be glad to see them safe.

(9-325)5th December.—They have arrived and parted too this
(9-325)morning without any formal adieus for which I am obliged
(9-325)to them. I hate snivelling and blowing of noses. They
(9-325)were off before day-break to avoid such catastrophes.¹
(9-325)I need not tell you [how] glad Sophia will be to see you
(9-325)in London where poor soul she will be like a cow in a
(9-325)fremit loaning : (this will try your Scotch, Madame).

(9-325)Pepys has had bad luck for I made some scratch about
(9-325)him for Lockhart's use last week this entre nous I certainly
(9-325)would not have interfered with my friend Mr. Hughes.²
(9-325)My kind compliments to him and to the kind Doctor.

(9-325)From him that is lonely dowie and wae but always
(9-325)Dear Mrs. Hughes most truly yours,

(9-325)WALTER SCOTT

[Heffer and Wells]

TO R. CADELL

(9-325)DEAR SIR,—I have some pleasant news for our friend
(9-325)Constable. I wish much to see him this morning if
(9-325)possible—I shall be at home all day this being a blank
(9-325)day for the court Yours truly W SCOTT

(9-325)CASTLE STREET Wednesday [7 December 1825]

(9-325)Private

[Stevenson]

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TO SIR WILLIAM KNIGHTON

(9-326)MY DEAR SIR,—I was honoured with your letter this
(9-326)morning, which, I own, relieved me from the unpleasing
(9-326)doubt whether I might not have gone beyond my province
(9-326)in communicating to you for his Majesty's consideration the
(9-326)subject of my last. I am sure I would rather lose my little
(9-326)fortune than submit anything of the kind to his Majesty
(9-326)without the most attentive consideration to its consequences.

(9-326)Whether the plan of education be not somewhat
(9-326)extended beyond the ranks to which it is most useful, is a
(9-326)subject of great doubt. But, being so extended, the
(9-326)increased number of readers must have good books, of
(9-326)sound principle and standard merit, otherwise they will
(9-326)choose bad ones rather than go without; and then the
(9-326)boon of knowledge will be just on a par with that [of]
(9-326)language as expressed by Caliban,

(9-326)" You taught me language, and my profit on't

(9-326)Is—I know how to curse." 2

(9-326)I enclose the first perfect copy of the first number of
(9-326)the work, which is nearly ready for the public.³ I also
(9-326)enclose a proposed dedication for the consideration of
(9-326)his Majesty, in which I have endeavoured to express, in as
(9-326)few words as possible, the reason why a work of the kind,
(9-326)so devoid of typographical splendour (although neat for
(9-326)the price), should be adorned with his Majesty's name.
(9-326)I made Constable transcribe it fairly, but without telling
(9-326)him more than that it might be well to have a scrawl in
(9-326)readiness, in case his application should be honoured
(9-326)with his Majesty's approbation.

(9-326)His Majesty will not perhaps hear with entire
(9-326)indifference that my son-in-law, John Lockhart, has been
(9-326)tempted to change his views in this country, in order to
(9-326)become editor of the Quarterly Review. The talents

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-327)which have been thought worthy of this trust are pretty
(9-327)generally admitted ; and I can answer for his possessing
(9-327)that love of his Majesty's government and devotion to his
(9-327)person which are the best warrants for exercising the
(9-327)power now lodged in his hands in a proper manner. It
(9-327)is a great qualifying of the pleasure which I should feel
(9-327)on the occasion, that I must be deprived of my daughter's
(9-327)society, as they must of course reside in London.

(9-327)I pray you, my dear Sir William, to make my most
(9-327)respectful duty acceptable to his Majesty, and I am, with
(9-327)much regard. Dear Sir William, Your most obedient
(9-327)servant,

WALTER SCOTT

(9-327)The Chief Commissioner has borne his great family
(9-327)Loss 1 with much firmness.

(9-327)EDINBURGH, 7th December [1825]

(9-327)To His Majesty
(9-327)KING GEORGE IV.
(9-327)The generous Patron
(9-327)even of the most humble attempts
(9-327)towards the advantage of his subjects,
(9-327)THE MISCELLANY,
(9-327)designed to extend Useful Knowledge
(9-327)and Elegant Literature,
(9-327)by placing Works of standard merit
(9-327)within the attainment of every class of
(9-327)Readers,
(9-327)is most humbly inscribed
(9-327)by his Majesty's
(9-327)humble and devoted servant,

(9-327)ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE.

(9-327)EDINBURGH, December 1825.

[Memoirs of Sir William Knighton]

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TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-328)EDINBURGH, 6th December [1825]

(9-328)I return the sheets revised, most anxious as you may
(9-328)believe to hear from you. I send a letter from that weary
(9-328)wight Gillies. I will try to do him some accompt of
(9-328)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

(9-330)happen to be in town Croker will know of their
(9-330)whereabout.

[Owen D. Young]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW,KAESIDE

(9-330)MY DEAR WILLIAM,—I had your letter of news in safety.
(9-330)Although you do not express you [are] in much need of
(9-330)cash I inclose 20 for wages &c and will come out fully
(9-330)provided for every thing else. We come on 24 rather
(9-330)late as I must stay till 12 o'clock.

(9-330)We were reasonable sad after the loss of the Lockharts
(9-330)who took trench leave on the morning of last Monday
(9-330)with great consideration for themselves and us. I hate
(9-330)leavetaking snivelling and red eyes. I have got a
(9-330)quantity of acorns & expect more. These will come out
(9-330)by the cart. These will go to the seedbed of course in
(9-330)Spring. I am not at present aware that there is more to
(9-330)say We are all well here Only dowie lonely and wae
(9-330)Yours truly W SCOTT

(9-330)EDINR. 12 December [1825]

(9-330)I send this by Selkirk so it will reach by Brunton.
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JOHN GIBSON, JUNIOR, W.S., CHARLOTTE STREET

[14th December 1825]

(9-331)DEAR SIR,—I have received the title deeds of my
(9-331)estate of Abbotsford and that according to the Inventory

(9-331)thereof and will soon return them to your custody again
(9-331)as they cannot be in [safer hands].

[without signature]

[Walpole]

TO CAPT. SCOTT, 10 STEPHENS GREEN

(9-331)favourd by Mr Hamilton.

(9-331)DEAR WALTER,—Mr Walter Hamilton has promised to
(9-331)give a look after M[r] or rather Doctor Tukes box of
(9-331)brazen utensils which I hope will reach your mansion
(9-331)in safety and that you will take the trouble to send the
(9-331)inclosed note with them. I have not heard of John and
(9-331)Soph since parting but a line from Greta Bridge.¹ Mrs
(9-331)Jobson is well enough to come abroad today for she felt
(9-331)the consequence of her fall for some time and no wonder.
(9-331)Falling seems to be the fashion amongst us. I believe
(9-331)I wrote you that I had rather an awkward fall among
(9-331)some new buildings. I was returning from Robert
(9-331)Cockburn's 2 and wishd to cross the street and got a
(9-331)mudbath praised be Heaven nothing worse—the more dirt
(9-331)the less hurt says the learnd Dean Swift.³ And now I
(9-331)learn you have had a fall too. Methinks you might have
(9-331)let us know something of it. My kind love attends Jane
(9-331)though she is a naughty monkey for not writing. Yours
(9-331)affectionately

WALTER SCOTT

(9-331)EDINBURGH 14 December [1825]

(9-331)We go to Abbotsford on 24 where address till 14 January.
[Law]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, LONDON

(9-332)My DEAR LOCKHART,—This will find you I trust
(9-332)temporarily if not comfortably settled. I have been
(9-332)thinking much of Sophia and Johnie during the gloomy
(9-332)weather which must have made Stanemore doubly
(9-332)desolate especially as you wanted the kind wellcome &
(9-332)friendly countenances of Rokeby. Yours from Catterick
(9-332)Bridge did not reach me untill yesterday.

(9-332)I am very sorry I have not the honour of knowing the
(9-332)Arch Bishop of Canterbury 1 in the slightest degree. But
(9-332)I believe Mr Careys merit as a translator of Dante has
(9-332)been always acknowleged as of the very highest order.
(9-332)He has certainly chosen the most difficult subject in the
(9-332)literary world for translation and though it is long since
(9-332)I read the book I still remember the pleasure which it
(9-332)afforded me.² I have always heard that Mr Carey was
(9-332)[a] worthy and respectable man.

(9-332)I have had a most kind letter from Barrow in consequence
(9-332)of mine to Heber. He assures me of his readiness
(9-332)and willingness to do all he possibly can in point of
(9-332)rendering you assistance. It is plain the Emperor of the
(9-332)West 3 like other potentates was a[t] first too precipitate &
(9-332)sanguine and then like MacBeth was afraid to look on
(9-332)what he had done.

(9-332)Sophia or you can write at a time and let us know the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-333)Gossip especially how Johnie likes London and if he talks
(9-333)Of Abbotsford and Chiefswood & ha—papa.

(9-333)I have a very kind letter from Lady Stafford with kind
(9-333)offers of all attention to Sophia. She does not come to
(9-333)London till May but wishes to see you at their Villa. I
(9-333)think with Ditton park & Cleveland House you will have
(9-333)as good backing as folks need desire who do not wish
(9-333)above a genteel Competence of the great world.

(9-333)There is no news except that the Great Hogg of the
(9-333)mountains made a descent this morning and not thinking
(9-333)himself a sufficient boar or desirous of a foil or perhaps in
(9-333)order to make a Bardic convention " of huzz tividale
(9-333)poets" brought with him Thompson 1 the song making
(9-333)not psalm-singing weaver of Galashiels. This was rather
(9-333)cool on the said Hoggs part but Thompson is a good
(9-333)enough fellow so it all went off well the better that
(9-333)Lady S. did not know that the Boar of the forest had been
(9-333)the introducer of the poetical Thrums. Our Hogg gave
(9-333)one superior grunt. Talking of Moore or according to his
(9-333)mode of accentuation Muir he said his songs were written
(9-333)wi' owr muckle melody—they gied him he said a staw 2 of
(9-333)sweetness—"Aye" said Thrums "his notes are ower sweetly
(9-333)strung." " Na na " said the porker " ma ain notes are
(9-333)just right strung and its his that are clean ower artificial."
(9-333)Dont you think you hear this echoe [?]3 of a pigstye passing
(9-333)his criticism on Moore. I thought Lady Anne would
(9-333)have spoken but thank God she gave a gulp and was
(9-333)silent. After all the Hogg is a kindly animal very grateful
(9-333)to you though I think he rather believes you honoured
(9-333)in the accession of the juvenile Squeaker to your train of
(9-333)emigration.

(9-334)I inclose a note to Allan Cunninghame. By the way
(9-334)poor Fanny 1 escaped from the Servants at Leith came
(9-334)up to Castle Street and scratchd at my room door which

(9-334)We shall be at Abbotsford on the 24th.

[Law]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JOHN B. S. MORRITT, ROKEBY

(9-335)MY DEAR MORRITT,—I am sorry you missd Lockhart 1
(9-335)who had it in charge to explain to you all his cause of
(9-335)transmigration which though the change is to all human
(9-335)appearance greatly to their advantage in the way of
(9-335)fortune is such a deprivation to me in point of comfort
(9-335)that while I cannot in grace or propriety express myself
(9-335)sorry yet it would be a great contradiction of my feelings
(9-335)to be in any respect very joyful. So I am like Mahomets
(9-335)coffin—or like the ass between the bundles of hay or like
(9-335)anything else that does not know well what to think about
(9-335)the matter.

(9-335)It is very true that Murray about two months since
(9-335)made some advantageous proposals to Lockhart to change
(9-335)his residence with a view to take the management of the
(9-335)Quarterly connected with some other views both literary
(9-335)and professional which will make his income a very handsome
(9-335)one and give him an opportunity (living quietly as
(9-335)it will be their object to do) to save some money. For
(9-335)this they sacrifice a good deal for Lockharts income here
(9-335)amounted to about 1000 yearly which is very sufficient
(9-335)for a Scottish Hidalgo though too little to live easily in
(9-335)London. I believe between ourselves the choice was
(9-335)made on the recommendation of Canning and Gifford
(9-335)who were desirous to see Lockhart in the situation.
(9-335)Certainly though I saw Canning at Col. Boltons on
(9-335)Wyndermere he never spoke a word on such a subject;
(9-335)nor had either Lockhart or I the most distant idea of such
(9-335)an offer till it came seeking him in a way it was difficult

(9-335)for him to avoid accepting such a fortune when it was
(9-335)buckled on his back. Murray after having let the
(9-335)matter go so far as to come to stamped paper thought fit
(9-335)at last to apprise the acting Editor (young Coleridge) that
(9-335)he had made an arrangement with another helmsman.

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(9-336)This was using both Coleridge and Lockhart to whom he
(9-336)had represented the situation as entirely vacant [with]
(9-336)very great injustice but I believe it arose entirely out of a
(9-336)timidity of temper which made Byron term the great Lord
(9-336)of Albemarle Street the most timorous of Gods
(9-336)Book-sellers. The explanation was easily made so far as
(9-336)Lockhart was concernd and Coleridge who has other
(9-336)views in his profession retires from the Editorship with the
(9-336)very handsome offer of continuing his services in the
(9-336)Review as a contributor. So does Southey to whom
(9-336)Murray though the review is so much oblig'd [to] him
(9-336)fail'd to communicate his intended change. Indeed I
(9-336)fancy the change besides being thought necessary from
(9-336)some decay in the review was partly owing to the wish
(9-336)to have some one well disposed to Mother Church but not
(9-336)just disposed to ride on its rigging as we say in Scotland,
(9-336)which Southey is rather apt to do without considering that
(9-336)to plead the best of causes to an extravagant height or
(9-336)what is the same thing pleading in a manner contrary to
(9-336)the general sense of the time.1 One never makes much by
(9-336)riding a good horse too hard. Bishop Bloomfield
(9-336)Barrow &c all give John their right hand of fellowship
(9-336)so with full consent of all concern'd King John is install'd
(9-336)instead of King William. I may be wrong but I think
(9-336)Lockhart perhaps the best calculated of any man I know
(9-336)to discharge this great critical task. He has a great stock
(9-336)both of c[l]assical and miscellaneous information a
(9-336)turn of composition as fluent as it is forcible and

(9-336)elegant, perfect good temper and the feelings of a
(9-336)gentleman which go far in my idea of a critic. Six or seven
(9-336)years ago I thought him rash particularly in using too
(9-336)much horseplay in his raillery but time had taught
(9-336)prudence & his present situation is of too responsible [a]
(9-336)nature not to engage him to watch over any revival of
(9-336)his former frisky disposition. Such are 2 the hopes and

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(9-337)auspices under which they leave and with them a large
(9-337)proportion of my domestic & family happiness. I
(9-337)congratulate you my dear friend on having the same reason
(9-337)for rejoicing that I have for regrets. Your nephew long
(9-337)separated from you is soon to be united in a way happy &
(9-337)more Comfortable I think than when young and old
(9-337)reside under the same roof. A ride or drive forms such
(9-337)an agreeable amusement when there is an affectionate
(9-337)motive at the other end of it, and so dull comparatively
(9-337)when executed merely for exercise that I sincerely rejoice
(9-337)that you have gotten what I have lost. I beg you to
(9-337)make my best compliments acceptable to the young
(9-337)people and that you will express my sincere good wishes
(9-337)to them on their adopting the respectable character of
(9-337)housekeepers.

(9-337)When you go to Brighton you will probably pass
(9-337)through London and you will hear of Lockhart by
(9-337)enquiring at Murrays. Sophia was much mortified at not
(9-337)seeing you and the young ladies. I beg my kindest
(9-337)remembrances (in which Lady Scott & Anne beg to be
(9-337)included) to the Miss Morritts. I am always yours truly

(9-337)EDINR. 1825. 14 December

WALTER SCOTT

(9-337)I hope my old acquaintance Billie Doo I have not

(9-337)caught the Benedict disorder. I should scarce know
(9-337)Rokeby without him.

[Law]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW

(9-337)MY DEAR WILLIAM,—The money-market in London is
(9-337)in a tremendous state, so much so that, whatever good
(9-337)reason I have, and I have the best, for knowing that
(9-337)Constable and his allies, Hurst and Robinson, are in
(9-337)perfect force, yet I hold it wise and necessary to prepare

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(9-338)myself for making good my engagements, which come
(9-338)back on me suddenly, or by taking up those which I hold
(9-338)good security for. For this purpose I have resolved
(9-338)to exercise my reserved faculty to burden Abbotsford
(9-338)with 8000 or 10,000. I can easily get the money, and
(9-338)having no other debts, and these well secured, I hold it
(9-338)better to "put money in my purse," and be a debtor on
(9-338)my land for a year or two, till the credit of the public is
(9-338)restored. I may not want the money, in which case I
(9-338)will buy into the funds, and make some cash by it. But
(9-338)I think it would be most necessary, and even improper
(9-338)not to be fully prepared.

(9-338)What I want of you is to give me a copy of the rental
(9-338)of Abbotsford, as it now stands, mentioning the actual
(9-338)rents of ground let, and the probable rents of those in
(9-338)my hand. You gave me one last year, but I would
(9-338)rather have the actual rents, and as such business is
(9-338)express, I would have you send it immediately, and keep
(9-338)it all as much within¹ as you think fair and prudent. Your
(9-338)letter need only contain the rental, and you may write

(9-338)your remarks separately. I have not the slightest idea
(9-338)of losing a penny, but the distrust is so great in London
(9-338)that the best houses refuse the best bills of the best
(9-338)tradesmen, and as I have retained such a sum in view of
(9-338)protecting my literary commerce, I think it better to make
(9-338)use of it, and keep my own mind easy, than to carry
(9-338)about bills to unwilling banks, and beg for funds which
(9-338)I can use of my own. I have more than 10,000 to
(9-338)receive before Midsummer, but then I might be put to
(9-338)vexation before that, which I am determined to prevent.

(9-338)By all I can learn, this is just such an embarrassment
(9-338)as may arise when pickpockets cry " Fire ! " in a crowd,
(9-338)and honest men get trampled to death. Thank God, I
(9-338)can clear myself of the melee, and am not afraid of the
(9-338)slightest injury. If the money horizon does not clear

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(9-339)up in a month or two, I will abridge my farming, &c. I
(9-339)cannot find there is any real cause for this ; but an
(9-339)imaginary one will do equal mischief. I need not say
(9-339)this is confidential. Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(9-339)16th December [1825], EDINBURGH

(9-339)The confusion of 1814 is a joke to this. I have no
(9-339)debts of my own. On the contrary, 3000 and more
(9-339)lying out on interest, &c. It is a little hard that, making
(9-339)about 7000 a year, and working hard for it, I should
(9-339)have this botheration. But it arises out of the nature of
(9-339)the same connection which gives, and has given me, a
(9-339)fortune, and therefore I am not entitled to grumble.

[Notanda]

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE

(9-339)MY DEAR SIR,—I have the pleasure to tell you that the
(9-339)dedication of the Miscellany 1 is highly approved of and
(9-339)that you are at liberty to proceed accordingly Yours
(9-339)truly W SCOTT

(9-339)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [20 December 1825]

(9-339)Private
[Stevenson]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, 25 PALL-MALL, LONDON

(9-339)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I had your letter this morning
(9-339)and observe with great pleasure that you are settled or in
(9-339)the act of being so. It is better you have got a good
(9-339)house for there is scarce any thing in London so necessary
(9-339)to comfort and credit. You may scrub in your dinner as
(9-339)much as you please so you have a handsome front in a
(9-339)fashionable part of the town.

(9-339)I observe with very great interest what you say

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(9-340)concerning Tom Moore and Sheridan. It will be one of the
(9-340)most noble opportunities for an opening and leading
(9-340)article which you could have had. You will I know give
(9-340)Tom his full merits and treat him with that sort of
(9-340)liberality which may show that the censure which you
(9-340)bestow arises out of no narrow party feeling but is calld
(9-340)forth by the occasion. I would have you take an opportunity
(9-340)to consider briefly his poetical rank. He may be
(9-340)considerd as reformd in the point of his Erotiques and I
(9-340)would not rake up old sins. There is one especial reason

(9-340)for candour in respect to his merits because in order to
(9-340)blame him (which there is every reason for doing) for
(9-340)lending himself to circulate calumnies respecting the
(9-340)King you must show that you are neither an enemy of
(9-340)genius nor the tool of a party. I am aware that high-flying
(9-340)stories will not be pleased with this. Nevertheless
(9-340)fair pleading is the real way to serve a good cause. If a
(9-340)critic were to begin by treating Moore as a piping singing
(9-340)poet of the boudoir whose works were to be considered
(9-340)as trifles or worse 1 and then to bring a charge of calumny
(9-340)against him [he] would be blending falsehood with truth in
(9-340)such a manner that your argument would lose the benefit
(9-340)of the one without gaining any credit from the other.
(9-340)Every body will be sensible that the frivolity is not proved
(9-340)because the critic cries trifler and will therefore argue that
(9-340)the calumny is as little proved when he cries slander.

(9-340)A critic was of old a glorious name
(9-340)Whose sanction handed merit up to fame
(9-340)Beauties as well as faults he brought to view
(9-340)His judgement great and great his candour too.²

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(9-341)Concerning what you are to have from Sir W[illiam]
(9-341)K[night] I think you should see him yourself. It is a
(9-341)very dangerous and slippery ground and you know what
(9-341)Shakespeare says

(9-341)Two may keep counsel when a third's away.¹

(9-341)The said confidential Baronet is a solemn coxcomb (I
(9-341)think) with more craft than wisdom and what jumble
(9-341)might be made in pouring out information of consequence
(9-341)from such a gallipot into a crackd tumbler like your great
(9-341)publisher no one can say. Sir W. K. knows well enough

(9-341)who you are and you will of course find him accessible
(9-341)should you wish it.

(9-341)All this would probably occur to yourself but old men
(9-341)like neighbour Verges will be talking. I have no doubt
(9-341)all is quite well with the Crafty but the distress in London
(9-341)gave me no small anxiety. Indeed I intend to raise a
(9-341)large sum of money and take out of the market the
(9-341)infernal long-dated Bills which they pay me with. I
(9-341)would not have put them in circulation at all but for
(9-341)building &c. & the expences of Walters commission and
(9-341)fitting forth. I will lose nothing but rather gain for when
(9-341)the bills come to maturity they will pay off the
(9-341)encumbrance and in the mean time I am none the poorer.

(9-341)Constable goes up to town in next week to launch his
(9-341)Miscellany by which I have no doubt he will make a
(9-341)great deal of money.

(9-341)We go to Abbotsford on Saturday.² I could be extremely
(9-341)sorry were [I] to indulge in recollections on the loss of
(9-341)Sophia Johnie & Co

(9-341)But grievings a folly
(9-341)Boys let us be jolly
(9-341)If theres sorrow just now there'll be pleasure once more.

(9-341)I have had two visitations from poor Gillies who is I
(9-341)am sorry to say on his very last legs. He came to me
(9-341)with a long complicated unintelligible plan for raising
(9-341)money by insuring his life and wanted to persuade me

(9-342)that [he] could make 1200 a year by translating from
(9-342)the German. Of course I will be desirous to help him

(9-342)if it is possible but it can neither [be] by lending him
(9-342)money which I neither have to spare nor can afford to
(9-342)lose nor by swallowing absurdities and I suppose he
(9-342)thinks hardly enough of me. If they are to be turnd
(9-342)out and want a little ready that is quite different. He
(9-342)brought Robert Wilson 1 with him who frankly told me
(9-342)his affairs were desperate and that no one could lend
(9-342)money to him with the chance of being reimbursed. It is
(9-342)a most painful business as I ever was connected with.

(9-342)Castor and Pollux being contrary to Astronomical
(9-342)rules in conjunction at the fire bar when I read your
(9-342)letter I missd an important fact videlicet that the Article
(9-342)on Tom Moore is not to be yours. I am very—very sorry
(9-342)for it. I do not like Crokers stile in such things in the
(9-342)least—he is a smart skirmisher but wants altogether the
(9-342)depth of thought and nobleness of mind where the
(9-342)character of a Sovereign is to be treated. If you can get
(9-342)it into your own hands or can modify their article your
(9-342)own way I shall be much better pleased. He blunders
(9-342)about his facts too and in fact will never be more than a
(9-342)very clever confused sort of genius. Take care to keep
(9-342)manuscripts & documents as to every No. so that you can
(9-342)easily lay hands on them.

(9-342)I must relieve you my dear Lockhart. I do not expect
(9-342)long letters but pray let them be frequent. My kindest
(9-342)love to Sophia & dear little Johnie—it will be long before

(9-343)I see him I doubt for I must work hard as any Turk to get
(9-343)Bony afloat—D——n him but I doubt thats done to my
(9-343)hand. What meal does Johnie want for the porridge. I
(9-343)will send it up from Abbotsford. I think it will agree
(9-343)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.¹ 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

(9-344)the sake of the Poet, the man—the artist and my good

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-345)friend Allan who has taken such kind trouble about it.

(9-345)Believe me very sincerely yours

(9-345)EDINR 24 Deer. [Novr.] 1825 WALTER SCOTT

(9-345)My kind compliments to Mr Chantrey if returned to

(9-345)town.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HIS SON WALTER

(9-345)private

(9-345)ABBOTSFORD 24 December 1825

(9-345)MY DEAR WALTER,—I had a most horrible fright last

(9-345)week for the dreadful state of money affairs in London

(9-345)lest Hurst and Robinson Constables great London

(9-345)correspondents should have come to harm for there was

(9-345)no such thing as the best houses getting any acceptances

(9-345)discounted to meet their advances. I knew Hurst to be

(9-345)worth more than a 100,000 but what would that have

(9-345)signified if with all his property he could not have the

(9-345)ready. This must have involved Constable in difficulties

(9-345)and all my bills of which last years various expences made

(9-345)me discount a good many more than I like would have

(9-345)come back on me like a rocket turnd the wrong way. I

(9-345)thought it best to be prepared for the worst and instantly

(9-345)borrowd 10,000 upon my estate to take up whatever

(9-345)bills I was concernd with that might have otherwise

(9-345)distressd me. Constable bustled [ab]out and sent up 12000

(9-345)or 15000 for preserving his own credit. But I believe

(9-345)the wily Yorkshire tyke Hurst made his situation appear

(9-345)more pinched than it was to get as much assistance as he

(9-345)could from Constable. In fact when put to his trumps
(9-345)the honest gentleman shelld out about 30,000 without
(9-345)entering a bankers door so he stands as firm as the Bass
(9-345)and even firmer than he was from his bottom being thus
(9-345)ascertaind. But I was damnably bilious till matters
(9-345)were safe. I have resolved to let the [bond] lie on my

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(9-346)property for two or perhaps three years during which time
(9-346)my bills will come to maturity and I can pay the contents
(9-346)of the bond without going near the money market. As
(9-346)Abbotsford house is all paid you settled and no material
(9-346)claim upon me I think this will be the best way for us all.
(9-346)All engagements I ever made with Constable and his
(9-346)friends have been most honourably acquitted and I have
(9-346)now less doubt of them than ever. But it is better to be
(9-346)my own banker and wait till their bills become due as far
(9-346)as I possibly can than to get too deep in the discount line.
(9-346)I dare say you will approve of this resolution though it
(9-346)will keep me short for a little time and postpone my
(9-346)project of treating with Nicol Milne. I have good
(9-346)security for my bills besides the documents themselves,
(9-346)and betwixt this and next year (1827) I have much more
(9-346)than I can possibly want for my own expences besides
(9-346)what I shall place against the 10,000 borrowd. So if
(9-346)you want a little help to keep you clear of debt I will be
(9-346)able I dare say to assist you with perfect convenience.
(9-346)I am glad to see you have been a good husband of your
(9-346)money it is the road to honour and independence.

(9-346)What you say about the books to the Lady Vice Regent
(9-346)is extremely proper and Mr Ballantyne will have pleasure
(9-346)in attending to it. I suppose he may for such a purpose
(9-346)make free to use Mr Gouldbourns frank.

(9-346)Here is a beautiful day and I am in the Parliament
(9-346)House bound for Abbotsford where this letter is like to be
(9-346)finishd as I intend to write a few lines to Jane. As you
(9-346)said I should mention the mess business to Jane I will
(9-346)explain it though I dare say you will make up the little
(9-346)squabble best yourselves. I do not wonder that she who
(9-346)has been bred so much in quiet and retirement should not

1825

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-347)be aware that a young man must not drop acquaintance
(9-347)with his comrades even though at the expence of a
(9-347)jollyfication occasionally. I must own the [more] seldom you
(9-347)can do so the better but Sahagun is a particular day.
(9-347)You are very bilious and suffer I think more by irregularity
(9-347)than most young men—

(9-347)29 December

(9-347)I had written as far as the above when I had a
(9-347)most unpleasant interruption just as I had laid down
(9-347)my pen and was chatting with Mr Laidlaw—At once
(9-347)it seemd as if a dagger was struck through my right
(9-347)loin affecting me in the most painful manner and in
(9-347)the most sensitive part of the body. I thought the
(9-347)game was up and that it was inflammation of the
(9-347)kidneys but Clarkson rid me of that anxiety when he
(9-347)came, engineerd away and pronounced the disorder a
(9-347)gravellous tendency—a sort of Macadamization of those
(9-347)parts which would be best on their original structure and
(9-347)much exasperated by a disposition to bile against which
(9-347)the state of the Clerks table will not permit me of late to
(9-347)take the necessary precaution by staying at home and
(9-347)taking physic. I have since taken lots of hyosymus and
(9-347)calomel. The pain though dreadfully acute while it
(9-347)lasted was over in twenty four hours. The dispiriting

(9-347)and debi[li]tating effects of the calomel must remain for
(9-347)some time. But there is not the least fear of serious
(9-347)inconvenience at present. It is true such a disease is apt
(9-347)to return. But what then—we must take what God
(9-347)sends us of good or evil and my happiness will be complete
(9-347)when I know you are all well though I cannot enjoy the
(9-347)health and strength of my youth.

(9-347)I have not been quite idle. I have sent a song to Jane
(9-347)which I think dashing enough. If you think it will
(9-347)interest at your head quarters you may give the
(9-347)Marchioness a copy only beg it may not become publick.
(9-347)My letter to Jane will explain al[l] that is necessary to
(9-347)explain the subject of the ditty. I will not say a word to

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1825

(9-348)her about [the] Sahagun dinner and indeed should have
(9-348)done it at any rate with the greatest unwillingness.
(9-348)Married folks little disputes and such must happen
(9-348)untill husbands and wives are angels are always best
(9-348)accomodated among themselves. Poor Janes heart is
(9-348)so sincere and good that one must make considerable
(9-348)allowance for the narrowness of her education.

(9-348)I hope you will be able to come over here some time in
(9-348)winter or spring. There wants something to be done in
(9-348)thinning the woods at Lochore which will improve the
(9-348)plantation save wood for repairing the inclosures and even
(9-348)perhaps put a little money though not much in the Lairds
(9-348)pocket. You will be able best to judge how this can be.

(9-348)We keep a wretched Christmas here. The Scotts [of]
(9-348)Harden came to day but I was not able to sit with them.
(9-348)Harry also calld who is a real honest lad and my favourite
(9-348)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.1 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

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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 1 came & pronounced
(9-349)it [a] gravellous attack in alliance with bile.
(9-349)He engineerd away and after much agony for six [or]

(9-349)seven hours he drove the enemy for the present from the
(9-349)field and I hope it will not return for there are parts of
(9-349)ones body one would [not] willingly have Macadamized.
(9-349)I am quite out of pain this morning but as weak as water
(9-349)between the disease and remedy. I intend to go no
(9-349)where this season except to Huntley Burn.

(9-349)I am quite glad to hear you have got the article on
(9-349)Moore to yourself.² I can hardly conceive a finer subject.
(9-349)I inclose a letter for Sir William Knighton which I think
(9-349)you should use and show him the passages in which the
(9-349)K[ing] is concernd. I hope they will be sure of their
(9-349)facts for it craves wary walking.

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(9-350)I am truly glad Mr Shaw has good hope of little Johnie.
(9-350)I will write Sophia a long letter but am not equal to it
(9-350)today. I inclose however a Jacobite song 1 seven verses
(9-350)of which she may get up if she likes. It is greatly too
(9-350)long. The subject is Dundee breaking off from the
(9-350)Convention in 1688-9. See Dalrymples history. The air
(9-350)is bonnie Dundee—the common words begin

(9-350)Whare gat ye that haver-meal bannock
(9-350)Ye silly blind body and dinna ye see.

(9-350)It is also known by the well known words in the beggars
(9-350)opera

(9-350)The charge is prepared the Judges are met— 2

(9-350)I will set about Pepys the instant I am well that is quite
(9-350)well again. I beg you will order me a copy of Murrays
(9-350)paper. Poor Lydia—She has this that is gallant about
(9-350)her that she has most manfully playd out the part she

(9-350)proposed to herself—has been what she wishd to be—and
(9-350)is dying as she would have liked to have died.³

(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

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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 Rochjacquelins Memoirs 1 with

(9-351)one or two notes. Constable is anxious about this that
(9-351)he may have a specimen of his Miscellany. Better send a
(9-351)proof by post than wait for Blucher as one proof will serve.

(9-351)I hope you are all going on well. Do not dally about
(9-351)setting this up as it may forward Constables views to have
(9-351)it ready. Indeed I think with your own assistance as to
(9-351)style & Mr Hogarths as to the French names & words it
(9-351)might almost do without my seeing it. I hope to be able
(9-351)to work [at] my own work to morrow though Calomel is a
(9-351)bad freind to exertion. Yours truly W SCOTT

[27 December 1825]

[Glen]

TO MISS WEMYSS, 2 CORKE

(9-351)MADAM,—I am honored with your letter and it gives
(9-351)me great pain to say that I do not see in this country any

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(9-352)possibility of advancing your views of publication. There
(9-352)is something more than either goodwill or talent requird
(9-352)to the task of composition it is essentially necessary to the
(9-352)most ordinary degree of success that there should be a
(9-352)certain command of language and facility of expression
(9-352)which, without presuming to say that my fair correspondent
(9-352)is deficient in other and more material qualifications
(9-352)she certainly does not appear to me to have attained in a
(9-352)degree sufficient for venturing before the public, this is
(9-352)one of many instances in which I must feel it painful and
(9-352)offensive perhaps to speak the truth. But what good
(9-352)purpose would my disguising it serve.

(9-352)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)ABBOTTSFORD 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.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(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)ABBOTTSFORD 29 December [1825]

(9-353)Sir James Stuart of Allanbank writes to me that a Dr.
(9-353)Prato a German desires to be introduced to you with a
(9-353)view to do work in the quarterly.² I told him in reply I
(9-353)should mention to you there was such a man—who wrote
(9-353)it is said some Review of Schiller but as for anything
(9-353)approaching to a recommendation to employ him it was
(9-353)what I intended to decline granting in all cases for I think
(9-353)your situation is responsible enough without having the
(9-353)botheration of friends thrusting forward individuals out
(9-353)of benevolence. So if Dr. Prato calls you know how I
(9-353)stand about it.

[Law]

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1825

TO MRS. SCOTT OF HARDEN

(9-354)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I should have only added a
(9-354)stupid landlord to a dull and dismal day for I have still
(9-354)this unpleasant complaint hanging about me which
(9-354)makes me as my friend Will Rose says a kind of wretch.
(9-354)The medicine agrees very ill with me I mean in point of
(9-354)discomfort. So that you have rather had an escape of it.
(9-354)We think we will be obliged to go to town early next week
(9-354)unless I get this shak[i]ness off so that I fear this will be
(9-354)a stupid Christmas & pass off without the pleasure of our
(9-354)seeing each othe[r].

(9-354)Will you tell Mr & Mrs Newenham I have got my
(9-354)freedom from the City of Corke in a very handsome silver
(9-354)box of which I am not a little proud I am Dear Madam
(9-354)Always very truly yours

(9-354)WALTER SCOTT

(9-354)ABBOTSFORD 25 Jany (1) [December 1825]

[Polwarth]

TO MRS SCOTT OF LOCHORE

(9-354)MY DEAR JANE,—You will be sorry I think to learn that
(9-354)the cause of my silence has been sudden and severe
(9-354)indisposition. None of my misfortunes happen like those of
(9-354)any one else for I always break down at the top of my
(9-354)gallop and when I least expect it. So I was in a manner
(9-354)shot dead on Christmas day within half an hour after
(9-354)dinner minced pies in my very throat. The pain was very
(9-354)great but it proves to be what is called a chronick disease
(9-354)which learnd word means I believe it is not a disorder
(9-354)which one immediately dies of but only [one] which if it
(9-354)visits you frequently renders life little worth having. But as
(9-354)our friend Dr. Dickson would say shall we receive good
(9-354)at Gods hand and shall we not receive evil ? If I am a

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-355)bad divine and a worse philosopher I hope I am not
(9-355)ignorant of the advantages I have enjoyd or unreasonably
(9-355)impatient under the increasing infirmities which must
(9-355)attend old age and which in my case have been longer
(9-355)delayd and less severely inflicted than in that of many
(9-355)contemporaries. Besides have I not all of you my dear
(9-355)children loving each other and affectionate to me to
(9-355)comfort me under such circumstances.

(9-355)I hope besides by caution and attention to avert the
(9-355)return of this cruel complaint and though I write out of
(9-355)spirits more than is usual you must my love impute it to
(9-355)the depressing effects of calomel which I have been
(9-355)obliged to take in a quantity which does not agree with
(9-355)me at all.

(9-355)Well but we will talk of something more agreeable.
(9-355)You know among my foibles I am a most incorrigible
(9-355)Jacobite and the other day I lighted on the passage in
(9-355)Baron Dalrymples memoirs of great Britain (not Dalrymple
(9-355)Lord Hailes Annals of Scotland) in which there
(9-355)is a very spirited description of the viscount of Dundee
(9-355)leaving Edinr. to go north to raise the Highlands.¹ He
(9-355)headed you know the clans in the battle of Killiecrankie
(9-355)and died in the moment of gaining a complete victory.
(9-355)My Great Gr. father was with him I believe in his retreat
(9-355)and certainly in the battle in which Dundee fell—and you
(9-355)remember the pictur[e] of old Walter with the Beard
(9-355)which we always look on with a sort of family reverence
(9-355)for he was a staunch old Carle. Well—these things
(9-355)running in my mind and having no spirits for serious
(9-355)business I have thrown off the verses I inclose to the tune
(9-355)of bonnie Dundee. There are three sets of words to the
(9-355)tune. The one is rather free and begins

(9-355)Oh wha hae I burn'd or wha hae I slain
(9-355)Or how hae I done ony Injurie, etc.²

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(9-356)The other is a common song

(9-356)Oh where gat ye that haver-meal bannock
(9-356)Ye silly blind body and dinna ye see
(9-356)I gat it out of the Scots laddie's wallet
(9-356)Atween Saint Johnstoun and bonnie Dundee.

(9-356)The third is in the Beggars Opera

(9-356)The charge is prepared the Judges are met
(9-356)The jury all ranged a terrible show.

(9-356)Under one or other of these heads I think you will find
(9-356)out the tune and I inclose you a beautiful and illigant copy
(9-356)of new words for it. Dont make them public. But if
(9-356)you find that giving a copy to the Marchioness Wellesley
(9-356)or our friends the Cramptons or the Plunkets or in short
(9-356)where you like and where they will think it a kindness
(9-356)you are under no restraint—the meaning is that you
(9-356)should make a compliment where you like it only it is
(9-356)always best to make it a sort of little mystery and favour
(9-356)—no copies to be given and the like. What people think
(9-356)they cannot easily come by they always consider as a
(9-356)compliment though it is not worth having. It requires
(9-356)almost no setting for I who have no ear or almost none for
(9-356)tune have a perfect ear for time and never wrote a verse in
(9-356)my life for a measure with which I was familiar which
(9-356)was not quite adapted to it. You will observe the tune is
(9-356)usually sung like most scotch tunes too slow and as a
(9-356)sort of dirge. It is this which makes scotch musick be
(9-356)thought generally to want spirit whereas by singing a
(9-356)Scotch tune with more spirit you always have the power
(9-356)of giving feeling to pathetic passages by dwelling on and
(9-356)prolonging them.

(9-356)Sir Adam was here and sang the Bonnets with great
(9-356)spirit. I trust I will be able to go to Huntly Burn on
(9-356)next Monday and make him perfect in the melody. What
(9-356)a different season is this Christmas from the last. But
(9-356)each had its advantages and its doubts and perplexities.

(9-357)We will see no one here but the Scotts of Harden and the
(9-357)Fergussons. The former family have Newenhams with
(9-357)them who will be our guests one day next week hoping
(9-357)that I shall please God be able to receive them.

(9-357)I hope Walter and you will get over in Spring. You
(9-357)should look at Lochore with a view of cutting wood
(9-357)which will otherwise be damaged I think and just to let
(9-357)you both take a look of your property and friends her[e].
(9-357)It is now a long time that excepting his pleasant scamper
(9-357)with us through Ireland Walter has not stirrd from his
(9-357)regiment and he surely should have leave in his turn like
(9-357)other folks.

(9-357)We are dull enough here. I am sitting in my little
(9-357)room off the library with Ginger and Spice (you remember
(9-357)them I hope) to keep me company. Nota Bene Spice got
(9-357)into one of the flues of the garden wall to day after a cat
(9-357)and we thought we should have to have opend the wall
(9-357)to get out the little spit fire alive. However she was
(9-357)poked out at last. Then Mama and Anne sit at the other
(9-357)end in the little breakfast parlour poking with their noses
(9-357)over the fire and there is our merry Christmas an'[t]
(9-357)please ye. Mama and Anne desire kindest love and all
(9-357)the happiness of the New year. God bless [you] too says
(9-357)old papa and believe me my dear little body Your most
(9-357)affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

(9-357)ABBOTSFORD 29 December [1825]

(9-357)I have kept this bye me for eight days being willing to
(9-357)add which I can now safely do that I am in the fairest
(9-357)possible train of getting quite well again.

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-357)MY DEAR JAMES,—I have received your melancholy
(9-357)epistle & have sent the notes to London with no certainty

(9-357)however of their being accepted yet with good hopes.

358 LETTERS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT 1825

(9-358)I will also try to get 500 or 600,, here but not upon
(9-358)bill for it is interdicted to all the agents to lay out large
(9-358)sums just now. If I get the money I will send it tomorrow
(9-358)or monday. My remittances in London will come in time
(9-358)for the 5th & 7th and surely if the 10,000 is to come [at]
(9-358)all it must be ready for that time. Constables position is
(9-358)highly uncomfortable. I should mend our own loss with
(9-358)the backing we have but I hope he will be able to make
(9-358)some of the large negotiations he talkd of in London
(9-358)I believe there are too many bills out there Yours truly

(9-358)WALTER SCOTT

(9-358)Lockhart is importunate with me (in an ill hour) for a
(9-358)Review of Pepys Diary. Mine I believe is with John
(9-358)Thomson. I wish [you] could send me per coach that or
(9-358)another.

(9-358)I continue quite well.

(9-358)ABBOTSFORD friday [30th December 1825]
[Glen]

1826 SIR WALTER SCOTT 359

TO GEORGE HOGARTH, W.S., EDINBURGH

(9-359)MY DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 2d I only received this
(9-359)morning for the Bond was returned duly signed. I wrote
(9-359)you a general letter about the burthens not being aware
(9-359)of the nature of that which you mentiond in yours of the
(9-359)Second.

(9-359)I have no objection to clear away Mosses Bond 1 at
(9-359)Whitsunday and it was part of my own plan to do so. But if
(9-359)Miss Fergusson's 2 are feudally secured which you will
(9-359)know by this time it will be impossible for me to clear
(9-359)them off sooner than at Martinmas 1826 or Whitsunday
(9-359)1827. You will know by the search whether this is the
(9-359)case or not. I mentiond in my former letter that I meant
(9-359)to pay the Mosses Bond over Kaeside at Martinmas but I
(9-359)can do it at Whitsunday quite as well & will trust myself

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LETTERS OF

1826

(9-360)to do so on receiving your answer by granting such a
(9-360)Missive to Mr Dunlop's purposes. I am almost positive
(9-360)there is no other heritable debt on the property save
(9-360)Mosses. A post or two will be lost by these matters but
(9-360)that is of no importance at present.

(9-360)The property has cost me more than 50,000 and it
(9-360)agrees as well with my own purpose as with Mr Dunlop's
(9-360)wish that it should not be burthened beyond the extent
(9-360)of 10,000.

(9-360)I should have been glad to have seen you here but hope
(9-360)that for another time I am Dear Sir—Yours truly

(9-360)WALTER SCOTT

(9-360)ABBOTSFORD 4 January [1826]

(9-360)Laidlaw I find does not return from Yarrow till friday
(9-360)or Saturday night. The rental shall be sent instantly on
(9-360)his return. After all I think it as well to inclose a Missive
(9-360)if you think the farm will answer—if not I can send a more
(9-360)special one when I see the burthens which actually exist.

[Signet Library]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE, PRINTER, HERRIOT ROW, EDINBURGH

(9-360)DEAR JAMES,—Congratulating you sincerely on mended
(9-360)prospects I send you the Cheque for 1450 produce of
(9-360)two of Constables notes pay[a]ble 24/27 feby and 24/27
(9-360)March which I have markd payable @ Coutts so you will
(9-360)enter them accordingly.

(9-360)As for Constables people I cannot but think they are
(9-360)sound at bottom and that we run little danger from such
(9-360)temporary assistance as I mentiond in my last. If they
(9-360)do not help the presses henceforward they will be very
(9-360)thankless.

(9-360)A letter of Hogarth was delayd for a day which postpones
(9-360)the loan I should think for this week. But that is
(9-360)now of less consequence. I am always truly yours

(9-360)WALTER SCOTT

(9-360)Thursday morning [5th January 1826]

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-361)It may not be quite politic to let Cadell know quite the
(9-361)extent of your resources lest he should be for laying too
(9-361)much weight on [them?].

[Glen]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-361)MY DEAR JAMES,—I am much obliged by your printers
(9-361)letter. You must be aware circumstances have not been

(9-361)too favourable for my work of composition. But I will
(9-361)look over with care the copy and try to attend to your
(9-361)criticisms.

(9-361)In respect of your assisting our friends in Princes
(9-361)Street I am clearly of opinion you should do so as far as
(9-361)can be done without really endangering yourselves. I
(9-361)have no doubt of Constables bottom though he I dare say
(9-361)& know has traded too deep. But I have large sums of
(9-361)money in advance from them. I have besides valuable
(9-361)securities over my own copy rights and have every interest in
(9-361)helping them as far as possible. You will understand
(9-361)that supposing you have 3000 or by successful discounts
(9-361)4000 or so clear for february still in the humour of the
(9-361)banks that may not be more than enough to carry us
(9-361)through & March I see is heavy. Cadell must therefore
(9-361)see that we cannot discount bills or afford permanent
(9-361)assistance with ordinary safety to ourselves. Advancing
(9-361)sums to meet present exigencies to be repaid at a
(9-361)time certain is different—We have seen ourselves how
(9-361)much things turn on a pivot and therefore on a pinch
(9-361)you should give them all reasonable assistance. In short
(9-361)Cadell should speak plainly out with the assurance that
(9-361)we regard their interest as next to ours but yet must for
(9-361)their sakes and our own take care of our own honour.
(9-361)This is a difficult negotiation I am aware but still you
(9-361)must encounter it with all its difficulty which if you see
(9-361)perfect confidence on Mr Cadells part will not I think
(9-361)be hazardous in the long run. I burthend my estate with

(9-362)the purpose of relieving in the first place our own
(9-362)difficulties and therefore what you do must be in the way of
(9-362)temporary loan which I think we should not deny them.
(9-362)I have great confidence in Constables making some

(9-362)substantial arrangement in London by the means he
(9-362)proposed and we must try to keep them up till that is
(9-362)done. From tomorrow I give my whole time to Woodstock
(9-362)and you working hard at the presses I trust it will be
(9-362)a mine to all of us—Speak to Cadell when he applies to
(9-362)you with perfect openness it is the best for all parties for
(9-362)if he thinks as he must do justly for himself exhausting
(9-362)our resources will not do them any good but great harm.
(9-362)On the other hand it must be considered that having
(9-362)already advanced 5000 our resources must be held ready
(9-362)for our own purposes and though we will with pleasure
(9-362)impart aid when we can yet in these times Mr Cadell will
(9-362)see that we must preserve the means of answering our
(9-362)own too numerous demands. Most of these affect them
(9-362)as well as us and he must see that reducing our mutual
(9-362)acceptances is serving them as well as us. Where
(9-362)a doubt occurs say you must refer to me. Assistance
(9-362)for days or weeks calculated to suit our own
(9-362)exigencies may be granted but we have it not in our
(9-362)power to place for a length of time any part of our
(9-362)disposeable capital at their command [as it] is not in our
(9-362)power with justice to our own engagements—I should
(9-362)be glad if we could do more but being out of our power
(9-362)the same answer must satisfy them which during the last
(9-362)anxious week they have been obliged to apply to us. This
(9-362)is the course of business and common sense and no man
(9-362)understands both better than our friend Cadell.

(9-362)Your expected balance will also be abated by your
(9-362)paying Dunlop and Hogarth which must be done
(9-362)handsomely when you get the cash.

(9-362)I expect an answer from Courts tonight but I fear I shall
(9-362)only get it in time for post tomorrow I will try though if
(9-362)the cash comes to forward you the drat. tonight.

(9-363)I have little more to say except that I hope some of the
 (9-363)chances of this world may fling in my way a chance of
 (9-363)returning Mr Hogarths kindness. I remain very truly
 (9-363)yours
 WALTER SCOTT

(9-363)You will send the Bond to Hogarth immediatly.

(9-363)5th January Wednesday [1826]

(9-363)I highly approve of your way of managing with the
 (9-363)Banks.
 [Stevenson]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-363)The omitted word is " Merovingian " dynasty.

(9-363)DEAR JAMES,—I have your refreshing letter. I really
 (9-363)think nothing serious can occur now—" Especially as for the
 (9-363)end of February & March W[oodstock] 3000 must be forward "
 (9-363)besides that I can get after the present encumbrances are
 (9-363)cleared off all reasonable accomodation [for] both at Coutts.
 (9-363)No man could have been a stouter and better helmsman
 (9-363)than you have shown yourself on this occasion. I am
 (9-363)sorry for Constables absurdities yet Cadel & he will not I
 (9-363)think part. It is too good a business.

(9-363)I did not care to tell you that I have been very
 (9-363)uncomfortable. The hyasymus which I was obliged to take
 (9-363)for the gravel deranged me a good deal and I believe was
 (9-363)the cause of some of the inaccuracies of the copy for one
 (9-363)day I could neither write nor spell. This is over thank
 (9-363)God and I would be quite well did the weather allow of
 (9-363)my taking exercize but it is deep snow. I return the

(9-363)proofs & copy for Woodstock. I hope they will not smack
(9-363)of the Apoplexy. Copy for W[oodstoc]k by next Blucher.
(9-363)Continue to say how Cadell goes on. I am going to take
(9-363)the hill spite of the snow Yours truly

(9-363)[5th or 6th January 1826](1) W. S.
[Walpole]

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TO [JAMES BALLANTYNE]

(9-364)DEAR JAMES,—I received your letter which makes our
(9-364)things thus far and no farther inconvenient [than] that
(9-364)perhaps Mr Dunlop may abridge us of 3000 in order to clear
(9-364)off at Whitsunday the burthens to that extent. I hope
(9-364)however you will get the full 10,000,.. I am glad you did
(9-364)not come today as it has all the aspect of a storm. You
(9-364)would get my 1450.

(9-364)I send some copy, I have been indifferent well. Our
(9-364)loan must be in some degree forestalld but if with
(9-364)reasonable assistance from banks it can clear february when
(9-364)things will get better, I am resolved to have Woodstock
(9-364)out & besides can assist materially in March. A little time
(9-364)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
(9-364)of the Advocate would not do. Constables behaviour is
(9-364)very strange.

(9-364)Only part of the copy sent has been transcribed. I send
(9-364)all that is done.

[Glen]

TO MAJOR WALTER SCOTT, CHICHESTER

(9-364)MY DEAR WALTER,—I have kept the inclosed by me for
(9-364)more than a week during which I have had very tight
(9-364)attacks of bile with a gravellous tendency and the snow
(9-364)has prevented me from taking exercise which would do
(9-364)me good. It has however worn off of its own accord and
(9-364)I am now quite well again but must take care of myself.
(9-364)The Corke box is arrived very handsome. I inclose my
(9-364)letter of thanks which also I thank [you] to get frankd
(9-364)with its proper titles which the Irish Almanack will give
(9-364)you. The Gentlemans name is Wryon I think but I
(9-364)cannot make out whether he is recorder or Mayor and

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-365)must trust you to put that to rights. All are well here the
(9-365)Skenes living with us otherwise very quiet. I expect
(9-365)Matthews on Monday 1 and will bring over the Huntley
(9-365)Burnites to share the treat. All well dear boy and join in
(9-365)kindest love. Always with every kind and affectionate
(9-365)wish of the season to Jane and you Your affectionate
(9-365)father
(9-365)ABBOTSF.D. 7 January 1826

WALTER SCOTT

(9-365)I will een beg a frank for Mr Gouldbourne 2 for this
(9-365)packet as you belong to the family.

[Law]

TO JOHN NICHOLAS WRIXON, MAYOR OF CORK

(9-365)SIR,—I am honoured with your letter, transferring to
(9-365)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

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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

(9-366)containing the melancholy notice of our good aunt, Mrs
(9-366)Curle's death, which comes not unexpected, and is so far
(9-366)happy that it has come easily. I have been under the
(9-366)charge of Dr Clarkson, of Melrose, lately for a very
(9-366)painful complaint, which he thinks will be rendered
(9-366)worse by travelling in this rigorous season, so that I am

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-367)unwillingly prevented from attending on to-morrow's
(9-367)melancholy ceremony. I had intended to be there so
(9-367)late as yesterday, & had written to make an appointment
(9-367)with our Cousin Maxpapple, for that purpose, but I find
(9-367)it would really be unsafe, as I was obliged to take calomel
(9-367)last night. I beg my kind respects to the friends who may
(9-367)meet on this occasion, and particularly to your sister &
(9-367)brothers. I am always my dear Cousin, Very truly yours,

(9-367)WALTER SCOTT

(9-367)ABBOTSFORD, Monday [9th January 1826]

[Charles Scott]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-367)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I have both your packets.
(9-367)Pash in Scotch undoubtedly signifies head especially the
(9-367)head of a large dog or calf. My muckle pash. I will make
(9-367)the entry on the proof.

(9-367)I have been quite well since my attack only for some
(9-367)time very down-hearted with the calomel another nasty
(9-367)stuff they call hyasymus—and to say truth the silence of
(9-367)my own household which used to be so merry at this time.
(9-367)Latterly we had a visit from the Skenes—Mathews and
(9-367)his son and Scrope 1 —they all left us on friday.

(9-367)I inclose the article on Pepys. It is totally uncorrected
(9-367)so I wish of course much to see it in proof if possible as
(9-367)it must be dreadfully] inaccurate—the opiate was busy
(9-367)with my brain when the beginning was written and as
(9-367)Jas. Ballantyne complaind dreadfully so will your printer
(9-367)I doubt. The subject is like a good sirloin which requires
(9-367)only to be basted with its own drippings. I had little
(9-367)trouble of research or reference. Perhaps I have made it
(9-367)too long or introduced too many extracts—if so use the

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LETTERS OF

1826

(9-368)pruning knife hedge-bill or axe ad libitum. You know
(9-368)I do not care a curse about what I write or what becomes
(9-368)of it.

(9-368)I thought it right to give Sophia a little paternal
(9-368)caution about engaging again with a pet docto[r] which
(9-368)next to a pet parson is an abomination. The one would
(9-368)have you believe you cannot preserve your health the
(9-368)other that you cannot save your soul without his assistance
(9-368)and yet folks die and are damnd all the same or perhaps
(9-368)somewhat the sooner. Besides if she adopts Fergusson
(9-368)she is to consider that he is a young gay man and in the
(9-368)ensorious world where you now live he cannot properly
(9-368)come in the place which Ross used to hold in her estimation.
(9-368)I think this doctor-loving is Sophias most markd
(9-368)foible. I have told her so and now you must look to it a
(9-368)little yourself, both on your account and hers.

(9-368)Here has been bitter weather. The thermometer was
(9-368)yesterday at 8 1/2 at ten A.M. and today at twelve. It has
(9-368)been always good for walking however so I yoked
(9-368)myself so to speak to Tom Purdie and he dragd me by
(9-368)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 Chiefswood 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

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(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.

(9-369)Mr Hogarth who manages the matters of Ballantyne
(9-369)& Co/ and knows the whole affairs personally will explain
(9-369)them to you Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(9-369)ABBOTSFORD [Edinburgh] Tuesday 17 January 1826.
[Walpole]

TO J. G. LOCKHART 2

[Private]

(9-369)Postmark : Jan 20, 1826

(9-369)My DEAR LOCKHART,—I have your kind letter:
(9-369)whenever I heard that Constable had made a Cessio fori
(9-369)by dishonouring a bill of mine I thought it became me to
(9-369)make public how far I was or was not concernd in these
(9-369)matters and to offer my fortune so far as it was prestable
(9-369)and the completion of my literary engagements the better
(9-369)thing almost of the two to make good engagements for
(9-369)myself and Ballantyne & Go and even supposing that

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LETTERS OF

1806

(9-370)Constable & Co/ and Hurst & Robinson do not repay
(9-370)me a penny of upwards of 30,000 which they owe me
(9-370)or which I must pay for them my old age will be far
(9-370)from destitute and my family not ill provided for even if
(9-370)my right hand should lose its cunning. This is the very
(9-370)worst that can befall me. But I have little doubt that
(9-370)with ordinary management their affairs will turn out
(9-370)favourably if they are left under their own management
(9-370)and brought to market quietly. It is needless to add that
(9-370)I will not engage myself either for 20,000 or 2000 or
(9-370)200,,1 I have advanced enough already to pay other
(9-370)folks debts and will pay my own while I have the ample

(9-370)means. If our friend Constable had set out a fortnight
(9-370)earlier for London nothing of this would have happend
(9-370)but he let the hour of distress precede the hour of
(9-370)provision and he and others must pay for it. Yet do not hint
(9-370)this to him poor fellow it is an infirmity of nature.

(9-370)I have made my matters public and have had splendid
(9-370)offers of assistance all of which I have declined for I
(9-370)would rather bear my own burthen than subject myself to
(9-370)obligation or ask the assistance of friends. There is but
(9-370)one way in such cases.

(9-370)You will of course see I have taken my ground which
(9-370)is to put my affairs for the present into the hands of John
(9-370)Gibson till they are redd out. I have the means to lay
(9-370)down 15000 which but for circumstances should have
(9-370)been twenty thousand which J. B. and I had prepared if
(9-370)these two great houses could have carried on their own
(9-370)concerns.

(9-370)It is easy no doubt for any friend to blame me for

(9-371)entering into connexion in commercial matters at all.
(9-371)But I wish to know what I could have done better in 1806
(9-371)excluded from the bar by my being a clerk of Session and
(9-371)deprived of all emolument for six years by my colleagues
(9-371)prolonged life. Literature was not then what poor
(9-371)Constable has made it and with my little capital of 2000
(9-371)or 2500 of principal I was too glad to make
(9-371)commercially the means of supporting my family. I got
(9-371)600 for the Lay of the Last Minstrel and (a price which
(9-371)made mens hairs stand on end)1 1000 for Marmion.
(9-371)I have been far from suffering by Ballantyne. I owe it
(9-371)to him to say that his difficulties are owing to me—to be

(9-371)sure so are his advantages which will greatly predominate.²

(9-371)I trusted too much to Constables 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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1826

(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)seemd 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 1 Love to Sophia and tell her to study the song 2

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-373)and keep her spirits up. Tyne 1 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.

(9-373)I had a letter from Constable last night 2 which as it
(9-373)came open I presume you saw. He seems to cling to his
(9-373)London scheme which so far as I am concernd cannot be
(9-373)executed I am Dear Sir Very truly yours

(9-373)WALTER SCOTT

(9-373)CASTLE STREET, Saturday [21st January 1826]

[Stevenson]

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LETTERS OF

1826

TO ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE, OSBORNES HOTEL, LONDON

(9-374)MY DEAR CONSTABLE,—I received yours and am truly
(9-374)glad to see you can sustain your Spirits under these
(9-374)calamities so unexpected when we last parted. I trust
(9-374)Messrs Hurst & Robinson will find the means of going on.
(9-374)With respect to myself whenever the secrecy of the matter
(9-374)was ended and I was obliged to consult my friends & ask
(9-374)for time all that I would have wishd to have conceald
(9-374)was made known and therefore I will make no further
(9-374)struggle as it would serve no purpose but to render
(9-374)uncertain my personal funds & make me perhaps an
(9-374)insolvent instead of an indebted person—From what I hear
(9-374)they are about to Sequestrate Constable & Co and will
(9-374)certainly do so unless you can come down & show them
(9-374)from your experience that their interest lies a different
(9-374)way. I am clear that a good trustee & time might save
(9-374)much money to the creditors & that an accomptant who
(9-374)will throw all into the market will suit the interest of all
(9-374)parties better.1 Or you might be able to assure them a
(9-374)good composition. At any rate I fear your interest
(9-374)now lies here rather than in London & that do Hurst &

(9-374)Robinson what they like the Princes Street Establishment
(9-374)will be destroyed 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 SCOTT

(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

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TO JAMES SKENE OF RUBISLAW

(9-375)DEAR SKENE,—If you are disposed for a walk in your
(9-375)gardens 1 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
(9-375)Pringles appointment.² Pray lose no time in attending
(9-375)to what Mrs Coutts letter directs. Let me know the wish
(9-375)you have about his settlement and I will get the matter
(9-375)settled without delay. The most unhappy and unexpected
(9-375)failure of Constable which will to a certain degree
(9-375)involve poor Ballantyne will make me a great loser but
(9-375)I have been a great gainer also and I must be patient
(9-375)live at less expense and work harder. Doing so two or
(9-375)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
(9-375)I have still the means to succour my friends. Yours truly
(9-375)WALTER SCOTT

(9-375)CASTLE STREET 23 January 1826

(9-375)You sent me an attestation of age &c. Better send
(9-375)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
(9-376)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
(9-376)from yours by the carrier I see my letter has not reached

(9-376)you. It does not much signify, as it was not, and could
(9-376)not be, of any great consequence until I see how these
(9-376)untoward matters are to turn up. Of course, everything
(9-376)will depend on the way the funds of the great house in
(9-376)London, and those of Constable here, shall turn out.
(9-376)Were they to be ultimately good, or near it, this would
(9-376)pass over my head with little inconvenience. But I
(9-376)think it better to take the worst point of view, and suppose
(9-376)that I do not recover from them above five shillings in the
(9-376)pound ; and even in that case, I am able to make a
(9-376)proposal to my creditors, that if they allow me to put my
(9-376)affairs into the hands of a private trustee, or trustees,
(9-376)and finish the literary engagements I have on hand, there
(9-376)is no great chance of their being ultimate losers. This is
(9-376)the course I should chuse. But if they wish rather to
(9-376)do what they can for themselves, they will, in that case,
(9-376)give me a great deal of pain, and make a great deal less
(9-376)of the funds. For, it is needless to say, that no security
(9-376)can make a man write books, and upon my doing so—
(9-376)I mean completing those on hand—depends the instant
(9-376)payment of a large sum. I have no reason to apprehend
(9-376)that any of the parties concerned are blind to their
(9-376)interest in this matter. I have had messages from all
(9-376)the banks, &c., offering what assistance they could give,
(9-376)so that I think my offer will be accepted. Indeed, as
(9-376)they cannot sell Abbotsford, owing to its being settled in
(9-376)Walter's marriage contract, there can be little doubt they
(9-376)will adopt the only way which promises, with a little time,

(9-377)to give them full payment, and my life may, in the
(9-377)meanwhile, be insured. My present occupations completed,
(9-377)will enable me to lay down, in the course of the
(9-377)summer, at least 20,000 of good cash, which, if things
(9-377)had remained sound among the booksellers, would have

(9-377)put me on velvet.

(9-377)The probable result being that we must be accommodated
(9-377)with the delay necessary, our plan is to sell the
(9-377)house and furniture in Castle Street, and Lady S. and
(9-377)Anne to come to Abbotsford, with a view of (economizing,
(9-377)while I take lodgings in Edinburgh, and work hard till
(9-377)the Session permits me to come out. All our farming
(9-377)operations must, of course, be stopped so soon as they can
(9-377)with least possible loss, and stock, &c., disposed of. In
(9-377)short, everything must be done to avoid outlay. At the
(9-377)same time, there can be no want of comfort. I must
(9-377)keep Peter and the horses for Lady Scott's sake, though
(9-377)I make sacrifices in my own [case]. Bogie, I think, we
(9-377)will also keep, but we must sell the produce of the garden.
(9-377)As for Tom, he and I go to the grave together. All idle
(9-377)horses, &c., must be dispensed with.

(9-377)For you, my dear friend, we must part—that is, as
(9-377)laird and factor—and it rejoices me to think that your
(9-377)patience and endurance, which set me so good an
(9-377)example, are like to bring round better days. You never
(9-377)flattered my prosperity, and in my adversity it is not the
(9-377)least painful consideration that I cannot any longer be
(9-377)useful to you. But Kaeside, I hope, will still be your
(9-377)residence ; and I will have the advantage of your company
(9-377)and advice, and probably your services as amanuensis.
(9-377)Observe, I am not in indigence, though no longer in
(9-377)affluence ; and if I am to exert myself in the common
(9-377)behalf, I must have honourable and easy means of life,
(9-377)although it will be my inclination to observe the most
(9-377)strict privacy, both to save expense and also time ; nor do
(9-377)we propose to see any one but yourself and the Fergusons.

(9-377)I will be obliged to you to think over all these matters ;

(9-378)also whether anything could be done in leasing the saw-
(9-378)mill, or Swanston working it for the public. I should
(9-378)like to keep him if I could. I imagine they must leave
(9-378)me my official income, which, indeed, is not liable to be
(9-378)attached. That will be 1600 a year, but there is
(9-378)Charles's College expenses come to 300 at least. I can
(9-378)add, however, 200 or 300 without interrupting serious
(9-378)work. Three or four years of my favour with the publick,
(9-378)if my health and life permit, will make me better off than
(9-378)ever I have been in my life. I hope it will not
(9-378)inconvenience the Miss Smiths to be out of their money for a
(9-378)little while. It is a most unexpected chance on my part.

(9-378)All that I have said is for your consideration and
(9-378)making up your mind, for nothing can be certain till we
(9-378)hear what the persons principally concerned please to
(9-378)say. But then, if they accede to the trust, we will expect
(9-378)to have the pleasure of seeing you here with a list of stock
(9-378)and a scheme of what you think best to be done. My
(9-378)purpose is that everything shall be paid ready money
(9-378)from week to week.

(9-378)I have 180 to send to you, and it is in my hands. Of
(9-378)course it will be paid, but I am unwilling to send it until
(9-378)I know the exact footing on which I am to stand. The
(9-378)gentleman whom I wish should be my trustee—or one of
(9-378)them—is John Gibson, W.S., the Duke's factor.

(9-378)Lady Scott's spirits were affected at first, but she is
(9-378)getting better. For myself, I feel like the Eildon Hills—
(9-378)quite firm, though a little cloudy. I do not dislike the
(9-378)path which lies before me. I have seen all that society
(9-378)can shew, and enjoyed all that wealth can give me, and
(9-378)I am satisfied much is vanity, if not vexation of spirit.

(9-378)What can I say more except that I will write to you the
(9-378)instant I know what is to be done. In the mean time it
(9-378)is only necessary to say I am arranging my affairs, and
(9-378)mean to economise a good deal, and I will pay every man
(9-378)his due. I have not forgot Toms 50.—Yours truly,

(9-378)[Ballantyne and Notanda]

WALTER SCOTT

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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26 4 o'clock.

(9-379)I have the pleasure to say that at a great meeting
(9-379)of the people chiefly concernd it was resolved that the
(9-379)matters should be conducted by a private trust and on
(9-379)the principles I had proposed. Sir William Forbes took
(9-379)the Chair and behaved like himself.

[Ballantyne]

TO CAPTAIN WALTER SCOTT, STEVENS GREEN, DUBLIN

[PM. 26 Jan 1826]

(9-379)DEAR WALTER,—I am truly sorry to write what will
(9-379)give you pain to read but an event has taken place which
(9-379)in a worldly point of view has carried away a most
(9-379)serious proportion of my worldly goods.² This is the
(9-379)sudden and most unexpected Bankruptcy of Constable
(9-379)and Company here and their Agents and correspondents
(9-379)Hurst and Robinson in London both within these three
(9-379)weeks accounted the largest houses in London and Edinburgh
(9-379)and the most safe. They had in their hands many
(9-379)engagements of mine for which I had wrought hard and
(9-379)will now not only not get a farthing but be obliged to
(9-379)pay back the cash I have received. How their affairs

(9-379)will turn out is uncertain but I look to be a great loser
(9-379)and may perhaps be so further than I at present calculate.
(9-379)It is hard at my hour of life. But as every body here is
(9-379)inclined to give me time I must hope that I will make a
(9-379)good fight. I am not afraid of any body losing a penny
(9-379)and I trust with good management I may even save my
(9-379)land though it will be by reducing my scale of expence
(9-379)very much. But I would give up much rather than part
(9-379)with Abbotsford and as Janes provisions are safely

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LETTERS OF

1826

(9-380)secured on and I have some funds to bring almost [sic]
(9-380)I think what has cost me so much money may be saved
(9-380)to you and yours. At least I will make a gallant fight.
(9-380)I was loth to write you these unpleasing tidings till I
(9-380)could say something certain but I cannot now stay
(9-380)longer. It is cruel to think that a little arrangement
(9-380)might have prevented all this. I urged Constable to go
(9-380)to London a month since and get cash which he easily
(9-380)could then have done to meet his engagements but he
(9-380)lingerd here till it was too late 1 then went post and to no
(9-380)purpose. Jeffrey has also lost a great deal I am told.
(9-380)But I shall be the greater sufferer have left bonds in their
(9-380)hands which should have been paid off by them many
(9-380)years since but which not very fairly they kept up paying
(9-380)the interest regularly so that I never knew of their
(9-380)existence.

(9-380)Mama and Anne are as you may [have] supposed
(9-380)distressd enough. I had so little idea of wanting money
(9-380)for my own purposes that I had been lending it for the
(9-380)relief of others. Many resources remain however if I
(9-380)live and keep in good health and to live a little more
(9-380)tranquil and private will relieve me of a great plague of
(9-380)company as well as expence. If it were not for the Court

(9-380)of Session I could go abroad for a year or two for it will
(9-380)be awkward living at Abbotsford like mice under a firlot
(9-380)as we must do for two years at the very least.

(9-380)You will probably blame me in this matter for remissness
(9-380)and certainly I do not mean entirely to exculpate
(9-380)myself. But for many years I had made many thousand

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-381)pounds through this house was honestly treated by them
(9-381)and therefore was induced certainly to leave a great deal
(9-381)too much money at their disposal. My own affairs were
(9-381)in good order and I had borrowd as I informd you a
(9-381)large sum to meet any pressing contingencies greater part
(9-381)of which they contrived to get hold of as I was obliged
(9-381)to support their credit if possible rather than [sic]. My
(9-381)spirits are unshaken by this misfortune. I am working
(9-381)away and luckily have in my own hands the price of my
(9-381)present labour. I will thus if the public do not throw
(9-381)me off have a very large sum to assist me in the necessary
(9-381)payments and to induce those who have other claims to
(9-381)have patience. All the monied people concernd have
(9-381)offerd me the greatest civilities but a little patience is all
(9-381)I shall ask and in two or three years please God I will be
(9-381)my own man again unless Constables affairs turn out
(9-381)dreadful indeed. I have put my affairs entirely into
(9-381)Mr John Gibsons hands and shall not meddle further
(9-381)than to supply the cash for clearing them out as fast as
(9-381)I can.

(9-381)My Love to poor Jane. This will put an end to the
(9-381)petits cadeaux for some time but good days will come
(9-381)back. She will of course understand that all her jointure
(9-381)&c are quite secure and cannot be affected by my mishap.
(9-381)I will write to you when I can say any thing more certain.

(9-381)You will be poorer at my death perhaps and perhaps not
(9-381)for if any thing can make me a miser this luckless mishap
(9-381)will.

(9-381)Adieu. I am sorry to tell you these news. But let
(9-381)not your heart be cast down for the loss of worlds gear
(9-381)while I remain to replace what is lost. It is as well after
(9-381)all (supposing them to fail at last) that it has happend
(9-381)now for very large sums coming in for my two next
(9-381)books have thus been kept out of their clutches. Always
(9-381)in comfort or discomfort your affectionate father

(9-381)WALTER SCOTT

(9-381)I have declined assistance from every one being determined

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1826

(9-382)to work myself out of the scrape as I got into it.
(9-382)I have your letter and Janes. I suppose you will not
(9-382)expect a gay answer at present.

[Law]

TO JAMES SKENE

[26th January 1826]

(9-382)MY DEAR SKENE,—A thousand thanks for your most kind
(9-382)proposal.¹ But I am a solitary monster by temper, and
(9-382)must necessarily couch in a den of my own. I should
(9-382)not, I assure you, have made any ceremony in accepting
(9-382)your offer had it at all been like to suit me.

(9-382)But I must make an arrangement which is to last for
(9-382)years, and perhaps for my lifetime ; therefore the sooner

(9-382)I place myself on my footing it will be so much the better.

(9-382)—Always, dear Skene, your obliged and faithful,

(9-382)W. SCOTT

[Skene- Tytler and Journal]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-382)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I write immediatly to thank

(9-382)you for your kind letter just received. I can say very

(9-382)little about our affairs but look for Constable turning

(9-382)out as bad as possible. Such at least is the rumour

(9-382)whether exaggerated that they may transact with their

(9-382)creditors or sincere I know not. Cadell told me their

(9-382)gross profits were repeatedly 10,000 a year but with

(9-382)many drawbacks and complains that Constable overdrew

(9-382)while he himself lived at 500 a year. Cadell

(9-382)would not let me know what his determination was.

(9-382)Constable showd an eager desire to go on if possible.

(9-382)My countenance is indisensible if they do go on so I

(9-382)may find an opportunity of hedging some of my losses

(9-382)which at all events will be very large. Abbotsford

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-383)cannot be brought to sale being hamperd with Walters

(9-383)contract of marriage. What the parties concernd will

(9-383)do I know not. If they permit me to pay my debts by a

(9-383)private trust I can bring large funds into the market which

(9-383)judging from what has been the case before must realize

(9-383) 20,000 and upwards in a few months—if they chuse to

(9-383)proceed by legal measures I will take my legal defences

(9-383)for I will involve no friend in my loss. They cannot in

(9-383)that case expect me to write books for them. In a

(9-383)commercial point of view the latter proceeding would be

(9-383)far most adviseable for me but according to my own

(9-383)feelings unutterably repugnant so I shall pray them to

(9-383)take full payment as if I were asking a favour.

(9-383)Our little schemes are partially formd. Lady S. and
(9-383)Anne intend to go to Abbotsford and I am to lett or sell
(9-383)this house 1 and get lodgings at the Albyn Club or some
(9-383)genteel privacy as Bobadil says for I calculate I will be
(9-383)no visitor and little visited. What a relief it would have
(9-383)been to have had one of your Attics and to have seen
(9-383)affectionate faces at my daily meal which must now be
(9-383)solitary enough. But this is the only plan I can think of
(9-383)to secure Lady S. some of the comforts which habit has
(9-383)renderd necessaries and indifferent health clings to as
(9-383)such.

(9-383)About the real extent of my loss it is impossible to
(9-383)calculate till we see what Constable will pay and what
(9-383)security my copy rights &c give me over him. I look
(9-383)on the concern as a very bad one and would at present
(9-383)be glad of 5/ in the pound. Constable is trying to get
(9-383)things afloat but I doubt his finding support. I have no
(9-383)hesitation to say in your ear (for the letting out such a
(9-383)thing would do infinite prejudice) that with all his great
(9-383)profits sometimes up to 10,000 gross in the year I shall
(9-383)not be surprized to find they have never recoverd the
(9-383)draughts which Hunters 2 trustees made on their stock.
(9-383)Still it is a mystery—for they never sustaind any loss of

(9-384)consequence and Cadell brought in a large sum of money.
(9-384)He and Constable are at daggers drawing and recriminate
(9-384)bitterly on each other.

(9-384)As for myself I look with perfect firmness and calmness
(9-384)on the life before me and though I have no delight in the
(9-384)circumstances which have led me to adopt it yet in respect

(9-384)of the life itself I like it well. 1 I shall get rid of company
(9-384)of every kind from Dukes to canvas daubers for when the
(9-384)kitchen and cellar fail there will and shall be an end of
(9-384)the hospitalities of Abbotsford against which I make my
(9-384)determinations at any rate. I will see the dispersed
(9-384)members of my family sometimes and I have two of them
(9-384)with me for seven months in the year. I will neither give
(9-384)nor take invitations of any kind and withdraw myself
(9-384)from public places entirely as you know I rarely frequent
(9-384)them.

(9-384)I shall have Abbotsford to walk about Tom 2 to lead me
(9-384)and a poney to carry me. We will keep Pepi 3 and the
(9-384)old horses if by any sacrifice it is possible and study must
(9-384)be at once my amusement and my business as indeed it
(9-384)has always been. For I never knew the day that I would
(9-384)have given up literature for ten times my late income.
(9-384)The success of my efforts I must consider as more
(9-384)precarious than my friends are willing to admit. The public
(9-384)are apt to desert folks when their back is at the wall—
(9-384)If I succeed in my labours I shall in time recover all that
(9-384)I have lost—if not bread I shall eat or white or brown
(9-384)and I trust will at least leave no debt behind me. Ill
(9-384)health may also follow ill fortune but that I do not
(9-384)greatly apprehend my constitution is so good. I will let
(9-384)you know the instant the Creditors have settled on their
(9-384)line of conduct.

(9-384)I wish Sophia would see about little Walters 4 things

(9-385)and would like to know when he sails. I must equip him
(9-385)now in the most moderate way consistent with decency
(9-385)and cannot do by him so well as I would : it shall be
(9-385)however as well as I can.

(9-385)How I am glad your good fortune has carried you to
(9-385)London before these reverses had happend as they must
(9-385)have embitterd parting and made it resemble the boat
(9-385)leaving the sinking ship.

(9-385)I am afraid you will suffer about the Shakespeare 1 but
(9-385)surely you will have retention on the book so far as it has
(9-385)gone for recompense of your labour.

(9-385)I am with kindest Compliments to Sophia and good and
(9-385)kind wishes to poor Johnie Very truly and affectionately
(9-385)yours
WALTER SCOTT

(9-385)Do not let Johnie forget poor old Hapapa.
(9-385)EDINBURGH 26 January [PM. 1826]

(9-385)Talking of the Review can you help me to the place
(9-385)where [I] found the curious passage about the pickling
(9-385)the quarters of criminals tempore Caroli secundi and the
(9-385)blow out which the Hangman gave on the occasion. It
(9-385)was the Retrospective review perhaps.

(9-385)I am sorry to send away an unsatisfactory letter but I
(9-385)think you would be glad to know that I feel as firm as the
(9-385)Eildon-hill though a little cloudey about the head now
(9-385)and then like him. My mind tells me I will get above
(9-385)these things in two or three years.

(9-385)"And still I'll wellcome—but with less of cost."

(9-385)Last and pleasant accounts. The creditors have had
(9-385)a meeting and [in] the handsomest manner agreed to
(9-385)proceed by private trust which will be instantly carried
(9-385)through. Sir William Forbes was in the chair and

(9-386)friendly as he always is. The meeting was unanimous in
(9-386)recommending a handsome allowance for the family ad
(9-386)interim.

[Law]

TO MRS. JOBSON, SHANDWICK PLACE

(9-386)DEAR MRS JOBSON,—You have probably heard and
(9-386)perhaps with the usual exaggeration of such things that
(9-386)I have lost a large sum by Mr Constables failure which is
(9-386)so far too true. I have been fortunately able to arrange
(9-386)it in a manner which will not be inconvenient to me
(9-386)by selling my property here and living entirely at
(9-386)Abbotsford & some other family arrangements which
(9-386)if God gives me life and health will in four or five years
(9-386)do more than regain all I have lost. It is scarce necessary
(9-386)to say that the young people can be in no way affected
(9-386)by my loss except that papa may not be so able to spare
(9-386)them a few hundreds. His time however will come
(9-386)round again also and I have reason to hope the book-
(9-386)sellers will pay pretty well But I think it is wise to look
(9-386)at the very worst. At all events it is a great comfort to
(9-386)me to know that Walter & Jane will succeed to my property
(9-386)when I am calld home according to their settlement
(9-386)and without any share in my misfortunes. My other
(9-386)children are well provided for and the only thing will be
(9-386)that I must myself live oconomically for a few years which
(9-386)indeed I would I should [sic] make my choice at any
(9-386)rate. I did not think it necessary till I should know
(9-386)exactly what is to happen to trouble you with these
(9-386)affairs. I heard from Walter last week all at Dublin
(9-386)excellently well. I am dear Madam Your most respectful
(9-386)humble Servt

WALTER SCOTT

(9-386)CASTLE STREET 27 January 1826

(9-386)I will have the pleasure of calling and explaining any
(9-386)thing further on the subject you may wish to know. Do
(9-386)you know where Sir Adam is.

[Bayley]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW,

[Extract]

(9-387)MY DEAR WILLIE,—I inclose two Bank notes for 100
(9-387)each which I trust will reach you safely. This sum will
(9-387)according to your letter of 16 currt added to the draught
(9-387)on Craig pay all the accompts about Selkirk, Galashiels
(9-387)& Melrose which should be done without delay. There
(9-387)will remain 20 towards the book, wages etc. Perhaps
(9-387)your coming so soon as Monday will be unnecessary for
(9-387)although [those] here who are interested have with
(9-387)unanimity gone into the arrangements I proposed, yet
(9-387)there are other creditors whose consent must be had and
(9-387)who reside at a distance. There is no reason however
(9-387)to apprehend that any thing will go wrong after the
(9-387)powerful recommendation of the meeting of yesterday &
(9-387)the common sense of the thing. In the meantime however
(9-387)you must look sharp to discharge or prepare for
(9-387)discharging such hands as can be spared & get through
(9-387)such jobs as should not be left unfinishd. You know our
(9-387)wants etc better than we do ourselves and will help us of
(9-387)course to arrange our affairs in present and future.

(9-387)You must consider that Abbotsford will be our constant

(9-387)residence. When here I shall be in lodgings. It will be best
(9-387)to begin upon the [most] moderate scale that is practicable
(9-387)for it is easy to let out a reef but difficult to take one in
(9-387)and it will be far less painful to Lady Scott 1 the person
(9-387)whose feelings will suffer most to have the restrictions of
(9-387)her department settle[d] at once. I dont care a farthing
(9-387)except for her sake.

(9-387)The woods must be thought of however. I grieve to
(9-387)think of parting with some of the old men. Yet it must
(9-387)be and we must limit ourselves within a very small
(9-387)number. I think the sale of such fruit as we are like to
(9-387)have may go far to keep up the garden.

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(9-388)When you come to town I wish you to bring the 3d.
(9-388)Vol of Mrs. Afra Behns plays which the catalogue will
(9-388)point out to you.1 It is in the press on the left of
(9-388)Shakespeare which is almost entirely full of the drama.—Yours
(9-388)truly W SCOTT

(9-388)CASTLE STREET 27 January [PM. 1826]

. 2

(9-388)In the hurry of the time I have had no time to say to
(9-388)George Thompson that I applied to Lord Robert Kerr
(9-388)about the place at the Military Academy & that I understand
(9-388)they are not to teach the classics there for interfering
(9-388)with other establishments.

[Ballantyne]

TO [JOHN CAM HOBHOUSE, WHITTON PARK, HOUNSLOW] 3

(9-388)SIR,—I am almost ashamed that personal business of

(9-388)my own though involving a considerable part of my
(9-388)fortune should have prevented me for a single post from
(9-388)replying to your very interesting communication.

(9-388)I will be most happy to contribute any thing in my
(9-388)power to show the high veneration I entertaind for Lord
(9-388)Byrons brilliant genius and deep sense I entertain[d]
(9-388)of the friendship with which he always regarded me.

(9-388)I have just accomplishd a settlement of the affairs I
(9-388)alluded to under conditions which will greatly limit my

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-389)power of doing what last month I would cheerfully have
(9-389)done in such a case and therefore it would not I think be
(9-389)fitting that my name should stand among the committee.
(9-389)But I put myself in your hands as to this only saying that
(9-389)though my subscription must be in proportion to my power
(9-389)rather than my inclination if there is any thing else in
(9-389)which I could be of the slightest use whether I am one
(9-389)of the Committee or not it will give me the highest
(9-389)pleasur[e]. I am Sir with respect Your most obedient
(9-389)humble Servant WALTER SCOTT
(9-389)EDINBURGH 27 January [1826]

[Huntington]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-389)MY DEAR LOCKART [sic],—I can say very little more
(9-389)than was in my last. I believe there is little doubt that
(9-389)the gentlemen concernd will all go into the arrangement
(9-389)which was accepted on thursday by all who could be
(9-389)brought together. So that I know the worst of my
(9-389)matters and though I may hope I certainly have nothing

(9-389)further to fear. Abbotsford remains with me which
(9-389)attachd as I am to the place I have made prevents a great
(9-389)and severe pang. For what could I do without Tom
(9-389)Purdie and the dogs and Will. Laidlaw who though no
(9-389)longer a steward will I hope remain our neighbour at
(9-389)Kaeside especially as I can employ him as an amanuensis
(9-389)if I find he can stand the fatigue.

(9-389)I believe also the arrangement made will be of great
(9-389)consequence to Lady Scott who would not like to be let
(9-389)down in Edinr. and who has in the country the means of
(9-389)living comfortably. We intend to keep Bogie and sell
(9-389)the fruits of the tree of the garden beyond our own use.
(9-389)The difference is between a retreat with becoming dignity
(9-389)and a rout on the field of battle I mean with respect for
(9-389)the ladies for me I do not care a farthing about the
(9-389)appearance of things in comparaisn to the reality. For
(9-389)my part every thing beyond the merest necessaries will

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LETTERS OF

1826

(9-390)feel uncomfortable to me and you will find me turnd to
(9-390)a very miser till these things are clear. Otherwise I dont
(9-390)care much about the matter now the coup d'eclat is over.
(9-390)Some in chariots and some on horses and so forth.1 Be-
(9-390)sides I have enough left for all useful and comfortable
(9-390)purposes and now my wife is reconciled to the matter I
(9-390)am as much [of] a mind to live even with minute oeconomy
(9-390)were that necessary as ever I was to be more lavish than
(9-390)I like for naturally when I think on such things at all I
(9-390)am rather narrow.

(9-390)I have neglected an answer to a letter of poor Gray 2 —
(9-390)chiefly because I do not well know what to say to him.
(9-390)He wants an introduction from me to Heber to get an
(9-390)introduction from him to the Bishop of Calcutta. Now

(9-390)I am shy of giving an introduction to a cock-braind
(9-390)unsettled man of this kind whom I commiserate very
(9-390)much but whom I still think not a person for whom I
(9-390)could in any shape pledge myself to a friend especially
(9-390)such a friend as either Reginald or Richard Heber who
(9-390)would unquestionably try to do something for him by
(9-390)which in all probability I should come to disgrace. I
(9-390)do not like to make him bearer of Bellerophons letters 3
(9-390)stating him what he really is and yet in the East. If you
(9-390)have made Hebers acquaintance and could explain to
(9-390)him exactly in what degree I wishd the introduction to
(9-390)be understood as for a clever learnd and I believe most

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-391)well intentiond man—but for a Chaplain—good lack! I
(9-391)might give him an introduction cum grano which would be
(9-391)of real advantage but a general recommendation would
(9-391)bring us both into a scrape and is what I cannot do for
(9-391)him. I suppose he has found you out by this time.

(9-391)We relishd the Representative very much. Try to
(9-391)select as much as you can a separate point of fire for
(9-391)different days not to be too much de omni scibili in one
(9-391)number. But I see you are doing so.

(9-391)31 January

(9-391)I have your letter of 28 Current yesterday.1 If Mr
(9-391)Robinson wishes a distinct view of the affairs of the parties
(9-391)here he must prosecute his intentions of coming down. I
(9-391)do not like to write on such things from hearsay but I
(9-391)know Constables creditors have had a meeting and named
(9-391)a committee who are to report against a day this week.
(9-391)Mr Constable talks of making some terms for going on
(9-391)but how or whether this is possible I know not. Ballantyne

(9-391)certainly will not go on though with him there is
(9-391)not any doubt of their paying every thing. They were
(9-391)in complete credit and had cash and discountable assets
(9-391)for all their demands till the stoppage of these two great
(9-391)houses made it impossible for them to go on and their
(9-391)next proposal must be to pay as they can for which they
(9-391)have made the best arrangements in their power and
(9-391)such as have contented all the parties concernd. All shall
(9-391)be shown to Mr Robinson if he comes down as proposed.

(9-391)I shall be very glad if any arrangement can be made
(9-391)to allow both Constable and Hurst & R. or one or other
(9-391)of them the disposal of the new works but you are aware
(9-391)it will depend upon others not on me and upon a curious

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LETTERS OF

1826

(9-392)settlement with Constables House or creditors in which
(9-392)if they give me harsh measure I will be of course obliged
(9-392)to withdraw the Goodwill which I have hitherto
(9-392)exercized. They also talk of money down. The first work
(9-392)will be out in march. As I said before I will be glad that
(9-392)it goes in the old channels though I cannot afford them
(9-392)so good a bargain as formerly. It is wonderful how much
(9-392)I am familiarized with my unpleasant situation. Gad
(9-392)I think I rather like it if the ladies could bear it better
(9-392)but they feel the want of things indifferent to me as
(9-392)abridgements in equipage housekeeping and so forth.
(9-392)I believe they would rather chuse the reality of poverty
(9-392)and the show of wealth than the reverse. Now we have
(9-392)plenty for comfort and many of the elegancies of life
(9-392)besides all its necessaries. But this is not petticoat
(9-392)philosophy and besides I am writing over again what I
(9-392)said in the first page for the letter lay by me for three
(9-392)days. A thousand loves to Sophia and dear Johnie whom
(9-392)kiss for me. Ever yours

WALTER SCOTT

(9-392)I have no objection to Mr Robinson seeing the business
(9-392)part of this letter. Constables house talk of sending up
(9-392)a Clerk to him. I told Constable I thought Mr Robinson
(9-392)had much better come down and see all the principals.
(9-392)I did not judge it proper to say any thing further of the
(9-392)contents of your letter than that I had heard that Mr
(9-392)Robinson thought of coming down. J. Ballantyne unites
(9-392)with me in wishing that he should.

[PM. 31st January 1826]

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-392)MY DEAR JAMES,—I am glad you see the thing in the
(9-392>true light Of me you are sure that if the Law gave me
(9-392)any undue advantage as I know none it can give I would
(9-392)renounce it voluntarily. The inclosed 1 was what I wishd

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-393)to show you. How Hurst & Robinson can [hold] so many
(9-393)of our acceptances unless endorsed by Constable I cannot
(9-393)guess. I shall advise Robinson to come down without
(9-393)delay. But I will not close the letter till I hear from you.
(9-393)Of course I will keep very vague on Constables affairs.
(9-393)As for our paying our acceptances regularly & conveniently
(9-393)their own Stop & that of Constable have made
(9-393)it impossible. In time I hope & trust they may be all
(9-393)paid—that is if the public stand friend—were one confident
(9-393)of that no long span labouring as I have labourd
(9-393)of late would make us freemen of the forest & better than
(9-393)ever we were Yours truly W SCOTT

(9-393)If you chuse instead of writing to call in the Evening

(9-393)I will be at home.

(9-393)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [31st January 1826]

[Stevenson]

TO MARIA EDGEWORTH

[February or March 1826]

(9-393)MY DEAR Miss EDGEWORTH,—I had been long meditating
(9-393)writing you a letter but probably should have paid it
(9-393)off with thinking about it like the parrot in the show had
(9-393)not your kind letter just received made it an absolute act
(9-393)of ingratitude to suspend my purpose any longer. Woes
(9-393)me if any of my friends judge of my regard by my regularity
(9-393)as a correspondent for partly having much necessarily
(9-393)to write partly from the gradual but very sensible
(9-393)failure of my eyes and partly from a touch of original sin
(9-393)which often prevents me from doing the very thing I
(9-393)ought to do I have become a very irregular and
(9-393)unworthy letter writer.

(9-393)The circumstances which have given you such friendly
(9-393)anxiety I am not Stoic enough to treat with disregard. But
(9-393)it is not [my] nature to look upon what cant be helped with
(9-393)any anxious or bitter remembrances. My good fortune

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1826

(9-394)so far as wealth is concerned was exactly like the motions
(9-394)of the Kings of Brentford 1

(9-394)" Ere a pot of good ale you could swallow (I mean I not you)
(9-394)It came with a whoop tis gone with a hollo.

(9-394)The fact is I belong to that set of philosophers who ought

(9-394)to be called Nymmites after their good founder Corporal
(9-394)Nym and the fundamental maxim of whose school is
(9-394)" things must be as they may "—And so let that matter
(9-394)rest things past cure should be past care. I trust I shall
(9-394)do well enough even if the blackening aspect of affairs in
(9-394)this country should bring a further and more wreckful
(9-394)storm which is not at present at all unlikely. I had
(9-394)plenty of offers you may believe of assistance and poor
(9-394)Jane preferred her whole fortune as if she had been giving
(9-394)a gooseberry. But what I have done foolishly I will bear
(9-394)the penance of wisely and take the whole on my own
(9-394)shoulders. Lady Scott is not a person that cares much
(9-394)about fortune and as for Beatrice she amuses herself very
(9-394)well with her altered prospects for with a sort of high
(9-394)persiflage which she never got from me she has a very
(9-394)generous and independent disposition.

(9-394)As for Lockhart London will suit him much better than
(9-394)Edinburgh. He will be obliged to lay aside his hidalgo
(9-394)silence and exert himself a little in society and I am glad
(9-394)to learn he takes the trouble to do so. He has now a
(9-394)great stake to play for his talents are of a nature singularly
(9-394)applicable to whatever is before him and he has a great
(9-394)fund of acquired information and Sophia is in every
(9-394)respect a safe and prudent help mate. I have often
(9-394)laughed at the heterogeneous group which we composed
(9-394)during our most delightful travels.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-395)ABBOTSFORD 30th April

(9-395)This letter was written as far as above more than two
(9-395)months since. But I have since had great family distress
(9-395)which the circumstance you allude to has made me avoid
(9-395)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
(9-395)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 ² sudden death and
(9-395)feel much interested for his family I have scarce seen a

(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

(9-396)sometimes London education for their daughters. In

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-397)short there does not exist amongst us the stile of young
(9-397)ladies who can give for such advantages as I am sure Mrs
(9-397)Jephson would assure them any thing like 200 or 250
(9-397)a year. Our eldest sons get our estates—our younger
(9-397)become lawyers go to India or into the army our girls live
(9-397)at home while Mama can keep house on her jointure get
(9-397)husbands if they can and if not do as they can on the
(9-397)interest of 1500 or 2000. The elder brother is in
(9-397)general an honest fellow but embarassed with debt he
(9-397)keeps his sisters in his house if his wife is not cross and a
(9-397)sort of half family pride half family affection carries the
(9-397)thing through but for paying large pensions it is not in
(9-397)the nature of things. Besides though young Englishmen
(9-397)or Irishmen get easily into good society in Edinburgh it is
(9-397)I think more difficult for ladies to do so unless with some
(9-397)strong recommendation as fortunes or talents or
(9-397)accomplishments or something. In short I see no hope in that
(9-397)scheme. The melancholy resource of a boarding school
(9-397)for young ladies might succeed but the rates have been
(9-397)always kept very low at Edinburgh so as to make it
(9-397)miserable work. My kind love to your brothers and
(9-397)sisters I hope Mrs Fox will make you all a lucky present
(9-397)with good fortune to herself. Walter and Jane have
(9-397)been jointly and severally threaten[ing] a descent upon
(9-397)Edgeworthstown from Athlone but they are both really
(9-397)bashful as to doing what they should do and so Don
(9-397)Whiskerandos and the lady Tilburina may never accomplish
(9-397)what they themselves consider as grateful and
(9-397)proper.

(9-397)Kindest regards to Mrs Edgeworth and Miss Sneyd

(9-397)Always yours

WALTER SCOTT

(9-397)2d May 1825 [1826] ABBOTSFORD

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1826

TO [JOHN GIBSON]

(9-398)MY DEAR SIR,—I inclose the bills which will come
(9-398)higher than my computation especially as a very heavy
(9-398)bill to [Child]1 which Lady Scott thought she had paid
(9-398)in full last year arrived just now. Besides there are
(9-398)several of the old accompts for House at Abbotsford only
(9-398)partially paid. But then to meet this I have got some
(9-398)literary revenues [?]2 of which I have hitherto made little
(9-398)accompt but which can now be made effectual to relieve
(9-398)the funds a little. I should wish the smaller debts and
(9-398)poorer people settled with if possible. I am sure I can
(9-398)have any reasonable time from the better class. I hope
(9-398)Hogarth has sent the title deeds.

(9-398)I am happy to say Woodstock advances so well that if
(9-398)God grant me life health and spirits it will be on the
(9-398)counters even in the end of february. Yours very truly
(9-398)WALTER SCOTT

(9-398)CASTLE STREET Wednesday [1st February 1826]

(9-398)Lady Scott has agreed to make no more accompts.
[Owen D. Young]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, B.N. COLLEGE, OXFORD

(9-398)MY DEAR CHARLES,—This being about quarter day I
(9-398)send a bill for 40 payable to your order which with 35
(9-398)paid by your desire at Christmas makes up the 75 due

(9-398)at this quarter. It is certainly hard on me to lose so
(9-398)much hard earnd money at this time of day but when
(9-398)were riches without their wings. All you can help me
(9-398)in my dear boy is to be careful to keep your living within
(9-398)your income as you must suppose I am not now in condition
(9-398)to let out a reef on occasion as we must necessarily

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-399)live on a limited income and submit to several privations.
(9-399)Mama and Anne propose to go to Abbotsford which is
(9-399)henceforth to be our sole family residence. Poor No. 39
(9-399)[is] to be sold off with all its contents. During Session time
(9-399)I am to reside in a very comfortable apartment next to
(9-399)the Albyn club so that having the assistance of their
(9-399)servants I can dispense with a valet. We part with
(9-399)Butler Lady's maid &c &c but think that for Mamas
(9-399)health we can continue Peter and the carriage. Abbotsford
(9-399)&c remains as usual but I shall restrict all expensive
(9-399)farmng operations. We totally and absolutely reject all
(9-399)species of visits near and dear friends excepted in this way
(9-399)I save both money and time. Thus you see I am doing
(9-399)all that Man can to remedy this great misfortune.
(9-399)Meantime do you cram your head with all useful knowlege
(9-399)that you may be ready to take a flight for yourself. To
(9-399)you this misfortune may not be without its use as Adversity
(9-399)is a good sobering medicine in the heyday of youth
(9-399)and though I dare say you never leand much towards me
(9-399)yet [it] is always a reason for exertion when a young man
(9-399)sees the necessity of swimming without support.

(9-399)Mammas spirits and Annes are both good though they
(9-399)sufferd much on the first affliction. As for me I was
(9-399)never better in my life and if hard labour on my part will
(9-399)mend matters they will not very long remain disorderd.

(9-401)She is really a generous noble spirited body. Of course
(9-401)I will not take a penny from any one for it would only
(9-401)make them worse without making me the better but will
(9-401)trust entirely to my own exertions.

(9-401)I look at my affairs on the worst side & I believe there
(9-401)is good cause for though I would not have you say it to
(9-401)Robinson or any one whose business it may be to look
(9-401)out for themselves I do believe such a concern as
(9-401)Constables never occurred before. A large & flourishing
(9-401)establishment carrying on the most thriving speculations
(9-401)with great returns of profit—Never having met with any
(9-401)loss of the most trifling consequence—yet making so poor
(9-401)a comparative return of assets without book debts
(9-401)without stock without almost anything but copyrights
(9-401)and many of these unpaid for. Hurst & Robinson owe
(9-401)them 70,000 however if that is paid it must make an
(9-401)alteration in their affairs.

(9-401)I fancy it comes to this that they never had any capital 1

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1826

(9-402)—that Sandie Hunters claims on the business amounting
(9-402)to 18000 were greatly too highly rated and being
(9-402)discharged by Constables input of 10000 or 15000
(9-402)the business was carried on by discount on which occurred
(9-402)a heavy interest of perhaps 6 or 7 per Cent. which with
(9-402)some expence on Constables personal side eat up their
(9-402)large profits. I wish the creditors at large may get five
(9-402)shillings in the pound. Such is commerce.

(9-402)Remember me affectionately to Sophia. I hope she
(9-402)takes moderate exercise and keeps quite well.

(9-402)I had a visitor today who would have diverted you

(9-402)though her story was a sad one. She is a Miss Jane Bell 1
(9-402)of North Shields whose marriage was broken off by some
(9-402)most abominable machinations of a methodist parson
(9-402)who after a number of the basest subterfuges was at
(9-402)length convicted in open court of having forged the
(9-402)basest calumnies against my visitor. What is odd
(9-402)enough the Conference or Congress or whatever they are
(9-402)did not depose him but only degraded him a step in their
(9-402)church. It gives a very curious peep into the inside of
(9-402)the methodistic system & the tenderness of their clergy
(9-402)towards each other.

(9-402)I am a freind to Methodism on the whole however it
(9-402)introduces morality among people -who would never
(9-402)practice it unless it came recommended by a faith which
(9-402)addresses itself to the passions. But [it] seems to [be] an
(9-402)awful priestcraft concern Yours ever

(9-402)W SCOTT

(9-402)CASTLE STREET 2d feby. [1826]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-403)DEAR JAMES,—Your objections did not escape me and
(9-403)I have answers to others which weighd with me and shall
(9-403)be yours in private. I can never agree that Mrs Radcliffe
(9-403)any more than Shakespeare is to be a potatoe bogle 1 to
(9-403)scare every poor bird from the field she is stuck up in and
(9-403)I think I can prove the arrow is fairly aimd—though I
(9-403)may not have hit the mark. I intend to treat of this in my
(9-403)preliminary & at least explain my own views.

(9-403)Meantime I send you proofs & copy—I observe a full
(9-403)volume of such a work may be written in a fortnight 2
(9-403)Yours truly W. SCOTT

(9-403)friday [early February 1826]
[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[early February 1826]

(9-403)DEAR JAMES,—I am glad you are better contented
(9-403)though I must sometimes go on whether your criticisms
(9-403)are favourable or no. But this we have long settled. I
(9-403)want to ask you one question. Are you peculiarly fond
(9-403)of the Tempest or the Midsummer Nights dream? It
(9-403)strikes me you have not much patience with the sleeping-
(9-403>waking kind of thing which I am very fond of Yours
(9-403)truly W S

[British Museum]

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[early February 1826]

(9-404)MY DEAR JAMES,—Your critiques never require apology
(9-404)I only wishd to know whether your objection was to the
(9-404)supernatural tale in general or to my execution. I always
(9-404)attend to your remarks when possible only they sometimes
(9-404)contradict the whole tenor of what I propose & then
(9-404)I must pass them over— Yours truly W S

(9-404)I hope the paper is come.

[British Museum]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW, KAESIDE, MELROSE

(9-404)MY DEAR WILLIE,—I hope this will find you ready to
(9-404)come in on Monday with such books and memorandums
(9-404)as may be necessary to give the trustees an accompt of
(9-404)stock etc. I think you have sent me an admirable plan
(9-404)so far as the woods fences etc are concernd. But I demur
(9-404)to the farm. Observe. We have in all to live upon
(9-404) 1600 a year & Charles situation at college will cost us
(9-404) 300—Remains 1300. Now the question is whether
(9-404)so small a family as we shall be reduced to, seeing not a
(9-404)living soul unless Lockhart or Walter & wives should
(9-404)come down at a time, had not better go to market for
(9-404)every thing than speculate upon the produce of a farm.
(9-404)My time will be fully occupied otherwise—my wife you
(9-404)know has no turn that way and poor Tom though he
(9-404)would do his best would I fear be spoild for a careful
(9-404)grieve. I should have no objection to the horses ploughing.
(9-404)If we do keep the farm we may kill mutton certainly
(9-404)not beef. Settling with the butcher once a week & knowing
(9-404)money is scarce my wife can take good care not to [get]
(9-404)out of bounds but when we come to the large scale it is
(9-404)different. Two cows seem indispensable. But we must
(9-404)get rid of all useless ponies etc. I agree with you we must
(9-404)keep the active men only. We will be able to spare a

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(9-405)guinea or two to old Brunton & Straiten till they can
(9-405)provide themselves. The town of Selkirk will do something
(9-405)for Brunton I suppose and Betty must write to her friends.

(9-405)You will understand we mean to give no hospitality

(9-405)whatsoever unless at Breakfast the least of all possible
(9-405)mercies. I may not have many years before me and I
(9-405)must keep them at my own disposal.

(9-405)In computing the disposal of my income you must
(9-405)remember that during five months when I live separate
(9-405)from my family I can hardly hope [?] to have the assistance
(9-405)of a man servant for brushing my clothes etc lodgings &
(9-405)eating without an expence of near 1,1, for it would not
(9-405)be decent to take the very cheapest way even if I could
(9-405)conquer my objections to a boarding house which are too
(9-405)serious to be removed.

(9-405)We have enough you see to do very well upon but with
(9-405)caution and I believe our best mode of oeconomy will be to
(9-405)make a certain expence and speculate as little as possible.
(9-405)Constables affairs are wretchedly bad and I scarce see
(9-405)how they can manage but by leaving him in the management.
(9-405)The Edinburgh review for example—put it up to
(9-405)sale—no one would give a 100 for you cannot buy
(9-405)Jeffery—carry it on it is perhaps 4000 a year.

(9-405)I have spoken to Lady Scott who inclines strongly for
(9-405)the farm but then she only sees the returns not the cost
(9-405)and outlay. If she were active enough in health to take
(9-405)a little charge of it I should like the adventure better. As
(9-405)it is I incline strongly for grass & garden and buy everything
(9-405)else. But we will determine nothing till we see you.
(9-405)On Wednesday if not Monday I hope to have that
(9-405)pleasure. I am very truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(9-405)CASTLE STREET 4th December Saturday

[PM. 4th February 1826] (1)

[Ballantyne]

TO MRS. HUGHES

(9-406)MY DEAR MRS. HUGHES AND MY WORTHY DOCTOR,—

(9-406)I write immediately to give you the information which
(9-406)your kindness thinks of importance I shall certainly lose
(9-406)a very large sum by the failure of my booksellers whom
(9-406)all men consider as worth 150,000 & who I fear will
(9-406)not cut up as they say for one fourth of the money. But
(9-406)looking at [the] thing in its worst point of view I cannot
(9-406)see that I am entitled to claim the commiseration of
(9-406)any one since I have made an arrangement for settling
(9-406)these affairs to the satisfaction of every party concern'd
(9-406)so far as yet appears which leaves an income with [us]
(9-406)ample for all the comforts & many of the elegancies of
(9-406)life and does not in the slightest degree innovate on any
(9-406)of my comforts. So what title have I to complain ?
(9-406)I am far richer in point of income than Generals &
(9-406)Admirals who have led fleets and armies to battle My
(9-406)family are all provided for in present or in prospect my
(9-406)estate remains in my family my house & books in my own
(9-406)possession.

(9-406)I shall give up my house in Edinr and retire to
(9-406)Abbotsford where my wife and Anne will make their chief
(9-406)residence during the time our court sits when I must
(9-406)attend I will live at my Club. If Anne wishes to see a
(9-406)little of the world in the gay season they can have lodgings
(9-406)for two or three weeks. This plan we had indeed form'd
(9-406)before it became imperative.

(9-406)At Abbotsford we will cut off all hospitality 2 which
(9-406)latterly consumed all my time which was worse than the
(9-406)expence this I intended to do at any rate. We part with

(9-407)an extra servant or two manage our household oeconomically
(9-407)and in five years were the public to stand my friend
(9-407)I should receive much more than I have lost. But [if]
(9-407)I only pay all demands as I have the full means of doing
(9-407)I shall be satisfied.

(9-407)I shall be anxious to dispose of Mr. Charles so soon as
(9-407)his second year of Oxford is ended. I think of trying to
(9-407)get him into some diplomatic line for which his habits
(9-407)and manners seem to suit him well.

(9-407)I might certainly have borrowed large sums.1 But to
(9-407)what good purpose ? I must have owed that money and
(9-407)a sense of obligation besides. Now as I stand the Banks
(9-407)are extremely sensible that I have been the means of
(9-407)great advantages to their establishments & have afforded
(9-407)me all the facilities I can desire to make my payments
(9-407)and as they gaind by my prosperity they are handsomely
(9-407)disposed to be indulgent to my adversity & what can an
(9-407)honest man wish for more

(9-407)Many people will think that because I see company
(9-407)easily that my pleasures depend on society. But this is
(9-407)not the case I am by nature a very lonely animal and
(9-407)enjoy myself much at getting rid from a variety of things
(9-407)connected with publick business etc. which I did because
(9-407)they were fixed on me but I am particularly happy to
(9-407)be rid of.

(9-407)And now let this matter be silent for ever. It is a bad
(9-407)business but might have been much worse. I am my
(9-407)dear 2 friends Most truly yours WALTER SCOTT

(9-407)EDINBURGH 6 February [1826] (3)

[Heffer and Wells]

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1826

TO LORD MONTAGU

(9-408)MY DEAR LORD,—I hasten to answer your very kind
(9-408)letter. I dont like to trouble the freinds I love best with
(9-408)private affairs which they cannot help and which always
(9-408)look like soliciting condolences which are equally
(9-408)painful to give and receive.

(9-408)The fact is that by unpaid Copyrights unwithdrawn
(9-408)bills &c &c &c I shall I believe lose a great deal of money
(9-408)by the late fractures among my book selling patrons
(9-408)here. But I have large funds remaining and calculating
(9-408)matters at the very worst which is always the wise and
(9-408)the manly way I should be ashamed to ask a moments
(9-408)pity from a freind when there are so many men who
(9-408)deserve it God knows a hundred times more.

(9-408)I have made an arrangement with those having interest
(9-408)in these matters entirely to my satisfaction. My estate
(9-408)of Abbotsford is secured on my son & his family if he
(9-408)has one so is not attachable. He has also his wifes estate
(9-408)& his share of my Brother in laws effects about 20,000
(9-408)among the four. This is life rented by my brothers
(9-408)widow but in the meantime he has his commission &

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(9-409)two thousand a year & my other children are all provided
(9-409)for. I have put my other affairs of various kinds into
(9-409)the hands of trustees one of them our freind John Gibson
(9-409)and arguing I may possess half the luck I have had five
(9-409)years will clear my loss though it should be the heaviest

(9-409)I can anticipate.

(9-409)During thes[e] five years I shall be poorer than I was
(9-409)but yet richer than bard beseems 1 for I retain an income
(9-409)of 1600 a year with power of augmenting it if I need it
(9-409)to 2000. We go to Abbotsford for our constant residence
(9-409)part with a servant or two & live within the above. When
(9-409)I attend the Court of Session I have lodgings at my Club
(9-409)for a trifle.

(9-409)In fact this unpleasant circumstance has become
(9-409)acceptable by bringing about many things which I wishd
(9-409)& could not do for want of resolution. One thing was
(9-409)to give up farming which I detest. As for my trees they
(9-409)remain under my charge & I cannot see when I look
(9-409)round that I shall lose one single comfort or even one
(9-409)whim in which I had real pleasure. One is vexd to be
(9-409)sure to lose half of their fortune at so late an hour of life
(9-409)but then I am a philosopher of Corporal Nym's school
(9-409)and think " things must be as they may."

(9-409)I expect to make a fortune by the time I shall spare
(9-409)from useless visitors at Abbotsford as it is our purpose to
(9-409)refuse all strangers. As to our few real freinds we will be
(9-409)like the man in Parnell's hermit whose gold cup was
(9-409)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
(9-409)if they find port & sherry instead of claret & Champagne.
(9-409)Yet hang it we will rummage the cellar when you come
(9-409)for all that has come & gone yet.

(9-410)It has been a race between my good & bad fortune
(9-410)whether I should be a rich [man] and I am now clear
(9-410)my better genius has gained it since she has put me in a
(9-410)situation where I cannot be extravagant without being
(9-410)a rogue to which I have no natural tendency.

(9-410)You are very kind to attend to poor Sophia.¹ It would
(9-410)have been a great comfort to me had they not changed
(9-410)their residence as I could have resided with them in
(9-410)Session time. But it cannot be helped.

(9-410)I am glad to hear that Lord John has taken the sword—
(9-410)it was his natural destiny. My kind respects attend the
(9-410)Ladies at Ditton particularly Lady M.

(9-410)You will easily suppose my dear Lord that I am too
(9-410)good stuff to care a penny about misfortunes which
(9-410)cannot be prevented. I certainly do not affect to despise
(9-410)my loss but as it cannot be helped I have no idea of thinking
(9-410)about the matter unless so far as it can be repaired Always
(9-410)my dear Lord Most truly & respectfully yours

(9-410)EDINR. 6 february. 1826
[Buccleuch]

WALTER SCOTT

TO J. B. S. MORRITT, 21 MARINE TERRACE, BRIGHTON

(9-410)MY DEAR MORRITT,—It is very true² I have been and
(9-410)am in danger of a pecuniary loss and probably a very
(9-410)large one which in the uncertainty I look at as to the full

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(9-411)extent being the manly way of calculating such matters
(9-411)since one may be better but can hardly be worse. I cannot
(9-411)say I feel overjoyed at losing a large sum of hard earned

(9-411)money in a most unexpected manner for all men considered
(9-411)Constables people as secure as the Bank yet as I have
(9-411)achieved an arrangement of payment convenient for
(9-411)every body concerned and easy for myself I cannot say
(9-411)that I care much about the matter. Some oeconomic
(9-411)restrictions I will make and it happened oddly that they
(9-411)were such as Lady Scott and myself had almost determined
(9-411)upon without this compulsion. Abbotsford will
(9-411)henceforth be our only establishment and during the
(9-411)time I must be in town I will take my bed at the Albyn
(9-411)Club. If Anne tires in the dead of Winter we can have
(9-411)lodging for a month. We shall also break off the rather
(9-411)excessive hospitality to which we were exposed and no
(9-411)longer stand host and hostess to all that pilgrimage to
(9-411)Melrose. Item I give up an expensive farm which I
(9-411)always hated and turn all my odds and ends into cash.
(9-411)I do not reckon much on my literary exertions I mean in
(9-411)proportion to former success because popular taste may
(9-411)fluctuate. But with a moderate degree of the favour
(9-411)which I have always had my time my own and my mind
(9-411)unplagued about other things I may boldly promise
(9-411)myself soon to get the better of this blow. If I should lose
(9-411)my conjuring rod which is possible enough still I have a
(9-411)sufficient revenue to live upon handsomely though not
(9-411)en Seigneur my children are all provided for and my land
(9-411)secured and for myself I care very little about the [sic]

(9-411)In these circumstances I should be unjust and ungrateful
(9-411)to ask or accept the pity of my friends. Where the
(9-411)difference is only between a very large and a moderate

(9-412)income I for one do not see there is much occasion for
(9-412)making moan about [it]. My womankind will be the
(9-412)greater sufferers and they look cheerily forwards and for

(9-412)myself the blowing off my hat in a stormy day has given
(9-412)me more uneasiness.

(9-412)I perfectly agree with you that Murrays paper flags.
(9-412)I was always of opinion he should have attempted less.
(9-412)There is too much of it and Lords mercy its jokes put one
(9-412)in mind of the childs question whether a pound of feathers
(9-412)or a pound of lead is the heaviest. It wont do I think.
(9-412)It puts me in mind of the puppet show in Tom Jones
(9-412)when the fine and serious part of the Journey to London
(9-412)was the only part acted. It wants all the life and selzar
(9-412)water festivity that an ephemeral page ought to have.

(9-412)I envy your Brighton party and your fine weather.
(9-412)When I was at Abbotsford the Mercury was down at
(9-412)6 or 7 in the morning more than once. I am hammering
(9-412)away at a bit of a story from the old affair of the Diablerie
(9-412)at Woodstock in the Long Parliament times. I dont like
(9-412)it much. I am obliged to hamper my fanatics greatly
(9-412)too much to make them effective but I make the sacrifice
(9-412)on principle so perhaps I shall deserve good success in
(9-412)other parts of the work. You will be surprized when I
(9-412)tell you that I have written a volume in exactly fifteen
(9-412)days. To be sure I permitted no interruptions. But
(9-412)then I took exe[r]cize and for ten days of the fifteen
(9-412)attended the Court of Session from two to four hours
(9-412)every day. This [is] nothing however to writing Ivanhoe
(9-412)when I had the actual cramp in my stomach but I have
(9-412)no idea of these things preventing a man from doing what
(9-412)he has a mind [to].

(9-412)My love to all the party at Brighton fireside party I
(9-412)had almost said but you scorn my words sea-side party
(9-412)then be it. Lady Scott and Anne join in kindest love.
(9-412)I must close my letter for one of [the] consequences of
(9-412)our misfortunes is that we dine every day at 1/2 past four

(9-412)o'clock which premature hour arises I suppose from

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(9-413)sorrow being hungry as well as thirsty. One most
(9-413)laughable part of our tragi comedy was that every friend
(9-413)in the world came formally just as they do here when
(9-413)a relation dies thinking that the eclipse of les beaux yeux
(9-413)de ma cassette 1 was perhaps a loss as deserving of
(9-413)consolation. One lady was greatly scandalized at finding
(9-413)Willie Clerke who had lately lost a very near relation
(9-413)and me laughing like two school boys and yet I dare say
(9-413)he was as sorry for his sister and I for my cash.

(9-413)We heard an unpleasant report that your Nephew was
(9-413)ill. I am glad to see from your letter it is only the lady
(9-413)and in the right way and I hope Scottice loquens she will
(9-413)be worse before she is better. This mistake is something
(9-413)like the Irish blunder in Faulkners journal for His Grace
(9-413)the Duchess of Devonshire was safely deliverd &c read
(9-413)Her Grace the Duke of Devonshire Always yours &c
(9-413)Affectionately

(9-413)WALTER SCOTT

(9-413)EDINR. 6 february [PM. 1826]

(9-413)Will you do me a favour set fire to the Chinese Stables
(9-413)and if it embrace the whole of the pavilion it will rid us
(9-413)of a great eyesore.

[Law]

TO HIS DAUGHTER MRS. LOCKHART

(9-413)MY DEAR SOPHIA,—Your long letter 2 gave me great

(9-413)comfort in the assurance that you were both well and
(9-413)that Johnnies lameness was not at least increasing. Watch
(9-413)him when he thinks himself unobserved. I say this

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(9-414)because it is wonderful what clever children will do to
(9-414)fix attention upon themselves and attract interest.

(9-414)We are all in very good health and considering every
(9-414)thing extremely good spirits. We go all to the country
(9-414)when spring comes [then] there are the pleasant months
(9-414)of summer when our separation commences but only for
(9-414)a short time. So that we have all the time to prepare
(9-414)ourselves for the long nights when doubtless it will be
(9-414)harder.

(9-414)Mamma however is quite well in spirits and exerting
(9-414)herself and to her a constant residence at Abbotsford may
(9-414)be a means of restoring health and prolonging life. As
(9-414)for myself I am a philosopher of Corporal Nym's school
(9-414)and hold by his maxim Things must be as they may.

(9-414)I can conceive the excessive plague John must have
(9-414)with the paper at first. Still it will have this good effect
(9-414)that it will induce him to become completely acquainted
(9-414)with the various parts of the machine and so enable him
(9-414)as it is expected to be a matter of capital as well as
(9-414)profit to form a good judgement whether others do their
(9-414)duty.

(9-414)I had my own fears that the scheme as shewn to us by
(9-414)D'Israeli was rather too gigantic to be put into motion
(9-414)without some trouble.

(9-414)I made some jottings on the Byroniana of one of which

(9-414)I see Lockhart has made use and he is most heartily
(9-414)wellcome to the others if they do not contain matter of
(9-414)personality. There are some about poor Mat Lewis for
(9-414)instance which are useful for publishing.

(9-414)I shall inclose poor Walters money in this letter when
(9-414)finishd. I hope he will be fortunate and prudent. I
(9-414)will send him soon such letters as may be useful to him.
(9-414)It is however better to send recommendations to the
(9-414)country after he has been a year or two there than to
(9-414)send them at once when they produce for the griffin little
(9-414)mor[e] than a dinner.

(9-414)I have a most kind warmhearted letter from Jane and

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(9-415)Walter offering their assistance in every way. This
(9-415)however is out of the question. I have formd my own plan
(9-415)and for me who have seen so much company in my life
(9-415)it will cost nothing to anticipate for a few years the
(9-415)time in which I always thought of living a life of great
(9-415)retirement. I will then have leisure to labour and of
(9-415)course I will either make money or I will have no
(9-415)temptation to spend it.

(9-415)We must contrive by and bye that Anne may not
(9-415)suffer too much by our want of society but there will be
(9-415)time and various ways to care for that. I think the
(9-415)Miss Russells will be glad to be at Abbotsford some time
(9-415)in the winter and let Anne to town for a few weeks. She
(9-415)has behaved very well considering that her high stomach
(9-415)was sadly taken down.

(9-415)Yesterday was the Cavalry ball and it was a little trial
(9-415)but I perceived no traces of it in our countenances.

(9-415)I am to have my official income 1600,, which
(9-415)deducing 300 for boy Charles at College will leave us
(9-415)quite well for co[u]ntry bodies and besides that I intend
(9-415)while working to clear off—to try some little matters for
(9-415)myself too.

(9-415)I see by John that he has in a great measure cut the
(9-415)Newspaper but it must be a terrible slap out [of] the
(9-415)income perhaps when the vessell was fairly launchd it
(9-415)migh[t] sail more easily. I was never however very partial
(9-415)to the scheme. It seemd to embrace too much. I would
(9-415)have trusted more to doing some parts excellently and
(9-415)some in the ordinary way than trying to be elaborate in
(9-415)every thing. I have always understood that a perfect
(9-415)horse if one could be gotten completely well proportiond
(9-415)would never win a race. Eclipse was far from well
(9-415)proportiond.

(9-415)I inclose a bill payable to Johns order for little Walters
(9-415)behoof for 240 which will leave twenty pound to come
(9-415)and go on Walters things and prevent his landing penniless
(9-415)in India. Had times been as they [were] wont to be

(9-416)I would have made it three hundred but as I really borrow
(9-416)the money I must not think of that. I hope he will take
(9-416)care of getting into debt. The interest always keeps a
(9-416)youngster down in the world.

(9-416)My best love to Lockhart and to little Johnie poor
(9-416)child whom I shall not see till he has forgot me I doubt.
(9-416)I see with pleasure all your grave resolves. I am sorry
(9-416)to put you to expence of double postage but I fear I
(9-416)cannot get a frank being monday. Always your

(9-416)affectionate father

WALTER SCOTT

(9-416)EDINR. 6 feby. [PM. 1826]

[Law]

TO THE LADY DAVY, 26 PARK STREET, LONDON '

(9-416)MY DEAR LADY DAVY,²—A very few minutes since I
(9-416)receivd your kind letter and answer it in all frankness and
(9-416)in Iago's words I am hurt Ma'am but not killd—nor even
(9-416)kilt. I have made so much by literature that should even
(9-416)this loss fall in its whole extent and wise men make
(9-416)preparations for the worst it will not break & has not
(9-416)broken my sleep. It is just the loss of certain large sums
(9-416)of money and the account comes to this I have made a
(9-416)large fortune by literature & this loss will reduce it to a
(9-416)more moderate one. If I have good luck I may be as
(9-416)rich again as ever—if I have not I have still far more than
(9-416)many of the most deserving people in Britain—soldiers,
(9-416)sailors, statesmen or men of literature. 3 My loss does

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(9-417)not limit me of a single comfort or deprive me of an acre
(9-417)of land. My children are all well provided. We have
(9-417)a sufficient income to ourselves & the whole only tends to
(9-417)hasten some oeconomical arrangements great part of
(9-417)which we had long since settled on from choice & a
(9-417)desire of retirement. I have been much more perplexd
(9-417)with the blowing off my hat on a hill side than the
(9-417)loss of so large a proportion of my fortune as is in
(9-417)danger.

(9-417)I am much obliged to you for your kindness to Sophia
(9-417)who has tact and great truth of character. I believe she
(9-417)will wish to take her company as the scandal said ladies

(9-417)liked their wine little & good and I need not say I will be
(9-417)greatly obliged by [your] continued notice of one you
(9-417)have known now for a long time. I am between ourselves
(9-417)afraid of the little boy—he is terribly delicate in
(9-417)constitution and so twined about the parents' hearts that—
(9-417)but it is needless croaking. What is written on our
(9-417)foreheads at our birth will be accomplishd. So far I am [a]
(9-417)good Moslem.

(9-417)Lockhart will always be much liked by his intimates
(9-417)but an early scholarlike reserve prevents his making much
(9-417)figure in society. He is I think in his own line and
(9-417)therefore I do not regret his absence though in our present
(9-417)arrangements as my wife & Anne propose to remain all
(9-417)the year round at Abbotsford I shall be solitary enough in
(9-417)my lodgings. But I always loved being a bear & sucking
(9-417)my paws in solitude better than being a lion and ramping
(9-417)for the amusement of others and as I propose to slam the
(9-417)door in the face of all and sundry for these three years to
(9-417)come & neither eat nor give to eat I shall come forth
(9-417)bearish enough should I live to make another Avatar.
(9-417)Seriously I intend to receive nobody old & intimate
(9-417)friends excepted at Abbotsford this season for it cost me
(9-417)much more in time than otherwise.

(9-417)I beg my kindest compliments to Sir Humphry and tell
(9-417)him Ill Luck that direful chemist never put into his

(9-418)crucible a more indissoluble piece of stuff than your
(9-418)affectionate cousin & sincere wellwisher

(9-418)EDINR. 6 Feby. [PM. 1826](1)
[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

WALTER SCOTT

TO LADY LOUISA STUART, GLOUCESTER STREET, LONDON

(9-418)MY DEAR LADY LOUISA,—I am flattered and delighted
(9-418)with your kind enquiries just received. Were I to say I was
(9-418)indifferent to losing a large proportion of a hard earned
(9-418)fortune I should lie in my throat and a very stupid lie it
(9-418)would be considered as an attempt to impose on your
(9-418)sagacity. And yet it is inconceivable to myself how little
(9-418)I feel myself care about it and how much I scandalize
(9-418)the grave looks and grasps of the hand and extremity
(9-418)scenes which my friends treat me to the tune of a Grecian
(9-418)chorus exclaiming about Gods and Fates and letting poor
(9-418)Pilgarlick 2 enjoy his distress all the while unassisted except
(9-418)by their philosophy or his own.

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(9-419)Every person interested so far as I yet know are disposed
(9-419)to acquiesce in measures by which they will be at no
(9-419)distant period completely satisfied. We shall only have
(9-419)to adopt some measures of economy of no very frightful
(9-419)nature and which we meditated at any rate, for the
(9-419)number of visitors made Abbotsford very untenable
(9-419)during the autumn months. Now those who get in
(9-419)must bring battering cannon for no billet doux will blow
(9-419)open the gates come from whom it may. My children
(9-419)are all well provided for so I have not that agonizing
(9-419)feeling. And we have ample income for ourselves. I am
(9-419)ashamed to think of it and mention it as a declension
(9-419)knowing so many Generals and Admirals who would be
(9-419)glad to change fortunes with me. My land remains
(9-419)with me being settled on my son and I look round and
(9-419)round and do not [see] one domestic comfort abridged
(9-419)though I shall willingly lay down some points of parade
(9-419)of servants and equipage and expensive form (which
(9-419)I always detested) and all this rout of welcoming

(9-419)strange folks which my age advancing a little and the
(9-419)want of my sons to do honours made very annoying last
(9-419)season. I have every thing else my walks my plantations
(9-419)my dogs great and small my favourite squire my Shetland
(9-419)poney my plans my hopes my quiet thoughts. So that
(9-419)like the Upholsterer Mr. Quidnunc I ask myself how
(9-419)are we ruined 1 —I shall make play too in the language of
(9-419)the turf and try what I can do to recover my distance—
(9-419)None can calculate on the public favour yet I have had
(9-419)a pretty strong hold of it and have done more extraordinary
(9-419)things in my day than recoverd my whole loss
(9-419)within three years. This however is not to [be] much
(9-419)counted for because novels and works of imagination are
(9-419)not like household bread in fashion all the year round
(9-419)but like minced pies and hot cross buns have only their
(9-419)season. Such is my plan and the only unpleasant part of
(9-419)it is that giving [up] my house in Edinburgh I must

(9-420)necessarily live at my club where we have excellent
(9-420)accommodation for such time as I must [be] attending the
(9-420)sittings of the court. But there are plenty of conveyances
(9-420)to Abbotsford so once a week or a fortnight in summer
(9-420)I can make my wife and daughter a visit and in winter
(9-420)we may take lodgings together for perhaps a month or
(9-420)six weeks in the gay season. This is the worst part of my
(9-420)retrenchment but I am rather a solitary monster and sit
(9-420)much by myself at all times. I am sure you are very good
(9-420)to think half so well of me as you do my dear Lady
(9-420)Louisa. I am conscious of meriting it so far that I have done
(9-420)good to some people and never willingly injured a human
(9-420)being in my life. I will soon have to send you three
(9-420)volumes : the fates have not smiled on them for you may
(9-420)be sure they have been written at disadvantage even
(9-420)much greater 1 than Ivanhoe much of which was dictated

(9-420)while I was in agony with the cramp in my stomach
(9-420)and scarce able to utter two words without a pause. But
(9-420)there are some sort of vexations worse than bodily pain.
(9-420)Thank God they seem all settled with me and no unforeseen
(9-420)obstacle intervening a fair field lies before me.

(9-420)When your Ladyship can honour Sophia with a call she
(9-420)will be found at 25 pall mall. The loss other is very serious
(9-420)at this moment for had they remained keeping house in
(9-420)Edinburgh it would have been a great comfort to me.
(9-420)But if it proves in the end for their advantage I must be
(9-420)satisfied. They have a little boy about whose health
(9-420)I am truly anxious an only child as yet and very clever
(9-420)from being so much talked to and fondled. I do fear
(9-420)London on its account not a little. But we will not
(9-420)anticipate evil. God bless you my Lady Louisa. You
(9-420)have been since I knew [you] the ready and active
(9-420)comforter of much distress indeed I think that things
(9-420)have happened to exercize your feelings in the behalf of
(9-420)others merely because you really have that sincere interest
(9-420)in the griefs of others which so many people make the

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(9-421)ostensible show of—Do not think upon my losses as a thing
(9-421)to be vexed about but let me have the great pleasure of
(9-421)hearing from you now and then which will always
(9-421)enhance the pleasure of fair weather and make that which
(9-421)is rough the more endurable. I heard from Morrith lately
(9-421)which I was very glad of as his letter contradicted an ugly
(9-421)report of his Nephws illness. I am always Dear Lady
(9-421)Louisa most truly yours.1

W SCOTT

(9-421)EDINR. 7 feby 1826

[Northumberland and Abbotsford Copies]

TO MRS. THOMAS SCOTT 2

(9-421)MY DEAR MRS. SCOTT,—I have been involved in the
(9-421)troubles of this vile world by the Bankruptcy of Hurst
(9-421)and Robinson in London and Constables House here
(9-421)which will put in doubt and danger a very considerable
(9-421)proportion of my hard earnd fortune. How these affairs
(9-421)will turn out is uncertain but looking at the very worst
(9-421)statement which is the manly way I have settled my affairs

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(9-422)so as to live within a very comfortable income residing
(9-422)at Abbotsford constantly and taking lodgings for myself
(9-422)in Edinburgh during session time. I have considered the
(9-422)matter in all points of view and do not see that we shall
(9-422)want one real comfort which we have enjoyd though we
(9-422)lay aside some expensive points of finery. I am truly
(9-422)sorry that you must for this reason feel this inconvenience
(9-422)by delay of your fifty pounds for Walters outfit 240
(9-422)being to be provided leaves me at this pinchd moment
(9-422)no more than will carry us through the next quarter.
(9-422>Your brother will I dare say trust me till Whitsunday
(9-422)when I shall be quite in order again. Constables failure
(9-422)is the most extraordinary thing I ever knew. He appears
(9-422)to have been making by his trade from 8000 to 10,000
(9-422)gross profits—had no misfortunes—no bad debts—yet
(9-422)makes an incredibly bad turn out of funds and debts due
(9-422)to him. I really believe they have not had any capital
(9-422)for twenty years but were entirely trading on credit.

(9-422)I would have wishd to have given poor Walter a parting
(9-422)kiss but a journey of so many hundred miles in winter was
(9-422)too dear a purchase for the melancholy pleasure of saying
(9-422)Good bye. My best wishes go with him and I propose he
(9-422)shall have excellent recommendations and then he must

(9-422)push his own way. I would have liked him to have had a
(9-422)small sum of cash in hand on landing but except the few
(9-422)guineas that may be above his estimate of clothes &
(9-422)passage (which is extremely moderate) he must e'en do as
(9-422)other griffins and with oeconomy his pay will support
(9-422)him. On the whole I have done all in my power to put
(9-422)this fine lad as far as was possible for me in the way of
(9-422)making his fortune the rest must be done by himself and
(9-422)his fortune.

(9-422)There is a prospect of the 15[th] being orderd to India
(9-422)& Walter seems to have made his mind up to go with
(9-422)them and what is odd enough his wife has the same wish.
(9-422)He thinks that two or three years residence in India
(9-422)will get his step of Major and you are aware that the

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(9-423)prospect of a step reconciles a soldier to every thing.
(9-423)This is all uncertain yet.

(9-423)Annes letter gave us better hopes of my poor Eliza than
(9-423)we had from former communications. I trust she is now
(9-423)getting well again and above all gaining strength. Poor
(9-423)Aunt Curl is gone and I am happy to think has rememberd
(9-423)your family. I wish it had been to a greater extent but
(9-423)she had not much to leave. It will always help a little.
(9-423)She died like a Roman or rather like one of the Sandiknow
(9-423)bairns who were the most stoical race I ever knew. She
(9-423)turnd every one out of the room and drew her last breath
(9-423)alone. So did my uncle Capt. Scott and several of that
(9-423)family.

(9-423)I understand there is hope of your making a trip soon
(9-423)to Wales or else where. I trust you will make a Northward
(9-423)tour in the winter & you will find Abbotsford with

(9-423)all its fires on for all that is come and gone.

(9-423)My kindest love to Anne & Eliza and when you can
(9-423)favour me with a few lines to let me know how you do
(9-423)they will be highly acceptable to Dear Mrs Scott Your
(9-423)affectionate brother

(9-423)WALTER SCOTT

(9-423)EDINR. 10 feby. [1826]

(9-423)I am very glad the Lockharts could give Walter the
(9-423)convenience of a lodging in Pall Mall which must have
(9-423)suited the Lieutenant better than a lodging-house. Mama
(9-423)and Anne send kind Compliments.

[Huntington]

TO MISS CLEPHANE

[Extract]

(9-423)MY DEAR Miss CLEPHANE,—I dare say Good Mother
(9-423)Fame has given you some good reasons why I did not
(9-423)immediately acknowlege your letter having some sweet-
(9-423)meats to cook of my own at the time. The wind of ill

(9-424)luck among more important wrecks has swept away a
(9-424)great proportion of my hard earnd wealth.1 . . . The
(9-424)worst is that people plague you with their sympathy
(9-424)which I dont want & with projects for my assistance &
(9-424)relief when I neither want the one nor the other. The
(9-424)letters I have got on the occasion would furnish a new
(9-424)department for the complete letter writer from one

(9-424)received from that prodigious Jackass Sir John Sinclair
(9-424)proposing a lottery to a Quack on Leith Walk offering
(9-424)me a share.

(9-424)I cannot conceive any objection to your raising the
(9-424)interest on the Bill especially as my friend Raeburn on a
(9-424)transaction which I did not think it necessary to mention
(9-424)to you wishd to diminish the interest at this time last year
(9-424)& only desisted from his proposal on my saying I would
(9-424)rather that he paid up the money. So that what is sauce
(9-424)for the Goose—the proverb is somewhat musty. He is
(9-424)also 270 a year better by some little office which I had
(9-424)in my power to give him & so far he is able to pay the
(9-424)current interest & that is universally 5 per cent.

(9-424)Whenever I got out of my unlucky disasters & settled
(9-424)myself stoutly to abide by the very worst statement
(9-424)possible & take every thing that hap'd better for a Godsend
(9-424)I began to feel like a cock of the game who however
(9-424)hard matched begins to crow the instant the battle is
(9-424)over. What would I give to have you near me to sing the
(9-424)following ditty.² . . . The chorus is alterd from an old
(9-424)one which I was always fond of though it is annexd to
(9-424)words which are worse than silly. I want to know
(9-424)whether on reading these offhand verses you think with
(9-424)Master Silence " that an old man can do somewhat." ³

(9-424)Sophias absence is a woeful blow to us far worse than
(9-424)loss of warlds gear. I sent her a copy of Bonny Dundee

(9-425)which she is practising. I want [to] see which of you
(9-425)sisters in song will sing it first. If you think it will stand
(9-425)the sea you may send it to Lady Compton & I hope she
(9-425)will make the same allowance for it that Wilhelmina &

(9-425)her Ladyship make for the brown bread which they eat
(9-425)as oat cakes. You say nothing of Lord Comptons health
(9-425)so I augur he is at least no worse & in his case keeping
(9-425)ground is every thing. I have been amusing myself with
(9-425)a book called the English in Italy 1 which though on the
(9-425)whole manque shows yet a habitual acquaintance with the
(9-425)habits both of the Italians and our Zingari as they call the
(9-425)English strollers among them. The book with the writers
(9-425)powers both of stile & thought ought to have been
(9-425)excellent but he fails in making his story interesting.

(9-425)My best & kindest compliments attend my dear Mrs.
(9-425)Clephane. We heard some report as if she had been not
(9-425)very well which I hope has been no otherwise the case
(9-425)than what we folks who begin to be a little old must needs
(9-425)look for. I am My dear Miss Clephane Always your truly
(9-425)faithful & affectionate friend

(9-425)WALTER SCOTT

(9-425)EDINR. 11th Feby [PM. 12th Feby. 1826]

(9-425)If I am slow in writing you will allow I give it like a
(9-425)tether.

(9-425)Lady Scott & Anne send their kindest compliments.
(9-425)They are to be country Ladies in general from henceforth.
(9-425)This is a plan we had long formd late circumstances have
(9-425)only accelerated our resolution on that point.

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-425)DEAR JAMES,—I have not overtaken the proof—there
(9-425)is a song to be written and I am in no song writing humour.

(9-426)I think from the view the Gentlemen of the Old Bank
(9-426)have taken of the mode of conducting the Trust that
(9-426)we will be much worse off than under a Sequestration
(9-426)which would at least leave me the exercize of my own
(9-426)talents for my own benefit. I suppose I shall know in
(9-426)the course of the day I am very truly yours

(9-426)WALTER SCOTT

(9-426)thursday [16 Feb. 1826]

(9-426)My own mind is quite made up—if they take up the
(9-426)sword of the Law I will take its shield.1

[British Museum]

TO HIS DAUGHTER, MRS. LOCKHART

(9-426)17 february [1826]

(9-426)MY DEAR SOPHIA,—Cay 2 gave me a packet to send to
(9-426)Lockhart by an office frank so I slip in these few lines just
(9-426)to enquire how you all get on. I am at a loss to
(9-426)understand from Lockharts last letter whether he loses his
(9-426)connection with the paper or only gets rid of the practical
(9-426)difficulties which he did not undertake to obviate. I am
(9-426)anxious to know how this stands. Also whether Walter
(9-426)got my bundle of letters and a bill for 40 previously sent
(9-426)him in addition to the 240. I hope he went off in good
(9-426)health and spirits.

(9-426)I hope you will not neglect Lady Louisa Stuart. She
(9-426)is decidedly one of the most sensible women I ever knew
(9-426)and very witty withal.

(9-426)There is nothing new here except that our affairs are
(9-426)arranging themselves not without the usual degree of
(9-426)obstacle and that I hope they will be in a fair train by
(9-426)the 12th. My own views would not appear to a young
(9-426)person either comfortable or lively for I must lay my

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(9-427)account with passing great part of the year in actual
(9-427)solitude. I have no apprehensions however of being
(9-427)tired of my own company though I will often wish no
(9-427)doubt for that of my family. Anne is quite well except
(9-427)a touch of the rheumatism. She bears up very well but
(9-427)I dare say thinks of the loss of the gay parties and the
(9-427)sister belles who sweep by the house about ten o'clock
(9-427)with some feelings for past splendour and gaiety. Mama
(9-427)is quite well which is Gods especial mercy.

(9-427)We are to oeconomize in order to keep the carriage and
(9-427)Pepi is to plough his horses a yoking in the morning. The
(9-427)old man jumpd at the proposal and said it would do him
(9-427)and the beasts much good and he would like it of all
(9-427)things. Now this matter of the carriage is of great
(9-427)consequence as a daily drive about two is really essential
(9-427)to Mamas health and spirits.

(9-427)I inclose a trifle for the Representative on the subject
(9-427)of female burning in India which I have from Colonel
(9-427)Russell it is interesting I think. If Balaam 1 of this kind
(9-427)could serve John I might send but stipulate for its being
(9-427)transcribed into another hand.

(9-427)R. P. Gillies was here speaking I thought rather oddly
(9-427)about what hopes Lockhart had given him namely of
(9-427) 600 a year to translate foreign newspapers and a room

(9-427)in his house.2 Surely he dreamd all this but he seemd
(9-427)serious enough. I can only say that such a bunch of
(9-427)imbecility lumberd on the top of a coach which is heavy

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(9-428)enough at any rate would certainly bring down the
(9-428)concern. As for his domestic society that is a matter of
(9-428)taste. Sincerely I hope John will establish the Quarterly
(9-428)and the paper if he is to have any thing to do with it on
(9-428)a firm basis without considering them as means of helping
(9-428)those who cannot play their part. This year (I mean
(9-428)this present 1826) every exertion should be made to
(9-428)give distinction to both undertakings and I fear these
(9-428)can only be done by exercizing something like hard-
(9-428)heartedness to those to whom the wages of literary labour
(9-428)are generally most necessary but who are not very happy
(9-428)in pleasing the public taste.

(9-428)I am most anxious to see the Review. I wish we had it
(9-428)out. Lockhart has not sent me a proof of my own little
(9-428)articles. Your accounts of Johnie poor dear Child give
(9-428)me the highest satisfaction.

(9-428)All love to Lockhart. You need not bother about
(9-428)Gillies unless you think it adviseable. He talkd as if he
(9-428)knew more about attorneys paper than I liked to hear
(9-428)but of course I made no observation and may have
(9-428)misunderstood his way of speaking. Kiss Johnie for me
(9-428)and believe me Yours affectionately

(9-428)W. SCOTT

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-428)DEAR JAMES,—I am glad the song 1 was tolerable for
(9-428)I thought it rather flat. It was nothing 2 to the Bankers
(9-428)for I did not hear anything of their motions till last night
(9-428)when I had the satisfaction to learn all is right Mr
(9-428)Monypenny becomes trustee in R. Rutherfords place his
(9-428)interest with the Bank is very great and he pledges himself
(9-428)for their acting on his principles which are all that I
(9-428)could wish them in reason. So the trust goes on.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-429)There is some doubt whether Woodstock should be
(9-429)driven on too fast lest it come out before we have a distinct
(9-429)understanding with Constables trustee who cannot be
(9-429)named till three weeks after Monday next. In this view
(9-429)I am really writing an article on the English proposal
(9-429)about Bank Notes being extended to Scotland—it may
(9-429)breed a blaze—at any rate it is but a squib cast away
(9-429)Yours truly
W. SCOTT

(9-429)CASTLE STREET, Saturday [18th February 1826] (1)
[British Museum]

TO MRS. SCOTT OF LOCHORE

(9-429)MY DEAR JANE,—I have been a most undutiful papa
(9-429)and left a kind letter of yours too long unanswerd. But
(9-429)this cannot be helped sometimes and you know I have
(9-429)had a lot of unpleasant duties to do lately. These are
(9-429)now all settled as well as they can be just now and I hope
(9-429)if God spare me health and power of application I will
(9-429)be able in the course of a year or two to make up the
(9-429)losses which these unhappy times have brought upon me.
(9-429)The only material sacrifice that we have settled [is] that
(9-429)I shall spend the time of Session in lodgings by myself
(9-429)which will be lonely enough and make me send many a

(9-429)long wish to Dublin and London and the Banks of the
(9-429)Tweed not to mention Oxford for my objects of affection
(9-429)are at present all squanderd abroad like so many pease.
(9-429)I hope that the military duties of this summer will have
(9-429)some relaxation so as [to] enable you and Walter to
(9-429)come over for a few months or weeks which will add much
(9-429)to our happiness and you will find that no retrenchments
(9-429)at Abbotsford affect the real and substantial comforts
(9-429)of the place. Besides you should pay a visit to Lochore

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(9-430)and Walter should look at the woods which will require
(9-430)thinning for the benefit of the plantations themselves.
(9-430)And you will see all your Scotch friends too and Mrs
(9-430)Jobson in particular.

(9-430)I suppose this cannot be till after the reviews and when
(9-430)they are I am sure I do not know but I wish you would
(9-430)find out and tell me. I suppose there can be no difficulty
(9-430)in Walter getting his leave in turn as he has now been
(9-430)very long without asking any from the Regiment. I have
(9-430)no further news of India so I hope that long expedition
(9-430)is not likely to take place. Little Walter (my Nephew) is
(9-430)gone down to Gravesend to [de]part for the east in the
(9-430)good Ship Thomas Coutts Indiaman. Poor fellow I hope
(9-430)he will do well and have the pleasure to think he has
(9-430)wanted no assistance which was in my power to procure
(9-430)him and as he has profited I believe to [a] great extent by
(9-430)his scientific education and is well behave[d] and well
(9-430)recommended he has every chance health permitting to
(9-430)get to the very head of his profession and I am told that
(9-430)the profession of an engineer is a very gainful one in India.

(9-430)We had the pleasure of hearing from Walter and of you
(9-430)this morning by a letter to Anne and I learn with pleasure

(9-430)you are now giving a pair of the cattle a turn in your own
(9-430)carriage which is a great saving. For my own part I
(9-430)have come down proud stomach and to avoid keeping
(9-430)two pair of cart-horses which I must otherwise have done
(9-430)I have settled to let old Peter and his coach horses plough
(9-430)a yoking a day in the spring and winter and the old heroe
(9-430)was far from resenting the proposal on the contrary said
(9-430)it would [do] himself and the horses much good for
(9-430)through the winter they would have but very little to do.

(9-430)We heard of Sophia indirectly through her maid
(9-430)Junor 1 which is not perhaps the worst channel for [if] a
(9-430)ladys servant says that her mistress is well it must needs
(9-430)be the case since these familiar attendants are the first
(9-430)to experience the inconvenience of real or supposed

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-431)indisposition. Johnie is also said to be well but much
(9-431)tired of London and pleading hard to return to the pony
(9-431)and Chiefswood and Abbotsford. Poor little fellow I
(9-431)hope London will agree with him for he is like to stay
(9-431)there long enough.

(9-431)Walter writes as if his march was to be early but does
(9-431)not say or probably does not know which way your
(9-431)direction lies. A horse quarter in the neighbourhood of
(9-431)Mallow or Kilkenny would be very pleasant, in some
(9-431)others which we saw rather doleful or so. But soldiers
(9-431)are like beggars and must not be chusers. This is to
(9-431)accompany a little Sketch of Abbotsford done for Mr
(9-431)Crampton. I wish it were better worth sending. Lady
(9-431)Scott and Anne are very well actively preparing for the
(9-431)summer campaign. They send kindest love. I am sorry
(9-431)to think I have not at present the means to be le bon papa
(9-431)and ask you whether you want nothing that I can help

(9-431)you to. But a good time will come round if we manage
(9-431)our bitters well and I will have an occasional 100 at
(9-431)your command as formerly. I have no fear of the result
(9-431)if I keep my health for I shall have time enough on my
(9-431)hands and time enough is every thing to a man as much
(9-431)in the habit of labour as I have always been. Indeed I
(9-431)believe the greatest hardship which could be imposed on
(9-431)me would be to prohibit my usual studies which form my
(9-431)principal amusement. Adieu my dearest Child. Let me
(9-431)have a few lines when you can spare time to let me know
(9-431)what is going on. Is there any chance of the Blakes
(9-431)coming down to Scotland. I owe them much kindness
(9-431)and though I intend to see very few people at Abbotsford
(9-431)their name and that of one or two Irish friends shall be
(9-431)Open Sesamum. Once more farewell my good Jane. Love
(9-431)to Walter and believe me your affectionate father

(9-431)WALTER SCOTT
(9-431)EDINR. 21 feby. [1826]

(9-431)This letter has lain by me a long while waiting for a
(9-431)frank or private hand and in [the] meantime arrives Janes

(9-432)most wellcome letter in the packet by Mr Franck. I sent
(9-432)your letter last night to Mrs Jobson and today I calld to
(9-432)shew her that which I had received. She askd me more
(9-432)questions about Ballinrobe Athlone &c. than my Irish
(9-432)experience was able to answer but I am to consult the
(9-432)Gazette and put her up to all the geography I can gather.
(9-432)Mrs Jobson says you expressd some slight hope of coming
(9-432)our way. What a delight that would be. Love to Mr
(9-432)Plunket and all his family the Blakes the Surgeon General
(9-432)and poor Hartstonge though but a poor creature he is a
(9-432)kind one. I have a drawing for Mr Crampton of Abbotsford

(9-432)and a good one but how to send it I do not know
(9-432)unless Mr Frank (whose very name corresponds with his
(9-432)doing such a kind office) will put it into his trunk. Anne
(9-432)and Lady Scott send you a thousand Loves and I am
(9-432)alway[s] your affectionate Papa WALTER SCOTT

(9-432)EDINR. 7 March [1826]

(9-432)Our address will hereafter be Abbotsford. We shall
(9-432)get there Monday or tuesday next.

[Law]

TO BENJAMIN ROBERT HAYDON 1

(9-432)EDINBURGH, 23rd February, 1826

(9-432)DEAR SIR,—I have received your kind letter, and have
(9-432)little to say in answer but what is reasonably indifferent
(9-432)to myself and will be agreeable to you. I have lost a
(9-432)large fortune, but I have ample competence remaining
(9-432)behind, and so I am just like an oak that loses its leaves
(9-432)and keeps its branches. If I had ever been a great
(9-432)admirer of money, I might have been at this moment
(9-432)very rich, for I should have had all I have lost, and much
(9-432)more. But I knew no mode of clipping the wings of
(9-432)fortune, so I might also have lost what I have set my heart

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(9-433)upon, and I should then have been like a man who had
(9-433)lost his whole clothes, whereas at present I only feel like
(9-433)one who has forgot his greatcoat. I am secure at [all
(9-433)events] of the perils which make bad fortune really
(9-433)painful, for my family are provided for, and so is my own
(9-433)and my wife's comforts for the time we may live. Others

(9-433)will regret my losses more than I do.

(9-433)It would be gross affectation to say I am glad of such
(9-433)a loss, but many things make it more indifferent to me
(9-433)than I believe it would be to most people. I will feel
(9-433)delighted by receiving your mark of kindness. I can only
(9-433)hope it has not taken up too much of your valuable time.
(9-433)Believe me, dear Sir, yours ever, WALTER SCOTT

(9-433)I hope things go on well with you, as your genius
(9-433)deserves. There is one comfort in the Fine Arts, that the
(9-433)actual profit may be lost, but the pleasure of pursuing
(9-433)them defies fortune.

[Tom Taylor's Life of Haydon]

TO J. G. LOCKHART 1

(9-433)My DEAR LOCKHART,—I was made very happy by
(9-433)receiving your kind letter last night and while sorry to
(9-433)learn (what indeed Sophia had informd Anne of) your
(9-433)severe indisposition 2 —pray do not work too hard and
(9-433)were it but a walk in the park be sure to take some air
(9-433)and exercise every day in the world. If Sophia goes with
(9-433)you it will be just so much the better for herself. I am
(9-433)rejoiced to think she is now giving fair play to her excellent

(9-434)constitution and I will warrant her safe in [the] approaching
(9-434)matter providing she will resist the temptation of doctoring
(9-434)and coddling herself. Moderate exercise a quiet mind
(9-434)and rational occupation and amusement will insure her
(9-434)a safe confinement gentle exercise especially is essential.

(9-434)You will see by a couple of pamphlets which I have

(9-434)inclosed that I am turnd politician as is usual with those
(9-434)who have shown themselves incapable of managing their
(9-434)own affairs with discretion. What has tempted me I
(9-434)cannot tell unless that I am savage at the cold insolence
(9-434)with which the English treat us. In the mean while they
(9-434)may carry it too far. Saunders is rousing fast and will
(9-434)make an awful fight for his Sir Williams as the English
(9-434)threatend for Abraham Newlands. I intend to go loose
(9-434)on them next week. There is some pleasure in mischief
(9-434)after all.

(9-434)I think the sooner Murray gets rid of his paper [the better].¹
(9-434)It is as I feard from the beginning it might be heavy, wants
(9-434)the touch and go blackguard genteel which distinguishes the
(9-434)real writer for the press. MacGinn could give [it] with a
(9-434)vengeance. It is at present too much of Tristrem Shandys
(9-434)bull who gaind his reputation by going through matters
(9-434)with a grave face.

(9-434)We sorrowd for Fannys death but I own I was a little
(9-434)alarmd at the symptoms that Sophia says she displayd
(9-434)which as a Dogleech I would pronounce to be those of
(9-434)the sullen or dumb hydrophobia which [is] not however
(9-434)dangerous like the more violent kind. Their instinct of
(9-434)hiding themselves before death is very singular.

(9-434)What do you think about the bar—there are so many
(9-434)things which a man of talents and character may do in

(9-435)that line without being an actual pleader that the gaining
(9-435)the professional character seems desireable. Auditorships
(9-435)&c are often casting up 1 and I should think from all
(9-435)I hear your interest is like to be [as] forward as that of any
(9-435)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

(9-436)Caddells retreat to the Abbey 1 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

(9-436)took to Alsatia but returned in two days.

(9-436)Constable has been very odd certainly. I almost think
(9-436)there was a taint of insanity about him with all his talent.
(9-436)The last time he spoke with me he said he was now at
(9-436)the bottom of the whole 2 and that it was all concocted
(9-436)by subordinate agents to bring him down—This is not
(9-436)only Balaam but Bedlam. By the bye I read B.L.M.³
(9-436)at the postscript to the Omen Balaam. Well Sir—but
(9-436)Constable appears to have drawn from that concern
(9-436) 4000,, in spite of Cadells remonstrances. But then
(9-436)Gadell ought to have stopped the business rather than it
(9-436)were plundered in that way. With all these draughts on
(9-436)his business and living at no great apparent expence—not
(9-436)above 1200 or 1500 a year the thing is very queer.
(9-436)But gone the money is that is certain.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-437)I have Sophias letter. I trust nothing can be wrong
(9-437)so far as concerns that part of the fortune of Mr Carpenter
(9-437)which my children have in reversion. It was transferred
(9-437)as I understood to Mr Hankey and Mr N. Barber and
(9-437)surely they cannot have both plaid the rogue. I will be
(9-437)anxious to hear [of] this new mishap.

(9-437)Sunday Eveng 25 feby. [1826]

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-437)DEAR JAMES,—I am certainly serious in Malachi if
(9-437)seriousness will do good. I will sleep quieter in my grave
(9-437)for having so fair an opportunity of speaking my mind.
(9-437)I send you more copy (unread) and regret to say the whole
(9-437)will run to 16 or 17 such pages ; but you can stop in the

(9-437)journal where you please so you order matters to get out
(9-437)the much more important pamphlet on Thursday. Have
(9-437)you ascertain'd whether the Banks want the same number
(9-437)as of the first.

(9-437>About Woodstocke hereafter. I will be glad to see
(9-437)Mr Cowan & wish you wou[ld] come with him and name
(9-437)an hour. You have not got me the information I wanted
(9-437)about Scotch & Irish members but I will find it tomorrow
(9-437)in the parl. House it will delay the proof however for
(9-437)which you may send to Parl. House at 12. Send in the
(9-437)morning all the same. Yours truly

(9-437)W. S.

[26th-27th February 1826]

[Buccleuch]

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LETTERS OF

1826

TO CHARLES KIRKPATRICK SHARPE

(9-438)MY DEAR CHARLES,—You promised when I displenishd
(9-438)this house that you would accept of the prints of Roman
(9-438)Antiquities 1 which I now send I believe they were once in
(9-438)some esteem though now so detestably smoked that they
(9-438)will only suit your suburban villa in the Cowgate when
(9-438)you retire to that classical residence. I also send a print
(9-438)which is an old favourite of mine from the humourous
(9-438)correspondence between Mr. Mountebanks face & the
(9-438)monkeys.

(9-438)I leave here today or tomorrow at farthest. When I
(9-438)return in May I shall be

(9-438)Bachelor bluff, bachelor bluff

(9-438)Hey for a heart that's rugged & tough.

(9-438)I shall have a beefsteak and a bottle of wine of a Sunday

(9-438)which I hope you will often take share of Being with

(9-438)sincere regard My dear Charles Always yours

(9-438)WALTER SCOTT

(9-438)CASTLE STREET Tuesday [? March 1826] (2)

[Hornel and Sharpe's Letters]

TO WILLIAM LAIDLAW

[Extract]

(9-438)March 1, 1826

(9-438)I ENCLOSE a couple of copies of a pamphlet on the

(9-438)currency, which may amuse you. The other copy is for

(9-438)Mr Craig, Galashiels. I have got off some bile from my

(9-438)stomach which has been disturbing me for some years.

(9-438)The Scotch have a fair opportunity now to give battle, if

(9-438)they dare avail themselves of it. One would think I had

(9-438)little to do, that I should go loose upon politics.

[Notanda]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[1826]

(9-439)DEAR JAMES,—To duple the thing handsomely there

(9-439)should be an alteration on sheet O p. 115 as well as on

(9-439)Strip P. I send both. But if O be at press we can do
(9-439)without. The comfort you gave me did me much good—

(9-439)I wish you would let me know what happens at Constables
(9-439)meeting to-day—it is most important. Yours truly
(9-439)W. S

(9-439)I have plenty of copy but it is more useful here than
(9-439)with you unless you get near this—The third part of
(9-439)Vol iii is finishd.

[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[1826]

(9-439)DEAR JAMES,—I received safely your letter with cash
(9-439)and also your still more wellcome accompt of the reception
(9-439)of Woodstock. Your criticisms turnd the bile in my
(9-439)stomach once or twice in an alarming manner though I
(9-439)had a secret consciousness that

(9-439)My lot is not to die to-day.

(9-439)I will be very glad to deal with Mr Cadell about anything
(9-439)in my way. But it appears to me for reasons which I have
(9-439)expressd in the inclosed to M[r] Gibson & which I leave
(9-439)open for your perusal to save writing them that the
(9-439)Trustees should send them to press themselves and not
(9-439)dispose of the Editions till they are nearly ready.

(9-439)As for Boney we can clip his wings if he threatens to
(9-439)fly too far. I hope your auguries of this work will not
(9-439)prove false as they were always flattering.

(9-439)I send copy and proofs. Pray seal & forward Mr
(9-439)Gibsons letter—Yours truly WALTER SCOTT
(9-439)Turn over

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(9-440)I am writing a review for Lockhart which may stand [?]
(9-440)copy a day or two. Besides I get slowly on with the
(9-440)blindness occasioned by the constant peering in [to] cases.

[British Museum]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-440)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I had Sophias letter yesterday
(9-440)and your kind note tonight. I rejoice to hear of Johnie's
(9-440)health and his grand step towards instruction. I hope
(9-440)Mrs MacTavish whom I like not the worse you may be
(9-440)sure for her name will be mild in her rule and let him
(9-440)listen to reading a good deal without cramming the
(9-440)alphabet and grammar down the poor child's throat.
(9-440)I cannot at this moment tell how or when I learned to read
(9-440)but it was by fits and snatches as one aunt or another in
(9-440)the old rumble-tumble farm houses could give me a
(9-440)less[on] and I am sure it increased my love and habit of
(9-440)reading more than the austerities of a school could have
(9-440)done—I gave trouble I believe in wishing to be taught and
(9-440)in self defence gradually acquired the mystery myself.
(9-440)Johnie is infirm a little though not so much so as I was
(9-440)and often he has brought back to my recollection the
(9-440)stage of my own childhood. I hope he will have any
(9-440)good that was in me with less carelessness.

(9-440)My affairs are simply thus—I have disposed my
(9-440)worldly goods and gear for payment of very heavy
(9-440)existing obligations. Walter succeeds to Abbotsford by

(9-440)his marriage contract according to the Deans 2 opinion
(9-440)and that of all others I have hitherto heard. But if the

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-441)Creditors can dispute the settlement and after a year or
(9-441)twos trial find it policy to do so they may perhaps attempt
(9-441)it—Yet if I keep my popularity with the public they will
(9-441)have no temptation—Meantime I have the House and
(9-441)home farm and my official income 1600 a year. Charles
(9-441)must cost me 300 for a year or two and my Brothers
(9-441)family a 150,, more but as Lady Scott goes now entirely
(9-441)on the ready money system as I have plenty of wine &c
(9-441)and as I can make viis et modis two or three hundred
(9-441)extra without interrupting the serious and heavy work
(9-441)which it will be my pleasure to bestow on redeeming my
(9-441)affairs I can easily gain as literary men know how—we
(9-441)shall be very comfortable. My pleasure is labour and
(9-441)varied by a walk with Tom Purdie I have little wish
(9-441)beyond it. In Edinburgh I must be lonely and sometimes
(9-441)my heart sinks a little at the idea of leaving poor 39 N.
(9-441)Castle Street with its divers easements so suited to our
(9-441)wants and wishes. But a man who falls out of a three pair
(9-441)of stairs window has reason to thank God if he escapes
(9-441)with a dirl 1 on the elbow. Of course the extrication of
(9-441)my affairs will be more or less easy as those of Hurst &
(9-441)Robinson and Constable may turn out. I will make the
(9-441)best fight I can and let the worst come I will be contented
(9-441)for I shall have done my duty. I have had offers of
(9-441)support and so forth but what signifies borrowing from
(9-441)friends to pay men who are far from foes. This is the
(9-441)upshot of the whole matter I sustain not the least personal
(9-441)inconvenience indeed had the chusing of my own terms.
(9-441)And you are quite wellcome to mention all this to any
(9-441)body who wishes to know. Among other offers I had one
(9-441)of a very honourable character on [the] part of some old

(9-441)friends. Sir P. Murray communicated it to me on the part
(9-441)of Justice Clerk, Abercromby & Abercromby and others—

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(9-442)for a place on the Session Bench. But I declined it at
(9-442)once. My interest would have suffered rather than have
(9-442)been advanced by it as I could not with conscience have
(9-442)devoted my mind or any considerable portion of my time
(9-442)to literary pursuits. Besides my attention has been long
(9-442)withdrawn from the Law and I would not like to serve
(9-442)the altar for a bit of bread or rather for a little butter to
(9-442)put upon it for thank God I have the bread already. A
(9-442)Barons gown would be a very different thing and I
(9-442)should be glad to have it—in my best days I have sometimes
(9-442)thought of it and had the late D. of Buccleuchs
(9-442)strong interest when a fitting occasion should arrive. But I
(9-442)neither could nor would combat Raes better pretensions and
(9-442)much may happen before two vacancies occur on that bench.

(9-442)Besides I am certain I am not now taking the way to
(9-442)preferment

(9-442)But who can help it Dick—

(9-442)I cannot see the country ruined before my eyes with every
(9-442)soul but Mr Macculloch 1 of the Scotsman and some half
(9-442)dozen [in] Edinr without a soul of their own mob to
(9-442)support them of a different opinion. Old Gardiner
(9-442)when wounded at Prestonpans almost dying himself rode
(9-442)up to the infantry when the cavalry were broken and
(9-442)saying these poor lads will be destroyed without a leader
(9-442)called out " fire away my lads and fear nothing " a
(9-442)lesser man would have galloped off. But my heart will
(9-442)not brook—fall back or fall edge—to leave the cause of my
(9-442)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.²

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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 for[c]ible 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 accomplishd

(9-443)the better. Love to Sophia and Johnie our friends in
(9-443)Picca[di]lly 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

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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

(9-444)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.—

(9-444)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.

[Law]

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

(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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1826

(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)gentlemens 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

(9-446)I would with pleasure send you a copy. The dole for such
(9-446)it is to these little performers is regularly ... a silver penny
(9-446)& a regular portion of what is call'd white bread (household

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-447)bread vizt.) to each child who is residing on the lairds
(9-447)land a copper penny and a quarter circle of oat-cake
(9-447)call'd a farle to each stranger.

(9-447)It is very diverting to see so many little happy faces but
(9-447)the manner of the different children in all the varieties
(9-447)from downright impudence to the extremity of awkward
(9-447)bashfullness is no less so. In Edinburgh these Exhibitions
(9-447)have been put down by the police in a great measure the
(9-447)privilege of going disguised having been of late years so
(9-447)much abused that one party in particular who call'd
(9-447)themselves Rob Roys gang went so far into the spirit of
(9-447)their part as actually to commit theft. In time past
(9-447)there was no limitation nor was the privilege abused.
(9-447)The exquisite delight was to go to the House of some
(9-447)particular friend or relation who of course was all too
(9-447)kind to discern us even while stuffing us with better cheer
(9-447)than was given to Guisards of a more ordinary description.
(9-447)I pray your pardon for these details which while they
(9-447)bring back some pleasing remembrances to myself may
(9-447)not be altogether indifferent to you as indicating probably
(9-447)the only remnants of a subject on which you have thrown
(9-447)so much light. I should wish very much to know by what
(9-447)safe conveyance I could send you a copy of a curious
(9-447)Scottish Chronicle printed here by the Bannatyne Club
(9-447)(corresponding to the Roxburgh Club of London). I do
(9-447)not promise it will be so interesting to you as to a Scotsman
(9-447)yet there are curious things in it affording interest to both
(9-447)countries.

(9-447)Having been far too long in sending my letter owing to
(9-447)work [?] which threw my whole correspondence into
(9-447)arrears I am now like to be tedious in another sort. Yet one
(9-447)word ere I close. Pray what is your opinion of the real
(9-447)story of Peeping Tom whose name so naturally connects
(9-447)itself with Coventry ? A figure is said to be preserved of
(9-447)him. Is it of any antiquity ? Another question a less
(9-447)civil one I own regards the origin of the ordinary phrase
(9-447)of being " sent to Coventry". From the little I have seen

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1826

(9-448)of Coventry in passing through & all that I have ever
(9-448)heard I cannot conceive why disagreeable people should
(9-448)be referred to your fair & famous town of all places in the
(9-448)world. Excuse this trouble but you know my dear sir
(9-448)your antiquarian is a kind of bore himself therefore liable
(9-448)to be sent to exile to you. I can only add I would
(9-448)willingly submit to a literal sentence of banishment to
(9-448)Coventry provided it afforded me an opportunity of
(9-448)offering you the personal thanks of your &c &c

(9-448)WALTER SCOTT

[Abbotsford Copies]

TO HIS DAUGHTER—MRS. LOCKHART

(9-448)MY DEAR SOPHIA,—I have but time to write a few lines
(9-448)and say how much I was pleased to hear from you. I am sure
(9-448)the West Indian affair ² though now gone off as a direct
(9-448)bargain will well managed do much for Lockhart. There
(9-448)are I should suppose in these gentlemens power indirect
(9-448)means of serving Lockhart by introducing him into
(9-448)business not immediatly connected with literature or
(9-448)dependent on its instant rewards. I own my own

(9-449)misfortunes have made me afraid of trusting entirely to
(9-449)literature and booksellers. Had I not had my two snug
(9-449)offices I should have been for the time base enough—and
(9-449)so I have come off like the stag in the fable by the qualities
(9-449)he despized while my branchy antlers only caught me in
(9-449)the wood. I wish he had a similar certainty in reserve.

(9-449)We are all well and busy with our flitting—a sad sight
(9-449)to me who had hoped never to quit No 39 and am
(9-449)subject to attachment even to chairs and tables. You all
(9-449)used to play about me here as children and came to be
(9-449)my comfort when you were at a more advanced age and
(9-449)I cannot but feel the separation from things that put me
(9-449)in mind of this. But this is nonsense and I ought to be
(9-449)happy at the prospect of saving Abbotsford. I have tried
(9-449)a third letter of Malachi but it will be the last. I have
(9-449)done my duty and I will not sacrifice my time and leisure
(9-449)further in the controversy having gone far enough for all
(9-449)the thanks I shall get.

(9-449)We are to remain in this now empty or half empty
(9-449)house till we see all we wish to keep shipd off. Tell
(9-449)Lockhart I have carried off all the decent drawings and
(9-449)prints and left the oil paintings of Miss Somebody to the
(9-449)chance of getting the price of their frames. I intended
(9-449)once to have Allan mark my name on them and sell them
(9-449)as the productions of my youth to help the sale.

(9-449)I have a letter from Charles 1 and I think he threatens
(9-449)being with you in the vacation, which is I believe a short
(9-449)one and Lockhart whom he respects much could give
(9-449)him a little hint now and then. Poor fellow I hope he
(9-449)will be aware he must work hard and my greatest anxiety
(9-449)will be to get him out well in the world. He has many

(9-450)qualities that suit a bustling young fellow who is desirous to get forward.

(9-450)

Mama is quite well excepting the indolence arising from (9-450)the state of her general health and which I hope will mend (9-450)in the country. Anne is in excellent spirits. I have got (9-450)lodgings in Saint Davids Street very comfortable. The (9-450)ass Dalgleish will not leave me and gives up poor devil (9-450) 10,, of his wages. So he and Cissy are to manage my (9-450)domestic affairs. My private hope is that after Christmas (9-450)I may have Anne with me for six weeks if I can get Jane (9-450)Russell to give my Mama her company in her absence. (9-450)It is a pity she should be out of Society altogether—And (9-450)as Captain Bobadil says " the cabbin is convenient."

(9-450)Letters from Walter and Jane say they are leaving (9-450)Dublin for country quarters which both seem glad off as (9-450)they are [a] little tired of the gaities and expence of (9-450)Dublin. I am glad they are so provident but Jane is a (9-450)good manager calls in and pays bills and Walter is not (9-450)expensive. I have not time to write more. Love to dear (9-450)little Johnie and success to Miss McTavish who I hope will (9-450)play with him as much as work. I never knew good come (9-450)of severe teaching in early youth. Give a child the desire (9-450)of knowlege and he will acquire it.

(9-450)Adieu my dearest Soph[i]a kindest Love to Lockhart (9-450)and believe me Your affectionate father

(9-450)WALTER SCOTT

(9-450)CASTLE STREET
(9-450)7 March [1826]

I will seldom write
that date 2 again.

[Law]

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO CAPT. WALTER SCOTT, DUBLIN

(9-451)MY DEAR WALTER,—I had the pleasure of your kind
(9-451)letter and Jane's by M[r] Francks. The present state of
(9-451)poor 93 (1) Castle Street does not admit of asking guests
(9-451)to dinner for we are sending off the things we want to
(9-451)Abbotsford and among the rest about a 100 dozen of
(9-451)tolerable wine which will keep us out of the wine
(9-451)merchants accompts for some time when added to what I
(9-451)have in cellar there. But I have invited M[r] Franck to
(9-451)break[f]ast being as the Minister expressd it in his grace
(9-451)over a dish of herrings " the least of all possible mercies."
(9-451)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.
(9-451)I could not help mingling in the controversy about the
(9-451)intended extension of the gold bill to Scotland to the total
(9-451)superceding of notes under five pounds—And have
(9-451)written on the subject three letters under the signature
(9-451)of Malachi Malagrowth which have had a great run
(9-451)and made proportional noise. If I had been very wise
(9-451)I would have let things take their own way but I think
(9-451)the Ministers have for ten or twelve years back been
(9-451)pursuing a System highly insulting towards Scotland
(9-451)and this sudden and violent change of currency will
(9-451)produce the greatest mischief. Besides when peoples
(9-451)own affairs have been mismanaged they are always
(9-451)disposed to put to rights those of the public. If I could
(9-451)get an opportunity I would send you Malachis letters for
(9-451)though on a grave subject they are rather funny. The
(9-451)Books you wanted to send to Lord Lieutenant—get Mr

(9-451)Blake or some one at the Castle to tell you how to send
(9-451)them.

(9-451)I fancy I must rather wish you joy of leaving Dublin
(9-451)as both Jane and you express yourselves as if tired of
(9-451)gaieties. Gort I am unacquainted with but [have] heard

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1826

(9-452)of Athlone. At any rate there will be good rooms in the
(9-452)barracks and Jane will commence leaguer:lady complete.
(9-452)I suppose there will be always some thing of a neighbourhood
(9-452)and none has a better right to repose confidence in
(9-452)Irish hospitality. So with a little driving about and
(9-452)riding fine weather without doors and books drawing and
(9-452)music within you may pass away the time as happy as you
(9-452)please. Most happy shall I be in finding that you can be
(9-452)with us in July which I suppose may be possible as your
(9-452)reviews and so forth generally take place early.

(9-452)Lockhart I believe has made a great impression in
(9-452)London and I trust may get into something less
(9-452)precarious than success as a literary man and I believe
(9-452)something of the kind will happen by and bye. As for
(9-452)Soph she is in her element and needs much attention.1
(9-452)The poor child is also well but you know there is but little
(9-452)between poor Johnies health and sickness. He has been
(9-452)living in great awe from a consciousness of being not
(9-452)distant in residence from the Kings own House.

(9-452)Amid the bad times Barber Mrs Nicolsons Nephew went
(9-452)to the wall with his [whole] House Shaw, Perryns 2 &c.
(9-452)This went to my heart when I saw it in the Gazette for
(9-452)fear of any tricks being plaid with Mrs Carpenters money
(9-452)which stood in their names. But all is luckily safe. It is
(9-452)now proposed to put it into the names of Mrs Carpenter

(9-452)John G. Lockhart John Richardson and Sir Coutts
(9-452)Trotter which seems a perfectly safe arrangement of
(9-452)trustees. Mr Gouldbourne I fancy is in London.

(9-452)I am glad you are making some use of your horses in
(9-452)applying them occasionally at least to your own carriage
(9-452)it makes a great difference in point of expence and the
(9-452)cattle are not a bit the worse of the additional exercize
(9-452)and it will be a great convenience to my little Jane.

(9-452)We have more goods and chattles in the way of pictures

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-453)and so forth than we have present places to bestow [them].
(9-453)I will let all the trash go and keep only the good engravings
(9-453)and drawings with perhaps two or three pictures. My
(9-453)own portrait by Raeburn James Skene gives house room
(9-453)to for a year or two but with an explaind understanding
(9-453)that I retain the property. I should care little for it on
(9-453)my own account but I told Skene that I thought you
(9-453)would [not] be willing to part with it.1 There would be
(9-453)difficulty where to hang it at Abbotsford unless over the
(9-453)drawing room chimney which place is better occupied by
(9-453)a handsome mirror.

(9-453)Mama and Anne are in their usual health. I trust the
(9-453)country will persuade Mama to take more exercize which
(9-453)would be of great service if she could go on with [it]
(9-453)regularly. But her complaints are connected with an
(9-453)indolence which renders her unwilling to walk or exert
(9-453)herself though she knows it does her good. Anne is in
(9-453)great spirits and swears she will not visit Edinr in a hurry
(9-453)again. I intend she shall come in for a month or six
(9-453)weeks next winter if things go on well and I can get a
(9-453)proper companion to stay with Mama. I have got nice

(9-453)rooms (bed room and parlour) in a good and quiet
(9-453)situation North St. Davids Street. There is another
(9-453)bedroom and sort of parlour in the house which I can
(9-453)have if I please : and as I [have ?] a man and maidservant
(9-453)with [me] if Anne brings another maid we will be
(9-453)quite snug and she can have a little round of gaieties and
(9-453)not fall to leeward entirely out of the line other
(9-453)acquaintances. I would have gone to the Club and done without
(9-453)a servant but Dagleish poor devil was in such despair at
(9-453)the idea of leaving us and rather wishing to surrender part
(9-453)of his wages that we were obliged to keep him and must
(9-453)save on something else. The fellow is a fool for would he
(9-453)but go to any creditable undertaker that long rueful face
(9-453)of his would make his fortune. He seems like a man

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LETTERS OF

1826

(9-454)oppressd with some strange sorrow. Charles complains
(9-454)he never hears from you—you ought to write to him now
(9-454)and then. Jane has a letter inclosed 1 written long ago
(9-454)and only waiting a frank or private hands. Always my
(9-454)dear Walter Your affectionate father

(9-454)WALTER SCOTT

(9-454)EDINR. 7 March [PM. 1826]

(9-454)You may address Abbotsford Melrose hereafter.

[Law]

TO CHARLES SCOTT, BRAZENNOSE COLLEGE, OXFORD

(9-454)MY DEAR CHARLES,—I have receivd your letter and
(9-454)remit the needful. At the same time I must inform you
(9-454)that small as I should have thought the sum a few months
(9-454)since I must now supply your necessity by borrowing
(9-454)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

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(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

(9-455)of the sale of all our old domestic ornaments with absolute
(9-455)stoicism. One has—at least I have—a sort of attachment
(9-455)even to the senseless moveables we have so long made use
(9-455)of. But this would be a foolish idea to encourage. We
(9-455)ought to be thankful so severe a tempest can be appeased
(9-455)with such trifling sacrifices.

(9-455)I have no doubt Lockhart will be delighted to see you
(9-455)during the vacation and when there I hope you will write
(9-455)particularly how they are going on especially how poor
(9-455)little Johnie does. I hope you will employ your time well
(9-455)when in London. There is much to be seen and learned
(9-455)there besides idle amusement.

(9-455)I inclose a 20,, note of the Bank of England which
(9-455)will be on the whole the easiest way of making the
(9-455)necessary remittance. Adieu my dear Charles. Continue
(9-455)to labour in Spring that you may reap the fruit
(9-455)hereafter. Yours truly

(9-455)WALTER SCOTT

(9-455)EDINR. 7th March [PM. 1826]

(9-455)We go to Abbotsford on the 14 or 15 as it will take that
(9-455)time after the 11th to clear away our goods and gear.

[Law]

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LETTERS OF

1826

TO JOHN GIBSON, W.S.

(9-456)MY DEAR SIR,—Tomorrow the Cabinet will be sent you
(9-456)before breakfast. I am sorry poor No 39 has stuck in the
(9-456)market but worse luck now better the next time.

(9-456)The cabinet you have been kind enough to accept will
(9-456)wait on you tomorrow before breakfast & I wish it was
(9-456)more worthy offering to you.

(9-456)Lady Scott leaves town about the middle of next week.
(9-456)I go on tuesday and we are desirous to deliver up upon
(9-456)inventory to be taken by any one you are pleased to name
(9-456)the furniture remaining in the House. There is one point
(9-456)on which I beg to speak. I wish it to be advertized as
(9-456)the furniture in No 39 lately occupied by Sir W. S. Your
(9-456)delicacy would I know boggle at this but mine does not.
(9-456)My displeasure is that I am not able to pay every one
(9-456)their own not on the measures necessary to effect payment
(9-456)& I have some reason to think that if the public are aware
(9-456)it is mine better prices may be given some folks are
(9-456)curious to have even trifling articles belonging to those
(9-456)who have right or wrong made some noise [in] the world.
(9-456)I heard a fellow passing the house say " Odd I'll [have]
(9-456)one of his chairs if it cost me 20/ ". Others may have
(9-456)a similar whim & if so why should they go to brokers
(9-456)to give them the advantage which would be gained by the
(9-456)Creditors.

(9-456)You must think when the furniture is to be sold & how
(9-456)the things are to [be] kept safe & in good order till the
(9-456)Sale takes place.

(9-456)I inclose a billet from the tax office. If you can
(9-456)breakfast with us tomorrow or Saturday at half past nine
(9-456)Lady Scott would be happy to talk with you about what
(9-456)is to be done in this matter. Yours always gratefully

(9-456)WALTER SCOTT

(9-456)CASTLE STREET Wednesday 8th March 1826

[Walpole]

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO SIR ROBERT DUNDAS

(9-457)MY DEAR SIR ROBERT,—I return you Lord Melville's
(9-457)letter, and as it is chiefly intended for my perusal,¹ I am
(9-457)under the necessity of adding a few observations.

(9-457)My Lord Melville is fully entitled to undervalue
(9-457)my arguments and contravene the facts which I have
(9-457)aired. Very possibly the former may not be worth
(9-457)minding, and the latter in some degree incorrect, though
(9-457)I believe the general statement will be found substantial.

(9-457)But I think it hard to be called a highwayman for
(9-457)taking the field on this occasion when God knows I had no
(9-457)personal booty to hope for. I think Lord Melville might
(9-457)have at least allowed [me] the credit of Don Quixote,
(9-457)who took the field as an imaginary lighter of wrongs.

(9-457)Twice in my life I have volunteered in public affairs.
(9-457)Once about twenty years ago when, with zeal if with little
(9-457)talent, when I did so on behalf of an honoured friend and
(9-457)patron. By doing so I gave great offence to persons
(9-457)then high in office, some of whom thought it worth while
(9-457)to follow up the debit with something like persecution,
(9-457)insisting that I should be sent to Coventry by every friend
(9-457)I had connected with that side in politics. I have never
(9-457)regretted that I did this, though the result was painful.

(9-457)In the present case the concern, which as an individual
(9-457)I am bound to take in the welfare of my country, has
(9-457)appeared to me to dictate another interference at which,

(9-457)to say truth, I did expect from the beginning some of my
(9-457)great friends would be displeased.

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(9-458)I cannot complain of the consequences in either of the
(9-458)cases, since I incur'd the risque of them voluntarily. But
(9-458)I think the motive leading me to a line of conduct which is
(9-458)at least completely disinterested, ought to have been
(9-458)considered.

(9-458)I am perfectly aware that the pamphlet was warmly
(9-458)written, but its subject was warmly felt, and I would not
(9-458)term a blister inflammatory merely because it awakened
(9-458)the patient.

(9-458)So much for intention and manner of expression. I
(9-458)have not the vanity to think Lord Melville wished me to
(9-458)enter into argument on the subject. Were I to do so with
(9-458)a view to his Lordship's private information, I could say
(9-458)very much connected with matters in which he is deeply
(9-458)interested to show why the course I have taken is beneficial
(9-458)to Scotland and to his Lordship as the guardian of her
(9-458)subjects. But the mode in which his Lordship has
(9-458)intimated his sentiments renders this impossible.

(9-458)I might, I think, complain that so long a letter is sent
(9-458)for the purpose of being shown to his Lordship's private
(9-458)and confidential friends, and is not to be copied—
(9-458)although I am so deeply implicated—or even a copy of it
(9-458)permitted to remain with me, the person at, though not
(9-458)to whom the whole is written. Most of these individuals
(9-458)must in our little and limited circle be my friends also,
(9-458)and it seems hard that where such sharp language is used
(9-458)I am to be deprived of the usual privilege of putting
(9-458)myself on my own defence, and that before such a special

(9-458)jury.

(9-458)The circumstances respecting the Naval Station and
(9-458)Military force are not written by me on my own authority,
(9-458)for I know nothing of the matter, but were inserted on
(9-458)the information of a personal friend, no less of mine than
(9-458)of Lord Melville, and they really are not founded on
(9-458)anything of much importance, and the general statement
(9-458)is not I think untested. The clubbery of our great
(9-458)Officers of State is certainly accurate. The facts alluded

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(9-459)to by Lord Melville respecting something like insecurity
(9-459)of the banks I certainly never heard. But who was more
(9-459)distressed during the changeful events of the last war
(9-459)than the Bank of England ? And so must every great
(9-459)commercial body during such extraordinary circumstances—
(9-459)it is not for such but for the ordinary state of
(9-459)commerce that laws are made. When danger comes
(9-459)according to circumstances Marshal Law is proclaimed.
(9-459)The Habeas Corpus is suspended, and the issuing of
(9-459)specie from the bank is dispensed with. But these, like
(9-459)the appointment of a Dictator in Rome, are 1 the dictates
(9-459)of stern necessity. Legislators do not make laws for them.

(9-459)I must with whatever pain to myself understand the
(9-459)circulation of such a paper without any copy being
(9-459)permitted as a general annunciation to Lord Melville's
(9-459)friends that Malachi is under the ban of his party. I am
(9-459)not surprised that Lord Melville parts lightly with a
(9-459)friendship which, however sincere, cannot be of any
(9-459)consequence to him. He cannot prevent me from
(9-459)continuing the same good wishes to him which no man
(9-459)has more sincerely entertained, and which no endurance
(9-459)of his resentment can alter.

(9-459)Other times may come before we are either of us elsewhere,
(9-459)and he will find Walter Scott just where he was,
(9-459)without any feeling of animosity, but with the same
(9-459)recollection of former kindness.

(9-459)I own my intention regarded the present question much
(9-459)less than to try if it were possible to raise Scotland a little
(9-459)to the scale of consideration from which she has greatly
(9-459)sunk. I think that John Home mentions that Hepburn
(9-459)of Keith,² a private gentleman of pleasant manners and
(9-459)high accomplishments, was regretted by the Whigs as
(9-459)having [been] induced to sacrifice himself to a vain idea of
(9-459)the independence of Scotland. With less to sacrifice and

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(9-460)much fewer to regret me, I have made the sacrifice
(9-460)probably as vainly. But I am strongly impressed with
(9-460)the necessity of the case, and I know that not a man will
(9-460)speak out, but one who like myself is at [once] above and
(9-460)below consequences. Scotland is fast passing under other
(9-460)management and into other hands than Lord Melville's
(9-460)father would have permitted. In points of abstract
(9-460)discussion, quickness of reform, etc., the Whigs are
(9-460)assuming an absolute and undisputed authority. Now
(9-460)here was a question in which the people might be taken
(9-460)absolutely out of their demagogues, and instead of that
(9-460)our members ¹ strengthen the hands of these men with
(9-460)ministerial authority to cram the opinions of these
(9-460)speculative economists down the throat of an unwilling
(9-460)people, as they have crammed a dozen of useless experiments
(9-460)already. I could say more of this and to the same
(9-460)purpose, but I need not make both Whigs and mistaken
(9-460)Tories alike my enemies. And yet, if I could do good by
(9-460)doing so, I would not care much for any personal

(9-460)consequences.

(9-460)Concerning the first part of Lord Melville's letter you
(9-460)are, I am sure, aware that individually I rather
(9-460)discouraged the application of the Clerks of Session for an
(9-460)augmentation, and signed the memorial in deference to
(9-460)the opinion of my brethren who, entertaining such a
(9-460)sense of their pretensions, I did not think I had any title
(9-460)to withdraw myself from their body. I certainly consider
(9-460)that we were and are harshly treated in the case of our
(9-460)brother Ferriar.² As to the argument that good men will
(9-460)be got to fill our offices at less than our emoluments, I
(9-460)will engage that if every public office were exposed to
(9-460)auction on the Dutch principle that every man should
(9-460)underbid instead of overbidding each other, and preferring
(9-460)the lowest bidder, they would be all reduced to a very
(9-460)moderate standard. Old Fleming offered to be a King

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(9-461)for 500 a year. How far this would lead to the improvement
(9-461)of the country is de quo quaeritur, the improvement
(9-461)would be a radical one.

(9-461)I have written a great deal more than I intended, and
(9-461)still I could write much more fully on the controversy,
(9-461)but I am conscious that I am a rash cudgel-player, and
(9-461)incapable of expressing regret. When I have no feeling
(9-461)except of sorrow, I think it is better to stop as I am.

(9-461)When I say that I regret Lord Melville's alienation, I
(9-461)hope his Lordship will understand it is that of the friend
(9-461)and early companion, not of the Minister. In the latter
(9-461)capacity I have always found Lord Melville more kind
(9-461)and attentive to my personal concerns than I had any
(9-461)title to expect, and I think his Lordship will do me the

(9-461)justice to say I have seldom troubled him with personal
(9-461)requests. If I have been frequently an intrusive solicitor
(9-461)for others it has been for persons recommended either by
(9-461)talents, by distress, or by merits towards Government.

(9-461)I wish you may be able to read this, but by candle-light
(9-461)I cannot write so distinctly as usual. I request you will
(9-461)transmit to Lord Melville. I have read it once over and
(9-461)keep no copy. But I should think it fair, with his Lordship's
(9-461)permission, that it should be shown to those friends
(9-461)to whom he wishes you to show his own letter. If I am
(9-461)wrong, I have a title that men should know that I have
(9-461)erred from honourable and patriotic motives. The event
(9-461)will show whether I have erred or not. If I have, there
(9-461)is not much harm done ; and if I have not, I am sure I do
(9-461)not know whether I ought to be glad or sorry for it.—
(9-461)Adieu, dear Sir Robert, I am always affectionately yours,
(9-461)WALTER SCOTT

(9-461)CASTLE STREET, 9 March 1826

[Arniston Memoirs]

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TO LORD MONTAGU

(9-462)MY DEAR LORD,—Gibson applied to me to know
(9-462)something of Mr Tennant now a candidate for the school
(9-462)of Dalkeith.¹ I do not in general like to volunteer giving
(9-462)opinions upon the very delicate question affecting such
(9-462)an appointment. I have had about twenty applications
(9-462)some of them men who cannot to my certain knowlege
(9-462)decline persona [?] modestly requesting that I should give
(9-462)a testimony to your Lordship in a matter which no way
(9-462)concerns me and which I am askd to engage in not on my

(9-462)own knowlege but trusting to the opinion of those who
(9-462)recommended the candidates to me & whose recommendations
(9-462)I would not in my own case have given any weight to.

(9-462)But Mr Tennants case is different and so far as I know
(9-462)he [is] a very good and labourious teacher as well [as] a
(9-462)man of distinguishd talents in a literary point of view.
(9-462)I knew him personally at Laswade and had the greatest
(9-462)respect for his character and accomplishments. I have
(9-462)not seen him for many years but I have always understood
(9-462)that he had fully maintaind his reputation.

(9-462)He is deformd poor man & under the necessity of using
(9-462)crutches—no advantage where you have boys to deal
(9-462)with yet he always kept up great order in his school and
(9-462)though a mild teacher was in complete possession of the
(9-462)necessary authority. Such I knew Mr Tennant a good
(9-462)many years ago and though I had no sort of intimacy
(9-462)with him but that sort of regard arising out of good
(9-462)opinion which would have made me very anxious to
(9-462)assist him in any conjuncture where it might have been
(9-462)in my power.

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(9-463)I had a letter from Mr Tennant upon his application
(9-463)to your Lordship and I mentiond to him in reply that I
(9-463)would be happy to bear witness to such of his good
(9-463)qualities as came under my knowlege but declined in his
(9-463)as well as other cases to intrude any opinion unless askd
(9-463)by your Lordship or Mr Douglas.

(9-463)I have to thank you most gratefully for two bags of
(9-463)acorns which will be a great treasure. I intend a sort of
(9-463)experiment. I made last year a considerable plantation
(9-463)almost entirely of Larches but leaving spaces to put in

(9-463)oaks at about ten feet distance. I do not intend to put in
(9-463)the oaks untill five years hence when they will be completely
(9-463)shelterd and the larches may be thind out gradually
(9-463)to make room for the nobler crop. I have a notion both
(9-463)the progress of the plantation and the profit will be
(9-463)considerably increased.

(9-463)I am very much obliged indeed to Lady Montagu for
(9-463)her attention to Sophia who writes to me very gratefully
(9-463)on that subject. Did you get Lockhart set to drawing
(9-463)Caricatures—he has a pretty talent that way.

(9-463)We are all terrified to death at the alteration of the
(9-463)Banking system here which for a century has served the
(9-463)purposes of Scotland so well. The experiment will be a
(9-463)dreadful one and in general I really fear we will liberalize
(9-463)ourselves out of common fair dealing and oeconomize
(9-463)ourselves out of common sense.

(9-463)Believe me with kindest Compliments to Lady Montagu
(9-463)and all our freinds Your Lordships honourd & obliged
(9-463)Servt
WALTER SCOTT

(9-463)EDINR. 9th March [1826]

[Buccleuch]

TO JOHN GIBSON, JR., W.S., EDINBURGH

(9-463)MY DEAR SIR,—I send you the cabinet and much gear
(9-463)may it hold. I enclose you the keys. There are in it
(9-463)receipts, regularly bundled up for more than twenty

(9-464)years which may as well be with you in case of reference

(9-464)though perhaps two [or] three of them might be destroyed
(9-464)yours truly W SCOTT

(9-464)CASTLE STREET Thursday 9th March 1826.
[F. Maitland Gibson]

TO J. G. LOCKHART, LONDON

(9-464)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I am almost stunn'd with the
(9-464)melancholy intelligence I have this morning received.¹
(9-464)It appears to be Gods pleasure that this year shall be a
(9-464)most melancholy one but other considerations were trifles
(9-464)compared to the anxiety communicated by your intelligence.
(9-464)Most unhappily Morritt is I understand just
(9-464)leaving Brighton. I own I have had always a deep-rooted
(9-464)anxiety on account of that poor dear infant and have
(9-464)sometimes thought there was too much mind for the
(9-464)corporeal strength. I can scarce conceive a situation
(9-464)more melancholy than yours—thinking and feeling as
(9-464)you do—Even Sophias is easier because she is at least
(9-464)constantly present where her anxiety is most anxiously fix'd.
(9-464)What can I form for you but vain wishes or what arguments
(9-464)can I use that will not occur to yourself and when
(9-464)they have thus occur'd be of very little avail. We would
(9-464)send up Anne with pleasure if her presence could be useful.

(9-464)As for the political part of your letter I intend to meddle
(9-464)no further in the matter. I could easily answer Croker

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(9-465)and give him petulance for petulance but cui bono I have
(9-465)no ill will at him but much regard both for Canning and
(9-465)him and besides I could not enter on the subject minutely
(9-465)without showing up individuals whom I would not harm
(9-465)for all the pleasure of a thousand such conquests. What

(9-465)would they say for instance of Ferriars case which was
(9-465)referd (he holding a commission under the Great Seal of
(9-465)Scotland) to the English crown Council who decided
(9-465)that in the event of his being unable to discharge the
(9-465)duties of his office and unwilling to accept the 1/2 of his
(9-465)income by way of Superannuation instead of two thirds
(9-465)to which he had a claim he should in that case be removed
(9-465)from his office by an English law process to which they gave a
(9-465)hard name. But I could not say this without materially
(9-465)injuring the advocate who acquainted Colin MacKenzie
(9-465)& me with the result of this exquisite proceeding. I have
(9-465)done enough in calling the attention of the public to the
(9-465)subject which amid the time-serving faineants who call
(9-465)themselves the Representatives of Scotland there are few
(9-465)would have the courage to do—and because for the others
(9-465)Ministers are literally playing their own game to their hands.

(9-465)Scotland will in twenty years perhaps much sooner be
(9-465)revolutionized from head to foot and then let England
(9-465)look to herself for she may have some reason to resume
(9-465)her own old proverb All ill comes from the North. The
(9-465)present time reminds me strongly of that of 1638-9 when
(9-465)useless & uncalld for changes unsettled the minds and
(9-465)irritated the temper of the Scotch who were not long in
(9-465)communicating the infection to England. Then the
(9-465)opinions were religious now they are political but the
(9-465)effect may—indeed I think will prove the same.

(9-465)Within this twenty years nay within these ten years
(9-465)there have been so many alterations made that Law seems
(9-465)to be treatd like religion according to Hudibras

(9-465)— as if intended
(9-465)For nothing else but to be mended.1

(9-466)In the meantime the Burghers have been assembled into
(9-466)popular meeting[s] of Commissioners and so forth and have
(9-466)most effectually modelld themselves in such a manner as
(9-466)will make it impossible long to refuse them the popular
(9-466)representation they demand. They will probably send
(9-466)up clever men for the time is so near and the prospect so
(9-466)tempting that some of our clever friends in the P. House
(9-466)will never quit so pleasing a harvest—Bold speculative
(9-466)able men longheaded too beyond the length of the
(9-466)Southron noddle they will propose and carry through
(9-466)more general measures of alteration all leaning to the
(9-466)popular side of the question. These will be given way
(9-466)to as concerning Scotland only, that lump of dough
(9-466)which any man may [k]nead anything out of. Fiercer
(9-466)innovators will arise behind in the usual course of such
(9-466)events—England will catch fire in her turn—and all this
(9-466)from encouraging a spirit of innovation in the most quiet
(9-466)and peaceful country in Europe.

(9-466)As for the number of little slights refusals and so forth
(9-466)they have been long felt and spoken off [sic] among the
(9-466)best friends of Administrators. But this last proposed
(9-466)measure is of ten times the consequence of any thing done
(9-466)in Scotland since the Heritable Jurisdiction act in 1748.
(9-466)If it is perseverd in and works well I scarce see what will
(9-466)be gaind but should it go wrong as all thinking men
(9-466)anticipate the consequences will be most fatal.

(9-466)As for myself what reason on earth can I have to
(9-466)affront all my friends in power but the deep consciousness
(9-466)that there is a duty to be discharged. If they can argue
(9-466)one out of the world as they say & into Liddesdale I have;
(9-466)not the least objection. Ignorance itself shall be a
(9-466)plummet over me 1 if they please—so they will but look for
(9-466)the sake of the country with a little caution at what they

(9-466)are about. The point I wishd to gain is attaind. I have
(9-466)drawn peoples attention to the question and I neither
(9-466)will nor ought to do more. I will not maintain a controversy

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(9-467)which would turn rancorous. If they chuse they
(9-467)may yet counter balance some of the tendency to change
(9-467)which pervades the middling classes in Scotland by the
(9-467)national feelings which are not yet obliterated and by
(9-467)giving more weight to the local authorities. If they do
(9-467)not think this course a wise one they will do what they
(9-467)like better and the event will show whether " poor
(9-467)Margaret was a prophetess ". Nothing is more easy as
(9-467)every lawyer knows than to fill up cracks in a cause by
(9-467)dint of special pleading just as masons daub breaches over
(9-467)with mortar and joiners cover ill fitted joints with varnish
(9-467)or gilding. But [it] is one thing to please the eye or ear
(9-467)another to make that sound and trust-worthy which is
(9-467)infirm and unsound.

(9-467)I have written more than I intended but I am not sorry
(9-467)that any of our private friends should know why I do not
(9-467)answer my friend at the Admiralty.1 Mr Canning is
(9-467)mistaken if he supposes I appeald to the populace. On
(9-467)the contrary I resisted every proposal to put the Letters
(9-467)into a shape for general circulation. If ever there should
(9-467)be an occasion to address the people I fancy I might have
(9-467)a guess how to set about it. But it should not be against
(9-467)the present Men although I am so unfortunate as to
(9-467)disapprove of the present measures.

(9-467)My heart sinks at writing all this stuff on a subject so
(9-467)different from that which at present occupies us both.
(9-467)It is what however we would likely have talkd about to
(9-467)divert for a moment our thoughts from that which must

(9-467)be uppermost. I am alone at Abbotsford & have spent
(9-467)one pleasant day here but that which follows is after the
(9-467)manner of Seged with a witness. Pray write often.
(9-467)Yours truly W SCOTT

(9-467)ABBOTSFORD 17 March [PM. 1826]

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(9-468)Lady Scott and Anne come here on Sunday.
(9-468)I have a letter from little Walter. He bids me say with
(9-468)kind thanks that he received the packet you sent to Deal.

[Law]

TO SIR ROBERT DUNDAS OF DUNIRA, BART., HERIOT ROW,
EDINBURGH

(9-468)MY DEAR SIR ROBERT,—I had your letter to-day,¹ and
(9-468)am much interested and affected by its contents.
(9-468)Whatever Lord Melville's sentiments had been towards me,
(9-468)I could never have lost remembrance of the very early
(9-468)friend with whom I carried my satchel to school, and
(9-468)whose regard I had always considered as one of the
(9-468)happiest circumstances of my life. I remain of the same
(9-468)opinion respecting the Letters, which have occasioned so
(9-468)much more notice than they would have deserved, had
(9-468)there not been a very general feeling in this country, and
(9-468)among Lord Melville's best friends too, authorizing some
(9-468)public remonstrances of the kind from some one like
(9-468)myself, who had nothing to win or to lose—or rather, who
(9-468)hazarded losing a great deal in the good opinion of
(9-468)friends whom he was accustomed not to value only, but
(9-468)to reverence. As to my friend Croker, an adventurer like
(9-468)myself, I would throw my hat into the ring for love, and
(9-468)give him a bellyful. But I do not feel there is any call on

(9-468)me to do so, as I could not do it without entering into

(9-469)particulars, which I have avoided. If I had said, which
(9-469)I might have done, that, in a recent case, a gentleman I
(9-469)holding an office under the Great Seal of Scotland, was
(9-469)referred to the English Grown Counsel—who gave their
(9-469)opinion, on which opinion the Secretary was prepared to
(9-469)act—that he was forcibly to be pushed from his situation,
(9-469)because he was, from age and malady, not adequate to
(9-469)its duties,—and that by a process of English law, the very
(9-469)name of which was unknown to us,—I would, I think,
(9-469)have made a strong case. But I care not to enter into
(9-469)statements to the public, the indirect consequence of
(9-469)which might be painful to some of our friends. I only
(9-469)venture to hope on that subject, that, suffering Malachi
(9-469)to go as a misrepresenter, or calumniator, or what they
(9-469)will, some attention may be paid that such grounds for
(9-469)calumny and misrepresentation shall not exist in future
(9-469)—I am contented to be the scape-goat. I remember the
(9-469)late Lord Melville defending, in a manner that defied
(9-469)refutation, the Scots laws against sedition, and I have
(9-469)lived to see these repealed, by what our friend Baron Hume
(9-469)calls " a bill for the better encouragement of sedition and
(9-469)treason." It will last my day probably ; at least I shall
(9-469)be too old to be shot, and have only the honourable
(9-469)chance of being hanged for incivisme. The whole burgher
(9-469)class of Scotland are gradually preparing for radical
(9-469)reform—I mean the middling and respectable classes ;
(9-469)and when a burgh reform comes, which perhaps cannot
(9-469)long be delayed. Ministers will not return a member for
(9-469)Scotland from the towns. The gentry will abide longer
(9-469)by sound principles ; for they are needy, and desire
(9-469)advancement for their sons, and appointments, and so on.
(9-469)But this is a very hollow dependence, and those who

(9-469)sincerely hold ancient opinions are waxing old.

(9-469)Differing so much as we do on this head, and holding
(9-469)my own opinion as I would do a point of religious faith,
(9-469)I am sure I ought to feel the more indebted to Lord

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(9-470)Melville's kindness and generosity for suffering our
(9-470)difference to be no breach in our ancient friendship. I
(9-470)shall always feel his sentiments in this respect as the
(9-470)deepest obligation I owe him ; for, perhaps, there are
(9-470)some passages in Malachi's epistles that I ought to have
(9-470)moderated. But I desired to make a strong impression,
(9-470)and speak out, not on the Currency Question alone, but
(9-470)on the treatment of Scotland generally, the opinion
(9-470)which, I venture to say, has been long entertained by
(9-470)Lord Melville's best friends, though who that had anything
(9-470)to hope or fear would [not] have hesitated to state it ?
(9-470)So much for my Scottish feelings—prejudices, if you will ;
(9-470)but which were born, and will die with me. For those
(9-470)I entertain towards Lord Melville personally, I can only
(9-470)say that I have lost much in my life ; but the esteem of an
(9-470)old friend is that I should regret the most ; and I repeat
(9-470)I feel most sensibly the generosity and kindness so much
(9-470)belonging to his nature, which can forgive that which has
(9-470)probably been most offensive to him. People may say
(9-470)I have been rash and inconsiderate ; they cannot say I
(9-470)have been either selfish or malevolent—I have shunned
(9-470)all the sort of popularity attending the discussion ; nay,
(9-470)have refused to distribute the obnoxious letters in a
(9-470)popular form, though urged from various quarters.

(9-470)Adieu ! God bless you, my dear Sir Robert ! You
(9-470)may send the whole or any part of this letter if you think
(9-470)proper ; I should not wish him to think that I was sulky

(9-470)about the continuance of his friendship.—I am yours most
(9-470)truly,

(9-470)WALTER SCOTT

[18th March 1826]

[Lockhart]

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO J. W. CROKER, M.P.

(9-471)ABBOTSFORD, 19th March, 1826

(9-471)MY DEAR CROKER,—I received your very kind letter 1
(9-471)with the feelings it was calculated to excite—those of great
(9-471)affection mixed with pain, which, indeed, I had already
(9-471)felt and anticipated before taking the step which I knew
(9-471)you must all feel as unkind, coming from one who had
(9-471)been honoured with so much personal regard. I need
(9-471)not, I am sure, say that nothing but an honest desire of
(9-471)serving this country by speaking out what is generally felt
(9-471)here, especially among Lord Melville's warmest and
(9-471)oldest friends, might have some chance, howsoever slight.
(9-471)Depend upon it, that if a succession of violent and
(9-471)experimental changes are made from session to session,
(9-471)with bills to amend bills when no want of legislation had
(9-471)been at all felt by the country, Scotland will, within ten
(9-471)or twenty years, perhaps much sooner, read a more
(9-471)fearful commentary on poor Malachi's epistles than any
(9-471)statesman residing out of the country and strange to the
(9-471)habits and feelings which are entertained here can
(9-471)possibly anticipate. My head may be low—I hope it will
(9-471)—before the time comes. But Scotland, completely
(9-471)liberalized, as she is in a fair way of being, will be the
(9-471)most dangerous neighbour to England that she has had

(9-471)since 1639. There is yet time to make a stand, for there

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(9-472)is yet a great deal of good and genuine feeling left in the
(9-472)country. But if you unscotch us you will find us damned
(9-472)mischievous Englishmen. The restless and yet laborious
(9-472)and constantly watchful character of the people, their
(9-472)desire for speculation in politics or any thing else, only
(9-472)restrained by some proud feelings about their own
(9-472)country, now become antiquated and which late measures
(9-472)will tend much to destroy, will make them, under a wrong
(9-472)direction, the most formidable revolutionists who ever
(9-472)took the field of innovation. The late Lord Melville
(9-472)knew them well, and managed them accordingly. Our
(9-472)friend, the present Lord Melville, with the same sagacity,
(9-472)has not the same advantages. His high office has kept
(9-472)him much in the south ;—and when he comes down here,
(9-472)it is to mingle with persons who have almost all something
(9-472)to hope or ask for at his hands.

(9-472)But I shall say no more on this subject so far as politics
(9-472)are concerned,—only you will remember the story of the
(9-472)shield, which was on one side gold, and on the other silver,
(9-472)and which two knights fought about till they were
(9-472)mutually mortally wounded, each avowing the metal to
(9-472)be that which he himself witnessed. You see the shield
(9-472)on the golden,—I, God knows, not on the silver side—
(9-472)but in a black, gloomy, and most ominous aspect.

(9-472)With respect to your own share in the controversy, it
(9-472)promised me so great an honour, that I laboured under a
(9-472)strong temptation to throw my hat into the ring, tie my
(9-472)colours to the ropes, cry, " Hollo there, Saint Andrew
(9-472)for Scotland," and try what a good cause might do for a
(9-472)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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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.¹

(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.

(9-473)To add to this, though it needs no addition—for the poor
(9-473)child's voice is day and night in my ear—I have, from a
(9-473)consultation of physicians, a most melancholy account
(9-473)of my wife's health, the faithful companion of rough and
(9-473)smooth, weal and wo, for so many years. So if you
(9-473)compare me to Brutus in the harsher points of his character,
(9-473)you must also allow me some of his stoical fortitude
(9-473)—" No man bears sorrow better."

(9-473)I cannot give you a more absolute assurance of the

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(9-474)uninterrupted regard with which I must always think of
(9-474)you, and the confidence I repose in your expressions of
(9-474)cordiality, than by entering on details, which one
(9-474)reluctantly mentions, except to those who are sure to
(9-474)participate in them.

(9-474)As for Malachi, I am like poor Jean Gordon, the
(9-474)prototype of Meg Merrilees, who was ducked to death at
(9-474)Carlisle for being a Jacobite, and till she was smothered
(9-474)outright, cried out every time she got her head above
(9-474)water, Charlie yet. But I have said my say, and have no
(9-474)wish to give my friends a grain more offence than is
(9-474)consistent with the discharge of my own feelings, which
(9-474)I think would have choked me if I had not got my breath
(9-474)out. I had better, perhaps, have saved it to cool my
(9-474)porridge ; I have only the prospect of being a sort of
(9-474)Highland Cassandra. But even Cassandra tired of her
(9-474)predictions, I suppose, when she had cried herself hoarse,
(9-474)and disturbed all her friends by howling in their ears
(9-474)what they were not willing to listen to.

(9-474)And so God bless you—and believe, though circumstances
(9-474)have greatly diminished the chance of our

(9-474)meeting, I have the same warm sense of your kindness as
(9-474)its uniform tendency has well deserved. Yours
(9-474)affectionately, WALTER SCOTT
[Lockhart and Croker Papers]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-474)MY DEAR JAMES,—I dare say many people would be
(9-474)much amused by my throwing my hat into the ring &
(9-474)turning to for a bellyful with Mr Robinson.¹ But I have
(9-474)strong reasons for thinking that by prosecuting a
(9-474)controversy in which I must bring in names dates & accurate
(9-474)statements I should do more harm than good to the cause
(9-474)I mean to serve. I really think some impression has
(9-474)been made which I would rather hurt than improve by

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-475)pushing them up against the wall. I have contrived to
(9-475)let the parties concerned know it is not from a sense of
(9-475)timidity that I decline further combat.

(9-475)Besides Malachi has interrupted weightier affairs long
(9-475)enough already & I fear in the present state of my family
(9-475)all I can do will scarce support me with the spirits
(9-475)necessary to carry on Woodstock.¹ It shall be done
(9-475)however & you will be regularly supplied with copy were
(9-475)it written with my hearts blood.

(9-475)Poor Johnie Lockhart the little angel is now declared
(9-475)decidedly affected in the spine which must carry him
(9-475)speedily to the grave with what distress to Lockhart and
(9-475)what consequences to Sophia's health about to be
(9-475)confined in a few weeks I leave [you] to anticipate.

(9-475)To add to this Abercrombie has given a very unfavourable

(9-475)opinion of the tendency of Lady Scott's long & lingering
(9-475)complaint which also forbodes at no distant period
(9-475)I fear more painful consequences than it has yet threatend.

(9-475)I thank God under this load of bad tidings I can compell
(9-475)myself to do what ought to be done. I think considering
(9-475)the deep love I must bear to these dearest domestic
(9-475)objects I have some claim to say

(9-475)No man bears sorrow better.

(9-475)I think the arrangement ought to be enterd into about
(9-475)the arbitration without loss of time. Murray as you will
(9-475)see by the inclosed is nibbling.² Hursts people must come

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(9-476)to a point for we have short time to wait. I think you
(9-476)should speak to Caddell about it and have his opinion.
(9-476)It must lye failing Robinson and Longman & Coy &
(9-476)Murray.

(9-476)Pray send this letter

W. S.

(9-476)Monday [20 March 1826]

(9-476)If you have anything to send Lady Scott proposes
(9-476)coming on Wednesday,

W S

[British Museum]

TO THE RIGHT HONBLE. THE LORD ADVOCATE
[SIR WILLIAM RAE]

(9-476)My DEAR LORD,—I thank you for your kind letter
(9-476)received to-day which contains all I could either wish or

(9-476)accept. But as the people here have been talking of my
(9-476)retiring from some idea thrown out in Sir Robert Peele's
(9-476)speech on introducing this business it is probable you may
(9-476)be asked some questions about it even though no clause
(9-476)in the bill calls any attention to it. Now as Joseph Hume
(9-476)was once pleased to commemorate [?] me in the House
(9-476)as a person who spent my time in the Court of Session in
(9-476)writing novels I request of you as an old friend should
(9-476)such an assertion be repeated to say that of your knowledge
(9-476)and by your information it is a report equally false
(9-476)and impossible. I have written a private letter while I
(9-476)had no occasion to attend to what was before the Court
(9-476)but as to any literary employment the Court of Session is
(9-476)as unfitting a scene as the House of Commons. I have
(9-476)never had the least check or censure from the Court
(9-476)neither during the time of Sir Ilay, Robert Blair or our own
(9-476)present President 1 but on the contrary the approbation

(9-477)of all of them. I mention this for though to speak once
(9-477)more en dragon I would not give a damn for all Joseph's
(9-477)blarney [or] I should study to find some [means] of giving
(9-477)him my own sentiments of such a misrepresentation yet
(9-477)when a thing of this kind is said and uncontradicted in such
(9-477)an assembly one's good name suffers and the administration
(9-477)of justice in the country suffers through your rules.
(9-477)If such a falsehood is stated I think I may ask you to
(9-477)take notice of it both as my old friend of forty or some
(9-477)fifty years standing and as an officer of the Court in which
(9-477)you hold so high a rank.

(9-477)If such a charge had not been made before I might be
(9-477)taking too much upon me to suppose my affairs of so much
(9-477)consequence but since it has happened I know your
(9-477)Lordship will be pleased to be in exact possession of

(9-477)the truth which I can avouch with as much confidence
(9-477)as that I am sincerely My dear Lord Your somewhat
(9-477)ancient friend and faithful humble servant

(9-477)WALTER SCOTT

(9-477)EDIN. 20 March [1826]

(9-477)I need not add that this letter needs no answer so
(9-477)Up and waur them a' Willie.

[Reddie]

TO T. HANDLEY, PENTONVILLE, LONDON

(9-477)SIR,—I am very much obliged by your letter 1 of the
(9-477)11th yesterday received and with many apologies for

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(9-478)giving you so much trouble I will be sincerely obliged
(9-478)by your making any further inquiries you may judge
(9-478)proper about the information you have received
(9-478)concerning property due to the Representatives of Madame
(9-478)Charpentier. Her only children were Charles Carpenter
(9-478)late of Salem Presidency of Madras & my wife Charlotte
(9-478)M. Carpenter. M. Carpenter died four or five years
(9-478)since leaving the life interest in his estate to his widow
(9-478)now residing in or near London and the reversion of the
(9-478)principal after her death to my family. There may be
(9-478)therefore a doubt whether the surviving child Lady Scott
(9-478)succeeds to the whole sum if such should be secured by
(9-478)this persons evidence or whether a moiety or perhaps the
(9-478)whole may be considered as property of the late M.
(9-478)Carpenter and is liable to descend like the rest of the
(9-478)estate to my children after the succession opens to them

(9-478)by Mrs. Carpenters decease. But in whichever case the
(9-478)English law may place the funds it will be desirable to
(9-478)look after them. I have no great expectations from such
(9-478)information of which I have met with many and I certainly
(9-478)would put myself to no expense whatever till I see
(9-478)the matter clearly before me. That the man should have
(9-478)some salvage for what the proprietors would never have
(9-478)received but through his means seems reasonable. What
(9-478)that should be I do not know but I think it ought to be
(9-478)payable only in case of success and take the form of a
(9-478)percentage on the sum actually received. My son-in-law
(9-478)John Gibson Lockhart is settled in London. I will desire
(9-478)him to wait on you with your permission and state any
(9-478)further particulars you may require about my wife's
(9-478)family. His address is 25 Pall Mall.

(9-478)Lady Downshire may command any service in my
(9-478)power respecting the Stirling title. It happens oddly that
(9-478)I am rather (though very distantly) connected with the
(9-478)family. My mother's great-grandmother I think was
(9-478)Margaret Alexander second daughter of Lord Canada
(9-478)Viscount Canada & Lord Alexander who died before

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-479)succeeding to his father the first Earl. My mother who
(9-479)like most old Scotch ladies was a profound genealogist
(9-479)used to tell in joke that I had no poetical blood in my
(9-479)veins except that [which] I might draw from the circuitous
(9-479)connection with the Earl of Stirling whose *Recreations*
(9-479)with the Muses were published in 1637.¹

(9-479)It is very true that Mr Mackenzie and I admitted (in
(9-479)the capacity of returning officers of the Peers Election in
(9-479)1825) Mr Humphreys to vote as Earl of Stirling but that
(9-479)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
(9-479)the title of claimants to vote. Therefore we receive
(9-479)anyone who claims to vote in the character of Heir to a
(9-479)dormant peerage providing he shows a tide which is ex
(9-479)facie unexceptionable. If there is a disputed Election
(9-479)the title of such a claimant is examined by the House of
(9-479)Lords and supported or set aside as the chance may be.
(9-479)If there is no dispute no one seems to give themselves
(9-479)trouble about these phantoms. This is so much the case
(9-479)that I once felt that my brother in the Commission & I
(9-479)were bound to admit a crack-brained pauper who came
(9-479)to beg a guinea next morning. There has been long
(9-479)complaint of (this) both by the Peers & the Principal
(9-479)Clerks of Session & a Resolution of the House of Lords
(9-479)was obtained authorizing the Clerks to refuse receiving
(9-479)the vote of any peer succeeding to his title in a collateral
(9-479)degree until the same should be recognized by the House
(9-479)of Lords. But from an inaccuracy in wording the
(9-479)resolution it did not explicitly apply to those claimants
(9-479)who pretended a right from an ancestor who had deceased
(9-479)before the date of the resolution itself. So we were open
(9-479)to the same grievance as before and my Colleague &
(9-479)myself were obliged to admit Mr Humphreys or Alexanders
(9-479)claim which otherwise we would have certainly
(9-479)rejected. We made new application in consequence of

(9-480)that very case to have the resolution of the House put
(9-480)into such a shape as should cover the cases which it was
(9-480)unquestionably designed to include. You will see therefore
(9-480)that our admission does Mr Humphreys neither harm
(9-480)nor good. I have written to Edinburgh for a copy of the
(9-480)minutes and of Mr Humphreys claim at the Election
(9-480)which I shall forward. If you are desirous on Lady
(9-480)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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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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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

(9-481)complection than the news which of late has been bandied
(9-481)back & forward between us.

(9-481)The return of Mama & Anne to this place gave us
(9-481)yesterday a pleasant re-union the more so as Lady Scott
(9-481)was much better than I had ventured to expect. The
(9-481)medicine which she is taking (Digitalis or foxglove) seems
(9-481)to agree with her and do her much service and I trust
(9-481)with care her health may be in a great measure restored.
(9-481)She is so well and in such a good way that she and I have
(9-481)a serious plan to send her 1 up to be with Sophia during
(9-481)her illness. It would make us all very happy if you will
(9-481)accept of this offer Charles could go down with her to
(9-481)Brighton and we would take care to send her up under
(9-481)safe 2 convoy. If Violet should go up to keep you company
(9-481)they could travel together or we might get some old
(9-481)matron or bigwig to take care of them.

(9-481)The letter I inclose from Lady Downshires agent
(9-481)throws more light on the claim on the part of Mde.
(9-481)Charpentiers effects than I have yet seen. I have written
(9-481)to Mr Handley that I embrace his kind offer of speaking
(9-481)to the person who possesses this secret although my hopes
(9-481)are far from sanguine. What I would [suggest] is that
(9-481)the man should have as a sort of salvage a reasonable
(9-481)percentage on the sum which we should recover. I
(9-481)apprehend Mrs Carpenter should be made acquainted
(9-481)with the circumstance for it is possible that a right to the
(9-481)moiety or perhaps the whole of the claim may have vested
(9-481)in Mr Carpenter before his decease and fall under the
(9-481)operation of his latter will in which case Mrs C. will have
(9-481)the interest of a life-rentrix and she [we ?] of the fee. But
(9-481)whether you should say any thing about it till Mr Handley

(9-482)has got a little more information I leave to your prudence
(9-482)only I would not like her to suppose that there was the
(9-482)least wish to put aside any competent claim of hers or to
(9-482)observe secrecy in any of these affairs. But trusting such
(9-482)a negotiation to too many people is the sure way to blow
(9-482)it up. I have written to Mr Handley that you will call
(9-482)on him which as the matter concerns all of us I dare say
(9-482)you will lose no time in doing.

(9-482)Anne has had a cold but is recovering. Our plan is if
(9-482)her presence can be useful to Sophia to get Miss Paterson
(9-482)an admirably good-temperd and discreet ladylike woman
(9-482)to come here till Annes return. She was my mothers
(9-482)companion for several years is familiarly know[n] to all
(9-482)of us and that sort of person who can take charge of keys
(9-482)or read aloud or make herself an assistant in many ways
(9-482)uncommonly well bred besides in short a useful and
(9-482)agreeable inmate. So that though I cannot say Anne will
(9-482)not be missd yet her place in point of utility will be
(9-482)suppl[i]ed about Lady Scott and we will be comforted
(9-482)for our own privation in knowing that she goes where her
(9-482)attendance is so necessary. Let us know about this with
(9-482)your earliest convenience—All Woodstock is in the hands
(9-482)of the printer. It has been delayd for some time on
(9-482)account of Robinson 1 but the publishing season creeps on
(9-482)and it must be out soon.

(9-482)I trust in God this will find poor Johnie improving by
(9-482)the tepid sea bath—Love to Sophia Yours affectionately

(9-482)ABBOTSFORD MELROSE 22 March [1826] WALTER SCOTT

[Law]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-483)DEAR JAMES,—I send you from p. 28 copy to page 45
(9-483)Inclusive 1. I will be finished I think on Monday even if
(9-483)I make this fine day holiday as I think to do. Will you
(9-483)forward the inclosed note & Anne will be obliged.

(9-483)Besides the copy I send a revise & two proofs—I should
(9-483)like to be in proof as soon as possible as I think of going to
(9-483)London Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(9-483)ABBOTSFORD 21 March [1826]

(9-483)I suppose you are still ill pleased but I cant help it.
(9-483)Like Johnie in the Idiot Boy (an ominous comparison)
(9-483)" I have done my best and that is all." 2

[British Museum]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-483)DEAR JAMES,—I have but a minute to save Blucher
(9-483)I will send the title page per post—the whole of Woodstock
(9-483)will reach you by Mondays Blucher. My wife is better
(9-483)than I had ventured to hope For the poor child my hope
(9-483)is that it may linger out till Sophias confinement is over.
(9-483)Yours truly W S

(9-483)23 March [1826]

(9-483)I think it very difficult to determine about the Scottish
(9-483)sale. By selling ourselves to a Scots bookseller we should
(9-483)just save the English per centage which the London man
(9-483)would take. Surely if Constable & Cadell could do this
(9-483)they know all the old channels of sale and we should be
(9-483)the better by their gaining a profit.

[British Museum]

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TO JOHN GIBSON

(9-484)My DEAR SIR,—I received in safety the cheque for 230,
(9-484)agreeably to your letter.

(9-484)Lady Scott reached this place less fatigued than I
(9-484)expected. We will be much the better of having Mr
(9-484)Cowans advice in disposing of "Woodstock." It will
(9-484)be all in the printer's hands on Monday, so you may
(9-484)advertise when you like. There will be great impolicy
(9-484)in letting it lie printed and unpublished, for the publishing
(9-484)season flies fast, and copies will get abroad.

(9-484)I will write fully to Ballantyne on the subject. There
(9-484)is, by-the-by, a large picture of the Cave of Staffa,
(9-484)hanging in what was my room, which was given me by the
(9-484)laird, and therefore I should not like to sell it. Also
(9-484)another trifling thing in the dressing-room, a mahogany
(9-484)thing, which is called a cat, with a number of legs, so that
(9-484)turning which way it will it stands upright. It was my
(9-484)mother's, and she used to have the toast set on it before
(9-484)the fire, and is not worth five shillings of any one's money.¹
(9-484)Yours very truly, W. SCOTT

(9-484)ABBOTSFORD, 24 March, 1826.

(9-484)I have written to Ballantyne all that occurs to me about
(9-484)the sale, and sent him title-page and whole work. He will
(9-484)communicate on the subject, of course. I broke open
(9-484)this letter again.

(9-484)26 March [1826]

[Gibson's Reminiscences]

(9-484)This is the cat.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO T. CROFTON CROKER

(9-485)DEAR SIR,—I am obliged by your letter, and the
(9-485)contents of mine are fully at your service.¹ But as I have
(9-485)forgot what these contents are, perhaps you will favour
(9-485)me with a perusal either in manuscript or proof, that I
(9-485)may make them more fit for the public eye, being a very
(9-485)careless scribe of familiar epistles ; and if I can add
(9-485)anything I will, though I believe I exhausted my funds on
(9-485)the subject of Fairy Superstition when John Leyden and
(9-485)I composed in conjunction an Essay on the subject
(9-485)published in the Border Minstrelsy. I have a notion that
(9-485)the Leprechaun is a superstition of Danish origin. You
(9-485)know the opinions of the Scandinavians concerning the
(9-485)Duergar, or dwarfs, who were in their mythology the
(9-485)guardians of hidden treasures. There is in one of
(9-485)Glanville's narrations a story of a David Hunter, neatherd
(9-485)to the Bishop of Down and Connor, who made a curious
(9-485)acquaintance with the " wandering people," who if not
(9-485)precisely fairies, were something little better.

(9-485)When I was in Ireland last autumn, and talking on the
(9-485)subject of the Irish superstitions with Mr. Plunkett, he
(9-485)mentioned a spectre frequenting the streets called the

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(9-486)Dullaghan, which was very punctilious in exacting that he

(9-486)should yield him the wall, insomuch that, said Mr.
(9-486)Plunkett, I was afraid he would come to take the wall of
(9-486)me in my own bed. I mentioned this to one or two other
(9-486)friends, who could give me no account whatever of the
(9-486)Dullaghan, except a gentleman who told me it was the
(9-486)ghost of a waiter in a tavern who had been murdered
(9-486)among some wild fellows in a drunken fray. I wonder
(9-486)what made a plebeian ghost take such state on himself?
(9-486)I am, dear Sir, Very much yours,

(9-486)WALTER SCOTT

(9-486)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, 26th March, 1826.

(9-486)I must observe from a relation concerning a Dutch
(9-486)lieutenant in Glanville, that ghosts in general were
(9-486)tenacious of taking place of the living when walking the
(9-486)streets. So the Dullaghan's humour was not perhaps
(9-486)peculiar.

(9-486)In England it was recommended to strike at a goblin
(9-486)as a sure receipt for putting him to flight, or compelling
(9-486)him to abandon any disguise he might assume. There is
(9-486)a curious passage to the purpose in one of Bishop Corbett's
(9-486)poems, called *Iter Boreale*, from which, moreover, we
(9-486)also learn that if you become bewildered in a fairy circle,
(9-486)the turning your cloak reversed the charm, and set the
(9-486)party free. See Octavius Gilchrist's *Poems of Richard*
(9-486)*Corbett*, 1807, p. 197.1

[Croker's Fairy Legends]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-486)DEAR JAMES,—I send you as promised the whole affair.
(9-486)It must take its chance like others before but the times

(9-486)have been a little unfavourable for writing with spirit.

(9-486)I think Robinson should get one more chance with the
(9-486)assurance that the Trustees can do no more for him. It is

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-487)worth a great deal to keep all the stock in the same hands
(9-487)if possible.

(9-487)Failing this, I would offer the edition to Longman and
(9-487)to Murray by the same post telling them you did so with
(9-487)the purpose between two such respectable publishers of
(9-487)taking the best offer and with the hope it will be such as
(9-487)will enable them to continue the correspondence by affording
(9-487)at least a preference to such future works as they
(9-487)may have to offer to the same individual or House.

(9-487)On the other hand it must be observed that the Trustees
(9-487)ought to dispose of the present work as publishd in such a
(9-487)manner as to preserve the right within a reasonable time
(9-487)of continuing the small edition. There are as many
(9-487)copy-rights undisposed of as Constable & Co/ used to give
(9-487) 5000 for after the earlier impressions in the ordinary
(9-487)form were exhausted. There is also the reversionary
(9-487)right to some of my works in case Constable & Co/ should
(9-487)not find it possible to pay up the bonds for the purchase
(9-487)money. This must be kept in view where the interest is
(9-487)of such a peculiar nature. You remember the scrape
(9-487)we were in on a former occasion. Cowan with Constables
(9-487)advice & assistance whose views in such a case are very
(9-487)valuable must consider and arrange this for however the
(9-487)profits may be ultimately disposed of our joint interest is
(9-487)clear to keep the whole property of this work in the best
(9-487)[position] which circumstances will permit.

(9-487)I have little to add excepting that I am instantly
(9-487)turning my thoughts to Napoleon. Labour of that kind
(9-487)is to me as it always has been pleasure and if I can
(9-487)extricate my unpleasant affairs by it surely it will not be
(9-487)wanting.

(9-487)I think I see one cancell necessary in Woodstock and in
(9-487)a passage which certainly your compositors found particular
(9-487)pleasure in perverting. It occurs [in] Vol II p. 220.
(9-487)Note. The pest instead of the post is described as coming
(9-487)from Coventry—formerly he was riding upon a red
(9-487)rocket instead of in a red rochet. Perhaps it may have been

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(9-488)in part my fault but my eyes are so dim that I do not so
(9-488)easily read hand-drawn proofs as formerly—the letters
(9-488)are so deep sunk on the paper. I think if a warm
(9-488)smoothing iron were passd over them it would give the
(9-488)greater facility by bringing them to the surface.

(9-488)I have no late news from Brighton. Lady Scott is
(9-488)taking benefit from her medicine.

(9-488)In like cases you recollect we have had trouble about
(9-488)the time and mode of delivery both in Scotland and
(9-488)England & to prevent books being sent up by mail and so
(9-488)on before the stock can go by packet. All this must as far
(9-488)as possible be previously arranged I remain yours truly
(9-488)W S

(9-488)ABBOTSFORD 26 March 1826.

(9-488)An important question may occur. It would be no
(9-488)doubt desirous the London publishers would take the
(9-488)whole stock but yet it woul[d] seem rash to sink the value

(9-488)too low. If a certain Number of Copies were remaining
(9-488)in warehouse we could force them off with the next
(9-488)publication This I throw out for consideration. But we
(9-488)must take care of lowering the market. A long day for
(9-488)payment might be given.

[Walpole]

TO J. W. CROKER

(9-488)March 26th, 1826

(9-488)MY DEAR CROKER,—I have your kind letter,¹ and can
(9-488)assure you that when putting a more personal interpretation
(9-488)on some passages of your letter than I ought to have
(9-488)done, I did not consider them offensive, and if I had
(9-488)replied under the impression I had adopted, I would have

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-489)taken particular care not to have executed ¹ the moderamen
(9-489)inculpatæ tutelæ. But it is much better not, and so transeat
(9-489)cum ceteris erroribus.

(9-489)I enclose a letter for your funny namesake and kinsman,²
(9-489)whose work entertains me very much. Believe me
(9-489)always. Yours affectionately, WALTER SCOTT

[Croker Papers]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

(9-489)DEAR JAMES,—I return your proof—you seem to be
(9-489)getting on rather slowly for a man in a hurry—

(9-489)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
(9-490)all concernd proposing to him the same terms on which
(9-490)Constable dealt with [him] but regretting that the parties as
(9-490)situated must request him to point [?] sufficient guarantee
(9-490)for payment of the price. I am sure he will make every exertion
(9-490)for it is a main card for him not to lose these two works &
(9-490)a main card for us that he should have them if he can give
(9-490)security for the whole or greater part of the money. The
(9-490)trustees will best know how to manage this important
(9-490)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
(9-490)bad news to send up from this country in answer to your
(9-490)deplorable intelligence of my dear Johnies health. Lady
(9-490)Scott is far from well. Her asthmatic complaint[s] have
(9-490)assumed the character of hydropsie and Dr Abercrombie
(9-490)who has been consulted looks very grave on the subject.
(9-490)They wish [to] try some new medicine but I own I am not
(9-490)very hopeful of the result—at least as to perfect cure.
(9-490)Alleviation and comfort may I hope be attained if she will
(9-490)pursue the course of medicine recommended. But you
(9-490)know very well that she soon tires of any thing that does
(9-490)not operate an immediate change. God help us we have
(9-490)a sore spring of it. But misfortune will claim her share
(9-490)and patience is the only remedy.

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-491)Lord Melville was extremely displeasd about the
(9-491)Letters and was at the pains to write about thirty pages
(9-491)on the subject to which I made a civil but no very

(9-491)deferential reply. This produced another letter proposing
(9-491)we should be friends as of yore though he accounted
(9-491)himself quite right & me wrong to which of course I
(9-491)replied embracing the renewal of our friendship with all
(9-491)gratitude under the understanding I was not to be
(9-491)considerd in any respect as retracting or altering my
(9-491)opinions as I had expressd them to the public.

(9-491)Then I had six pages from friend Croker & better
(9-491)expressd very warmly & cordially & mentioning in
(9-491)badinage his own share of the combat. I answerd him
(9-491)in the same kind tone the rather that he spoke very
(9-491)handsomely of you and said that if Ministers remembe[r]d
(9-491)Malachi at all it would be only to accelerate their
(9-491)exertions in your favour when there was an occasion to
(9-491)serve you.

(9-491)I did not disguise from Croker my decided opinion that
(9-491)if they perseverd they would work some woeful mischief
(9-491)in this country where the bonds of society are already
(9-491)much weakend by their constant tampering with the laws
(9-491)and institutions. As to himself I said most truly I would
(9-491)have been happy to [have] had a turn up with him save
(9-491)for two reasons, 1st That I [must] have quoted facts
(9-491)names and dates & consequently have shewn up some of
(9-491)my own particular friends which I had carefully avoided.
(9-491)2dly That in returning some of the personal hits which he
(9-491)seemd to think the game demanded & admitted I thought
(9-491)it likely one or both [of] us would lose temper.

(9-491)When all this row was going on and the Chancellor
(9-491)of Excheqr. honouring me with an especial notice on the
(9-491)score of two or three letters in the Edinr Journal I could
(9-491)not help feeling myself a very great person—though
(9-491)rather of opinion that the noise transcended the occasion
(9-491)like the good Catholic who having set down a violent

(9-491)storm of thunder to his having transgressd the rules of the

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1826

(9-492)Fridays fast could not help saying Voila beaucoup de
(9-492)bruit pour une omelette au lard.

(9-492)I think they will back out of the measure in the
(9-492)committee—indeed I understood Mr Robinsons words to
(9-492)import that he would give way if the violent opposition
(9-492)continued. As for myself & our family interests I know
(9-492)the cast was a desperate one yet as it has turnd out I
(9-492)rather believe I shall come of[f] a winner as far as a
(9-492)reputation for courage goes. These things I thought
(9-492)would not be uninteresting to you providing you have
(9-492)good news from Brighton. Pray send my love and
(9-492)affection there.

(9-492)I see you have Charles with you. Pray give him a
(9-492)hint about employing his vacation—a few French lessons
(9-492)might be of great use to him. If I should ever be able
(9-492)to get him into the diplomatic line his knowledge of
(9-492)languages should be perfect.

(9-492)I have Murrays letter and am greatly obliged by the
(9-492)pains you have taken. I suppose that if Hurst and
(9-492)Robinson do not gather their legs which their long
(9-492)staggering makes very doubtful the Trustees will take
(9-492)either Longman or Murray whichever offers best. The
(9-492)loss will be probably great. I do not care about the
(9-492)matter, please God these weightier domestic distresses
(9-492)were removed or lightend in their aspect I will do well
(9-492)enough.

(9-492)Nothing of the Quarterly yet. [Signature cut out]

(9-492)ABBOTSFORD 27 March [1826]

(9-492)Woodstock is finishd all but two or three pages of
(9-492)Manuscript. I inclose a letter to Terry which I leave
(9-492)unseald that you may see it. I would wish in such a
(9-492)transaction to deal only with first rate people. If I could
(9-492)get a little money this way it would be by no means
(9-492)inconvenient. Do not disturb yourself about [it] further
(9-492)than giving Terry your advice & opinion.

[Law]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO JAMES BALLANTYNE 1

(9-493)DEAR JAMES,—I take advantage of Mr. Gibsons return 2
(9-493)to send you the receipts omitted in my last. He goes
(9-493)to London and I think will manage the sale well. His
(9-493)account of Constable & Co/ & Hurst & Robinson makes
(9-493)on[e] say with Mercutio

(9-493)A pox on both your houses.

(9-493)Till now I thought Hurst would have been the winner but
(9-493)seeing his letter I doubt greatly.

(9-493)As for inaccuracies I really correct as attentively as my
(9-493)eyes will permit though as for spending five hours on a
(9-493)proof Sheet why I never spend two in writing the copy.
(9-493)Truth is I believe I must get an amanuensis and dictate.

(9-493)I dont see much occasion for transcription it rather
(9-493)multiplies the chance of errors and in good truth though
(9-493)[one] is not bound to proclaim it yet to keep a secret
(9-493)entrusted to four or five sets of creditors is worth not a

(9-493)pennys cost.

(9-493)I see considerable objections to advertizing at least with
(9-493)Constables name untill you know who is to publish in
(9-493)London. Orders will come down of course to send up
(9-493)books by mail & so on and what is to be done with them.
(9-493)We have always held there was equity in making a fair

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(9-494)start and a partial supply in London would check the sale
(9-494)there.

(9-494)I think there has been enough of Malachi and will allow
(9-494)no more after this. It is enough that " the Gambol has
(9-494)been shewn." Yours truly W. SCOTT

(9-494)ABBOTSFORD 28 March [1826]

(9-494)I will send copy for Nap. by tomorrows Blucher.
(9-494)After all how is it possible for you a clever sensible man
(9-494)and a judge of composition from your youth upwards to
(9-494)read a sheet of paper for five hours and leave an error or
(9-494)the shadow of one. That you might hunt in a blanket
(9-494)for fleas for such a length of time and no remnant should
(9-494)escape I can conceive. But pica is permanent.

[Buccluch]

TO J.G. LOCKHART

(9-494)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—As Mr Gibson goes up to London
(9-494)I send these few lines by him. He is to sell Woodstock.
(9-494)I presume he will offer it first to Hurst & Robi[n]son then
(9-494)to John Murray who I suppose will get it for I suspect
(9-494)H. & R. are in the mire beyond recovery. They continue

(9-494)to speak bold words at the bridge as Fluellen says. But
(9-494)they must

(9-494)—— do a little more
(9-494)And produce a little ore.

(9-494)Which I fear will be hard to come by.

(9-494)Lady Scott is better I think materially so but suffers
(9-494)severely under the remedy. God send I could hear better
(9-494)tidings from you and Sophia. I should mind minor
(9-494)vexations very little.

(9-494)As Mr Gibson is in London & has our deserved confidence
(9-494)I have askd him to see Mr Handley and it would
(9-494)[be] no bad thing also if he were to push a little about

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

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(9-495)Mrs Carpenters stock which is not quite in a pleasant
(9-495)situation unless something has been done since you wrote.

(9-495)Here has been bold blustering windy weather very
(9-495)cold & very sun-shiny at the same time. The great
(9-495)willow at Chiefswood has been blown down which I saw
(9-495)with regret though there were more material things to be
(9-495)regretted in that quarter.

(9-495)Anne is pretty well coughing however a little as every
(9-495)one else. You have said nothing as yet received whether
(9-495)her plan of coming up would be of use to Sophia.

(9-495)I told you I think I had a second letter from Croker
(9-495)anxiously and kindly disclaiming all personalities in very
(9-495)anxious terms. They seem to [have] given themselves
(9-495)much unnecessary trouble about a mere squib. I wonder

(9-495)what they would say if a man had chosen to reply to their
(9-495)sophistry. Yours truly W SCOTT

(9-495)ABBOTSFORD 29 March [1826]

(9-495)You can make Gibson known to Murray & Robinson
(9-495)should he need your introduction & tell them how he
(9-495)stands as old McIntosh used to say in point of trust and in
(9-495)point of power.

(9-495)Tell Charles he has told me nothing about the row
(9-495)although it must have passd under his nose—quaeque ipse
(9-495)vidit tho' not I hope quorum pars magna fuit. 1

[Law]

TO JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART, 25 PALL-MALL, LONDON

(9-495)DEAR LOCKHART,—We are beginning to be anxious—
(9-495)most anxious—to hear from you—every day we have
(9-495)expected letters & not a line to say how Sophia and
(9-495)Johnie are. We have rather good news from this quarter.
(9-495)Lady Scott though suffering much from the foxglove is
(9-495)certainly deriving great benefit and she is [so] strong in
(9-495)natural constitution that I vow I have the strongest hopes

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(9-496)that this unpleasant disease will take a turn and leave her
(9-496)a state of moderate good health. My leaving them in
(9-496)May is a bitter pill but must be swallowd and will feel
(9-496)less unpalatable that I really think the gentle exercise
(9-496)which this place affords will be much better for her than
(9-496)Edinburgh & the confinement of the summer months.

(9-496)Tom Campbell toasted Bonaparte on the ground of his

(9-496)having hanged a bookseller. Little John Gibson deserves
(9-496)a round among authors for having I think cheated one.
(9-496)He has diddled Robinson (including Constable) out of
(9-496) 8500 for Woodstock gross profits say 6000,, all paid.
(9-496)If we can turn over Napoleon as well I shall soon stand
(9-496)in worldly matters where I did & in many respects much
(9-496)better. If not the men who have been the means of my
(9-496)suffering will suffer in their turn

(9-496)And who can help it Dick.

(9-496)But I dare say Yorkshire 1 sees his way. But he pays
(9-496)argent comptant. You can let Murray know that he would
(9-496)certainly have had our offer in the first place if the
(9-496)old proprietors had not come forward. I cannot think
(9-496)their bargain a wise one but they must be best Judges.

1826

SIR WALTER SCOTT

497

(9-497)Anne is labouring under [a] cold but still willing and able
(9-497)to go to Brighton if she can be of service to Sophia. Adieu
(9-497)write soon Yours truly WALTER SCOTT

(9-497)ABBOTSFORD 4th April [PM. 1826]

[Nat. Lib. Scot.]

TO THE AUTHOR OF CONTINENTAL ADVENTURES, 1 CARE OF
MESSRS. HURST, ROBINSON AND CO., BOOKSELLERS, LONDON

(9-497)SIR,—I am favoured with your obliging wish to
(9-497)inscribe to me your Continental Adventures in terms
(9-497)which I should beg leave to decline as being infinitely
(9-497)beyond my merit. But besides I am placed in rather a
(9-497)delicate situation having on almost every occasion where
(9-497)choice was permitted me unless where particular friends
(9-497)were concernd felt it my duty to decline compliments of

(9-498)that being the discharge of a duty is always a sort of
(9-498)pleasure—at least you are interested while about it and
(9-498)contented when it is over. But of late I have had and
(9-498)still have terrible anxiety on Sophia's account and that of
(9-498)the poor child. I hardly ever regarded him but as
(9-498)something lent to us from another world and viewed with
(9-498)terror the doating anxiety of the poor father and mother.
(9-498)The sweet little boy was in himself very taking and I have
(9-498)frequently hardened my heart as well as I could to prevent
(9-498)its twining itself around my own heart strings as it did
(9-498)about theirs. It is very clever perfectly natural and good
(9-498)humoured—in short the thing you would most wish to see
(9-498)at your knee had it had less of the stamp of early fragility
(9-498)fixed upon it. They are now the mother and baby as
(9-498)your Ladyship probably knows at Brighton and I own
(9-498)to you my best hopes are that God will conduct my
(9-498)daughter through her approaching confinement and
(9-498)permit her to be the mother of a healthy infant before

(9-498)—The bird is flown
(9-498)That we have made so much of.

(9-499)My wife too—the faithful partaker of much weal and woe
(9-499)and who has in judging of what is upright and honourable
(9-499)the spirit of a hundred princesses is very unwell. She is
(9-499)obliged to take foxglove—a terrible medicine in its effects
(9-499)but which alleviates very considerably the disease and
(9-499)gives me hope to see her respond 1 to tolerable health—

(9-499)My own affairs assume every day a more comfortable
(9-499)aspect. My chief and only subject of impatience is the
(9-499)regret that requires people to wait a little for their due
(9-499)so far as I have been involved in the misfortunes of others.
(9-499)But my agent John Gibson whom I four or five years since

(9-499)recommended to Lord Montagu has done among the
(9-499)booksellers more in a few weeks than I have done in many
(9-499)years. He has sold the impending novel of Woodstock for
(9-499) 8000,, and upwards and has similar offers for my sketch
(9-499)of Napoleon. If these hold a year or two's labour will
(9-499)place me in the happy alternative called statu quo—But I
(9-499)am very easy about that matter so long as I see the speedy
(9-499)prospect of getting rid of debt I feel much like my friend
(9-499)John Hookham Frere whom they could not get out of
(9-499)the Lazaretto at the expiry of Quarantine. I could not
(9-499)help telling said John Gibson that if he would maintain
(9-499)my establishment which is very comfortable in the present
(9-499)stile and leave my pleasant walks at Abbotsford I would
(9-499)to chuse remain as I now am with every rational and many
(9-499)irrational wants supplied and let the rest go to Colin
(9-499)Tampon as the French song says.

(9-499)But work I must—it has become a part of my nature
(9-499)and as I become daily more solitary the pen and reading
(9-499)are of course my best resources. Every sort of society
(9-499)which I cared for is very much dim[in]ished by death and
(9-499)absence. The only man in this country whom I could
(9-499)regard quite as a companion from his taste and accomplishments
(9-499)poor John [Scott] of Gala is I fear very ill. I
(9-499)saw a letter from him to his man of business signed with
(9-499)his initials only—and such letters—I had a sincere love

(9-500)for him—we spent part of a little tour in France together
(9-500)immediately after Waterloo and I shall never forget
(9-500)his matchless good humour and on one or two occasions
(9-500)when there really seemed serious personal danger his
(9-500)ready gallantry and spirit—One night we were apparently
(9-500)in the predicament of fighting for our lives—I was even
(9-500)then a horse in point of strength and fearless by

(9-500)constitution and yet with his delicate person and softer
(9-500)breeding he was the foremost of the two let me do what I
(9-500)would. Poor poor fellow.

(9-500)I am delighted that Lockhart passes current with
(9-500)you. He really is a fine fellow a scholar a man of taste
(9-500)and point devise the gentleman. I am sometimes
(9-500)angry with him for an exuberant love of fun in his light
(9-500)writings which he has caught I think from Wilson a man
(9-500)of greater genius than himself perhaps but who disputes
(9-500)with low adversaries which I think a terrible error and
(9-500)indulges in a sort of humour which exceeds the bounds of
(9-500)playing at ladies and gentlemen a game to which I have
(9-500)been partial all my life.

(9-500)You would see dear Lady Louisa that I commenced
(9-500)politician for a start in a small way—incensed all my
(9-500)friends—for pointing out their egregious blunders—and
(9-500)raised a racket of which I had not anticipated the
(9-500)least idea. I had half a mind to have followed up
(9-500)the controversy for I had the cards in my hand but
(9-500)after all I thought it as wise to let it stand after I had
(9-500)said my say. It is not worth while to vex old friends
(9-500)about the past and if they do not look better to their
(9-500)bets in time to come it will be their fault not mine.
(9-500)But they are playing a bad game in Scotland if not in
(9-500)England and turning peoples head[s] round with such a
(9-500)constant succession of experimental changes that those
(9-500)to whom the vertigo is communicated will become
(9-500)incapable of remaining still and when that time comes
(9-500)Scotland with her love of theory her depth of brooding
(9-500)long and sullenly over her plans and the many clever

(9-501)revolutionists for that is the word whose game they are

(9-501)playing in mere wantonness will some day wind them a
(9-501)pirn. I hope this will not happen till I am dead and gone
(9-501)for I am too old to have any share in the row. I was not
(9-501)between you my dear Lady Louisa and myself be it said
(9-501)a bit sorry for this turn up—as the blackguards call [it].
(9-501)My friends were some of them poor-manning me a little too
(9-501)much for one who was asking nothing from them and had
(9-501)asked nothing during my pilgrimage for myself though
(9-501)I have been often a suitor for others. But I dont like they
(9-501)should think I am fallen out of the line. But this is all
(9-501)nonsense again says my uncle Toby to himself.

(9-501)I have had this lying by me till I should have occasion
(9-501)to write to Lord Montagu which has suddenly and
(9-501)unexpectedly occurred through the very unexpected
(9-501)death of Sir Alexander Don 1 —It will be a great shock to
(9-501)Lord Montagu and would have been a still more severe
(9-501)one to his poor dear brother. As for me I think the world
(9-501)is gliding from under my feet

(9-501)For many a lad I loved is dead
(9-501)And many a lass grown old
(9-501)And when I think on those are fled
(9-501)My weary heart grows cold.

(9-501)But this has been will be and must be.
(9-501)All health to you My dear Lady Louisa and all happiness.
(9-501)Believe me most truly and respectfully yours

(9-501)ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1826] WALTER SCOTT

(9-501)You will have difficulty I fear in reading this but my
(9-501)eyes are failing me fast. I cannot charge them with
(9-501)idleness—
[Northumberland and Abbotsford Copies]

TO LORD MONTAGU, DITTON PARK

(9-502)MY DEAR LORD,—I have been dreadfully shockd by
(9-502)yesterday receiving the notice of poor Sir Alexander Dons
(9-502)most unexpected death. Besides that we always lived in
(9-502)terms of freindship and intimacy I always felt that I owed
(9-502)him much for the candid and liberal manner in which he
(9-502)interpreted my conduct on an occasion which may be in
(9-502)your Lordships recollection—when though I cannot say
(9-502)that I ought to have acted differently, yet I am sensible
(9-502)and was at the time that it would have been difficult for
(9-502)any person but a man of his correct feeling and at the
(9-502)same time of his inimitable good[ness] to have avoided
(9-502)a more disagreeable and painful discussion. I always
(9-502)felt his doing me the most kind justice (if there can be
(9-502)such an expression) as a great personal favour—and now
(9-502)he is no more with all his talents to grace and adorn
(9-502)society & which might perhaps have been carried so
(9-502)much further as the gayer pursuits of life lost their
(9-502)interest.

(9-502)But it is not to express regrets which your Lordship
(9-502)will feel deeper than I do though mine are most sincere
(9-502)that I am now writing. I am forced to trouble you by
(9-502)the common rule of human life which makes the death
(9-502)of every individual how[ever] estimated and regretted so
(9-502)ever the subject of bustle and anxiety to occupy his place.

(9-502)Harden call[d] on me today about the County for
(9-502)which as he will have apprized your Lordship he is
(9-502)desirous to have your Lordships countenance on the part
(9-502)of the Buccleuch interest to start his Son Henry. If the
(9-502)young man has the good fo[r]tune to obtain your Lordships
(9-502)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

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(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

(9-503)the Buccleuch Ladies. I am very glad that the Duke
(9-503)is going abroad. We say in Scotland a ganging foot is aye
(9-503)getting and the saying is true so far as information is
(9-503)concerned. To break the habit of coteries and of thinking
(9-503)all is exclusively right that is done by the set they live
(9-503)with there is nothing like travelling with a sensible friend
(9-503)of accomplishment and information like Mr Blakeney.
(9-503)I have a great deal of family distress just now for I fear

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(9-504)Lady Scott's illness has decidedly terminated in water on
(9-504)the Chest. Yet her constitution endures so well the severe
(9-504)remedy which they apply—the digitalis or fox glove, that
(9-504)I endeavour to avoid very painful apprehensions. Ever
(9-504)my dear Lord Most truly & respectfully yours

(9-504)WALTER SCOTT

(9-504)ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1826]

[Buccleuch]

TO COLIN MACKENZIE

(9-504)MANY thanks, dear Colin, for your kind letter. God
(9-504)knows, I want kindness as much as any poor cat that ever
(9-504)crouched its back to be made much of. Lady Scott is
(9-504)very ill, and her complaint is decidedly water in the
(9-504)chest, which may admit of relief but gives a most
(9-504)melancholy opening for apprehensions. Sophia and her little
(9-504)boy are both at Brighton for the child's bad health. My
(9-504)hope is, and it is encouraged by late news, that he will
(9-504)linger on ; and if it pleases God she has a favourable
(9-504)confinement, we must trust the rest to Providence. The
(9-504)poor child has always been extremely weak, but there are

(9-504)many instances of such getting ultimately through.

(9-504)Our friends have, indeed, made an admirable bargain
(9-504)for Woodstock 1; but what wonder ! Three writers 2
(9-504)against one Yorkshire bookseller puts Juno's complaint
(9-504)of odds to shame.

(9-504)Una dolo divom sifemina victa duorum est.3

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(9-505)But in the sincere truth, if the people can but pay it, as I
(9-505)think they must do, and if we can make anything like a
(9-505)similar bargain for Napoleon, the tide will be turned very
(9-505)much in my favour, and, thank God, without asking
(9-505)anyone more favour than the delay which was to be
(9-505)employed usefully for their own sake.

(9-505)I am glad to hear they have at last settled with Ferrier.1
(9-505)The delay has been unjust, inhuman, and dishonourable.
(9-505)I am glad you think Malachi has done [good] in
(9-505)any quarter. I am sure the childish resentment of our
(9-505)friends does not augur well for their keeping this country.
(9-505)I fear they will go the vole, and try their own force
(9-505)against popular opinion. There is much strife in the
(9-505)Cabinet, the Chancellor and especially the Duke of
(9-505)Wellington thinking they are driving experiments on too
(9-505)fast.

(9-505)I am glad you have not been packed up to London.
(9-505)Late hours and the vapours of midnight lamps, not to
(9-505)mention the Thames fogs, are bad for you.

(9-505)My life here has been very pleasant though most
(9-505)monotonous, if it were but free from the family anxieties
(9-505)I mentioned to you. Rise at seven ; work till half-past

(9-505) nine ; breakfast till ten ; work till one, more or less as
(9-505) the day is bad or good ; walk alone or with an old aide-
(9-505) de-camp of a forester till four ; dine and drink tea till
(9-505) seven ; work till ten—and the day is closed innocently
(9-505) at least, and happily, but for my wife's illness and my
(9-505) daughter's precarious condition. Glengary's great dog 2
(9-505) is my regular attendant and promises to be very serviceable.
(9-505) Always Yours Affectionately

(9-505) WALTER SCOTT

(9-505) ABBOTSFORD 13 April [1826]

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(9-506) I have got a letter from the celebrated Russian chief,
(9-506) Denis Davidoff, known in the campaign of Moscow by
(9-506) the name of the Black Captain from the unintermitting
(9-506) and formidable Kourvacks which he made on Napoleon
(9-506) during his retreat. If I could coax a few anecdotes out
(9-506) of him it would be capital.

(9-506) Poor Sir Alexr. Don 1 has died here suddenly. I think
(9-506) you knew him.

(9-506) By the bye, I had a sulkyish sort of reconciliation with
(9-506) Lord Melville through our friend Sir Robert—I, as you
(9-506) may believe, saying like the Jacobite wife who was
(9-506) drowned by the mob at Carlisle, Charlie yet !

(9-506) Croker also wrote to me about his letters to Malachi,
(9-506) and I told him in reply that if it had not been that
(9-506) entering into explanations I must have said much personally
(9-506) injurious to one or two friends concerned with the
(9-506) affairs of Scotland, I would have thrown my hat into the
(9-506) ring, tied my colours to the ropes, cried Halloo for Saint

(9-506)Andrew, and given or taken a bellyfull of fancy custom
(9-506)with him or anyone. I got a very kind letter ; so there
(9-506)the matter rests, and there let it, for me ; but I am glad
(9-506)I had a quiet opportunity [to let] them know that I was
(9-506)not passive from any doubt in my cause, but [from] the
(9-506)wish that [what] was meant as a warning might not pass
(9-506)into an actual declaration of personal hostilities.

[Sir Walter Scott Quarterly]

TO MESSRS. J. AND T. SMITH, DARNICK

(9-506)GENTLEMEN,—I was favoured with your letter and can
(9-506)only at present reply that I have in consequence of the
(9-506)unexpected failure of two great bookselling houses who
(9-506)owe me a very large sum of money put my affairs for the
(9-506)present under the management of Mr John Gibson W.S.
(9-506)Mr Jollie W.S. and Mr Monipenny W.S. They have

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(9-507)already made very large and successful sales of property
(9-507)and I hope will be soon able to make a considerable
(9-507)dividend I have retained only such an income as may
(9-507)support my family and enable me to continue the exertions
(9-507)I am making to extricate these affairs which if God
(9-507)grants me life and health will not involve anyone in loss.

(9-507)Mr Gibson is now in London but on his return I am
(9-507)sure he will furnish you with the most accurate
(9-507)information as to the state of funds and prospect of
(9-507)payment. If the Houses who owe me money can pay any
(9-507)reasonable dividend the inconvenience to myself and
(9-507)others will be of short duration. If otherwise it may be
(9-507)longer before I can clear out these affairs but my
(9-507)endeavours to do so will only terminate with my life and

(9-507)judging from all circumstances I hope under the worst
(9-507)aspect of things to arrange them satisfactorily to all
(9-507)concerned. I remain Gentlemen Your humble Servant
(9-507)WALTER SCOTT

(9-507)ABBOTSFORD 14 April 1826

(9-507)I beg you will send your Accompt that I may transmit
(9-507)it to Mr Gibson.

[J. R. C. Smith]

TO JAMES BALLANTYNE

[Extract]

(9-507)DEAR JAMES,—I will not disturb you with more than
(9-507)the expression of my sincere sympathy.1 Poor Laidlaw
(9-507)has lost a child the other day and I had yesterday the
(9-507)melancholy news of Sir Alexr. Dons death. All this is
(9-507)melancholy enough & Lady Scotts health is very
(9-507)precarious. . . .

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(9-508)I am getting on with the actual life at last. The Introduction
(9-508)which it is a joke to call such will run I fear some
(9-508)way into the third volume. What is sent completes it.
(9-508)Yours truly W. S.

(9-508)ABBOTSFORD friday [14th April 1826]

(9-508)I do not regret [to] have made the introduction so long
(9-508)but it should have had a separate title.

[Buccleuch]

TO JOHN GIBSON

(9-508)MY DEAR SIR,—You have made a glorious sale.¹ 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]

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SIR WALTER SCOTT

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TO CROFTON CROKER

(9-509)ABBOTSFORD, MELROSE, April 15, 1826

(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

(9-509)setting fire to the world in mamma's chariot, amuses
(9-509)herself with wheeling her own head in a wheelbarrow
(9-509)through the great gallery.

(9-509)You have not yet hit upon the punctilious spectre of
(9-509)Mr. Plunkett which takes the wall of folks. God be with
(9-509)your labour, as Ophelia says. I will feel much honoured
(9-509)in the compliment you design for me. Yours truly,

(9-509)WALTER SCOTT
[Croker's Fairy Legends]

TO J. G. LOCKHART

(9-509)MY DEAR LOCKHART,—I received your letter today
(9-509)after I had sent off mine—most wellcome as it contains
(9-509)good news of Sophia—also Mr Murrays generosity 1 —but
(9-509)frankly the half was more than it is worth and I make it
(9-509)a condition of future labours that I have no more than is
(9-509)an adequate compensation for my time and the present
(9-509)is extravagant. I will do Cranbourne Chase with pleasure
(9-509)and also the books you mention.

510 LETTERS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT 1826

(9-510)I have a letter from Ld Melville in the old stile Dear
(9-510)Walter 1 and so forth begging me to get Henry Scott to
(9-510)stand for this county which he being anxious to do & I
(9-510)having already communicated with his father & Lord
(9-510)Montagu is asking me to do something very agreeable
(9-510)to me.

(9-510)You must send me the books you mention and I will
(9-510)lose no time in the rev[iew] having enough on my hands
(9-510)in my present very solitary state.

(9-510)Chiefswood will be arranged just as you please &

(9-510)Laidlaw will do the needful.

(9-510)I will be glad to have a touch at my old friend King

(9-510)John whom I loved dearly.2 This election business

(9-510)hurries us. Yours in trust

W SCOTT

(9-510)ABBOTSFORD 15 April [1826]

[Law]