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CHARLOTTE, LADY WILLIAMS WYNN, AGED 45 (see page 45)

[*Frontispiece*

CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLOTTE GRENVILLE, LADY WILLIAMS WYNN

AND HER THREE SONS

Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., Rt. Hon. Charles Williams Wynn, and Sir Henry Williams Wynn, G.C.H., K.C.B.
1795—1832

EDITED BY RACHEL LEIGHTON

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET, W.
1920

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PREFACE

Most of the letters contained in this volume have been selected from a very large correspondence preserved by Sir Henry Williams Wynn, G.C.H., K.C.B., and inherited by my mother, Mrs. Stanley Leighton, from her father, Sir Henry's sole surviving son.

These letters, dating from 1795 to 1856, arranged and catalogued by her, have been accepted by the Trustees of the National Library of Wales, at Aberystwyth. Among the letters, but not included in the correspondence before us, are two long epistles written to Henry Williams Wynn in 1813 by his cousin Lady Hester Stanhope, which have already appeared in *The Lady of Quality*, by Abraham Hayward (1864), and in the Duchess of Cleveland's Life of Lady Hester, besides which they are quoted by Mr. Frank Hamel in his Life of Lady Hester Stanhope (1913); it therefore appeared to be a work of supererogation to place them once again before the public, but in consequence of their omission, the story of Henry's journey through Palestine and his meeting with Lady Hester, lacks something of completeness.

Although one name only appears as Editor on the title-page of this book, the selection and arrangement of the letters is the work of my mother more than of myself. Her untiring industry and patience turned the task of transcription into a labour of love, and her knowledge of the history and traditions of a generation now passed away has made it possible to link family groups into a family circle.

Our joint thanks are offered to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn and to Mr. Arthur Williams Wynn for allowing us to include in this collection several most interesting letters preserved at Wynnstay and at Coed-y-Maen, and to Sir Watkin for permitting the reproduction of six of the pictures at Wynnstay. The picture of the Duke of Buckingham is reproduced by kind permission of Lady Kinloss, from the beautiful portrait, by Romney, at Stowe.

A few years ago the National Library of Wales acquired a small collection of the papers and diaries of Miss Fanny Williams Wynn, probably used by Mr. Hayward when compiling his *Lady of Quality*, and our thanks are due to the Trustees for allowing us full access to, and use of, these MSS., which have enabled us to fill up many gaps.

I owe a debt of personal gratitude to Mr. Ballinger, the Librarian of the National Library, for the encouragement he has given me during the preparation of this volume, and to him and to Lieut.-Colonel John Murray, D.S.O., for their invaluable assistance with the proof-sheets.

RACHEL LEIGHTON.

May 1920.

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CORRESPONDENCE OF CHARLOTTE GRENVILLE, LADY WILLIAMS WYNN, AND HER THREE SONS

1795—1832

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

CORRESPONDENCE of a century ago has a fascination and interest dependent, not only on the light thrown by the writers on the every-day life of their own day, but also as illustrating the character, personality, and environment of a family circle or group of friends.

The letters which passed between Charlotte Lady Williams Wynn and her family in the reigns of George III and George IV represent the doings of a group, not actually moving within the inner circle of the affairs of State, but well within the outer circle, each member of the group playing his or her part in the public and social life of the day.

The leading lady in this company of players is

CHARLOTTE GRENVILLE, LADY WILLIAMS WYNN.

The other actors, clear-cut and vivid as they are, play their parts up to, not independent of, the central figure. Her outlook on society shows a keen interest, she has a

lively sense of humour, her powers of observation are quick and her sympathies alert. When her children are absent her pen never flags; she keeps them abreast of the politics of the day, the doings of her friends and acquaintances, and all the affairs of the family.

Charlotte Grenville, born in 1754, was the eldest daughter of the Right Honourable George Grenville and his wife Elizabeth Wyndham. The influences surrounding her childhood are worthy of notice, for they include not only the cultured and political atmosphere of the highest circles of English nobility, but also the romantic traditions inevitably hanging round adherents to the cause of the Royal House of Stuart.

On her mother's side, Charlotte was the granddaughter of the famous Elizabeth Percy, Duchess of Somerset, who succeeded the Duchess of Marlborough as Mistress of the Robes to Queen Anne. This lady began her married life at the age of 14, and married [1] her third husband, the sixth Duke of Somerset, in 1682, when she was 17. The daughter of this marriage, Catherine, became the wife of Sir William Wyndham, a personal friend of the Queen. In 1714 he joined Queen Anne's last Cabinet as Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Tory interest. The advent of the Hanoverians, on the Queen's death in the same year, heralded the downfall of the Tory party, and Wyndham, already involved in plots for the restoration of the Stuarts, was arrested at his own house in Somersetshire, Orchard Wyndham, on the outbreak of the rebellion in 1715. He was sent to the Tower, where he spent some months, but was liberated on bail and never brought up for trial. His was a personality typical of his age, in touch with

[1] Lady Elizabeth Percy, only child of Joceline, 11th and last Earl of Northumberland, mar. 1st, when 14 years of age, in 1679, Henry Earl of Ogle, who d.s.p. 1680. In 1681 she was "contracted" to Thomas Thynne of Longleat, but he was murdered by Count Königsmarck in February 1682. In the following May she married, as his first wife, Charles, 6th Duke of Somerset, by whom she had eight children. She died 1722.

the gay, the literary and artistic, the scheming and political circles of the Courts of Anne and George I.

His daughter Elizabeth did not marry Mr. George Grenville until nine years after his death, and her youngest son and youngest daughter were named after her father and mother, William Wyndham and Catherine, linking up a generation of adventurous spirits with the more conventional figures of Georgian times.

George Grenville by education and temperament appears to have possessed characteristics as divergent as the poles from those most conspicuous in his wife's forebears. He was well embarked on his political career at the time of his marriage, having abandoned the Law in 1741 and entered Parliament in accordance with the wishes of his maternal uncle, Viscount Cobham. His reputation in thirty years of political life, during which he attained to the highest positions possible to an English statesman, is well-known. History deals unsympathetically with the man to whose narrowness of outlook may be attributed the War of American Independence, but though he possessed hardly a single quality for a successful administrator, he was a man of unbounded industry and highmindedness. He sprang on both sides from men who for generations had spent their lives in public service—through his father, from the ancient line of the Grenvilles of Wootton, and through his mother [1] from the Temples of Stowe.

The *Grenville Papers*, four volumes of unindexed letters, published in 1852, throw very interesting and suggestive lights on Charlotte's family circle. The marriage of Lady Hester Grenville, her father's only sister, to William Pitt, first Earl Chatham, took place in the same year as her birth, 1754. The intimacy between the brothers-in-law, Pitt and Grenville, was very close,

[1] Hester, eld. dau. of Sir Richard Temple of Stowe, succeeded under special remainder to the Viscounty and Barony of Cobham on her brother's death in 1749, and was created Countess Temple the same year.

although their mode of addressing each other was formal. In 1756, when Thomas, the loved and revered "Uncle Tom" of these letters, was born, Mr. Pitt writes[1]:

"*January 3rd*, 1756.

"MY DEAR GRENVILLE, . . . My warmest felicitations attend you and Mrs. Grenville, who I hope, is as well able to bear the intrusion of the very affectionate compliments of her friends, as Lady Hester was, at the same period of her progress through the straw. Another Grenville, that is another Englishman who will one day love and help to serve his Country, is a most seasonable recruit to the age. I heartily and joyfully welcome this little honest Briton into a degenerate world. . . ."

An illustration of the way offices were bestowed is made, when the said Thomas is not quite four years old. His uncle, Lord Temple, at the time Lord Privy Seal, writes to George Grenville[2]:

"If you think Mr. T. Grenville is of a proper age for the reversion of a clerkship in my Office, it may be as well to dispose of it before the waves run so high as to overwhelm it, in which case I would have you send for my Secretary Wilson, at the Privy Seal Office to inform you of precidents, which, when you let me know, I will act accordingly, only, if it be any favour, and not a strict matter of right, I cannot ask it."

To the credit of Mr. Grenville there is no record that such an appointment was ever made.

Mrs. Grenville, her daughter Charlotte, and perhaps Elizabeth, according to the editor of the *Grenville Papers*, often acted as the Prime Minister's amanuenses. But the fire at Wootton in 1820 destroyed all MSS. not previously removed to Stowe or to the London family house in Bolton Street. There are, however, a few letters from Mrs. Grenville to her husband scattered about the *Grenville Papers*, and they give the impression of a

[1] *Grenville Papers*, vol. i. p. 154. [2] *Ibid.* vol. i. p. 330.

bright responsive nature, affectionate, and demonstrative in her use of language. She had nine children; the two eldest died in infancy, the others survived her.

Her death in 1769 must have been a very real blow to the family of growing boys and girls: George, the eldest living son, was but 17, Charlotte 16, and the youngest, Catherine, only 8 years old. In the *Grenville Papers* we are able to catch a glimpse of the sorrowing household. Hester, now Lady Chatham, writes to her brother [1]:

"HAYES, *December 16th*, 1769.

"We would not break in upon you my dear brother, in the more early part of your affliction, with the expression of how greatly we shared in your deep distress, but we are desirous, now that we may be allowed, to say that none of your friends have felt more for you, or have had stronger impressions of the greatness of your loss. . . ."

A letter written by Mrs. Montague, authoress and essayist, to Lord Lyttelton and enclosed to Mr. Grenville contains the earliest direct reference to Charlotte, and introduces her for the first time before the footlights [2]:

"HILL STREET, *December 23rd*, 1769.

"I felt unspeakable concern for the loss of Mrs. Grenville. I could never bear to think of what poor Mr. Grenville and the children must feel upon such a separation. Nature, birth, and everything seem to conspire to make her the first woman of this Country, and as added to that, she was the best too, when can regret and sorrow cease to weep? . . . I am rejoiced to hear Miss Stapleton[3] will show her friendship to her lost friend, not by unavailing tears merely, but by a tender care of the children. Miss Stapleton's character makes one rejoice in this, it will take off a great deal of anxiety from Mr. Grenville, and though it cannot ease his sorrow, will soften it. Miss Grenville promises to re-

[1] *Grenville Papers*, vol. iv. p. 496–7.
[2] *Ibid.* vol. iv. p. 496–7.
[3] Catherine, 2nd dau. of James Russell Stapleton and his wife Penelope, dau. and co-h. of Sir John Conwy, Bart., of Bodrhyddan.

semble her mother, may she have a longer life. I wish she would early accustom herself to taking Rhubarb, if she has any disorder in her stomach, it is the best antidote to her mother's complaint."

In November 1770 George Grenville died, only surviving his wife eleven months. One year later, on December 21st, Charlotte Grenville married, as his second wife,

SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, 4TH BARONET.

He had been a widower rather more than two years; his first wife, Lady Henrietta Somerset, daughter of the fourth Duke of Beaufort, died a few months after her marriage.

As an infant of barely six months old he had succeeded his father the "Great Sir Watkin," who was killed by a fall from his horse on returning from hunting in 1749. This Sir Watkin was a warm supporter of Prince Charles Edward in 1745, when, only by reason of the miscarriage or the tardy delivery of messages, he had failed to join the Pretender's forces prior to the retreat from Derby. A tradition current in the family tells that Lady Williams Wynn (Anne Vaughan) was at Llwydiarth in Montgomeryshire when the news reached her, and she at once rode off to Wynnstay in hot haste, and burnt all documents which might incriminate her husband. What truth there is in this story it is impossible to say, but no papers of any kind whatever relating to the ill-fated Jacobite Rising are to be found at Wynnstay. Whether, if they ever existed, they were destroyed by design, or perished in the fire of 1858, when the house and the greater part of its contents were burnt, is unknown.

There was but five years' difference between the ages of Charlotte and her husband. She came from one stately home to another, from a wide circle of public affairs, to hold a position of importance in the midst of a local world; for though Sir Watkin was in Parliament,

his influence, politically, lay amongst his own people; he was a grand seigneur, neither a courtier nor a statesman. He was a cultured gentleman, a patron of the arts, with many friends, amongst whom may be counted Sir Joshua Reynolds, who painted several pictures for Wynnstay, one of Sir Watkin and his first wife Lady Henrietta in fancy dress, one of Sir Watkin and his mother, Frances Shakerley, one of Charlotte and three of her children, and one of Charlotte's eldest son, afterwards the fifth Sir Watkin, as the Infant St. John. Sir Watkin (the fourth) was a member of the Dilettante Society, and his portrait is amongst those in Reynolds's famous group of the members. This portrait was copied by Sir Joshua for Charlotte after her husband's death, and the permission to have the copy made, the sum to be paid for it (£35), and the conditions under which the painter was to proceed, are recorded in the Annals of the Society published by Mr. Lionel Cust and Sir Sidney Colvin in the *History of the Dilettante Society.*

After eighteen years of married life, at the age of 35, with three sons and three daughters, Charlotte became a widow. Her eldest son was 17, her youngest, Henry, 7. Two younger children had died in infancy.

In the meantime her brothers and sisters at Wootton had grown up under the guardianship of their uncle, Richard, Earl Temple, and were taking their places in the world of society and politics.

GEORGE,

one year older than Charlotte, married in 1775 Mary, the only daughter and heir of Earl Nugent. He succeeded to the Earldom of Temple on his uncle's death in 1779, and in the following year assumed the arms and name of Nugent on the death of his father-in-law. In 1782 he was made Viceroy of Ireland, resigning in 1784. In 1787 he was created Marquis of Buckingham and reappointed to the viceroyalty, which office he held

for about a year. He died at the age of 60, in 1818, leaving two sons, Richard, who in 1822 became first Duke of Buckingham, and George, who succeeded at his mother's death in 1812 to the Barony of Nugent. In

THOMAS,

the second brother, the Wyndham strain was perhaps more clearly marked than in the other members of the family. He was Charlotte's favourite brother, and "Uncle Tom" became the counsellor and confidant of the whole party at Wynnstay. He entered Parliament as a follower of Mr. Fox in 1779, and was employed on short missions abroad; in 1798 he was sworn a member of the Privy Council, but his powers were social rather than political, and his tastes those of a scholar than of a statesman. The famous Lady Bessborough,[1] in a letter to Lord Granville Leveson Gower, hints of his universal popularity. In 1799 he narrowly escaped from drowning on his way to Berlin in charge of a mission, accompanied by Henry, Charlotte's youngest son, and Lady Bessborough writes as follows of this event[1]:

"Grenville is safe, thank God. The general anxiety about him, and joy for his safety must be very flattering to him if he ever knows it. It was the highest of all honours, the homage paid to worth, for had either of his Brothers been in the same situation, neither their titles, their riches, or their places, would have gained them half the interest that was shown for him."

Thomas Grenville's public life practically closed in 1807, though he did not retire from Parliament until 1818. He held the sinecure office (carrying with it a salary of £2,000 a year) of Chief Justice in Eyre, and in his brother's Cabinet (1806–7) he was made successively President of the Board of Control and First Lord

[1] Lady Bessborough and Lord Granville Leveson-Gower's Private Correspondence, pub. 1916.

of the Admiralty. Two great social reforms were dear to his heart: the abolition of the slave trade, which he saw accomplished in 1806–7 during his own term of office, and the emancipation of the Roman Catholics, the rock on which the Grenville Ministry was wrecked, but which was successfully carried through Parliament, by the Duke of Wellington and Robert Peel, twenty-one years later.

"Uncle Tom's hobby-horse" mentioned in the letters, his collection of books, an occupation and interest begun early in life, culminated in the bequest to the nation of a library of over 20,000 rare editions at his death in 1846. Most of the volumes in the Grenville library, now in the British Museum, contain a slip of paper on which he has written some indication or note of the history of their acquisition.

He outlived all his brothers and sisters, but in his old age he reaped, in the affection and regard of his sister's children, what in earlier days he had sown by his unfailing sympathy and kindliness. "Uncle Tom" was always a name to conjure with amongst the numerous nephews and nieces and great-nephews and great-nieces, and the tradition of his gracious and intellectual personality has descended even to the third generation now living in the twentieth century.

William Wyndham Grenville,

Charlotte's youngest brother, was born in 1759. He entered Parliament for Buckingham in 1782, and was at once given office as Chief Secretary for Ireland, when his eldest brother, Lord Temple, became Viceroy. At the age of 84 he was successively made Home Secretary and Speaker of the House of Commons; in 1790 he was raised to the Peerage, and led the House of Lords under his cousin the younger Pitt. The rich sinecure of Auditor of the Exchequer rewarded his labours in 1795. On the death of Mr. Pitt (1806) Lord Grenville became

Prime Minister and formed a Coalition Government known as the Ministry of All the Talents, with Erskine as Lord Chancellor and Fox as Foreign Secretary. But Fox was in a critical state of health, though he succeeded in carrying through the House of Commons important measures bearing on the slave traffic in the British Colonies. He died in the September of this year, and the Cabinet was in consequence greatly weakened. Lord Grenville had placed himself in a position of personal unpopularity by passing through Parliament an Act enabling him to hold the sinecure already mentioned, together with the Premiership. His administration lasted only thirteen months, after which he took no very leading part in the affairs of State, but Auditor of the Exchequer he remained, until his death in 1839.

His wife, the Honourable Anne Pitt, who succeeded to the Dropmore and Boconnoc estates on the death of her brother Lord Camelford in a duel in 1804, survived him, and these properties passed on her death to the Honourable George Fortescue, second son of Lord Grenville's third sister, Hester.

These three Grenville brothers are summed up by Lord Rosebery in his *Life of Lord Chatham* in an interesting, albeit unflattering light. He says that:

"Cobbett reckoned from returns furnished to the House of Commons that Lord Buckingham and his brother Thomas, the sons of George Grenville, had in half a century drawn £700,000 of public money, and William, another brother, something like £200,000 more. These figures are open to dispute, but they indicate at least that the revenues from public money of this family of sinecurists must have been enormous. Of English families the Grenvilles were in this particular line easily the first. Had all sinecurists, it may be said, in passing, spent their money like the younger, Thomas, who returned far more than he received by bequeathing his matchless library to the nation, the public conscience would have been much more tender towards them."

Of Charlotte's three sisters and their children the first to marry after herself was Catherine, the youngest, who in 1780 became the wife of Mr. George Neville. She had ten children in quick succession, starting with twins who died within twenty-four hours of their birth. Mary, her second daughter, born in 1786, married Sir Stephen Glynne, and became the mother of Stephen the last baronet, and of Catherine, afterwards the wife of the Right Honourable W. E. Gladstone. Mrs. Neville died in 1796, the year before her husband succeeded to the barony of Braybrooke, on the death of his kinsman, the fourth Lord Howard de Walden.

The three Neville sons to reach man's estate, Richard, Henry, and George, were very intimate cousins and companions to Charlotte's younger children. Richard and her youngest son Henry were born within a few months of each other, and as schoolboys, the one at Harrow and the other at Eton, kept up a regular correspondence. Both had literary tastes, and were very keen collectors of books, discussing with each other the special editions and prices, and sharing the joys of the new acquisition of some coveted volume. Richard's taste in literature developed, and he earned a reputation for himself as the first editor of Pepys' Diaries.

The youngest Neville daughter, Caroline, married Beilby Lawley Thompson, who in 1839 became first Baron Wenlock.

HESTER GRENVILLE,

born in 1760, married Hugh, third Baron Fortescue, raised in 1789 to the Earldom. Her eldest son, Hugh, known in this Correspondence by his courtesy title of Ebrington, was the same age as his cousins Richard Neville and Henry Williams Wynn, and shared their tastes and interests. The friendship between the three was very intimate, as the letters to Henry from both of them as boys and young men testify.

George, the second son, was chosen, as already indicated, by his uncle and aunt, Lord and Lady Grenville, to be their heir. John, the third son, entered Holy Orders. Of the six daughters, five married, but these ladies hardly appear at all in the Correspondence.

ELIZABETH

was the last of Mr. George Grenville's daughters to marry. She became Lady Carysfort in 1787, and her husband was advanced a step in the Peerage in 1789, in like manner as his brother-in-law, Fortescue. He was a widower with five children; by his second marriage he had one son, who died an infant, and three daughters.

Another actor emerges during one period in this Correspondence,

LADY HESTER STANHOPE.

She was the granddaughter of Hester, Lady Chatham, Mr. George Grenville's sister, whose only daughter Hester had married in 1774 Charles, third Earl Stanhope. Henry's letters to his mother during his travels in the East in 1811–12 give a good description of the strange, eccentric lady.

This, then, is the family circle in which Charlotte, Lady Williams Wynn moved, when as a young widow she was called upon to administer the great Welsh estates during the three years' minority of her eldest son. Under her husband's will, made within twelve months of his death, she had the entire control of everything while his children were minors. The will is a long one, no child is mentioned by name, one name and one name only is inscribed in this document other than that of the testator and his witnesses: "My dear wife, Charlotte." His trust and confidence in her powers and in her judgment must have been boundless, for he appointed no co-trustee, no co-executor, no other guardian for his children. Charlotte was the sole administrator.

WATKIN,

the eldest, attained his majority in 1798.

Domestic affairs in England and foreign affairs on the Continent were in a ferment of unrest during the last decade of the eighteenth century and well on into the nineteenth. Sir Watkin as a young county gentleman did not shirk the responsibility of his position; he entered into, and took his part in, the public life of the principality. He raised the regiment of the Ancient British Light Dragoons, which was prepared for service in France and saw service both there and in Ireland. He went into Parliament as member for Denbighshire, and he exercised very considerable local influence. He entered less into politics than either of his brothers, for his interests did not lie in statecraft, in spite of the great positions held by his mother's relations in political circles.

In the immediate family at Wynnstay his position as head is always recognised; he stands rather aloof from the chaff of the brothers and sisters, especially of the sisters, even Fanny, nearest him in age, treats him with deference. With Charles, his next brother, he was on terms of greater intimacy, and in later years he corresponded regularly with Henry; but the rights of "primogeniture" are characteristically marked. Whenever Lady Williams Wynn in her letters to any of her children writes of "your Brother," she always refers to Sir Watkin.

Sir Watkin married in 1817 Lady Harriet Clive, eldest daughter of the first Earl of Powis. He had three children, Watkin, Herbert, and Harriet, afterwards Lady Williams.

FANNY,

Charlotte's eldest daughter, was born in 1778. She never married. She was a woman with much social talent and of great enterprise. She was exceedingly fond

of travelling, and in 1818 she went, accompanied by her courier and her maid, through France and Italy to her sister Charlotte (Mrs. Shipley), who was then living in Majorca. Her journeys gave the opportunity to her mother to keep her informed of all that was passing at home, and the series of Letters from Lady Williams Wynn between the years 1818 and 1827, now in the National Library at Aberystwyth, are full of interest.

Fanny's own accounts of places in France, Germany, Italy, and later of Copenhagen are preserved in her diaries and notebooks (also in the National Library), extracts from which were published in *A Lady of Quality*, edited by Mr. Abraham Hayward after her death. The "Prefatory Notice" in that volume gives an account of her as an old lady of nearly 84, "distinguished by her literary tastes and acquirements, as well as highly esteemed for the uprightness of her character, the excellence of her understanding and the kindness of her heart." The book was published in 1864, seven years after her death.

CHARLES,

born in 1775, entered the legal profession and was called to the Bar, but his activities as a barrister were short-lived. The leading position of his mother's family in public affairs soon turned his attention to other channels, and he commenced a long Parliamentary career in 1796 as member for the pocket borough of Old Sarum. In 1799 he was returned as representative for his own county of Montgomery, which seat he held continuously for fifty years.

He was a candidate for the Speaker's chair in 1817, on which occasion "Uncle Tom" recorded on his behalf the last vote he ever gave in the House of Commons. Charles failed in the election, on account, it is said, of a physical weakness of voice, otherwise his knowledge of the privileges and procedure of Parliament, together

with his good temper and courtesy, made him a very desirable candidate; but, according to a story current at the time, the Commons declared they dared not elect Mr. Charles Williams Wynn their Speaker, lest "the dignity of their House be lowered by reference to Mr. Squeaker."

The list of Charles's appointments is not so formidable as those of his uncles. He was Under-Secretary to the Home Office for one year, President of the Board of Control for five years, and in Lord Grey's Ministry, 1830, he was Secretary at War, which office he held for a few months only, as he could not bring himself to give whole-hearted support to so democratic a measure as the first Reform Bill. His last appointment, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, was for one year only, 1835, after which he accepted no other office. It is said that he was three times offered the Governor-Generalship of India and three times he refused. He married in 1806 Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Foster Cunliffe, third Baronet, of Acton Park, Wrexham. He had seven children; one son and one daughter died young. He died in 1850 at the age of 75.

Charlotte,

the fourth surviving child of Charlotte, Lady Williams Wynn, married in 1806 Colonel William Shipley, son of the Dean of St. Asaph, and heir through his mother [1] to the Bodrhyddan estates. The marriage was not a happy one; owing to serious financial difficulties, Colonel Shipley was obliged to spend the latter part of his life out of England. Majorca was chosen as a haven not likely to be visited by ubiquitous creditors, and there he died in 1820. There were two children of this marriage, William Conwy Shipley, who assumed the surname of

[1] Penelope, dau. and co-h. of Ellis Yonge, of Bryn Yorcin, and his wife Penelope, eld. dau. and co-h. of James Russell Stapleton, whose wife Penelope was dau. and co-h. of Sir John Conwy of Bodrhyddan.

Conwy, and died without issue in 1869, having succeeded to the Bodrhyddan property after the death of his grandfather Dean Shipley, and Charlotte, who in 1885 married the Hon. Richard Rowley. She succeeded to the property on her brother's death, and died two years afterwards, when it passed to her only son, who assumed the additional name of Conwy.

HENRIETTA,

the youngest daughter, born in 1780, married Thomas Cholmondeley of Vale Royal, in 1810. He became first Baron Delamere in 1821. She had four sons and one daughter. She was a very clever artist in pen-and-ink and pencil sketches, and as a letter-writer she rivals her mother in her graphic and terse descriptions, her sense of humour, and her shrewd judgments.

The last member of the family, the youngest,

HENRY,

was seven years old at the time of his father's death. The other two sons, of 17 and 15, were within sight of manhood; Henry was little more than a baby. With him, his mother's influence was paramount, and her affection and solicitude towards him when he first goes to a tutor at Chiswick, and afterwards to Harrow, are full of tenderness; but she is critical, and her standard for conduct and school work is high, she expects much, and she is not satisfied with indifferent results. There are moments when, as a little boy of eleven years old, she is in despair over his spelling and his careless handwriting. Sometimes she writes to him in French and requires an answer in the same language, so that she may judge for herself what progress he is making.

After the schooldays are over, instead of going to the University, Henry serves his apprenticeship in diplomacy to "Uncle Tom."



H. D. Hamilton del. 1772

CHARLOTTE, LADY WILLIAMS WYNN, AGED 18.



H. D. Hamilton del. 1772

SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, 4TH BART.

CHAPTER II

1795—1797

THE Correspondence opens when Sir Watkin Williams Wynn is 28 years of age, Charles 20, and Henry 12.

From Lady Williams Wynn to Henry W. W. W. at School at Chiswick

1795.

"I have nothing but praise and commendation to send my dear boy. You have fulfilled my wishes in letting me hear as soon as possible of your arrival, and have sent me two very good letters in every respect. I must also flatter you upon the stout and manly firmness with which you left in, and upon your having been wise enough to wait quietly at the Dumb-bell, for a Coach, rather than to return home to have the pain of a second parting.

"Your brother, Watkin, has been running a horse at the Holywell Races, and notwithstanding that the bets were 5 to 1 against him, he took in all the Blacklegs, and came in triumphant, which so delighted all the good Taffies, that they were afraid their shouts of 'Watkin for ever' would have frightened the horse out of the Course, just as he reached the Winning Post."

The Same

"*July* 1795.

"Your last letter, my dearest, was dated on ye 28th june & not put into ye Penny-post till four days after & to compleat the carelessness, it announces, an enclosed Theme of which not a trace appears. Indeed my dear Boy you are much too scatter brained for your age. It gives an appearance of childishness as well as of in-

attention to all that you do, & I am vexed that with the frequent admonitions which I give you on the subject you do not take care that your letters should bespeak the wish to profit by them. . . . Adieu my ever dearest."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"TAPLOW, *June 12th* [1795 ?].

"I cannot let the post return without thanking my dearest Boy for the good news which his letter of this morning brought me. The quality of its contents made up for what it wanted in quantity & leaves me only to wish for my own sake as well as my dearest Henry's that he may continue to gain every day fresh credit & fresh laurels as he is now doing. I shall grow quite fond of Greek (N.B. without understanding one word) only because it gives you an opportunity of distinguishing yourself. As to Mr. Gibbon's publication I leave my purse entirely to your discretion, trusting you will use it like your own neither lavishly nor stingily. . . . We went last night to see the remains of poor Cliffden.[1] . . . The last chimney fell down two days ago & now nothing remains but the arched brick Terrace from which the steps spring. They tell me that the term for which it had been insured expired only last year & had unfortunately been neglected to be renewed so that not a sixpence of the loss can be recovered. A house is, I believe, never so likely to be burnt down as the moment when the insurance expires. Ly. Orkney[2] continues to inhabit the wings, which are very little injured. We have some thoughts of going to drink tea at Mrs. Fryer's on sunday & of walking from thence to look at the ruins. 'Sic transit gloria mundi.' . . .

"The great news of B. B.[3] was that Dick[4] was to get his Remove this week, so that you see you exactly keep pace. . . .

"Adieu, my dear Boy, I would not wait for a Frank

[1] Cliefden, Lady Orkney's house on the Thames.

[2] Mary, Countess of Orkney in her own right; mar. 1777, Hon. Thomas FitzMaurice, of Llewenny Hall, Denbighshire, 2nd s. of John, E. of Shelburne. She died 1831, and was succeeded by her grandson.

[3] Billingbeare.

[4] Richard Neville (at Eton).

to tell you how much pleasure your promotion has given me."

Lady Williams Wynn began early to direct her second son's mind towards matrimony.[1] Though not yet 20, she urged him to lay his heart at the feet of Miss Elizabeth Acland, a lady of considerable fortune; but his courage, not being backed by his affections, failed him, and he left the field to his rival, Lord Porchester.

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

" *Saturday* [1795].

" I am very vexed my dear Charles at the disappointment which you probably felt from not hearing from me yesterday which was owing simply to the circumstance of my not having received your *franked* Letter till this morning. I conclude that the post does not go from Tunbridge Wells every day as your date of the frank was the ninth and the Postmark the 11th. Your Uncle[1] & I have been swearing at you for the last half hour with all our might & main & agreeing that the valour of a mouse is much too flattering a Comparison to apply to yours. The idea of quitting the field is certainly the most absurd possible. Were you at a hundred miles distance & heard of Lord P.'s[2] arrival your business would have been to have set forth to meet him & have put your friend's regard to the obvious test of shewing to which of you she really did feel preference, but to give it all up to his Lordship the very moment he presents himself is really a degree of childish weakness that I could not have believed you capable of. If Lord P. had a mind to try his chance nothing could be so good for you as his doing it just when you were on the spot & had, you thought, gained some ground. I am very much surprised at the answer which you gave to the message about your going away after our having so repeatedly tried to BEAT into you, that all you had to say to such a

[1] Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville.

[2] Lord Porchester, afterwards 2nd E. of Carnarvon; born 1772; mar. April 25th, 1796, Elizabeth, dau. of Col. John Dyke Acland and Lady Harriet. He died 1833.

proposal was that *your staying or going* could effect *none but yourself*, as to your behaviour *it must, & would be regulated by Miss A.*,[1] but my dearest if it is possible that you can really let her scold you for preventing Lord Porchester proposing, & instead of shewing a manly resentment of a thing so injurious, can only go up to your room to cry, I really cannot wonder at her thinking you unworthy of her. Depend upon it (whatever she may say) that by such a Conduct you are deposing yourself in her estimation. At all events I insist on you staying on, make the very best you can of such opportunities as you can find, above all endeavour to shew to Lord P. the partiality which you think she has for you, & if under the circumstances she chooses to throw herself at his head, it is very sure that you have nothing to regret. As to Lady Ht.'s[2] wish of your going, I hold it to be of so very little consequence that it is not worth combating, & as to anything which Miss A. may say to you on the subject, if it is at the instigation of her Mother, she cannot but be pleased at your persevereing in resisting it & if it is from herself & said only to get you out of Lord Porchester's way, she can, on that score have little Claim to your obedience. Stay where you are, push yourself foreward when you can, & where you cannot, let her be sure at least that you see & know exactly how she is behaving to your rival.

" To be sure your weakness & helplessness does exceed all imagination, & appears to me, to extend full as much to the suffering yourself to be the Tool & Dupe of Lord Porchester, as of Miss A. Do tell me why upon Earth, he is to make you dine with him every day if you do not chuse it ? & why he is to have the triumph of keeping you in a leading string to secure your never being able to avail yourself of a moment when he is off the ground ? Your Uncle says that he will do more with the Toe of his lame leg than you with all the faculties of your mind & body united. *It is quite impossible to direct you*

[1] Miss Acland. Elizabeth, dau. of Col. John Dyke Acland. She died 1813.

[2] Lady Harriet Acland, dau. 1st E. of Ilchester ; mar. 1750, John Dyke, eld. s. of Sir Thos. Acland, 7th Bart. (He predeceased his father in 1778.)

how to avoid such sort of common Embarassments, but really if you are such a Ninny as to suffer yourself to be trampled on by him as well as by her, I am sure I do not wonder at her treating you as she does. I can only repeat that you must stay, unless you mean entirely to give the thing up, you have now an opportunity of fairly seeing what the extent of Miss A's regard is, & if you run away you furnish her with a very sufficient excuse for taking another."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"LONDON, *July 15th*, 1795.

"With all the allowance my dear Charles which I can make & do make for the present state of your mind I cannot help feeling a good deal surprised at your taking no notice whatever of a long letter which day by day (under no common degree of unhappiness & anxiety) I have written to you & of the very little impression which all my advice appears to make on you. My opinion is more & more decided against your stirring. You was wrong in writing to her [1] as it appeared like an opening on your part from whence it should not come, but the more constantly you can rouse her feelings for you by meeting her, depend on it, the better it will be. I shall say no more & ought not I am sure to have said as much but am always, your most truly affect."

Charles Williams Wynn never failed to write to his mother a "birthday letter" on the eve of the anniversary of his birth. Most of these letters she preserved carefully, while on his side he cherished the letters written by her, to congratulate him on entering another year of his strenuous and not otherwise than successful life. Very few of these letters are of general interest, but they show how, of all her children, Charles was the one to whom she turned more readily than to any of the others. Mother and son were on very intimate terms: she can chide him over his laggard wooings, she can

[1] Miss Acland.

advise him over his expenses, she is ready to assist him in the financial embarrassments in which he from time to time found himself. She knows and enters into his political ambitions and rejoices in his appointments; a keen politician herself, she finds in him a responsive pupil. Watkin displayed neither interest nor ability in the field of politics—military ardour, in these early days, consumed his activities. Henry is very young, but already developing a strong desire for foreign travel, and a determination not to be tied too closely to the family apron-strings.

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother
(written on his 20th birthday)

"*October 9th* [1795].

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—I wish more than ever on this day to tell you how much I feel all the very, very particular kindness which you have throughout this year shewn me but when I look back I feel so much ashamed of the little return which I have made in things which it certainly was in my power, that I do not know what to say; do not however think that I am unsensible to what you have done for me, but rather look forward to the future when I hope you will find amends for the past. I cannot but think of the contrast which I experience between this & my last birthday, I was then pleased with myself & felt everything within my reach. I now can no longer look back with satisfaction & I find every hope every wish that I had formed for the future disappointed.

"I am your dut. & affec.
"C. W. W. W."

About 1796–7 Henry was sent to Harrow, and the few letters preserved from his cousins Richard Neville (afterwards 3rd Lord Braybrooke) and Hugh Lord Ebrington give the boys' view of book collecting, and also an account of the famous Frogmore gala of 1797 and the Eton Montem of the following year.

From Richard Neville (age 13–14, afterwards 3rd Baron Braybrooke, and 1st Editor of Pepys' Diary) to Henry W. W. W.

"STOWE, *Friday*, 1796.

"I have a great many books given me lately, Ld. Howard [1] sent me a very fine set of Harding's Plates to Johnson, & Steven's Shakespeare, Mr. Gretton gave me a nice Baskerville's Milton, Uncle Buckingham [2] gave a very curious book called Breydenbach's Peregrination, it was printed in 1486 & was the first book of voyages ever printed. Ld Temple [3] gave me Gibbon's Roman Empire 12 volumes octavo, Clarendon's History of the Rebellion & Lucretius & Catullus, & Virgil printed by Baskerville. Uncle Grenville [4] also gave me a Molière 6 vols. quarto. I was sorry you had left Stowe before we came here, there has been a great deal of company here amongst the rest a Mr. Pigot who is an idiot, & thinks he spouts Shakespeare very well & although everybody laughs at him he seems ignorant that he is the cause & joins in the joke."

The Same

"ETON, *Sunday* [1797 ?].

"I have got all my books here & am going to have a new bookcase not having half room. The Mr. Gretton who gave me Milton is Ld. Howard's chaplain whom I saw at Audley End. Are all your books at Harrow? I forgot to ask to see your bookcase when I was at Taplow." [5]

[1] John Griffin Whitwell, 4th Ld. Howard de Walden, created 1st Baron Braybrooke in 1788, with special remainder, in default of male issue, to Richard Aldwater Neville of Billingbeare. He died May 25th, 1797.

[2] 1st Marq. of Buckingham, George, s. of Rt. Hon. George Grenville of Wootton. He was born 1753; mar. 1778, Mary, dau. of Earl Nugent. He was created a Marq. 1784 on obtaining office as Lord Lieut. of Ireland. He died 1813.

[3] Ld. Temple, Richard, s. of Hester, Countess of Temple, and George Grenville of Wootton. Succeeded his mother. He is great-uncle to the writer of the letter.

[4] Ld. Grenville, William Wyndham, 3rd s. of Rt. Hon. George Grenville of Wootton; born 1759; mar. 1792, Hon. Anne Pitt, dau. of 1st Ld. Camelford. He d.s.p. 1834.

[5] Lady Williams Wynn's summer residence at this time.

From Ld. Ebrington (age 14) to Henry W. W. W.

"ETON, *June 4th*, 1797.

"I suppose you heard of the Gala at Frogmore on Tuesday 23rd of last month to which all the fifth, sixth, and noblemen's sons were invited. The garden gates were opened at a little past four at which time all the blackguards in Eton & Windsor in Sunday apparel went to see the Diversions of the place. Imp: Mrs. Mattocks made a very elegant address to His Majesty & the company in general, praising the Gardens, at which old Rex looked very much diverted, we then adjourned, (Princess Elizabeth[1] leading the Battalion) to another part of the Garden where Mr. Jones' men performed very good feats of horsemanship which were the only things worth seeing of the whole. Rees's Imitations then followed & some mincing by Delpine & Jollett which was interrupted by a melancholy accident. J. was to fire a gun at D., which he did with so good an aim that he wounded his face in a very shocking manner which of course put an end to it! so much for the acting!! the sports of the evenings concluded with a body of the sooty tribe who came, they say, by order of the Prince of Wales,[2] but were unluckily not permitted to run, each man was to have, according to custom, rode his neighbour's ass. The fête upon the whole went off better than the former, though bad was the best. I went to Dropmore this day se' night so was not here when the Prince of Wirtenberg[3] made his visit.

"You must by this time have heard that my Uncle Neville has taken the title of Braybrooke upon Ld. Howard's death, Dick is now the Hon. Mr. Neville, he desires his kind love & will write soon.

"I remain yours

"EBRINGTON."

[1] Elizabeth, 3rd dau. of George III; b. 1770; mar. 1818, His Serene Highness Frederick, Landgrave of Hesse-Hamburg. She died 1840.

[2] Afterwards Prince Regent and George IV.

[3] Frederick, King of Würtenberg, mar. May 18th, 1797, Charlotte, Princess Royal, eldest dau. of George III.

From the Hon. Richard Neville to Henry W. W. W.

" ETON, *July 8th* [1798 ?].

" I stayed at Billingbear the first fortnight of the Easter holidays, and passed my time very pleasantly in hunting & snipe shooting, which latter amusement considering the lateness of the season afforded me tolerable diversion, after this I went with my father to London. When I came back to this place, the whole school was engrossed with thoughts of the approaching Montem & the common lounge was going up Windsor in quest of a sword, sash, gorget, black stock, cane, or cocked hat, which with a red coat, white waistcoat & breeches, buckles & white gloves formed the dress of an officer (properly styled a ' corporal ') which genteel band I had the honour of leading being Captain of the fifth form Oppidans. On the Sunday previous to Whit-Tuesday which is the appointed day, my father called here for me and I went with him to Billingbear from which place we returned very early on the Montem morning. I immediately dressed and was, you may imagine a conspicuous buck having my red coat turned up with black facings exactly like an uniform (epaulettes excepted). About eleven all the boys were assembled in the school yard, and notwithstanding the badness of the day which was very windy & threatened rain, I never saw a greater concourse of people drawn together; about half past eleven absence began, and it was with the greatest difficulty we could get to the place to hear our names called, owing to the pressing of the crowd, curious to see the ceremony. After walking three times round the school yard in tolerable order, the procession moved towards the playing fields & the Ensign (who was 4th Colleger in the sixth form) flourished the flag before their Majesties, who, as well as all the Royal Family were present. I had been rather tired of the fun but began to wish myself anywhere else, when a hard rain came on, attended with high wind as we were going through the playing fields, which continued all the way to Salt Hill; in an instant all order vanished, confusion became general, many of the boys deserting & going back to college, others borrowed or got their own great-

coats which were carried by men appointed for that purpose. I luckily got mine but was wet in the feet. Then in an irregular order the march continued till we got to the Montem Hill, where instead of passing round the Royal carriages (according to custom) every one betook himself to the inn running as fast as possible to get out of the rain and to secure a place at dinner in which I succeeded, but got the worst eatables as well as drinkables I ever tasted insomuch that I chose to go without in preference to being made sick by partaking of such insufferable commodities. About four, the procession returned, but tho' in good order did not consist of two hundred boys, so many having left, or not chusing to go round by the road when there was a shorter way by the fields. In the evening I went on the terrace which was very much crowded, particularly by boys who came on in their accoutrements. The two Subalterns & twelve runners had very neat dresses & performed their several functions of stopping all passengers & obliging them to contribute, in a very good style & about £884 was collected for the Captain whose name was Ford. Thus have I given you a long account of our triennial exhibition, and I shall conclude it by saying that I never wish to be a performer in another."

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother
(on his 22nd birthday)

"CAERYNWCH, *October 9th*, 1797.

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—When I wrote to you on this day two years ago I felt, I hope as warmly as I ought to do, the very particular kindness which I had then just experienced from you in advising, soothing & comforting me in (what perhaps I must call) my follies. When I say Particular, I hope that you know I do not mean to distinguish it from the rest of your conduct towards me since this day 22 years ago, but from that which would have been the conduct of other ordinary Mothers in similar circumstances. Let me now assure you that since that time my gratitude would not have been blunted even if it had no fresh claims to repeat it. I never have been able to tell you since that time how real

a sense I have of that constant unremitting & indefatigable goodness with which you have entered into every plan, every project & every wish I have formed. I cannot say that every day as I become older my confidence in you & your advice is increased (as I trust you know that that is impossible), but I can tell you that I every day find more reason to prefer your advice & your opinion to any other whatever. When I think of all the advantages which I know that I have experienced to a degree very seldom if ever enjoyed by others, I feel that in you Providence has compensated me for the very heavy & apparent irreparable loss sustained so early. Do not think when you read this that the remembrance of my Father is at all weakened in my mind, but recollect how superior your care & kindness has been to what others would have shewn. Remember how you have sacrificed your quiet, your comfort, & your peace to everything which could conduce to our wellbeing, even to our pleasure. Do not think by never saying this to you till now I have never felt it before or that I have ever omitted to return thanks to that God who has spared you to us. To you under Him we owe every blessing. . . ."

CHAPTER III

THE IRISH REBELLION

1797—1798

DURING the long administration of Mr. Pitt, from 1783, when he was twenty-five years old, until his resignation in 1801, the official conscience with regard to Ireland was gradually developing towards the view that sooner or later a Union of the two Legislatures must be effected. Pitt worked, regardless of opposition from his own party, in the direction of the broad lines of Catholic emancipation and a union of interests, as well as forms, of Government. But the Irish presented no form of union in themselves. The country was not divided into two parties, but into many; the interests of Catholics and Protestants, of landlords and tenants, were intersected by countless provincial, religious, family, and local feuds. Each small section acted independently, and counter to the section of the community nearest itself, each elected its own leader, and each claimed to represent the views of Ireland. In 1793 the English Government had declared war with France. This policy was sufficient excuse to draw the Irish parties rather closer together, in order that they might endeavour to enter into secret and treasonable communications with the French Republican Government. The Catholics and the "United Irish Party" made common cause against England, openly avowing their republican sympathies, and under the leadership of Lord Edward FitzGerald they appealed to France for armed assistance. The English Govern-

ment was fully aware of the state of affairs in Ireland, they had information of the treason in progress, they even knew the authors of the plans; but the proofs they held were under seal of secrecy, and they considered themselves unable to take such open action as would avert an invasion from France.

In 1796 a French fleet anchored in Bantry Bay. The Admiral in command, Admiral Horn, had been separated, owing to adverse winds, from the main body of the Fleet, and in the absence of definite orders the Second-in-Command delayed to land the French expedition. A heavy gale sprang up and swept the bay, so crippling the ships that they returned to Brest in a disabled condition.

At last the Government took matters in hand, and sent General Lake, in March 1797, to disarm Ulster.

But no open outbreak of hostilities having occurred, the ever-present sentimentalists in the English House of Commons protested eloquently against severity of treatment, and the Cabinet itself, having in view an entire change of system, desired to conciliate rather than alienate the Irish sympathies. But half measures were impossible. Distrust of, and dislike to, English rule was the only point on which the countless Irish parties appeared to have any agreement at all.

The Rebellion burst into flame in May 1798. It found the Royalist troops in Ireland almost as disunited in their commanders as the Irish themselves. Sir Ralph Abercromby, who had succeeded Lord Carhampton as Commander-in-Chief, was out of sympathy both with his job and his men, who were chiefly composed of Irish militia and yeomanry, undisciplined and disorderly. General Lake does not appear to have been a born leader of men.

Two days before the date planned for the rising, Lord Edward FitzGerald was arrested; but in spite of the loss of their leader, the Irish rebels made an

attempt, on the appointed day, May 23rd, to capture Dublin. They came into contact with the King's forces at Naas, Kilcullen, Rathfaran, and other places in county Kildare. The Irish scored something of a success, from which followed such a succession of arrests on suspicion, and executions in cold blood, on both sides, as can only be described as brutal savagery.

Early in June 1798 Sir Watkin joined Gen. Lake's Army, took command of his "Ancient British Dragoons," and was present at the decisive action on the 20th at Vinegar Hill, where the rebels were utterly routed.

After this the Rebellion died slowly and painfully away. In August one further attempt to land a French force was made at Killala, which ended in so rapid an engagement at Castlebar that it became known as the "Castlebar Races."

Lord Cornwallis had in the meantime succeeded Lord Camden as Viceroy. He was not happier than his predecessors in winning the affection of the Irish. The one solution, in his mind, for all Irish troubles was the Union of the Parliaments; his policy, therefore, was to propitiate the people, but to deal arbitrarily with the leaders, the result being that his acts of leniency towards the rank and file were misinterpreted as weakness, and his attitude towards their leaders regarded as cruel and vindictive. By the autumn of 1798 the Rebellion had ceased, all that remained was smouldering hatred and distrust, on which was built up the fabric of the United Parliament of 1800.

From Gwilliam Lloyd Wardle[1] *to Sir Watkin*

"DUNDALK, *Sunday, May 14th,* 1797.

"DEAR SIR WATKIN,—Your Lads have gained fresh laurels. Cuming, Goodriche & Barlow with 22 rank & file & a few yeomanry Cavalry after patrolling the

[1] Afterwards M.P. for Okehampton. In 1809 he brought to light in the House of Commons the sale of commissions in the Army by Mrs. Clarke, mistress of the Duke of York.

whole of Friday night & until 10 o'clock yesterday morning were aware of a strong force of these united Rascals coming down to attack them they drew up their small force so as to make it appear still smaller, this answered admirably, the villains to the amount of 250 or 300 armed with pikes & muskets advanced boldly & drew up in line 4 deep very near our men in an open space in a village with houses in the rear, our party immediately deployed into line & advanced at a gentle trot till very near them, they then made a desperate charge by which they were completely taken & fled on all directions. Your lads now skirmished with equal success & gallantry, they killed 12, wounded a much more considerable number & took ten prisoners whom they carried off in the face of a very considerable force of these Villains who were pouring from every side. I have the further satisfaction of saying that we have not a man killed or wounded, a circumstance that could hardly have been looked for more particularly as they kept up a fire upon our men, while skirmishing, from some adjacent houses. During the course of last night intelligence came in here that the United had collected all their strength & to the number of 5,000 had taken the field. In consequence of this Cuming sent off to Newry for a reinforcement. Pulestone was at Lurgan on Regimental duty. I therefore immediately marched off sixty-six strong & 2 Officers to meet him at the place he had appointed. This we effected & found that the Rascals had been out in great force all the night, had seized 26 stand of Arms from the Tork Hill Yeomanry, had destroyed a gentlemans house, etc. etc. & had been loud in their assertion of giving us Battle, as we advanced however they changed their minds & dispersed, & only one man & his pike were we able to seize. I should have told you that the affair of yesterday took place near Tork Hill about 10 Miles from this place. Immediately on receiving Cuming's requisition I sent to Bainbridge for a Detachment to take care of our Newry friends, & reported everything to General Nugent. I shall remain here till I receive further orders as Goodriche's Troop has been much harassed & it is highly probable we shall have something to do tonight.

Pulestone this moment come in, he has given me your letter. . . . The gun you have heard from us about would give us wonderful strength."

(*An unsigned fragment to a person whose identity is not established*)

"NAAS, *May 29th*, 1798.

"MY DEAR CHEVALIER,—Long before this reaches you, you will have heard of the Row the Croppies have been making in this country. It began in the night of Wednesday 23rd in all quarters within 30 or 40 miles round Dublin, almost every military station was attacked & some small ones who were not on the alert were surprised & cut off, but the Rebels have been very severely beaten in many places & have lost several hundred men. I am very sorry to add that some few of his Majesty's Troops have been killed & wounded in the different conflicts, among others poor Davies our Adjutant is killed, Barlow slightly wounded, & Mr. Goldsby killed, Serjeant Lloyd & Deakin severely wounded, Segt. Grindly taken, Corporals Tilston & Roberts (not a Pompey) killed, Corporal Jones wounded, Trumpter Edwards killed & six or eight privates killed & several wounded but doing well. Cornet Jones & a small detached party we have not yet heard of, but hope as he was with a strongish party of the Lt. Infantry that they may be safe, as we have heard nothing to the contrary. I was in Dublin on the night of the general Attack & together with Lord Roden (late Ld. Jocelyn) volunteered it with a party of 5th Dragoons (20 men) who were ordered from Dublin in pursuit of a Body of Rebels near Rathfarnham:[1] 4 miles from Dublin we were joined by 13 mounted Yeomen & at last came up with some hundreds of the Rebels into the midst of whom I had led the Yeomen who all but four ran away most manfully & left us there. I had several very narrow escapes & so had Lord Roden who had a slanting shot in his Helmet which for that reason & first striking his feather, did not pierce thro. On the receipt of Wardle's letter I went to Naas where we now are in great force under General Dundas & Wilford. . . .

[1] Rathfaran.

"The Rebels finding they have so infinitely the worst of it have sent to offer to surrender unconditionally, which will undoubtedly be accepted, at first they wanted to stipulate for Lord Edward Fitzgerald [1] & the rest of their gang now in prison, but that was not listened to. Gifford was with part of my troop & a party of the Cork Militia surprized at Prosperons & very narrowly escaped by concealing himself in a Chimney, he is here now safe & sound, but has lost all he possessed poor fellow by the loss of our Baggage at Kildare. I fear we have lost a good deal, but I hope we may recover some & I trust the women are not murdered as was at first reported."

From Sir Watkin to Charles W. W. W.

"ARKLOW, 4 *a.m. June 10th*, 1798.

"We were attacked by the 'united Irish' in force, some say to the amount of thirty thousand, about 4 o'clock yesterday evening, they continued the attack till it was nearly dark & then retreated, we expected them to have renewed the attack during the night & was therefore under [orders ?] till just now. Our loss is very trifling, we have not one Officer hurt. I do not think that the reception they met with yesterday will encourage them to pay us a second visit. The Town has been a little damaged but not much. Yours Affect.

"W. W. W."

From Lord Grenville to Lady W. W.

"CLEVELAND ROW, ½ *p. 2, Thursday.*

"MY DEAREST SISTER,—I have just seen the despatch, the substance of which shortly, is, that the rebels in very great numbers attacked the King's troops at Arklow, & after a contest of about two hours were repulsed with great loss, on their part, & hardly any on ours, no Officer being either killed or wounded.

[1] Ld. Edward FitzGerald, 5th s. of James, 1st Duke of Leinster, and his wife Emilia, dau. 2nd Duke of Richmond and Lennox; born 1763. He mar. 1792, "Pamela," the reputed dau. of "Philippe Egalité" and Madame de Genlis. He was attainted for high treason, and died in prison, from wounds received when resisting his arrest, while the trial was pending in 1799.

"Gen. Needham[1] mentions that Watkin commanded the Cavalry, & made a very gallant charge against a body, who were endeavouring to turn Needham's position which they were by that means prevented from doing.

"The insurrection in the North appears to have been confined to Antrim & to be wholly suppressed.

"Ever most affectionately yours,

"G.

"I send a note which my dear little woman[2] had written to ask you to dine here."

A fragment enclosed in the above note

"'General Needham sustained the best fought & most gallant action of any & with an Army of every description not 1,000 against 25,000 Rebels & the General in his private & public Letters says that Sir W.'s charge at ye Head of 30 of his men was a brilliant piece of gallantry."

Sir Watkin to his brother Charles W. W. W.

"GONY, *July 3rd*, —98.

"You will have heard ere this of the unfortunate business that happened near this place on Saturday last. The Dragoons under Pulestone[3] got into a road that was lined on both sides by the Rebels, they endeavoured to push through, but in a small winding of the road they found it blocked up by some cars, Pulestone had his horse killed by the first shot, the check in front caused a confusion in the rear & many of the men fell with their horses & all into the ditches that were on each side of the road. *Dismounted* poor fellows, they had no chance of escaping, the loss in the whole of the Dragoons is 54 men. I lost 25 men, Gifford & Ld. Mas. Davies, whom you remember, Sergeant-Major Torry was killed. Tell my Grandmother[4] that I saw Mr.

[1] General Needham, afterwards 12th Visc. Kilmorey. Served in America and was taken prisoner at Yorktown in 1774. He served in France in 1793–5. He died 1832.

[2] Lady Grenville.

[3] Of Emral, Denbighshire. Possibly Thomas, who mar. Penelope, dau. of John Leche of Carden, and d.s.p.

[4] Frances Shakerley, widow of the 3rd Sir Watkin. She died 1803.

Hamilton in Dublin & that he belongs to a Corps called by themselves the Merrion Square Watch, by others the *Fogies*, they sup at each others houses, patrole the streets on *foot* in fair weather, & in Chairs in foul weather. . . ."

"DUBLIN, *July 15th.*

"As my Regiment was idle I was for the last four days as a volunteer with General Lake [1] hunting after the Rebels through the mountains of Wicklow but unluckily we could not catch them, they are gone north of Dublin where they have had a good dressing & are attacked on all sides. Now that they are driven out of the mountains they cannot long exist."

In August, after the Summer Assizes, Charles joined his brother in Ireland, just as the Rebellion was flickering out.

A point of family interest raised in his letters to his mother, is Lord Kirkwall's offer of a Volunteer Corps, which he somewhat resented. In 1803, however, the Montgomeryshire Yeomanry Cavalry came into being, which regiment he commanded from that date for upwards of forty-one years.

Charles W. W. W. to his Mother (notes from letters)

"DUBLIN, *August 20th*, 1798.

"I find Watkin in highest credit possible & looking better than I ever saw him. He & his Officers all abuse General Needham extremely & say that he has entirely lost his character by the whole of his conduct while they were under his command. Watkin complains of him very much for having once abandoned his own brigade in order to take the command of an expedition of Cavalry which had been entrusted to W. by Lake & for not having given him sufficient credit in the official despatch for his services at Arklow when he was

[1] Ld. Lake, 1st Visc.; born 1744. Served in America, under Ld. Cornwallis. Lecky says that "his indiscriminating severity towards the Irish" at this time did much harm. He was C.-in-C. in India, 1800. He died 1808.

second in command & defended the lower part of the town without any communication whatever with the General.

" I am going to the House of Commons today to hear the report of the secret Committee & a debate upon the attainder of Lord E. FitzGerald. . . ."

" *August 24th.*

" You will probably, before this, have heard from Lord G.[1] that 1,600 French have landed near Kilala at Ballina. The news arrived a few hours ago & Lord Cornwallis[2] sets out tomorrow morning to take the command in person. . . .

" It is very entertaining to see the various groups at the different corners of the streets talking of it. Most people in the House of Commons seem pleased with it as they expect that a very good account will soon be given of them. The French have taken the Bishop of Kilala & his two sons prisoners. Lord Castlereagh's dispatch mentions but 3 frigates & but 600 men but Ld. Dillon's & all the private letters say four frigates containing 500 men a piece."

" DUBLIN, *Sunday, September 2nd.*

" Lord Kirkwall[3] made the offer of a Volunteer Corps to me at the Ruthin Assizes with all the pert civility & low bows of a ci-devant French barber. I received it as well as I could & desired him to put it into writing & send it to the Major & so the enterview concluded with all proper politeness on both sides.

" By the way I must now repay a kindness which you have often shewn me in correcting my Orthography & must desire that you will never libel the most ancient & classical language now spoken by the name of *Welch*

[1] Ld. Grenville.

[2] Charles, 2nd E. Cornwallis; born 1738; mar. 1768, Jemima, dau. of Col. James Jones. He was a distinguished General Officer. He served in India. Raised to the Marquisate 1792. Lord-Lieut. and Com.-in-Chief of Ireland, 1799. In 1804 he was for the second time made Gov.-Gen. of India, and there he died, 1805.

[3] John, Visc. Kirkwall, eldest s. of Countess of Orkney and Hon. Thomas FitzMaurice of Llewenny Hall, Denbigh. Born 1778; mar. 1802, Anna Maria, dau. 1st Lord de Blaquiere. He died 1820.

as the *C* was only introduced by the Saxons, who wished to make us pass for strangers in our native land.

" I am quite surprised to find that you have any difficulty in finding a temporary Master for Henry, as I should think that the family hack, Blair, might always be had at a moment's notice till a better could be found. I own that I cannot help agreeing with Watkin in thinking that some Englishman who has resided abroad would be much preferable to any Swiss who can be found.

" I should rather expect that you would think Mr. Fisher (Ld. St. Helen's [1] Secretary whom W. wrote to you about) too young for such a charge, but W. has lately thought of a friend of his own whom he knew in Russia as Secretary to Mr. Whitworth,[2] Mr. Eton, who has lately published a very curious & entertaining book upon Russia & Turkey & who sounds I think much more promising. . . .

" No news yet arrived from the Army. The report is that the enemy have encreased very much in numbers since Lake's defeat & what gives credit to it is Lord Cornwallis' delaying so long to attack them & ordering up more forces, though he has already near 9,000 troops. Things remain very quiet here, but as a guard against insurrection, every precaution is now used & every regulation adopted which were in force during the rebellion. No person except members of Parliament & persons in uniform can go out after nine o'clock & the barriers so strictly kept by the Yeomanry that there is the greatest difficulty in getting into Dublin in the evening. It is however quite wonderful to see how incompletely everything is done here. It has been notorious for the last two years that the favourite scheme of the rebels was to set fire to Dublin, which by the confusion it would excite, would very much favour an insurrection.

[1] Ld. St. Helens, born 1753; a successful and distinguished diplomat. His last foreign mission was to St. Petersburg, 1801. He died unmar. 1839.

[2] Charles Whitworth, born 1752; entered Dipl. Service in 1786. Envoy Extr. and Plen. to Russia, 1793; created an Irish Baron, 1800; mar. 1801, Arabella, dau. of Sir Charles Cope, and widow of Duke of Dorset. In 1805 he was sent on a mission to France, where his firm attitude in dealing with Talleyrand and the "Consular Court" upheld the prestige of England throughout Europe. He d.s.p. 1825.

"Last night the stables of the Mail Coach office were set on fire (whether designedly or not is not known) & in a very short time there a good many engines brought, but you will be surprised to hear that there was not a single fireman to take the direction of them, that they were entirely worked by the standers-by & that if it had not been for the exertions of Watkin, who came with me to the place, I really believe that the fire would not have been got under. There were indeed two men, who were called engine-keepers, but both of them extremely stupid & extremely drunk, which we were told they always were at a fire.

"Lord Carysfort received this morning a long letter from John Proby,[1] in which he says that the conduct of the Kilkenny & Longford Militia in the late action was infinitely more disgraceful than one can form any idea of, so bad that it could not proceed from cowardice only, but from a mixture of disaffection. Indeed I hear that some of the Longfords joined the enemy. The general account which Proby gives of the Irish Regiments of Militia makes one shudder, & perfectly justifies the declaration of Sir Ralph Abercrombie that they are formidable to every one but the enemy. The Commander of the Rebels who have joined the French has sent to offer to surrender upon terms, but I understand that Lord Cornwallis has positively refused to grant any whatever. The reason of his collecting so very large a force as 21,000 men is not from any apprehension of the enemy, whose numbers are so insignificant that one tenth of his troops, if they behaved properly would be sufficient to destroy them, but in order to get back the arms which have been dispersed amongst the peasantry of the neighbourhood in great quantities. The attack on the French will probably take place to-day or tomorrow unless (which I should expect) they surrender without an engagement."

"DUBLIN, *September 19th*, 1798.

"The appearance of this place continues quite tranquil as indeed it has been ever since I have been here. Lord

[1] John Proby, 2nd s. of 1st Ld. Carysfort, afterwards 2nd Ld. He died unmar. 1828.

Cornwallis appears to have given very great & very universal offence by what is called his [*torn paper*], but more particularly by his late proclamation offering pardon to every private who joined the French if they will give up their arms. This he has done without consulting any person, & both Lord Buckingham [1] and Lord Carysfort [2] seem to think that in so doing he has exceeded his authority as all proclamations hitherto issued by the Lord Lieutenant have been agreed upon in Council & signed by all the Privy Counsellors present, besides which Lord B. doubts whether by the Ld. Lieut.'s Commission he has the power of granting a pardon for high treason. Ever since I have been here I have been struck by the manner in which I have heard most of the principal servants of Government more than insinuate blame against the Vice-Roy, but they now, as I am told speak openly & wish that their disapprobation should be known. All the English Officers who have been upon the late Expedition describe the situation of Connaught as more miserable than can be imagined by those who have not seen it. No Gentleman's house for miles & the condition of the peasantry so wretched as fully to justify them in the opinion that any change must be for the better."

"BLESSINGTON, *September 26th*, 1798.

"The King of France with 20,000 men
Marched up a hill & then——
Marched down again.

And such my dear Mother will be the account that future Historians must give (if they give any at all) of General Lake's expedition against the Wicklow Rebells."

"DUBLIN, *August 22nd*.

"The Debate in the House of Commons on Monday rather disappointed me as most of the speakers were

[1] Ld. Buckingham, the 1st Marq., a former Lord-Lieut. of Ireland.
[2] John, 1st E. of Carysfort (created Baron of U.K. 1801); born 1751; mar. 1st, 1774, Elizabeth, dau. of Rt. Hon. Sir William Osborne. She died 1782. He mar. 2ndly, 1787, Elizabeth, 2nd dau. of Rt. Hon. George Grenville. He died 1828. She died 1842. (He is uncle to the writer.) The Irish estates of the Caryforts are Glenart Castle, Arklow, co. Wicklow.

dull and all of them very confused. Curran's speech as Counsel for Lord Edward FitzGerald was much the best but contained nothing but declamation & appeals to the papers which were outré & almost burlesque. . . ."

[*Undated.*]

"When I last wrote it was settled that if we heard nothing of the French fleet we should sail for Wales on Monday. Watkin's regiment is ordered from Lehaunstown Camp to be quartered at Naas & Kilcullen a change they much disapprove of.

"Lord Cornwallis' answer to the Hosiers is the subject of the greatest triumph to the Beresford [1] party that can be conceived. On my return here on Sunday I was told of it from all quarters as more than compensating for any invasion that could be expected from France. Indeed what we saw in Wicklow did look very much as if the system of lenity & granting protections to rebels had been carried too far. There are everywhere persons who are more than suspected of giving information to Holt of every movement of the Troops."

"DUBLIN, *October 8th.*

"We have all been Nelson mad [2] for the last two days & are in anxious expection of a petite piece in the same style from the pen of Sir J. B. Warren. Indeed it seems scarcely possible that if the Stag etc. saw the Brest Fleet to the Westward of Scilly on the 17th of September & if they intended to attack this country, but that we should have heard of their landing before this time. I went yesterday to the House of Lords to hear Lord Cornwallis prorogue the parliament, his speech was very long & appeared well written though ill-delivered. You will see that he confirmed his promise to the Hosiers of using vigorous measures against those who have abused the King's mercy. This of course occasions all degree of triumph to what is here called the Orange

[1] Henry de la Poer Beresford, afterwards 2nd Marq. of Waterford; born 1773. A Privy Councillor of Ireland. Gov. of co. Waterford, and Col. of the Waterford Militia. He succeeded his father 1800 and died 1826.

[2] The Battle of the Nile, August 2nd, 1798.

party. To give you some idea of the views of some of them I need only tell you that happening the other day to sit at dinner next to Mr. Ogle, whom that interest had brought in for Dublin, I contrived by some enquiries to set him talking, when he told me that he firmly believed this rebellion could never be extinguished, but by the revival of all the penal statutes against the Catholics, the laying waste with fire & sword any district in which the rebels should continue in force, & the complete extermination of every person who ever joined the standard of rebellion."

While the elder brothers were in Ireland, Henry's education was giving Lady Williams Wynn some anxiety at home. He was in his sixteenth year, and had left Harrow.

Watkin and Charles discuss his future with their mother, Charles, as already seen, favouring a tour abroad with a tutor, Watkin, residence in a pension on the Continent; all this in anticipation of the position, already promised, of private secretary to his uncle Lord Grenville, at this time Leader in the House of Lords. This appointment he was actually given in 1799, but, as events will show, it was his second, not his first tenure of office.

CHAPTER IV

1799

In January the Right Honourable Thomas Grenville was despatched on a mission to the Court of Berlin, the object being to induce active co-operation from Prussia, with Great Britain and her Allies, against the aggressions of Napoleon and the French Republic. Henry joined the party as private secretary to his uncle. The Government frigate *Proserpine*, carrying the personnel of the mission, ran aground off the island of Newerke at the mouth of the Elbe on February 1st, and quickly became a total wreck owing to the condition of the ice and the severity of the weather.

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"Newerk, *February 3rd*, 1799.

"Here we are safe & sound, after having had a most Providential escape from the wreck of the Proserpine, which ran ashore about 8 miles from off Newerk (where I date this letter from) a small island not very far from the continent. We sailed on Monday the 28th, & were in hopes of having a most expeditious passage, but however *Providence* ordered it otherwise. Nothing remarkable happened that night. On the 29th we got off *Heyligland of famous memory*, on the 30th we got a Pilot from the Island, & made for *the red buoy* at the entrance of the Elbe, where we anchored. On the 31st we struck on a sandbank, but got off without any injury to the ship. We anchored off Newerk, & were very much afraid that our Cables would be cut by the Ice which came down in great torrents, we therefore covered them with chains. On the 1st we saw that it was useless to endeavour to get to Cuxhaven, we therefore turned

back for the red buoy, but at about ½ past eight in the morning we stuck again on a Sandbank which alas! was fatal to the Proserpine. The Captain then ordered that all guns & stores etc. should be thrown overboard. All the time the ice was collecting about the Ship, & was so strong that it bore some of the guns which were thrown overboard, yet we thought that the ice would be sufficiently strong all over to bear us to this island. On the night of the 1st, the Ice came down so strong that it broke the rudder, & injured the ship in other parts. The same wind had considerably lessened the chance we had of escaping over the ice, as it was broken in several places, & there was no probability of the ship holding together, if the wind blew with such violence as it had done the night before.

"On the 2nd, at about 1 o'clock, we found that crossing the ice was our only chance of saving our lives, particularly as the Pilot said that the water was not more than three feet deep. We therefore left the ship, with Pikes in our hands to prevent our slipping, & I am happy to say that after many dangers we arrived at Newerk at about 4 o'clock. There is no describing to you what a scene it was to see the whole surrounding prospect covered with precipices of Ice. We wrapped ourselves up as well as we could, but were not allowed to take greatcoats on account of being obliged to scramble on all fours. I need not tell you how cold it was. For example the water which came from our eyes directly froze & formed Icicles. My Uncle suffered greatly from the cold, but I hope he is very well in health.

"There are only 8 small houses on this place, in which we are all stuffed, & believe me, though rather uncomfortable we are more content with our lot than any one ever was. I will give you an account of the room we are in. It is the family's sittingroom, & in which three children are continually squeaking, & believe me German children make twice the noise that English do, in this room we & all the Officers are. The only thing that the house affords is smoked Beef & Bacon. . . . I wish I could say that we had lost no lives. There were several of the men, who when they

left the ship, were a *little in liquor*, having had some additional liquor to drink on their way. Some of these laid down in the snow, & some went to sleep, & were frost-bitten, & did not long survive their arrival here. Indeed some of them died before they got ashore. One poor woman who has been in the ship 7 years, & who has had several children in the ship could not endure the cold, & the other dangers of the journey, & with a Baby at her breast actually dropped down, & was not able to get up. I fear we have lost 13 men.

"The thing that I regret the most having lost is my watch, which either in sliding down the ropes of the ship when we got down on the ice, or in scrambling over the ice fell out of my pocket."

From Henry W. W. W. to his sister Charlotte W. W.

"CUXHAVEN, *February 7th.*

"We have again experienced a most fortunate & providential escape, if possible when we were in more danger than before. We stayed at Newerk till yesterday morning, when our landlord thought we should be able to get to Cuxhaven. We therefore, (accompanied by 70 men) set off at 7 o'clock that morning, thinking that it was low water, but when we had gone about ½ a mile we found some water about a foot deep. Our Guide said it was only a little Gully, & that it was only 100 yds. over. We therefore went on, but to our great astonishment we did not see the end of it. We actually waded through the water, which was in some places up to our middle, for 3 miles. The current was at that time amazingly rapid, as the tide was coming in, not going out. It froze so hard at the time, that the water froze in our boots. I was very much afraid that on account of my being so wet that my feet would be frost-bitten, but luckily they are not. One of my fingers are a little frost-bitten, it blisters exactly like a burn & has the same sensation. . . . I am sure I cannot say enough, (& therefore shall not attempt it) of the great kindness & care which my best of Uncles shewed me. When we were in the greatest danger he looked round for me, & for the most part of the way

made me take hold of his arm. He was more tired this time than the last, indeed we all were."

Mr. Thomas Grenville and his party proceeded to Berlin, and the family at home kept the young private secretary well posted up in their own doings, both social and political.

Their letters tell of the period of anxiety, when the fate of the *Proserpine* and its passengers was uncertain, and of the congratulations and expressions of goodwill which they received, when all doubts for their safety were at an end.

From Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

[*Undated, but about March* 1799.]

"The great event in the family since your departure is that Charles, (upon the death of the Member) is gone down to stand for the County of Montgomery, & as he has not found any opposition there is no doubt but that he will be elected on the 13th. Charlotte [1] is not yet a Grand lady presented, & will not be now I suppose before Easter, she has had very little to regret for though there has been I hear a great deal of gaiety in London, I have had very little. I went to one Almack's Ball which was a very good one & I danced a good deal. The Duchess of Gordon [2] managed it & said she would not have one Quiz, she certainly had not, but how she managed it I do not comprehend, unless Mr. Hoppner was concealed behind the door to examine the faces of those who came in. By the bye pray tell my Uncle that Mama's picture [3] is universally acknowledged to be very like, but that Mr. H. has so much pared away her cloak that her shoulders are all exposed & very bad drawing displayed in them. My Uncle & Lady G. are both sitting to him at present & their pictures hitherto promise very well."

[1] Charlotte, the writer's sister, mar. 1806, Lt.-Col. William Shipley, s. of the Dean of St. Asaph.

[2] Jane, dau. of Sir William Maxwell; mar. 4th Duke of Gordon, 1767. She died 1812.

[3] This picture is at Wynnstay, and reproduced in the frontispiece.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *March 8th*, 1799.

"I shall expect to hear in your next of your beginning to be settled in some regular habits of occupation, & hope that the long & unforseen brake that you have had in them will not render them more irksome to you. Let me, my dearest make one criticism on the letters which I have just received from you, which is that you should never use *figures* in writing, but when you really mean *to describe numbers*; you should not therefore write ½ *enough*, nor 1 *or* 2 *things*, because in neither case do you mean to speak numerically, nothing can look more awkward."

From Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

[1799.]

"The last time we wrote, you was I believe told that I was going to a ball at Ly. Lincoln's,[1] it was a remarkably good one, I should guess far more pleasant than your Court one. We stayed till ½ past four & left them dancing. All the fine people in London were there, & among others your old school fellow Ld. Grantham,[2] who has his hair tied & is grown quite a young man. . . . I told you before what a number of congratulations we have received, since that time a very ridiculous circumstance has occurred, an account of which will I think divert you. The King had taken a very kind interest in our anxiety & had been very civil, it was thought proper that the family should go to the Drawing Room in order to express their gratitude, & Mama went, but as I am always very glad to escape the ceremony & as I was to go almost immediately with Charlotte I got excused for this time, you shall hear what was the consequence. The King

[1] Lady Lincoln, Frances, dau. of Francis, Marquess of Hertford. She mar. Ld. Lincoln, 2nd s. of 2nd Duke of Newcastle. They had one only dau. Catherine, who mar. 1801, Ld. Folkestone, afterwards 3rd Earl of Radnor.

[2] Ld. Grantham, Thomas, 3rd Baron; born 1781; suc. his father 1786. Inherited at the death of his maternal aunt, Amabel, Countess de Grey, in 1833, the Earldom of de Grey. He mar. 1805, Henrietta, dau. of 1st E. of Enniskillen. He died 1859.

having spoken to Mama & to my Aunts came next to Miss Lascelles [1] who is rather fat. He unfortunately took her for me & talked to her full ten minutes of her Brother & her Uncle, of the dreadful secret she had had to keep, etc., etc. She of course could not guess what he could mean & only answered by courtseying, & looking very much confused, however His Majesty did not discern his mistake, & remains persuaded that I am the most stupid & the most insensible of human beings. As for Miss Lascelles she must think that Dr. Willis [2] will be again sent for to the King immediately. If she discovers the mistake I think she will be very much affronted, as she is very pretty.

"I believe you have not heard that Charles is elected,[3] & that all went off as prosperously & as triumphantly as possible. I fancy that it is almost impossible to be happier than he is at present.

"Yrs. F. W. W."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"LLANGEDWYN, *March 10th*, 1799.

"MY DEAR OLD MAN,—I ought before this to have congratulated you on all your escapes, but as you must already know, it was not until the fifth of this month that we were relieved from our alarm about you, & ever since that time Watkin & I have been so busy canvassing etc. both in person & by letter, that it has not been in our power to tell you how delighted & overjoyed we were at hearing of your safety, as it is impossible to describe our alarm when we only knew your danger. Now that it is all over you have nothing to do but to rejoice that you have so fine a story to tell to your Grandchildren on a Winter's evening 60 years hence. . . . Were you here, I think you would like to be of our party to Machynlleth on Thursday but I fear you would be undutiful enough to laugh when you saw me chaired round the town. I have

[1] Possibly Mary Anne, dau. of Edwin Lascelles, 1st Baron, afterwards 1st Visc. and 1st E. of Harewood. She mar. 1801, Richard York of Wighill Park, and died 1831.

[2] The Court physician.

[3] For Montgomeryshire.

already sent there to desire that the chair may be well examined & that the bearers may be carefully locked up from all 'cwrw' [1] on the morning before as it might produce an *indecorous* effect if the Member for Montgomeryshire were to take his seat in the House of Commons with a patch upon his nose or a broken head."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *March 15th*, 1799.

"I dined yesterday in Cleveland Row,[2] where my brother asked me whether I thought there was any chance of your having been employed to copy out your Uncle's last dispatches of which the writing had been very particularly commended, & as it was thought not to be Mr. Fisher's hand, your Uncle flattered himself it might be yours. I heartily wish it may turn out so, but I fear you will not have been thought quite equal to it.

"We all want to know in what language you was spoken to when you were presented, & what French terms you found to express *Ruabon Volunteers*."

From Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *March 26th*.

"Your letter of the 16th arrived yesterday. We are very happy to hear that you have ventured to dance, but want to know a great many more particulars. In the first place, who did you dance with? Do you change partners as we do, or do you go on all night with the same? We want likewise to know what the Prussian Peasant's dress is, & whether it is pretty for dancing. If you think it pretty pray describe it very exactly, for we have tickets for a Masquerade at Mrs. Orby Hunter's, & though Mama says now that she will not go, I have still hopes of it, & think that a Prussian Peasant would be something new, & out of the common run.

"We have a great deal of gaiety in view at present,

[1] "Cwrw": Welsh for ale, or strong beer.

[2] Ld. Grenville's house.

Charlotte goes on Monday to a Ball at Lady Milner's,[1] I have made her very angry by foretelling that she will dance with the enchanting Phil. Pierrepont[2]: the Monday following we both go to a Ball at Mrs. Robinson's, & on Thursday sen'night Charlotte is to be presented. Besides all this we have great hopes that Watkin will come up with Charles on the 9th, & that then we may have a Ball here. Our hopes of the Masquerade, likewise rest upon his coming. I fear we have no chance of keeping him long. His Regiment is tired of doing nothing, & have offered on their own accord, to follow him & his Officers to any part of the Globe. W. sent us the other day a copy of the Duke of York's[3] answer to this proposal, it is as handsome a letter as you can conceive; he ends by saying, that he will be 'very happy if circumstances will admit of his Majesty's availing himself of their present offer, & affording the Regiment an opportunity of distinguishing themselves on the Continent as they have done in Ireland.' This sounds a little as if they were to be moved. We all wish they may, as they cannot change for the worse, & if they should go to Portugal it would be much for the better. Do you remember how much we laughed, some years ago, at the Escape of the Guardian being immediately represented at Sadlers Wells, the Part of *Master Pitt* by *Miss Simonet?* Little did we think we should one day see a representation of the perilous situation of the *Proserpine* etc., etc., with the wonderful escape of the passengers even etc., etc. the Part of *Mr. Grenville* by *Signor Bologna, Mr. Fisher* by the *Signora, & Master Wynne* by *Miss Askins.* There's for you! We want to know if you have ever mounted *a Bag*, if the Sword has yet made it's appearance? I suppose you always talk French wherever you go. Pray do not forget to send us full & particular

[1] Lady Milner, Diana, dau. of Humphrey Sturt, of Crichel, co. Dorset; mar. 1774, Sir William Milner, 2nd Bart. She died 1805.

[2] Philip Pierrepont, 4th s. of 1st E. Manvers; born 1786; mar. 1810, Georgina, widow of Pryce Edwards of Talgarth, and dau. and h. of Herbert Browne of Imley Park, Merioneth. He d.s.p. 1864.

[3] Frederick, Duke of York, 2nd s. of George III; born 1763; Com.-in-Chief; mar. 1791, Frederica, Princess Royal of Prussia. She died 1820. He died 1827.

account of your partners. Have you been to any Assemblies or Balls at private houses, as we long to know whether they are like ours. I think when you receive this letter you will not complain of not having anything to answer. I hope you will not forget to send me *The Robbers*, as I still wish very much to read it, & I think that even my Uncle would allow that. We went last night to Texter's, I think I hardly ever was so much amused there before, he read *Le Malade Imaginaire*, which I did not know at all before, & which I think is almost as good as any of *Molière's*."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"UPPER BROOK STREET, *May 3rd.*

"We are in hourly expectation of Lord Bridport's [1] meeting with the Brest-fleet & as I am quite sure it will be a victory I heartily wish the news may come time enough to be sent to you by this mail. Mr. Richards [2] has vacated Helstone to throw it into the hands of its natural representative, Lord Francis Osborne.[3] He has you know put on the *silk gown*, that is, been admitted to the rank of King's Council by which his fees are doubled, & his business (which naturally might have lessened) has even already encreased, which I am sure you will be glad to hear. George Fortescue [4] is going to add to the number of Nobility & Gentry at Sunbury, & as long as he wants only Mr. Moore's care, I think he will be very well off, but of Mrs. Moore's & Mr. Boone's you & I have no very great opinion.

[1] Ld. Bridport, Alexander Hood, 1st Visc., born 1726. A very distinguished naval commander and brother to 1st Visc. Hood. He died 1814.

[2] Mr. Richards, afterwards Sir Richard; born 1752. In 1813 he became Ch. Justice of Chester; in 1814 Baron of the Exchequer; in 1817 Lord Chief Baron. He died 1823. His wife was the heiress of Caerynwch.

[3] Ld. Francis Osborne, born 1777; 2nd s. of the 5th Duke of Leeds. Created Baron Godolphin 1832; mar. 1800, Hon. Elizabeth Eden, dau. of 1st Ld. Auckland. He died 1850.

[4] George Fortescue, 2nd s. of Hugh, 1st E. of Fortescue, and his wife Hester, dau. Rt. Hon. George Grenville, born 1791; mar. 1833, Louisa, dau. of 1st E. of Harrowby. He succeeded under the will of his uncle, Ld. Grenville, to the Boconnoc and Dropmore estates.

"Lord Thanet's [1] trial for the Maidstone Riot is at present the most general subject of conversation. Charles was in Westminster Hall attending it from 8 o'clock in the morning till 12 at night. His sentence is not yet pronounced, & it is said that according to an Act of Henry the 8th, which is the latest on the subject, he is liable to imprisonment for life, confiscation of all goods, & amputation of the right hand, which altogether sounds so severe that even a mitigated part of it would, I should think, considerably overbalance the pride & pleasure of having endeavoured to assist the escape of such a worthless being as O'Connor.[2] But in the present moment we think of nothing but Lord Bridport & the fresh Naval Laurels which in spite of the backwardness of the Season we are persuaded are on the point of bursting forth."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *June 7th*, 1799.

"Mr. Wm. Cockburne told me that he left you deeply smitten with the Prussian reviews, yet are you I trust still John Bull enough to envy us the pride & exultation which we felt on Tuesday last at seeing above 8,000 men assembled without fee or reward voluntarily to pledge themselves to our defence. The Volunteers belonging to the E. India House are to be reviewed by themselves.

[1] Ld. Thanet, 9th Earl, born 1769; mar. 1811, Anne de Bajariovitz. He d.s.p. 1825. He took no prominent part in politics, but in May 1798 was present, with Fox, Sheridan and others at the trial of O'Connor at Maidstone. He was charged, with others, for creating a riot in court, by putting the lights out, and attempting to rescue the prisoner or facilitate his escape. In April 1799 the case was tried before Ld. Kenyon and the King's Bench; Sir John Scott (afterwards Ld. Eldon) prosecuted. Erskine defended. After various delays he was finally sentenced in June to a year's imprisonment in the Tower, and a fine of £1,000. On his release he was ordered to give security for his good behaviour for seven years to the amount of £20,000! He died 1825.

[2] O'Connor, Arthur (1763–1852). The Irish rebel. He joined the United Irishmen with Ld. Ed. Fitzgerald in 1796. In 1798 he was arrested and tried at Maidstone. In 1803 he was liberated from prison and went to France, where, in 1804, Napoleon gave him an appointment as General of Division. In 1807 he mar. Eliza de Condorcet. He became a naturalised Frenchman in 1812.

This body therefore of 2,000 though not in the Park on Tuesday, is to be added to the general Corps, & surely such a sight must give pride & confidence even to a British taylor,—a propos to which Captain Tim Kight of the Putney Volunteers was among the most striking figures in the field.

"You have heard from your sisters that Pizarro has had magnetick power enough to draw the King to Drury Lane. It has been new Christened by the name of *Court Plaister*.

"The gay & gallant youth Philip Pierrepont is going to display his Caper cutting powers to the Harrovians, & applied to me for a recommendation of Mrs. Leith who I said was to the best of my belief very careful of little boys. This does not particularly apply to the case in point, Master Philip being grown as broad as he is long. Adieu ever dearest, ten thousand blessings always attend you from

"Your affectionate Mother."

Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *June 11th.*

"Last Saturday we had a very pleasant party on the water. We set out at about two in the neatest & prettiest boat you ever saw, & went down to a small island (just opposite to Brentford) where we dined, & while our dinner was getting ready went to see the Botanic Garden at Kew. We returned by water & did not arrive at Westminster Bridge till ½ past nine. You cannot think how delightful it was. The day was quite perfect for the purpose. We were to have gone today to Woolwich by water to see the Dockyard, & among other Vessels a 44 gun Frigate called the *Severn*, but we were obliged to defer the party till Friday as it is not near warm enough today.

"Everybody is now talking of Lord Thanet's sentance, which you will of course see in the Newspapers. Opinions differ very much about it, some think it too severe, others too lenient. I hear from Charles that Lawyers expected the imprisonment to be for five or

seven years. Lord T. will not I should think admire the being moved to the Tower, as I hear he has employed Marsh to fit up rooms in King's Bench. He has been giving grand entertainments there, Lord Derby,[1] the Duchess of Devonshire [2] & many other fine people have dined with him frequently. I heard the other day a most shocking story from Harrow about a Boy who I believe you know. One of these very hot days Peering had got a horse & had rode out. Finding himself late he rode very hard & having heated himself evidently he stopt at a Public House to drink—they gave him brandy & water, which is supposed to have been too strong for him & to have got to his head. In short he fell from his horse soon after, bruised his head violently & remained in a state of stupor when he was brought back to school. He afterwards fell into a violent delirious fever, & I am sorry to say that Sir Walter Farquhar gives very little hopes of his life. Poor fellow he suffers very severely for a slight fault. We were very much amused at the idea of your dining with Princess Louise.[3] Mama desires me to say that she shall send you over a Cook & Maitre d'Hotel by the next Messenger in order that you may give her a dinner in return. . . .

" Charlotte made her first appearance at Ranelagh, & unluckily it was a very bad one. The last time I was there we had *Master Parker*, who is quite the wonder of this year. Perhaps you may have heard of him by means of the Newspapers, in case you should not I must tell you that at 4 year & ½ old, & he really does not appear to be more—he recites Dryden's Ode with so much variety both of action & of tone of voice that it is impossible to think that he does not understand it. He likewise plays lessons on the Harp ; but that appears to me far less surprising because I should think that any child might be made to do that by dint of application,

[1] Ld. Derby, 12th Earl ; born 1752 ; mar. 1st, 1774, Eliz., only dau. of James, 6th Duke of Hamilton. She died March 14th, 1797. He mar. 2ndly, May 1st, 1797, the celebrated actress, Eliza Farren. He died 1834.

[2] Georgina, 1st wife of 5th Duke of Devonshire, dau. John, Earl Spencer. She died 1806.

[3] See note 1, p. 106.

but the other requires far more understanding than naturally belongs to four years old.

"I hope that you will reckon this a letter not only worth reading but worth answering."

Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"TAPLOW, *August 5th.*

"Charlotte comes from Worthing on Saturday next under convoy of Watkin, who is to deliver her to me under heavy penalties early in the Evening. We think of setting out for Stowe early in the next week, & from thence after having stepped over to Elton to see your Aunt I am not without some idea of turning your Sisters heads (in every sense of the word) towards Wales for the purpose of seeing Mrs. Wms.[1] who has been very ill, & poor Lady Cotton [2] who continues very wretched. You may easily guess that this Scheme is not unpopular in the family, but to none I believe will it give more sincere pleasure than to my dear Watkin. As to Charles he will I expect be *otherwise disposed* of, but how I shall not take upon me to say. There is a strong report that the K. & Q. will after their return from Weymouth repeat at Stowe the Visit which they have been making at the Mote for the purpose of reviewing the Volunteers, this will of course be a grand event in the family, & will I suppose assemble as many as can be admitted. We were all on the Terrace on Sunday last (for the first time in our lives having as you remember been too late last year). The good King delighted Hart [3] with talking to her of her brother, & me, no less by the highest enconiums on mine. He has we hear been at Billingbear, where there was nobody to receive him excepting the two little boys, & it is supposed that Henry [4] has been very grand on the occasion."

[1] Elizabeth, 3rd dau. and co-h. of James Russell Stapleton; mar. Watkyn Williams, Esq., of Penbedw. He d.s.p. 1808.

[2] Frances, 4th dau. and co-h. of James Russell Stapleton; mar. 1767, Sir Robert Cotton, 5th Bart., M.P. for Chester. He died 1807.

[3] Harriet W. W., afterwards Mrs. Cholmondeley.

[4] Henry Neville, 2nd s. of 2nd Baron Braybrooke. Killed at Talavera 1809.

From Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"*August* 1799.

"Every body is talking of the magnificence of the Entertainment at the Mote on the Day of the Review of the Kentish Volunteers. You have I believe heard from Mama that the Bucks, & Essex are expected to follow, as soon as the King returns from Weymouth. They were talking the other day at Dropmore of various plans for the operations at Stowe in the first place, we hope that as the thing cannot take place till the beginning of October, the King will not attempt to perform the whole in one day, but will come to Stowe the day before, have a Ball in the Evening & sleep there, he may then easily return after the Review the next day. My Uncle G.[1] proposes that they should be received on the Ground on the left hand as you enter the gates, that the Royal Family should dine in the South Portico, the men on the Ground immediately before, & the Nobility & Gentry in the two little Parterres on each side the Portico. We hope that my Uncle will think it proper to ask the whole of his family to help him to receive his Guests, we shall be returned from our expedition by that time, & I heartily wish you may be so likewise. It may be proper to observe that all these Schemes were settled by my Uncle G. Mama, & my Aunt, & not by those who are to decide. I believe it is not yet determined that any part of them shall take place, & that the whole thing is only conjecture. I don't know how far the Essex Review is settled but Charlotte says in one of her letters that the Nevilles are comforting themselves for having been absent from Billingbear when the King came there about a week ago, with the hopes that the Review will bring him to Audley End. His Majesty was received at B. B. by the old fat *Housemaid Ellen*, (whom you may remember), I fancy she had not an idea, who it was, for when the D. of York gave her a Guinea for shewing the house, she asked him what Lord she should say had called. She addressed the King all the time by the Title of 'My Lord.'"

[1] Ld. Grenville.

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"TAPLOW, *October 15th*, 1799.

"Although my dearest Charles will never, I believe think a Mother's blessing unseasonable it did not appear to me that Holyhead Race Ground was just the Spot on which I could most satisfactorily offer it to you, & therefore waited your return to Wynnstay, to thank you for your annual tribute of remembrance, & to congratulate myself on all the blessings which I derive from the particular subject of it. I am very anxious to hear whether poor Lady Cotton has had spirits enough to keep to her engagements, I fear she must suffer cruelly from her constant alarm for Lynch.[1] God knows the accounts of such victories fill me with horror, & make me shudder at the sight of a Gazette. Every thing looks most gloomy on the Continent, & Lord Nelson is supposed, Antony like, to have put himself Laurels & Lions, into the lap of the Cleopatra Lady Hamilton. Where our dear Absentees are, I have not an idea & altho I know not what to fear about them, I am not happy while I do not positively know that they are safe. My last letter was from your Uncle from Albona dated the 19th of Sept. since when Lord Grenville has had one from Embden, but none since they went from thence. Where they are hiding themselves I can not guess, but to judge by Appearances I do not think the moment for their settling the pacific government of Holland can be very near. I cannot help fanceing myself that the Arrival of Brownrigg[2] looks like some important change of measures. The report of misunderstanding between the two Chiefs is very general, & only confirms our regret that the Duke of Y.[3] quitted a Post where he was unanimously approved, for one where he must at best hazard his fair fame if not lose it."

[1] Lynch, 4th s. of Sir Robert Cotton, and younger brother to the Field-Marshal, 1st Visc. Combermere. He d.s.p. in East Indies 1799.

[2] Robert Brownrigg, born 1758; General in the Army; created a Bart. 1816. He died 1833.

[3] D. of York took command of the Armies in Holland for a short time, not successfully.

CHAPTER V

1800—1801

AFTER his return from Berlin, Henry became private secretary to his uncle, Lord Grenville. When the Pitt Ministry resigned, after the dissolution of Parliament in March 1801, Lord Grenville, on leaving office, gave his nephew a small permanent post in the Foreign Office.

Henry's two intimate friends, however, continued their educational studies, Dick Neville at Eton and Ebrington at Oxford.

From Lord Ebrington to Henry W. W. W.

"OXFORD, *February 16th*, 1800.

"DEAR HENRY,—It will be needless to inform you that we arrived here on the evening of Thursday the 5th & of the perils & dangers of our journey ; I was matriculated etc. the next day, & remained at the Bishop of Chester's house till Monday, when my Father returned to London. We will throw a veil over the evening when I was asked out to *wine* & supper, the effect of which was that I passed the night in torment with headache, and the whole of the next day in walking about in the air to endeavour to dispel the remaining fumes of the *entertainment*, this they tell me is the case with every *Freshman* until he becomes a little used to the style of thing of which in order that you may not laugh at the weakness of my Brain I will just give you a sketch. When dinner was over at about 4 o'clock we adjourned about fourteen in number to Finch's rooms, & sat drinking Bumper Toasts . . . till about half past nine. You may suppose by this time none of the party were too

sober, we adjourned however upstairs to a very handsome supper, & I being a new comer was successively obliged to drink a glass of wine with every person in company, this done we returned down stairs, as I hoped, on our way to our respective dens, but for once I was mistaken in my conjecture for upon coming into the room we had just before left, in order to go to supper, I found the Bottles, Fruit &c., removed & in their place the table covered with large tumblers & three or four Bowls of a liquor called *Tiff* in these parts, which when interpreted signifies very strong spicy negus,—this lasted till past eleven when the party broke up & retired to the enjoyment of sickness, night-mares, blue devils, Head-aches & the other attendants upon overloaded stomachs & overheated Brains. You will I know wonder when you read this how it is possible to live a week under such circumstances ; I must however tell you that I was glad to find this was not a usual sort of thing, except at the first admission of a *Freshman* whom it is an indispensable duty to endeavour to make drunk, the general mode of proceeding is the giving four or five Bumper toasts which everyone must drink, & as to the rest letting a man fill, or pass the Bottle as he feels himself disposed. In large parties the number of Bumpers is greater, but seldom goes beyond ten which is however too much, but I am lucky enough to escape a good deal of this as my Tutor makes me come to *chop logick* with him for an hour in the evening, unless I am going out any where particular, in which case I send him word or tell him at my morning lecture, which is from nine till twelve. I have engrossed so much of my letter in the above account that I have no room for other news. I like a College life upon the whole very much, our routine is briefly as follows :

" Prayers at ¼ before eight in the morning,—breakfast from ½ past eight till nine,—From that till 10 prepare my Lecture for my Tutor, stay with him from 10 till 12. Dine in Hall at 3. There are evening prayers at 5, but those who attend regularly in the morning may *cut* these at least five times a week. Supper in Hall at 9 unless I am invited out. At this hour the College gates are locked, after which every comer-in is put down on a

piece of paper which is given to the Bishop of Chester, nothing is however said to you (unless you repeat this very often), if you come in before twelve, but those who enter after that hour receive a Satire of Juvenal, one of Virgil's Georgics, or something of that sort to write out for the improvement of their mind. So much for our mode of life at Alma Mater. I understand that Mr. Pitt's Speech is published, if this be the case pray frank me one down if it should not be too much trouble, & whenever you can send me anything new in this way, or (without committing *diplomatic secrets*) any news will be thankfully received.

"Yours very affectionately,
"EBRINGTON."

From Hon. Richard Neville to Henry W. W. W.

"ETON, *February 25th.*

"DEAR HENRY,—I have received your catalogue, which however was charged 5*s.* 6*d.*, but I have sent the cover to the Post Office stating your authority, so that I am most likely to recover it.

"Upon examining the Lots there there were none on the first or second days' sales which I cared about which made me defer writing until today, I have marked some books and shall close with your offer of executing commissions. Those marked in the enclosed list with x are for my father's new Library at A. E., but if you should get any others at the end of the sale, let Jeffrey send them to me here, but the crossed ones to Grosvenor Street. If you cannot at any time attend, Payne would do anything in the bidding way for me, but it is a bad way to give the Auctioneer commissions, as he always puts a book up at your highest price.

"I have not heard from Ebrington since his arrival at Oxford, if you know how he goes on etc. let me know should you have time to write word what Lots are not down to me."

The Same

"ETON, *March 9th.*

"I write to acknowledge your letter which reached me this morning, but was charged 8*s.* 4*d.* As I in vain

endeavoured to recover 5*s.* 4*d.* for the last, after having exchanged letters with the Inspector of francs, I thought I had better return you the covers that you may assert your privilege (if you have any) if not in future procure a franc from my uncle or send your parcels per Coach, otherwise I shall be ruined ; I enclose you Ebrington's letter which was very entertaining, as he has not yet condescended to answer a note in which I in vain reminded him of his promise.

" I think Mill's books must have sold very dear by the specimens you sent, I thought I had a good chance of Tasso. I wish you would enquire of Jeffrey what he would allow me for a copy of *Chamber's Dictionary*, four Vols. boards uncut, provided I take the value in other books. I have just finished taking in this work, but as I have got *Hall's Encyclopaedia* I do not want both.

" Should you know of any more Sales I should like a catalogue provided you are QUITE sure of your authority."

From Lord Ebrington to Henry W. W. W.

" OXFORD, *March 24th*, 1800.

" MY DEAR HENRY,—You must I fear have a bad opinion of my diligence & my gratitude in not having taken an earlier opportunity of thanking you for the Speeches, accompanied by Bulletins, which you have sent me ; it is however, as I told Dick in a letter which I wrote to him yesterday, better late than never, excuse therefore my negligence, & accept the tardy thanks so long since due to you. . . . You have I suppose heard from your Brother Charles (who came this circuit) that he found me very comfortably settled in very good rooms, in which he got an extremely bad breakfast. I lament much that I did not see him in his wig, etc., in Court, which sight I missed by going to the Nisi Prius instead of to the Criminal side. The Gaol was very full but only one man was capitally convicted, & him the Judge respited before he left town, two however are to amuse their friends & the Public, one by standing in the Pillory at Oxford & the other by being flagellated at the Cart's tail round Henley, but when these Sentences are to be executed I know not. I had a letter some time

since from Dick,[1] informing me of his arrival at Eton, under the evil influence of a grievous fit of the colic. I hope however that it will soon leave him as I know from experience the misery attending upon that disorder."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"HEREFORD, *March 19th*, 1800.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I am very much obliged to you for sending me Lord Clare's[2] Speech, which I think by far the most valuable & interesting publication upon Irish affairs that I have yet seen. Notwithstanding what I before knew of his intrepidity both personal & political, I am astonished that he should venture to speak so many home truths in an Irish House of Lords assembled in the Irish Metropolis. In one respect this Speech has worked an alteration in my opinion, & that is that whereas I was before perfectly satisfied with the terms of Union proposed in Ld. Castlereagh's[3] Speech, I am now inclined to think that this country ought upon no account whatever to consent to the introduction of so many Irishmen into her legislature.

"Watkin has behaved very shabbily to me in not sending me word how the fate of his Regiment has been decided, & when he is to be down in Wales.

"In the *Mysorean* style, which I suppose is the most proper to use to you great Statesmen, '*Continue to gratify me with friendly letters.*'"

From Lord Ebrington to Henry W. W. W.

"OXFORD, *November 9th*, 1800.

"DEAR HENRY,—You are a shameful Fellow for not having yet executed my Commission about the Snuff,

[1] Hon. Richard Neville.

[2] Ld. Clare, John Fitzgibbon, Att.-Gen. of Ireland 1784, Lord Chancellor of Ireland 1789, when he was raised to the Peerage as Baron Fitzgibbon. In 1795 he was created Earl of Clare. He died 1802.

[3] Ld. Castlereagh, born 1769. One of the pre-eminently leading statesmen of Europe at this time. He mar. 1794, Amelia Ann, dau. and co-h. of 2nd E. of Buckinghamshire. She died 1829. He succeeded his father as 2nd Marq. of Londonderry in 1822, and died by his own hand a few months later while still holding the office of Foreign Secretary. His brother succeeded him in the title.

Pray send it down as soon as possible. . . . The Bishop & Mrs. C. arrived here on Wednesday; the first act of his Lordship's administration here was to call a Bursary Meeting to forbid any one from having for breakfast above two *pen'rth* of Bread without a particular order from the Bursar. A piece of Bread bearing this price is about half as large again as those which are usually handed round at dinner, of which I could for Breakfast eat at least *eight*. If this terrible scarcity continues, Lord have mercy upon us. I am afraid however that other places are even worse off than this. . . . Permit me again to remind you about the Snuff, as its arrival is much wished for here by others besides,

"Your very sincere,

"EBRINGTON."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *Thursday*, 1801.

"With most heartfelt pleasure is it my beloved Henry that I hail you by your newly acquired Title in comparison of which the appellation of Clerk is certainly as you say *chetive*. May each new year open to you prospects as pleasing as this does, & to give them the highest possible brilliancy may they continue to be the reward of your own good conduct & the pledge of the Affection & Approbation of your best friends. Your present Situation has in it everything most gratifying to my Wishes & in no respect so much so, as the still closer bond & connection which it forms between you & your excellent Uncle, under whose eye & by whose invaluable example you are hourly forming yourself to everything estimable & truly laudable. How thankful do I feel to the Almighty my dearest for having given to you such dispositions as leave me only to wish that you may *persevere* untainted by vice & folly as you are now.

"You have been brought very foreward, & have (I can with pride & truth say) fully justified by the steadiness of your conduct the partial confidence which has been placed in you, nor will I harbour a doubt or fear of the future's fully keeping pace in that respect with what is past. . . .

" Adieu My dearest.—Long may I continue to give to you the pleasurable sensation which your well-being & well-doing excite in the warm heart of your truly affec.

" Mother, C. W. W.

" N.B.—Among other Advantages you are no longer, ' Wynn of Lord Grenville's Office.' "

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

" Brook Street, *March 20th.*

" . . . I have lately passed my hours of Society entirely at Assemblies where the remarks of ' how hot ! how full ! ' & now,' how black ' washed down with the rinsing of a Tea-pot & the squeezing of a musty lemon, is all the food to be had for body or mind. The Chancellor's [1] Resignation is the only one which now remains to be given in, & now wiseacres observe that, ' Thank God all the dear King's troubles & difficulties are at an end,' as if getting a good name or a new Steward were alike reasons for putting on one's Night-cap. The squables & ill humour of the Irish appear palpably to encrease every day & I doubt much whether disunion would not have brought us, from necessity, much nearer together than its nominal counterpart. I heard the other day a reason assigned for Mr. P.'s [2] having so hastily & so peremptorily insisted on bringing forward the Catholic Bill which seems to me the most plausible of any yet thrown out, which is that since the horrid Dr. Hussey [3] (titular Bishop of Cork) went over to Paris

[1] Ld. Loughborough. Mr. Pitt's Ld. Chan. 1783–1801, resigned in March and was succeeded by Ld. Eldon. Loughborough was created E. of Rosslyn.

[2] Mr. Pitt. The Ministry resigned on March 17th, 1801, on the Catholic Question.

[3] Dr. Thomas Hussey (1741–1803), a well-known Roman Catholic Bishop and a man of great general knowledge and *savoir-faire*. He was sent on a confidential mission to Spain, by the D. of Portland (1783), after the Spanish Government had joined with France in the war between this country and the American Colonies. Later, Pitt sought his good offices in checking disaffection among the Irish soldiers and militia. In 1797, in a pastoral letter, Hussey reminded the Catholics in Ireland that temporal rulers could exercise no rights in spiritual matters; strong feeling was thus aroused, and the Pope granted Hussey leave of absence from his diocese. In 1801 he was believed to be negotiating a concordat between Pius VII and Napoleon.

he & Bonaparte have been very busy cooking up a new Gallican Church of which His Holiness is still to be titular Head, & his pious son Bonaparte the first of his Vicars. This is to give much more latitude to the true believers & is to be introduced at the point of the sword to all the happy fraternity Countries of the Continent. In such an arrangement Hussey would of course not omit putting in a good word for his old friends in Ireland, & the idea of this negotiation is supposed to have influenced Mr. P. to endeavour by some previous douceurs to the Catholics to keep them steady against Hussey's offers. It is said with a confidence which almost amounts to an assertion that on the 10th of Oct. Mr. P. gave a decided opinion in Council against Emancipation & on the 4th or 5th of January it is believed that he first urged the necessity of adopting measures precisely the Reverse. This is said to have been the cause of the first delay in assembling the Parliament & afterwards of the Adjournment from day to day of the King's Speech. After all the true key to this extraordinary political Enigma is still unfound, but Time both unravells & unlocks most things, & this will probably be among the rest. Lord Darnley notifies that his Motion today is to produce the longest debate ever known in the H. of Lords, how it may agree with their gentle natures I know not but I think it would irritate mine to pass eight or ten hours hearing declamations about a point of which the full force & bearing is known before a word is uttered, & which will, of course, leave it all just as it was in the beginning. . . . I must quite in confidence own, that the old Eleanor blood in my veins is in a good deal of ferment at the *Jointure*, which makes, in my idea, such a maculate close to our immaculate career, but I am told it will only make a nine days Wonder, & will then sink into the overflowing Cauldron of *Charms* to which every political Hecate is kind enough to contribute.

"I had a letter yesterday from Berlin of ye 7th inst. full of Consternation, at the accumulation of disasters which had just reached them. Lord C.[1] I fancy determined, (as I was sure he would) against connecting himself with the new firm for longer than is absolutely neces-

[1] Lord Carysfort.

sary to bring to a close the business actually on the Anvil which it is supposed must be immediately brought to issue by the appearance of our Fleet [1] before Copenhagen, some say that the Dane has privately hinted that he only wants a respectable degree of Coertion to justify his submission, & that as soon as he receives a return of our numbers & weights of Metal he will make his lowest bow. All agree that the Swedes are the only people likely to fight. The bully Paul [2] is supposed to be incapable of making the least stand, provided the Winds will but let us get up to him.

"My Sister [3] speaks of the surprise at the arrival of P. Adolphus [4] for whom they are of course obliged to make some extra exertion. She says he adores his Father, & is perfectly distracted at the idea of his illness, of which, from his abrupt departure from Hamburgh, he knows nothing more than he sees in the Newspapers."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"CASTLE HILL, *October 15th.*

"I return to you the two letters which you enclosed me this morning. Your answer to Lord Whitworth was, I think in substance, very proper, but less well worded than I could have wished, and indeed should have expected. You will see the word *Treaty* repeated twice in your first two lines, and ditto the word *believe* in your two last. The phrase 'to be sure' is a very vulgar use on paper, and your dependance on the good opinion of your friends should have been expressed, as I am sure you feel it, more decisively than as 'your being a *good deal* governed by it.' You well know my dearest, the particular importance of your attending to your style, and therefore it is that my ever anxious solicitude for you rests so much on that subject. I always think that with the advantages which you have had of transcribing so many, and such well written letters, your own ought

[1] Battle of Copenhagen was in April 1801.
[2] Czar Paul I of Russia; assassinated in April 1801.
[3] Lady Carysfort.
[4] Prince Adolphus, afterwards Duke of Cambridge, 7th son of George III.

to be better, and would be so if you took more pains about them.

"With respect to the proposal itself I agree with you that the permanency of the Situation essentially affects the Eligibility of it. In point of income, I suppose it would be rather inferior to the Precis-ship, and in point of other advantages I hardly think enough would be found to compensate for your exile from home and the breaking into the course of study, which you are yourself so anxious to prosecute.

"Give my love to my dear Chas. and warmest thanks for his most affectionate expressions [1] towards me. They are such as he has every reason to be proud of uttering, but had they been otherwise you may as well hint to him, that both they and the remarks in your two letters, with which his concluded, were sent without *Seal or Wafer* entirely at the mercy of the Postman and Master. What careless animals you are! With this general Sarcasm, my dearest I conclude my letter which will, I hope, find you all in the height of the Holywell Gaieties."

Henry was evidently not entirely satisfied with his billet, and in 1802, when Lord Whitworth was sent to represent the British interests at the Consular Court in Paris, he made an effort to obtain a position on his staff.

[1] His birthday letter.

CHAPTER VI

1802—1803

THE year 1802 opened with an "unfinished Peace Treaty" between England and France. In the October of 1801 Lord Hawkesbury had signed the "Preliminaries of Peace." By the New Year suspicions and doubts as to the possibility of a definite Peace were gathering, not only on the other side of the English Channel, but amongst members of all political parties in the country. The Treaty of Amiens, however, was concluded on March 27th.

So severely was the new Ministry criticised by Lord Grenville and his supporters in the House of Lords, and by Mr. Wyndham in the Commons, that Parliament dissolved very shortly after the Prorogation in June. The new Parliament did not assemble until November. Mr. Addington remained at the head of the Government.

Charles took the opportunity of the autumn recess to visit Paris.

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother

"HOTEL DE MARIGNY, PARIS, VEND., *October 15th.*

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—Immediately after writing to you on Monday we left Dieppe after having been detained till one o'clock by the delays of the Custom House respecting our baggage. In the meantime we saw the Church which struck me very much from the richness of its Gothic Architecture but which has since been completely effaced by the Cathedral & other Churches at Rouen to describe which any language must be inadequate. We travelled in two Cabriolets one of them

exactly similar to an English Buggy, the other you may form a complete idea of from one of Mr. Bunbury's drawings. During the whole of our journey the roads have been extremely good & the slightest of English carriages might, I think travel along them with perfect security. We reached Rouen between nine & ten & remained there the whole of Tuesday. It was with great regret that we left it the next day, after having passed the principal part of Tuesday morning in the Cathedral & in the Church of St. Ouen. The burying place of Coeur de Lion & of the Regent Duke of Bedford would in itself be sufficiently interesting if it was not without exception the richest & most magnificent specimen of Gothic Architecture which I have ever yet seen or indeed that my mind is capable of conceiving. It has scarcely suffered in the course of the Revolution & the beautiful Monument of Cardinal George d'Amboise & of the Marechal de Brezé ! The latter is indeed au noirs from having been erected by *Diana of Poictiers* to her husband, her own figure is introduced weeping & the following is the Epitaph.

> " Hoc Lodoice tibi posuit Brezee sepulcrum
> Pictonis amisso maesta Diana viro
> Indivisa tibi quondam et fidissima conjux
> Ut fuit in thalamo sic erit in tumulo.

" Perhaps the sight of this inscription might have suggested to Madame de Genlis her moral publication on the inconvenience to be apprehended by Ladies from making des Voeux téméraires. The Church of St. Ouen which is the lightest & most simple Gothic fabric that I ever saw is now converted into a Granary & the whole pavement is covered for two feet deep with corn, except in particular walks which are left to enable persons to get to the different parts of the Church. It some what resembles Westminster Abbey (though it is smaller) if you can conceive the latter stripped of its Monuments so as to leave an unbroken View from one end to the other. On Wednesday night we slept at St. Germains which is about twelve miles from here. In the morning we saw the Palace & proceeded here. We are very pleasantly situated & the more so as we have met with

Mackintosh [1] (the barrister, & author of *Vindiciae Gallicae*) in the same Hotel who being very well acquainted both with Mansfield [2] & myself has given us much curious information. I have hitherto enjoyed our expedition far beyond my warmest expectations. We have not met with a single contretemps except the being obliged in common good nature to admit a tiresome fellow barrister to be of our party from Dieppe to this place, but we are now rid of him & he has only served to make us the better pleased with our own party."

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother (from Paris)

"*Monday, October 18th,* 1802.

"As an opportunity now offers of sending a letter which will be put into the English post office by Charles Finch who leaves this place tomorrow I again take my pen. The first thing which rouses the indignation of an Englishman is the almost Asiatic pomp, splendour & luxury of the Government. The person at the head of it feels his power & rules with a rod of iron without the smallest attention to popularity. He seems upon every occasion to wish to mark his disdain. Several of the finest pictures in the public Galleries are already removed to the Thulliries, St. Cloud, & Malmaison. The account which you saw in the Newspapers of the conversation between Fox [3] & him, relative to Windham's [4] share in the infernal machine,

[1] Mackintosh, Sir James, 1765–1832, a philosopher and "littérateur." His book *Vindiciae Gallicae*, published in 1791, was an answer to Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the French Revolution*. He was a member of literary societies, a friend of Fox and Sheridan, Pitt and Canning. His sympathies were Whig. In 1803 he accepted the Recordership of Bombay, but the climate affected his health, and he returned to England 1812. Subsequently he was given various small appointments at home.

[2] Mansfield, probably Hon. Henry, afterwards General and K.C.B.; born 1784; served in the Peninsula and at Waterloo; mar. 1810, Emily, dau. General de Visme. He died 1860.

[3] Charles James Fox, 2nd s. 1st Ld. Holland; born 1749; Foreign Secretary 1782; formed a Coalition Ministry with Ld. North 1783, of short duration. Was Foreign Secretary in Ld. Grenville's "Ministry of All the Talents," 1806. He died in office 1807.

[4] William Windham, 1750–1810, an eminent Whig statesman. Secretary at War 1794, and holding the same office with that of the Colonies in Ld. Grenville's Ministry 1806–7.

is perfectly correct. You will be surprised to hear that the only two busts in his own sitting-room are English—Fox & Sir Sidney Smith. Fox's conduct respecting O'Connor has been entirely disapproved of even by his own party. That & his introduction of Madame Fox [1] have kept a great number of persons aloof from him, Macintosh described to me a curious group one night at Talleyrand's Assembly, consisting of Madame Talleyrand, Madame Fox, Lady Holland [2] & Lady Oxford.[3] The latter has been so extremely gross & glaring in her conduct with O'Connor that it is imagined she will find great difficulty in again getting into London Society. They actually went last Week together to a breakfast given by Madame Cabarenne,[4] alias Talien alias [. . .] who having already two husbands, is living now with a third who has also another wife. In my road here I was very much struck with the fullness of every church every morning from about seven till eleven, but found the audience consisted solely of Women & old Men. Yesterday being Sunday went into two or three of the principal churches & found them all completely crowded with persons of all ages. Religion is indeed the fashion of the day. The First Consul & the Empress of the Gauls go in grand procession to Mass at St. Cloud & their subjects follow their example. Still however we passed yesterday, in a way which looked as unlike Sunday as one can easily conceive. At two we went to see a Balloon ascend from the Champs Elysées which collected almost all Paris. After keeping us waiting near four hours, at last Citoyen Acard effected his ascension, but the balloon not being sufficiently inflated he left his Parachute which had been exhibited in due form,

[1] Madame Fox, Elizabeth Bridget Armstead. Mr. Fox's marriage came as a surprise to his friends, though the lady was not unknown to have been his companion for some time. She died 1842. There were no children.

[2] Lady Holland, dau. of Richard Vassall; she mar. 1797, 3rd Ld. Holland (she had mar. previously Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart.). She died 1845.

[3] Lady Oxford, Jane, dau. Rev. James Scott; mar. Edward Harley, 5th E. of Oxford, 1794. She died 1824.

[4] Madame Cabarenne, previously Comtesse de Fontenay, afterwards Madame de Tallien. Tallien obtained a divorce in 1802, and she mar. the Prince de Chimay. She was at one time the mistress of a rich banker—Ouvrard.

behind him. After this we returned home to eat a hasty dinner & from thence to the *Opera*, & from thence to *Frascati*. The only point in which every body seems to unite is the detestation of the revolution. It is not as a subject of discussion but as if of general consent. Not a ruin is shewn but with 'Voila ce que c'est que la Revolution.' The openness with which royalist sentiments are avowed & apparently even patronised by the Government is indeed astonishing. I was told by Macintosh of an Officer of the Etât Major shewing him a picture of Louis XVI at Versailles, 'Et voila le meilleur de nos Rois d'ont la bonté fatale a boulversée l'Europe.' He also told me of a curious conversation which he had with Tallien, with whom he was before totally unacquainted. Being told that he talked very openly of the plans of his party in 1792, he asked him, M. 'Est il vrai Monsieur, que vous aviez eu le dessein d'égorger toute la famille royale le dix Aout ?' *T.* 'Ah que oui, certes.' *M.* 'Quoi ? femmes et enfants ?' *T.* 'Certes. Il n'y a eu que ce mis: de Roederer qui a voulu faire des distinctions et au fond causoit été de l'humanité car cela auroit été fait pendant la confusion du combat pêle mêle, et on auroit épargné a la France la disgrace du procès du roi, de la Reine, de Madame Elisabeth & le mort de cet malheureux enfant.' *M.* 'Mais est il vrai Monsieur, que si Louis eut voulu rassembler tous les Suisses qui etoient Casernés aux environs de Paris lors meme du matin du dix Aout, il auroit pu regagner son autorité ?' *T.* 'Oui Monsieur, moi qui vous parles, j'ai combattu cette journée la, et j'ai vu quand cette poignée de Suisses qui etoient dans les Thulleries avoit balayée toute la place du Carousel et ces Gens miserables qui on etait alors obligé d'appeller 'La peuple souveraine' fuyoit partout, mais ce pauvre lâche de roi craignoit donner des orders. Il etoit brave, il ne craignoit pas le mort pour lui, mais c'ètait un *Couillion* il craignoit, de repandre le sang de ce qu'il appelloit 'sa bon peuple,' 'les bons Français,' et toutes ces sottises et babourdise la.'

"Is not this the eulogium of exalted virtues & humanity yelled out by the most detestable depravity ? Arrests are, I understand very frequent & not only of Frenchmen. Still one cannot conceive how so much open

royalism should be encouraged. The prints of Louis XVI & his family with stars of Martyrdom over their heads & his Will, & a head of the Princess de Lamballe are publicly exposed for sale in the Palais Royal. The other night I saw 'Adelaide du Guesclin' which as you know is full of sentiments of loyalty to Kings etc., acted at the Theatre Fransais, only substituting 'Heros' for 'Bourbons' in a good many places. Still there was a marked applause at; 'Plaignez le, il vous offense, *il a trahi son roi.*' At each of the Theatres the First Consul has two boxes one magnificently embroidered & ornamented, as his public box, the other below *grillée* in which he cannot be distinguished. The report of the day is that since the dismission of Fouché it has been discovered that he was the author of the infernal machine. The present name by which Mr. Addington [1] is known here is 'l'aimable minister de l'Angleterre.' What a contrast between him & 'le Monstre Pitt, l'enimic du genre humain'!!"

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother

"HOTEL DE MARIGNY, *October 26th.*

"At length my dear Mother I think we have seen all the sights of Paris. Our usual good luck attended us in fixing Sunday for an excursion to Versailles, had we delayed it until to-day we should have been caught in a violent storm instead of having a delightful day of which the only inconvenience was that the sun was rather too powerful. Indeed with the exception of yesterday the weather ever since our arrival in this country has been so fine as to resemble May much more than October. The magnificence of Versailles far exceeded the utmost expectation which my imagination could have formed. It has, however, been stripped of all its finest pictures which are replaced by those of the modern French school. Amongst others publicly

[1] Henry Addington, b. 1757; M.P. 1784; Speaker 1788; First Lord of the Treasury and Prime Minister 1801; Visc. Sidmouth 1805. He held other important ministerial positions. He died 1844, having twice mar.; 1st, Ursula, dau. and child of Leonard Hammond of Cheam (she died 1811); and 2ndly, in 1823, Marianne, widow of Thomas Townsend, and dau. of Ld. Stowell (she died 1843).

hung up is a design for a Monument to Robergot & Bonnier with this inscription. 'Ils furent égorges par des assassins gagés par le gouvernment *anglais*'! I felt considerable satisfaction in seeing the cross, which but a week ago was replaced upon the top of the Chapel instead of the pike & cap of liberty. A more melancholy spectacle cannot be conceived than the grass grown courts & deserted Galleries. The man who conducted us over it, shewed us particularly every part of the Theatre of the transactions of the 8th Oct., the door through which the Queen escaped out of her bed-room, when the mob first rushed in. The balcony to which she came with the Dauphin, etc., etc. As you saw it in 1788 I will not attempt to describe to you the Opera house or any part of the building. We afterwards saw Trianon which disappointed me, indeed though built of Marble the weather has so entirely taken away the polish, that at a very small distance it has only the appearance of wood painted red and white in imitation of marble. Magnificent as the collection of paintings in the Louvre is, in some respects it would disappoint you. In a Gallery 350 yards in length filled on both sides with paintings, though those paintings are the finest in the world, the eye is distracted & the attention overpowered. The light entering from alternate windows upon each side is always dazzling & makes it difficult to take a proper view of any picture. Every person is, I think, most struck by the Statues than the pictures. The Apollo appears decidedly superior to every thing else & the Venus comes next. Of the Spectacles, Mansfield & Cunliffe [1] unite in prefering the Opera, not on account of the singing which they allow to be abominable, but of the dancing which though far superior to any which I ever saw, is yet to me extremely tiresome. The pleasure which I receive from the French Tragedies at first very much surprised me. I could not have believed it possible that any thing so decidedly contrary to every thing which I had been accustomed to, & every thing which I had hitherto imagined to be natural, could have so much interested & affected me. I do not think that I ever

[1] Probably Robert Cunliffe, afterwards 4th Bart., and brother-in-law to Charles.

felt more at an English Theatre than at La Fond's acting at Vendôme, in his soliloquy after giving orders for his brother's death, in Voltaire's 'Adelaide du Guesclin.' To-night I shall go to Bajazet [1] but first, do honour to the day & drink many happy returns of it to Watkin. Upon this day sevenight I reckon that we shall probably take our departure."

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother

"PARIS, *Tuesday night, October 26th.*

"In my letter this morning I informed you my dearest Mother of my intention of going to see Bajazet. Cunliffe & Mansfield prefered the Opera. With my usual good luck I persisted & was rewarded by a full view of *Bajazet & Roxana* themselves sitting in their Stage box in all their glory. Agas, Icoglans & Bashaws of three tails were standing behind them in due form & submission. So complete a Birmingham Royalty I never yet saw upon any Theatre. The expectations of Paris are not as far as I can learn near as warlike as those of London. Macintosh tonight told me that he had been informed on very good authority that Bajazet had within the last week wrote another letter to the King complaining that his Ministers, '*heritiers des sentiments de leurs Predecesseurs!*' had been exciting insurrections in Switzerland. But that Tallerand had written since a letter to Otto '*pour adoucissier*,' throwing the whole upon the eagerness & anxiety of the First Consul.

"Among the alterations of the last six months none is more striking than the disuse of the National Cockade. At least half the Frenchmen whom we meet are without it.

"Adieu, good night to you all & according to ancient custom,

"Pray to God to make me a good boy Mamma.

"C. W. W. W."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *Monday, December 6th*, 1802.

"I have just arrived here from Acton which I have left with the most enthusiastic admiration of all its

[1] A tragedy by Racine.

Inhabitants. What would I not give to be entitled to call their eldest daughter, mine ? I know nothing which at this moment would make me as happy. I am dying for politics. Surely there can be no real probability of Fox's coming in, I think if he does Sir Foster [1] & I shall pen a private Address of our own to the King for his removal, I cannot think he would try so desperate a measure & still less can I believe that there could be found 200 or half that number of the H. of C. who would support the avowed friend & Champion of a convicted Traitor."

The three Williams Wynn brothers were at present all unmarried, though their mother was not backward in making every effort to encourage them to find suitable partners. Society appears to have made free with Charles's name, and coupled it with that of a lady not to be identified in this correspondence. Henry, on the other hand, had already pledged himself to Louisa Courtenay, the thirteenth daughter of Lord Courtenay. Lady Williams Wynn was strongly opposed to any idea of this marriage, and refused to recognise an engagement; her reasons never transpire.

From Fanny W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"AUDLEY END, *December 11th.*

"MY DEAR CHARLES,—The Peerage, I should think you must quite search in vain as I do not think your 'beloved's' name will be found altho she is Granddaughter to a Peer. What do you say to the pretty Sophia Grimston [2] with a Fortune of at least £30,000 ? Indeed the *world* is very ill natured in taking so much pains to get wives for the 3 Brothers while it does not bestow even ½ a Husband between the 3 Damsels. Seriously

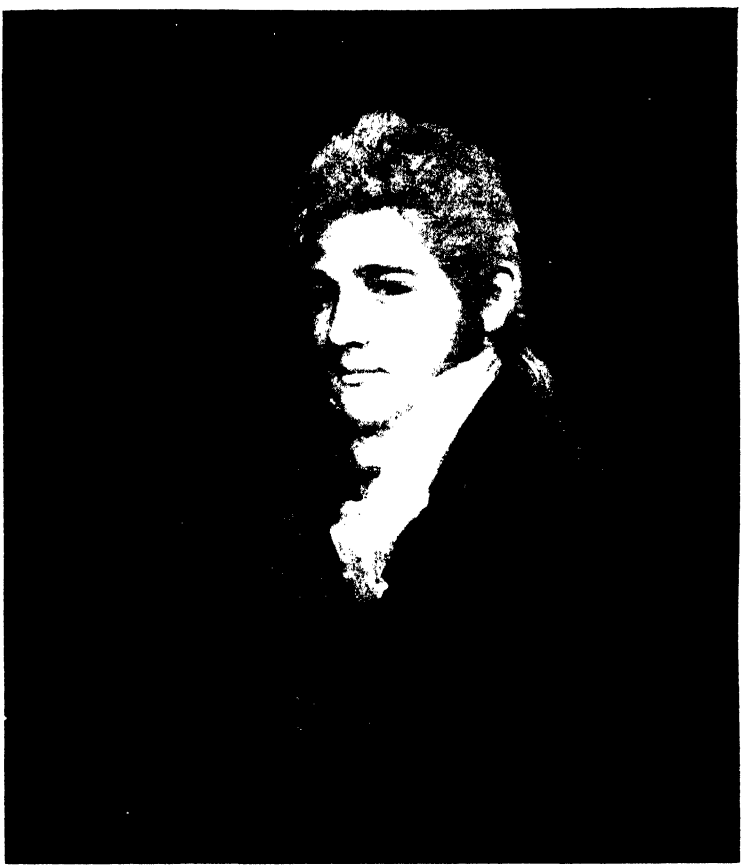
[1] Sir Foster Cunliffe, 3rd Bart., of Acton, Denbighshire; born 1755; died 1834. His eldest dau. Mary mar. Charles in 1806.

[2] Sophia Grimston, dau. and h. of William, 2nd s. of 2nd Visc. Grimston (who assumed the name and arms of Bucknall under the will of his maternal uncle). She mar. 1804, Hon. Berkeley Paget.

I should like to know what the report can mean, I have written to Hart. G.[1] to try to find out. Lady G. F. congratulated me & seemed quite amazed at my denial. I had heard before that the Courtenays professed their Sister to be positively engaged. Mr. Manners told Lady Ct.[2] that he had heard it from one of the family. It will be some difficulty to all of us to know exactly what line to take on this occasion, for tho' one should be sorry to encrease the probability of an event which one wishes against, either by confirming the report or by encouraging an Intimacy with the Lady. Yet at the same time, I must confess I should be still more sorry to appear unkind to one whom I feel quite persuaded will be my Sister. I wish he may not come over to fetch her in the Spring, for that reason I rejoice in his having the *Distraction* of so much society, in any other point of view one cannot think such a Colony of English an agreeable circumstance, but I hope his not being established will be a sufficient excuse for not incurring much expence. Certainly the less one talks about the Courtenays, the better, at all events, one may safely deny the Engagement, as it certainly was not made."

[1] Hon. Harriet Grimston, dau. of 3rd Visc. Grimston, and first cousin to the above. She and her sister Charlotte were very intimate friends of Fanny Williams Wynn, and many of their letters to her are preserved in the collection of "Miss Fanny Williams Wynn's Letters" in the National Library for Wales, Aberystwyth. Harriet died unmar. 1846, and her younger sister Charlotte also unmar. in 1831.

[2] Lady Carysfort.



John Jackson

HENRY WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN

CHAPTER VII

1804—1806

LATE in 1803 Henry was given his first appointment in the Diplomatic Service, as representative of the Court of St. James's at the Court of the Elector of Saxony. He was just twenty. Europe was in a state of war. Napoleon, obsessed by the idea of Power, was pushing forward his policy for the subjugation of the Continent, and had suddenly decreed that all Englishmen on French soil, between the ages of eighteen and sixty, should be held as prisoners. His secret emissaries in Ireland were arousing continued discontent, unrest, and disloyalty. The Treaty of Amiens had proved abortive.

Henry took up his duties in Dresden in December 1803. His letters during the succeeding three years give a vivid view of European politics. The domestic affairs in England were almost as turbulent as those of the Continent. The Catholic Question was hotly debated, the King's health was a cause of constant anxiety to his Ministers. Misappropriation of public funds, traffic in appointments in the highest circles, aroused deep and widespread suspicion, the social condition of the country was at a low ebb, money and labour alike were scarce.

Charles's letters during these years sum up the home politics.

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *December 3rd*, 1803.

"I went thro' all my audiences & presentations last Sunday & I already begin to feel a little at home. I was a little annoyed when the folding doors were thrown

open, & discovered the Elector [1] standing at the further end of a great room ready to receive me. After having made my bow I advanced, however, and made a short speech, which tho', was longer than he expected, as he was much more embarassed in his reply than I was in addressing him. I afterwards had separate audiences of all the Princes & Princesses. I dine tomorrow at Court for the first time.

"The Corps Diplomatique is pretty good here, but I am sorry that there is but one of them who is married, excepting him none of them ever give a party or an Assembly, & no Saxon thinks of opening his house.

"The result of this is that as there is no 'point de reunion,' each nation keeps to itself, & there are parties of English, Russians, Poles, etc. Our society is as pleasant as any, but I mean to get out of it as soon as possible, as I do not come abroad to live entirely with 30 of my countrymen. I met yesterday at Mr. Greathead's [2] an old lady who seemed delighted to see me, & asked after you & the whole family, her name is Madame Pintz née Husband. She gave me a long account of Oswestry Races. She has a very extensive acquaintance among the Grandmothers and Great-Grandmothers of all the English here.

"Mr. Greathead's captivity in France has certainly had a very good effect upon him as he is now as violent an Aristocrat as he was before a Democrat. He told me the other day that he had been one of those 'fools' who thought that the French Revolution was to work wonders & to set any Government upon what he then thought the right footing, but that he now saw the madness & wickedness of such an idea, & had been awakened to a right sense of the excellence of the Government & Constitution of his own Country."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *January 19th*, 1804.

"An unpleasant circumstance happened to me the other day in the house of a Russian Princess where I

[1] Frederick August I, Elector of Saxony, 1763; King 1806; died 1827.

[2] Bertie Bertie-Greathead, of Guy's Cliff, s. of Samuel Greathead and Mary, dau. of 2nd D. of Ancaster.

was invited to sup. A French Emigrée who is a kind of 'dame de compagnie' came up to & asked me if I had any news from Ireland. I of course said that everything was very quiet, upon which she said she was very sorry, as she should be 'au comble de la joie' whenever the Rebellion succeeded, as it was the just efforts of a brave people to assert their rights against a nation which treated them like dogs. I did not deign to give her any answer & only said that it was 'des propos un peu singuliers à tenir à un Ministre d'Angleterre,' took up my hat & walked out of the house. All Dresden was in an uproar at her impudence. The Russian was excessively sorry for it, as she is a very civil woman, she made me several excuses which I told her were unnecessary as I was sure it did not come from her, but that certainly neither I or any of my countrymen could go into a house where we are liable to hear both our Country & ourselves insulted.

"I am sorry for it as her house (with this exception) is certainly the best 'ton' here."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"STOWE, *January 11th and 12th.*

"I had yesterday a letter from Dresden. He writes very comfortably in every respect. . . .

"He talkes with great delight of the Elect.'s Library which he says is considered as complete in almost every Language & Science, & on which £500 pr. ann. is constantly expended, chiefly at present in English Books of History. 'Such a Collection of old English & French Chronicles & such beautiful illegible Worm-eaten black Letter that if Charles was once to put his foot in it, no human power would ever drag him out.' The Library is open at all times & any books may be taken away by people of *name & Credit.* This will be an inexhaustible fund of amusement as well as profit to our young Minister & is matter therefore of great delight to me. I suppose Fanny communicated to you the very gratifying reports which had reached me through a third hand of his début at Dresden which has given an impression of sober-minded discretion & *tact* the more

striking perhaps from its not being exactly 'the promise of his face.' He is a good fellow as ever was born, & so long as he will follow the dictates of his own head & heart he will never, I trust, with the blessing of the Almighty, materially err.

"We have been here an immense party of men, women, & children to the amount of 35 to 40 every day, & consisting chiefly of parenté Grenville & Nugent. Your dear Uncle[1] is as usual full of kindness to all his numerous Nephews & Nieces both absent & present, & never fails to drink the health of my 'three excellent boys' as his first Toast.

"They are all flattering themselves that something like this long expected political Crisis must be drawing near. Fox I fancy bends more & more every day to Opposition & that seems to leave Pitt no Option but to come forward himself or run the chance of the Doctor's[2] throwing up the Game into Fox's hands which he must of necessity try en dernier ressort.

"We heard, the other day a simile for our medical Premier which I thought had merit, comparing him to the Monkey on the House-ridge dancing a child, who you dare not pelt, lest he should drop the Babe."

From Henry W. W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"DRESDEN, *February 16th*, 1804.

"MY DEAR FANNY,—I have to thank you for your kind letter of the 16th ult. which I received the day before yesterday, just as I was setting out for the grand fete of Mardi Gras arrayed from head to foot in white silk. We drew for partners, the Sunday before I was very lucky as an old Minister's wife of 60 years old, fell to my lot. She gave me no further trouble than that of playing a game of whist with her, & of sitting near her at Supper. Agar had the happiness (or as I should have reckoned it the misfortune) to draw one of the Princesses. He was obliged to be at Court at ½ before 4,

[1] Marquess of Buckingham.

[2] A reference to Mr. Addington, the Premier, afterwards 1st Visc. Sidmouth. He was given the nickname of "the Doctor" about this time, on account of his father having been in the medical profession.

nor did he get home till ¼ after 7 the next morning, finishing withall with a German dance which lasts three hours. It is a good proof of the salubrity of Dresden that the Elector & Electress and the other Princes & Princesses (some of whom are near 60) dance the whole night without any intermission excepting that of Supper. The Elector & Electress changed twice their sets of Diamonds the one more beautiful & magnificent than the other. The Supper was a very fine sight, the plates etc. silver gilt & the spoons and forks solid gold, served by the Foot-guards. The Fête altogether was certainly very well worth seeing, and the Silk dominoes, waistcoats, etc. tho' very ridiculous did not look at all ugly, when two or three hundred were together, the heat was quite suffocating as the gentlemen's hats were trimmed with feathers, & no one was allowed to appear uncovered. I cannot think how the Elector supports it, as his hat on account of the immense quantity of diamonds is heavier than any helmet I ever felt."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *March 28th*, 1804.

"The Peploes and Greatheads are in great tribulation, as all their hopes to be permitted to go to England seem to have been put an end to by the discovery of Pichegrus and Georges conspiracy. The French Minister here who has behaved very well to them and who made the application for them, received a dispatch yesterday, from Berthier [1] the Minister of War, saying that he did not dare to speak to the First Consul on the subject of the English Prisoners and that he was to *veiller à leur retour quand leur congé sera epuis*. I can fancy no situation so perplexing than that in which they now find themselves. I should not conceive that the parole which was unjustly forced from them would be binding, but in the present state of things, such a violation might expose their country-men in France to greater misery than they now endure. What is their prospect on the other hand, a long tedious and unjust captivity, under a madman who considers them

[1] Louis Alexander Berthier, Marshal of France; born 1753; Minister of War. He died 1815.

as hostages in his hands of which he will take advantage, in any future rebellion in Ireland, by declaring that he would put one of them to death for every Irish rebel who may be executed. I have often fancied myself in their situation & found it utterly impossible to make any decision. I have a great respect for my duty towards my neighbour, but there are cases, and I own that I think this is one of them, in which some respect ought to be paid to *Ego*. They have made another application for leave to stay in Germany which I hope may be successful. If the Question comes to go to England or France, I think they have partly determined (*entre nous*) to cut and run. I look forward with Horror to the day of their departure as those two houses are the only places where I spend a pleasant evening. I am sorry to live so much in an English set, but it is that or nothing as living with Saxons is out of the question, besides they are never visible excepting on Sunday, when they put on their clean shirt for the week in honour of the Elector, and in the evening the Ministers' wives light up a couple of Wax Ends, luckily it is now light at 4 o'clock, they are therefore saved the expence."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *May 31st*, 1804.

"I received by last post the official notification from Ld. Harrowby [1] of his appointment. I am very anxious to hear whom he will name as his Under Secretaries. I own that I expected three weeks ago that I should have to address my official correspondence to Ld. Grenville.

"I am very sorry that there will be so strong an opposition, as it will have a very bad effect on this side of the water, where they have a mistaken idea that no Government can adopt decisive measures as long as they are opposed by a strong party.

"Yesterday we received the account of the late changes in the Government of France. I rather look upon this piece of vanity on the part of the First Consul [2]

[1] Dudley Ryder, 2nd Baron, 1st E.; Foreign Sec. 1804–5; Ambassador to Berlin 1805; President of India Board 1809; Ld. Pres. of the Council 1812–27; died 1847.

[2] Bonaparte declared Emperor.

as advantageous to our cause, as by his elevation he can not acquire any more, & may acquire some unpopularity, & in addition to this if there ever should be a prospect of the re-establishment of the Bourbons, it will be an advantage for them to find a throne already established: it will also lead to very great expense, which in the present state of the finances of France she cannot very well afford."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *July 19th*, 1804.

"I was very much surprised at your saying in your letter of the 29th that my increase of Salary was not certain. I have always considered it so since the arrival of Pierrepont,[1] & the receipt of a letter from Charles, in which he said that he had seen both Hammond & Arbuthnot who had told him that it *actually* commenced from the 1st of last Jany. I do not know what I shall do if there is a hitch respecting the double pay, as I will defy the best manager in Europe to live here with £1,900. When Ld. Henley[2] was here everything was two-thirds cheaper, he was ruined till he had the double pay; & yet no man looked more narrowly into his affairs than he did, & even saw every Pound of meat which came into his house, weighed before him."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *August 7th*, 1804.

"The [Swedish] Minister is most excessively pleased with his King.[3] Though he is a little crazy, he is certainly the only sovereign who dares openly to avow his sentiments & his detestation of the French. It is now reported that he will return to Sweden in a month's time, but I fear that that event is not as certain as could be wished. There certainly exists a very strong party

[1] Philip Pierrepont (see previous note).

[2] Morton Eden, 1st Baron Henley, youngest s. of Sir Robert Eden, Bart.; a distinguished diplomat, accredited to different courts of Europe 1776–9. He mar. 1783, Elizabeth, dau. of Robert Henley, 1st E. of Worthington, and eventual h. to her brother the 2nd Earl. Ld. Henley died 1830.

[3] King Gustavus IV.

against him in Sweden, but the only way to subdue it is to face it, every moment that he is out of his country that unpopularity increases. There were several Emigrés at Peplitz who had escaped from Ettenheim at the time of the arrestation of the Duke d'Enghien,[1] to whom he was particularly civil. He spoke to me for near three quarters of an hour. I forget if I mentioned in one of my former letters that his great favourite who never quits him is the Duke d'Enghien's dog, on his collar is engraved 'J'appartenois au malheureux Duc d'Engheim." How much is it to be lamented that the more powerful sovereigns of Europe are not actuated by the same noble sentiments."

From Henry W. W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"DRESDEN, *September 6th*, 1804.

"I hope I need not assure you, my dearest Fanny, what pleasure I received on the receipt of your letter from Stowe. . . . I must bore you again with a subject of which I am sure that the whole family must be heartily tired, I mean my horses, which according to a letter from Charles sailed on the 16th July, but of which, further than that I have not heard a single word. I really begin to be afraid that they are either taken or at the bottom of the sea. The Horse ship which sailed from Hull is arrived, but brings no tidings of my poor beasts. I hope that Grivel [1] will be returned here in a week's time, and he may possibly have some information of them.

"You will easily conceive at what a low ebb the conversation of Dresden is, when I tell you that the general topic is the execution of a poor woman which took place last week. It is the only one that has taken place at Dresden for fourteen years, you must not however, think from this, that the Saxons are more righteous than the rest of the world, but luckily for the rascals and villains,

[1] Louis de Bourbon, Duc d'Enghien (1772–1804); s. of the Prince de Condé and Louise Thérèse d'Orléans. He was said to have married secretly, Charlotte de Rohan Rochfort. He was arrested by the orders of Napoleon, and shot in the trenches of the Château de Vincennes.

[1] Henry's servant.

housebreaking and stealing are not punished by death, and what is singular a man who in defence of his own property, happens to kill the intruder, is guilty of a capital crime. Another reason for the infrequency of executions is a false clemency on the part of the Elector, who can hardly ever be brought to sign a death warrant. It is reported that even in the present instance he refused, but at length, after consulting with his Confessor, he consented to sign a Paper empowering Prince Anthony (his brother) to sign the warrant itself. The difference seems rather nice! The greatest form was observed during the whole of the ceremony, which at least has the good effect of striking more horror into the minds of the people. I had not the curiosity to be present at the execution, but more than 13,000 men (near half the inhabitants of Dresden) were of a different opinion and went out. The only difference from an English execution was that the Lady was beheaded instead of being hanged. It must require a rather expert Executioner as she is placed on a Chair and her head is cut off with a large sword, by a horizontal slice."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *October 4th*, 1804.

"I am now made very happy by a visit from Brook Taylor.[1] He wishes to get a better Mission, but I fear that in the present state of the Continent Ld. Harrowby with the best dispositions to serve him cannot offer him any other situation.

"I have often thought how very fortunate I was that Dresden fell to my lot in preference to Stutgardt. The circumstance of being driven away from a Court would not have been a very good 'entrée' into the diplomatic line. Nothing can be more central than Dresden, & from the number of strangers who are constantly passing backwards & forwards it is very properly styled 'le corridor de l'Europe.' I consider myself as

[1] Sir Brook Taylor, b. 1776; Min. Plen. to the Elector of Cologne 1801; to the King of Würtemberg 1814; G.C.H. and Min. Plen. to Berlin 1828; died 1846.

settled here for four or five years, & (excepting an application in about two years for 7 or 8 months leave of absence) I shall not ask a single favour of the Secretary of State.

"Elliot does nothing but sigh for Dresden, & walks into the puddles at Naples in order to put him in mind of the *delightful* dirty streets of this place."

"DRESDEN, *December 6th*, 1804.

"Though I increased my establishment considerably on the increase of my pay, I do not believe that I have done it more than is necessary for a Minister as I am. I am sure I shall make two ends meet. As I pay all my house bills weekly, & my servants wages & other expences monthly I am able to form some scale of expence, & I generally find that I spend £200 per month which leaves me above £400 for extras which I cannot foresee. A German Minister will with half the expence appear to keep quite as good a house as I do; but their object is show & not comfort. They give a very magnificent supper to a party of 50 people, but the Minister & his Family live for a fortnight on the scraps remaining, & when they are consumed, another supper is given the remains of which last quite as long. As these arrangements do not agree with the ideas of an Englishman, his menage costs him of course twice as much. I always have such a dinner that I can, without giving any further orders, invite one or two persons whom I may meet in my morning walk."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *March 21st*, 1805.

"The Mission at Dresden does not afford many opportunities of showing marks of temperate good sense. All I have to do here is to endeavour to animate my friends against the demands & encroachments of the French Minister, & I generally have the mortification of finding myself perfectly unsuccessful. It is difficult to persuade when you have opposed to you so powerful a reasoner as Terror. I always tell Pierrepont that tho' I think this place more pleasant than Stockholm I envy him the

good fortune to be accredited to a Prince who understands his interests better than to debase himself by a submissive acquiescence in every extravagant demand of the French Government. Whatever Russia may do, the King of Sweden will always have the merit of having been the first Sovereign on the Continent who dared openly to declare his hostility to Buonaparte & his indignation at the several outrages which have been committed. What is most provoking is that all the Princes of Germany know their danger, & are convinced that sooner or later it will be their turn to be attacked, but such apathy exists in their Councils that they will not take any measures to prevent their annihilation, which is not distant. So much for Politics."

From Henry W. W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"DRESDEN, *March 28th*, 1805.

"My English Colony is, I am happy to say, rapidly decreasing. The generality of English Travellers are such blackguards that I was rather pleased with the arrival of a Mr. Walpole[1] the Grand-son of Lord Walpole[2] who is much more *comme il faut* than the rest, he also appears to more advantage as he talks French tolerably well, which few of my countrymen do. They generally come here to learn, but go away as ignorant as they came. In the Book-making line we are strong as we have no less than four who have actually appeared in a title Page, and several who aspire to that honour. There is a clergyman here (Chaplain to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales) who offered to do Service at my house if I would provide him with a Prayer Book and Bible, which he had left in England as he came abroad as *light*

[1] Mr. Walpole, probably John, 4th s. of Horatio, afterwards 2nd E. of Orford. Born 1787. A Lieut.-Col. in the Army, and a diplomat. He died 1859.

[2] Ld. Walpole, 4th Baron; born 1723; succeeded to the Barony of Walpole on the death of his first cousin, the 4th and last (of the 1st creation) E. of Orford. He was created E. of Orford in 1806. He died 1809.

as possible. N.B. The Revd. Gentleman has a Wife and two daughters of 13 & 14."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *June 13th*, 1805.

"I should consider myself as little deserving all the kindnesses, & marks of affection which I have received from you, & particularly on a late occasion, if I lost any time in communicating to you the contents of a letter which I received by the last Post from Louisa complaining of my 'not answering any of her letters, & telling me that if I had returned at the time *when I promised* on leaving Devonshire, I should have found her in the same dispositions as when I left her, that as two years are now elapsed I can not blame her if she wishes to be disengaged, particularly as I had often told her that if she should change her opinion my regard for her would not be diminished.' Whatever sensations I might at first have felt, I cannot now but be pleased at the breaking off of a connection which was so disagreeable to you & my other friends. I think it seems by her letter that someone else has proposed to her. I hope it is not Ld. Edward Somerset,[1] & that she will have someone more capable to make her happy.

"I see in the Papers Ld. Temple's[2] advertisement respecting a fire which must have taken place in his house, I have not however seen any acc. of it. I am anxious to see the last Edin. Rev., as I see in the advert. that in it, is contained the review of a book written by a man here, Bargellin's History of Malta, & translated by an old Lady who plagues me to death, a Mrs. Lutwyche."

[1] Ld. Edward Somerset mar. October 1805, Hon. Louisa Courtenay, 13th dau. of 2nd Visc. Courtenay. She was born 1781, and died 1822.

[2] Richard, Ld. Temple, s. of 1st Marq. of Buckingham, afterwards 2nd Marq. and 1st Duke; b. 1776; mar. 1796, Anne Eliza Brydges, dau. and co-h. of 3rd Duke of Chandos. She died 1836. He succeeded his father in 1813; was created 1st Duke in 1822. He died 1839.

The Same

"DRESDEN, *August 15th*, 1805.

"I congratulate you on Sir R. Calder's [1] success, I trust that it is only the Avant Coureur of something more decisive, it seems to have been a very gallant action as the force was so much superior, I only wish that the ships had been French instead of Spanish, as I cannot help pitying Spain who was entirely drawn into the War by France, & who is now as much under Bonaparte's ferule as Holland or Switzerland. I do not rejoice so much at the acquisition of two Ships, as that it will put an end to all their boastings respecting this famous Fleet. The news has had a very good effect here, & all over Germany as they began to think that the French Navy was now equal in discipline to ours.

"Count [*illegible*] & his wife seem very good sort of people & likely to add to the agreement of this place, we are however all eclipsed by the Frenchman who was first Clerk in Talleyrand's [2] office to some purpose, & comes here with a pocket full of money & determined to spend it, au reste, he seems a quiet man, & I do not think that we shall annoy one another in the very little intercourse which is likely to take place between us."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *October 3rd*, 1805.

"I must begin by expressing my gratitude (to my dearest Mother) for her kindness in not discontinuing to mention any omission on my part which she may

[1] Sir Robert Calder, born 1745; entered the Navy 1859; took part in the Battle of Cape St. Vincent; saw Service in the West Indies; in 1805 joined the Brest Fleet under Admiral Cornwallis. His conduct on July 23rd–24th, 1805, when engaged against Villeneuve, was severely censured at a court-martial in December of the same year, when he was found guilty of an error of judgment in allowing the enemy fleet to slip away, without showing fight. This was the end of his active service. He rose by seniority to the rank of Admiral. He died 1818. The action off Finisterre, an indecisive naval battle in which the Spaniards, allies of the French, lost two ships, the French none. Calder had eighteen ships, the French twenty-seven.

[2] Talleyrand, Charles Maurice, Prince de (1754–1838), Minister of Foreign Affairs and one-time Ambassador in England.

think will be disadvantageous to me, such as the habit of writing fast which has gained upon me, in an imperceptible & unaccountable manner. I feel that at 22, I have quite as much need of her advice as I had at 15, & I trust that I am now able to estimate it at a higher rate. Hitherto we have always expected news from England, but it now seems that the balance is turned, & it is your turn to expect something from us.

"Hostilities have not yet begun, but the accounts may be received by every Post, we today heard that the French intend to take possession of Wurtzburg, where the Elector of Bavaria at present resides, the Austrians have the same intention, & as they are nearer, I hope there is not the least danger of their being 'dévancé.' I need not pretend to any ministerial importance, & reserve, as with the exception of a little information which I am now & then able to transmit, I am sorry to say that I have but little to do here. I am luckily on very good terms, & in correspondence with both my colleagues at Vienna & Berlin & as they are not the best friends 'entre eux' my correspondence is of importance to them both as I am the 'mezzo termini.'"

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *October 12th*, 1805.

"The news which I have to send you from this side of the water is not of the most pleasant nature; nothing of importance, however, has yet occurred, but in the present moment, in my acceptation of the word, everything that is not good is bad news. The Austrians [1] have received two or three slight checks, which though they have no weight on the main question, will tend to discourage the Army. Had not the Austrians fought as bravely as they have, the disadvantage would have been much greater, owing to the great superiority of the enemy. No Battle has taken place since the Russians joined the Austrians. The source of the reverses we have sustained arose from the false reliance that Bonaparte would respect the Prussian Territory. If the Prussians

[1] On October 19th the Austrian Army capitulated at Ulm.

came forward 'de bonne foi et de bon coeur' that circumstance may turn to our advantage. If any thing of importance occurs here, I should certainly not wish to leave this place, but of that at present there seems so little chance that there can be no impropriety in my applying for leave of absence."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *November 6th*, 1805.

"I have been but a bad correspondent of late, but really all the misfortunes which have occurred within the last fortnight take away all the pleasure of writing even Private letters, as one must touch upon a subject which is so very disagreeable. The disaster has been very great but I am happy to find that no one considers it as decisive, & that the most laudable resolution exists at Vienna, not to hear of anything like negociation, & rather to lose *the whole for the whole*. The Emperor of Russia [1] has at length left Berlin after having remained there much longer than he intended, & I believe that it was more the charms of the Queen of Prussia [2] than business which detained him, as all what was done was done the first two days. He arrives here the day after to-morrow on Sunday, but only stays here one night or at furthest two, & then proceeds to Vienna. I fear that some of our Troops are now on the water, & that they will have met with all the Equinoctial gales. If they are coming to Hanover, they will find every thing ready for their reception, as with the exception of one Fortress, the French have abandoned the country, & the 'ancien regime' has been established throughout the Electorate. An English Minister ought not to make such an avowal, but I own that I do not receive so much satisfaction from the evacuation of Hanover as some people do, & I am sorry that the Hanoverians who have behaved so very ill should be the only persons who gain by the present posture of affairs."

[1] Emperor Alexander.
[2] Queen Louise, dau. of Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. She died 1810.

From Henry W. W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"DRESDEN, *November 21st*, 1805.

"We yesterday received the accounts of our victory in the Mediterranean,[1] which will be some little counterpoise to our severe disasters on the Continent. I regret Lord Nelson extremely for the Countrys sake, but for his own, one ought to rejoice, as so brilliant a career as his has been, could not have been ended in a more glorious manner. Fortunately the affairs of the Continent will not long go on as they now do, otherwise the French would be here in a fortnight's time. The abandoning Vienna so soon, seems only to have been *reculer pour mieux sauter*, but they must take a very long jump to recover what they have lost. Every one is delighted with the Emperor of Russia who certainly seems a most amiable Prince. He only staid here two days, and as he would not see the Corps Diplomatic, I was not presented to him. His journey has been, and will be still, productive of the best consequences, and nothing but that would have decided Prussia. What a happiness it must be for such a country as Russia which is under the despotic control of its Sovereign, to be so governed by such a Prince, & they must feel it the more after such a reign as Paul's.

"Dresden is completely over run with English and Strangers of all Nations who have emigrated from the South of Germany."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *December 9th*, 1805.

"We are still without any news from the Head Quarters of the Austro-Russian Armies. I mean of any Engagement. The French are retreating, but only step by step. The Emperor of Russia certainly goes 'en bon jeu bon argent.' The moment he arrived at Olmutz he sent off for another army of 120,000 men. Bonaparte applied for an armistice of six weeks, he replied 'Pas même pour six heures.'"

[1] October 21st, Battle of Trafalgar.

The Same

"DRESDEN, *January 9th*, 1806.

"You find fault with me for not taking all the joy & pride which I ought on the Trafalgar Victory. No one could rejoice more at it than I did at the time, but it was so soon followed by the disasterous accounts from Austerlitz[1] which so paralysed us that perhaps in lamenting over the bad, I may have omitted expressing my joy at the good. My pleasure in reading the English Papers has been greatly diminished by their obstinacy in supporting that the Allies gained a decisive battle on the 24th. You may easily suppose how disagreeable it must be to read long descriptions respecting the favourable effects of that victory when we know that the effects of the *defeat* have been the retreat of the Emperor of Russia, the signature of a more calamitous Peace than was, I suppose, ever signed. The experience gained in this Campaign is in many respects disagreeable, but in none more so than in the certainty which we have acquired that the Russian Troops cannot contend with those of France. Men against men the Russian are certainly superior, but how can you expect them to have anything like officers when no man of rank will enter into the Army under the rank of a Major, & that it is not an uncommon thing for a person to return Major-General after the first Campaign. This was the case with their best officer, who has distinguished himself the most in the last Campaign, Prince Bagatrin[2] (called by the English Papers Pangratien) who went out with Suwarrow as Captain & returned Major-General. Nothing can be more brave than the Russian troops, but that is of little avail if they are not well led. Of the Austrians the less said the better, officers, men, etc. were equally bad.

"I am sorry for Sir R. Calder as I think that the sentence of the Court Martial is rather severe for an Error of Judgment, but I hope that it will have a good effect on the Continent, & among the Austrian Generals, who

[1] Austerlitz, December 2nd, 1805.

[2] Prince Bagration, born 1765; served under Suwarrow 1794–9; was wounded at Borodino 1812. Died 1812.

have hitherto come off with impunity, when they hear of a commanding officer being reprimanded after having gained a Victory with an immense disparity of force. Every thing is quiet for the moment, but will not remain so long if the King of Prussia [1] holds out good in his detirmination to oppose the French Troops entering Hanover. A Division left Vienna on the 7th, so that the question must now be decided."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

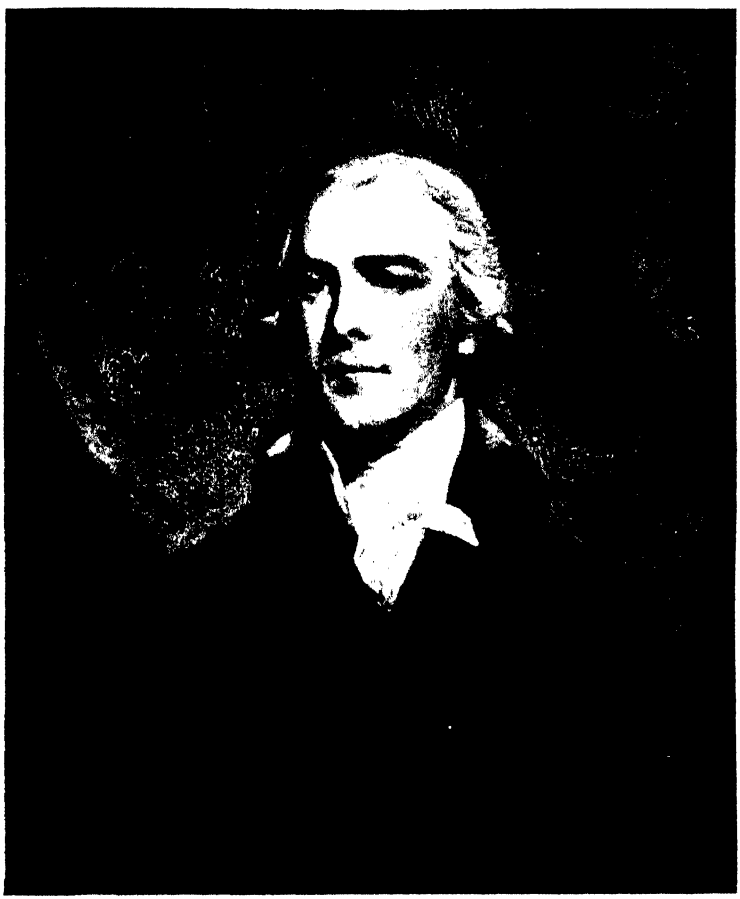
"DRESDEN, *February 6th*, 1806.

"We are now completely in the clutches of Frost & Snow & I fear that the communication will be interrupted. This comes at a very unpleasant moment as we are naturally very anxious to have some intelligence of the state of Mr. Pitt's health,[2] & of what is going on in Parliament. Our latest accounts are of the 21st. I cannot express to you how much effect has been created on the Continent by the accounts of Mr. Pitt's illness, & it is the greatest proof of his reputation. The same persons who assert that all our desasters took their rise in Austria having been hurried into the War by our Ministery, & consequently that the loss of the Continent may be laid at Mr. Pitt's door, do not deny that his death would be the greatest triumph to Bonaparte & express their conviction that Bonaparte considers him as dangerous an Antagonist in the Cabinet as Ld. Nelson was at sea. Though I mention what the Austrians say I am far from being of this opinion on the first point, as I believe that England did every thing that was possible; Austria was by no means hurried into the War, every preparation was made, every Magazine was full: if they ran away in 1805, I really do not see much probability that they would have fought in 1806, whereas France was increasing her means of attack every day & every hour.

"I may be talking treason to the Grenvilles, but I really think that Ministery had great merit in bringing about such a coalition that at three different epochs we

[1] King Frederick William.

[2] Mr. Pitt's health had been failing all through the autumn and winter of 1805. He died at Putney on January 23rd, 1806.



LORD GRENVILLE

had, or might have had the fairest prospects of success. Before the capitulation of Ulm, afterwards, & even after the Battle of Austerlitz, if the Emperor had not made that ignominious Peace.[1] The great fault seems to have been in the Allies having attacked on the 2nd. They pretend that they could not preserve their former position on account of want of provisions, but that was by no means the case. They were certainly rather pressed, but not more so than the French, & if they had waited they would have certainly been joined by the Prussians on the 13th."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *February 20th*, 1806.

"We have as yet no official accounts, but that in the News papers of the 4th seems pretty correct. I really believe that my joy at seeing Ld. Grenville at the Head of the Administration is not greater than that of all well disposed Continental Politicians who consider him as the only man capable of replacing Mr. Pitt. The ignorance of the Germans respecting every thing that is going on in England can only be equalled by our ignorance of German affairs, & that I assure you is saying a great deal."

Lord Grenville accepted office in January 1806, and formed the "Ministry of All the Talents." Fox led the Commons, holding the portfolio of Foreign Secretary. His influence in the Cabinet was in favour of opening negotiations with the Continental Powers, in the hopes of discovering some common ground on which the Peace of Europe could be established. His hopes proved futile, and with his death in the September of the same year, further diplomatic intercourse with the hostile Powers was recognised as impossible.

On October 21st Lord Howick, who had succeeded Mr. Fox as Foreign Secretary, formally announced the rupture of negotiations between France and England, which at once led to the outbreak of hostilities.

[1] Treaties of Schönbrunn (December 10th) and of Presburg (December 26th, 1805).

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *March 13th*, 1806.

"The partition of the Cabinet[1] astonished me as much as it seems to have done you. I trust that they will remain united, & I think "quant à nous," we have not anything to fear. As for the Continent all is lost, we must no longer look forward to alliances, but, as a person said to me a few days ago, we must in time hope to be the Jacobins of Europe, & endeavour to create a rebellion among the Sovereigns of Europe against their Suzerain Lord, Napoleon, for such he is to all intents & purposes. Austria after all its defeats is much better treated by him than Prussia, whose Sovereign he ranks with those of Bavaria & Wurtenberg. Did you hear Bonaparte's Bon Mot in ratifying the Treaty by which the Kingly title was given to the Elector of W. ? 'Il a assez fait pleurer ses subjets, il les fera rire maintenant.' Bonaparte has not as yet half completed his plans respecting Germany, & we may every day expect new encroachments, as the French Army instead of retiring has received orders to halt, & has even received reinforcements. There are still above 100,000 French on this side of the Rhine. The King of Prussia with the finest army of 250,000 men completely equipped, with which he could have done anything he liked, now finds himself incapable of resisting any one demand of Bonaparte, who treats him in the same dictatorial manner as the other Sovereigns of Europe. Many people doubt of his permitting the Prussians to remain in Hanover, & it should appear that the King is of the same opinion, as, though, the people of Anspach have been obliged to take the oath of allegiance to the King of Bavaria, no oath has as yet been administered to the Hanoverians. This country has as yet been most fortunate, but I fear that now that Bonaparte has no longer any respect for the King of Prussia, he will not long leave it tranquil, & that we shall soon hear of contributions."

[1] The Administration known as "The Ministry of All the Talents."

From Henry W. W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"DRESDEN, *April 3rd*, 1806.

"The prospect on the Continent seems to get darker & darker every day, we are doomed to see new demands on the part of Bonaparte, & new concessions on the part of those pusillanimous Beings who call themselves the Sovereigns of Europe. Bonaparte has completely thrown off the mask with respect to Prussia, which country is now as much under his *ferule* as Bavaria, or Prince Joachim's new Principality. The shutting the Prussian ports to the British Flag is only the beginning of a series of disgraceful measures which the King of Prussia will be obliged to pursue. I expect every day an order for the prohibition of English merchandise at Liepsic. Every attempt will also be made to oblige Denmark to shut all her ports, but I hope & trust she will be able to refuse. I conclude that war must ensue with Prussia in which it is easy to discover who will be the loser. All their commerce will be destroyed, & what is a very important object to them, they will no longer be able to be the carriers of Contraband Goods for France, from which the King of Prussia draws a great part of his revenue. All that has happened within the last months gives one still more pain when one reflects on the part which Prussia might have acted after the Battle of Austerlitz. If she had then come forward, she might have acquired, in an honourable manner more territory than she has now received at the price of disgrace & vassalage to France, for no other word will express the present relative situation of these Powers. The King is himself well disposed, but unfortunately he has not the courage to act up to his disposition, he is a personal coward, & he is surrounded by a set who know how to attack the weak side. Independent of his cowardice he has that horror of moving, or of anything like a change, that Bonaparte may do whatever he likes provided he lets his dear Brother remain quiet at Berlin. The Emperor when he was at Berlin certainly succeeded in rousing the King a little & in producing something like animation, but unfortunately as 'la bonne cause ne fait les choses, qu'a moitie, on a laissé

refroidir le fer.' The greatest spirit of discontent exists in Prussia, & the King has been twice obliged to issue an order prohibiting (on pain of losing their places) any officer civil or military, talking of the present affairs 'ou en bien ou en mal.' When such a spirit exists in an army it is not got rid of by an order signed by the King, in this case on the contrary, it rather augmented the evil which it was intended to suppress.

"When the officers of the Berlin Garrison returned home from the army which the King assembled, they went to Hardenberg's house & gave him a serenade crying out 'Vivat Hardenberg pereat Haugwitz.' Hardenberg has all along opposed the line of conduct which has been adopted by Prussia, & particularly respecting Hanover. He is to resign the moment that Haugwitz returns. If war is declared against Prussia I hardly know how I shall be able to get home. I must go by Austria, Silesia & Russia."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *April 10th*, 1806.

"Many thanks to you my dearest Mother for your very kind letter of the 18th ult. which by some mistake I did not receive with other Packets of the same date, otherwise I should have answered it by the last post. Either contrary winds, or what is very probable, the shutting of the Prussian Ports against the English vessels has prevented our receiving any letters later than that date.

"I do not know whether in the case of war being declared by England against Prussia, a British Minister would be suffered to remain in Dresden, but in case of my being allowed to remain here, I suppose that I ought not to think of availing myself of any leave of absence, indeed it would not be my wish, as my situation here might then acquire more importance. Paget [1] writes me word that he is going home immediately, but does

[1] Arthur, 2nd s. of 1st E. of Uxbridge.

not yet know whether Ld. Douglas, or Ld. Darnley [1] is to be his successor, I hear also from Pierrepont that Mr. Fox has announced his intention to recall him, tho' he is not in any ways dissatisfied with him, but because they have many friends to provide for. Entre nous I do not at all like the precedent of Foreign Ministers being considered as an appendix to the Cabinet, & being liable to the same changes.

"Hitherto Foreign Ministers have been unaffected by any domestic changes, & if they did their duty have never been turned out.

"We are anxiously expecting the English details of the Victory near St. Domingo. We have as yet only the French Captain's account, but even from that it appears that we have had a great superiority. These victories which are at all times great advantages for us have now the additional value of checking a little the French pride, I believe that one Naval defeat more than counter-balances in Bonaparte's mind ten battles won by land."

The Same

"DRESDEN, *July 6th*, 1806.

"I take even more interest than a brother generally takes in the marriage of his sister.[2] I will wait to write to her till I hear what turn the affair takes, but I am confident, that with such a Counseller as you, the decision whatever it may be, will be for her future happiness. How often do I feel the want of that advice here, where I stand perfectly alone and, where there is not a single person whose opinion I can ask. I cannot say anything of Shipley as I know so little of him, but from what I saw of him during the Christmas which we passed together at Wynnstay, I should think it almost impossible to find a more quiet gentlemanlike man.

"I am now abandoned by almost all my countrymen. I was really very sorry to part with Jones who set off three or four days ago, but who will not, I suppose,

[1] John, 4th E. of Darnley, born 1767; mar. 1791, Elizabeth, dau. Rt. Hon. W. Brownlow. She died 1831. He died 1831.

[2] Charlotte Williams Wynn mar. 1806, Col. William Shipley. See p. 15.

arrive in England as soon as this letter. I have charged him to deliver safe a Portfolio for Harriet containing all the Callôts which I had and all which I could procure. Genl. Ramsay[1] sets off the day after to-morrow, the only person who will then remain is Sir Brook Boothby,[2] a Seigneur of the 'old school,' who writes bad verses & still worse Pamflets, but barring this, he is a pleasant companion, as he has travelled a great deal, & relates well what he has seen.

"The great Mr. Duff[3] is still at Vienna, where as in every other town through which he has passed he soon consoled himself for the death of his wife. You will laugh at the idea of the visiting Cards which he had at Berlin. 'Mons. Duff, Conte Hérèditaire de Fyfe et Commandeur d'une Brigade de Milice en Ecosse.' He was so much laughed at at Berlin that when he came here he dropt the 'Conte Hérèditaire,' but not so the 'Commandeur &c.,' which produced the very natural question from the Elector why he travelled? & whether it was for 'military' knowledge? as he did not doubt that with such an extensive Command his absence would be terribly felt in England.

"I cannot send you any politics, as entre nous I know nothing of what is going forward. Lucien Bonaparte[4] will now soon be King of Rome as the point of Contest between the two Brothers has disappeared,—Lucien having once said, that he would not divorce his wife, remained firm in that detirmination, but adopted the mild 'mezzo termini' proposed by his brother of poisoning his wife which was accordingly done, and she died in the greatest agonies, after 24 hours illness.

"We had some days ago, a very fine story of a sortie from Gaeta, but as no confirmation has arrived, I fear

[1] Ramsay, Gen., probably James, 3rd s. of 8th E. of Dalhousie; born 1772; a Lt.-Gen; died unmar. 1837.

[2] Sir Brook Boothby, 1743–1824, 7th Bart., of Ashbourne Hall, Derbyshire, mentioned by one of Mrs. Delany's correspondents as 'one of those who think themselves pretty gentlemen "*du premier ordre.*" He published several books of a political nature. He mar. Susannah, dau. and h. of Robert Bristoe. He died at the age of 80 at Boulogne.

[3] James (afterwards 4th E. of Fife); b. 1776; mar. 1799, Mary Caroline, dau. of John Maurus and Louisa, Countess of Dysart. She died 1805. He d.s.p. 1857.

[4] Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino; born 1773, the 3rd brother of Napoleon. Made Prince of Canino by Pope Pius VII.

that it will be like the accounts of the Battle of the 4th Dec. which never took place."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"DRESDEN, *August 6th*, 1806.

"The last few days have produced a most essential change in everything which was going on, and I think that the Peace with Russia produced quite as much surprise in my mind as the signature of the Preliminaries in 1801. We have not as yet heard anything of a Peace with England, but I conclude that it must ensue immediately, if it is not already signed. I am in the dark on the subject, but I feel quite certain that the Russian Plenipotentiary could never have been authorized to sign a Treaty unless England & France were agreed on the Basis of their Treaty. I am already preparing myself for the effects of the Peace, & I accustome myself for it in private every day, in pronouncing with due decorum, the illustrious names of the 'Empereur Napoleon, l'Imperatrice Josephine.'"

The Same

"DRESDEN, *September 18th*, 1806.

"I need not now ever complain of want of business, as the motions of the Prussian armies & the Politics of the Court of Berlin furnish me with plenty of intelligence for the office. We have now one more chance for the safety of Europe, & if it fails as that of last year, it is not possible to compute what would be the consequences, our only hope must then be that the Edifice will become so great, as to fall by its own weight. It is singular to think that the Prussians are nearly at War with France, & quite so with us; if however, any one was to judge from the conduct of the Prussian Generals towards me, they would not much believe that hostilities existed between the two Countries.

"Prince Louis,[1] whose sentiments are pretty well known & who is the life & soul of everything which is

[1] Prince Louis Fredk. Christian, son of Prince August Ferdinand (brother to Frederick II of Prussia); born 1772; General in the Prussian Army, and first cousin to the reigning King of Prussia, Frederick William II. He was killed 1806.

going forward, has marked his civility to me in the strongest manner, & I may say his incivility to the other party. He desired me on the first day of his arrival here, not to consider him at war with England. His example has been followed by Prince Hohenlohe, the Commander-in-Chief, & the other Prussian Generals. He went, I own, rather farther than I could have wished, in inviting me, the only Foreign Minister, to dine at his house with all the Prussian Staff; to anyone else I should have sent an excuse, but when invited by a Prince, that was, of course, out of the question.

"Your last letter of the 21st Aug. prepared me for the final decision of my dearest Sister's marriage with Colonel Shipley. I wrote to her a fortnight ago. I wish of course to make them some marriage present, but I am very much embarrassed to find something on this side of the water which is better than in England. Perhaps you would have the goodness to suggest something to me. The sum which I mean to allot would be about 50 Guineas. Perhaps the best method of laying it out would be in joining with my sisters in the purchase of plate, which would be more useful than lace, & would save the trouble & expence of sending over Linen or Porcelain from hence.

"This is a very brilliant moment for Dresden as all the Prussians think themselves in duty bound, to 'fêter' the famous Madame Narryskyn, who is now here, & who is certainly as handsome as report stated her to be. She seems on the other hand to be the stupidest & most inanimate creature I ever saw. She travels with a most Imperial Retinue, among the most inferior of whom appears to be her husband. She returns to St. Petersburg as soon as the Empress of Russia [1] is brought to bed."

From Henry W. W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"DRESDEN, *October 16th*, 1806.

"Nothing of any importance has yet taken place, & the partial successes which the superiority of numbers

[1] The wife of Alexander I of Russia, and dau. of the Prince of Baden.

of the Enemy obtained are hardly to be regretted, but what is to be regretted and personally by me, is the death of Prince Louis whom I knew most intimately, and whom everyone is unanimous in representing as *la Perle* of the Prussian Army. He may be considered as another example of the vanity of Human wishes, for nine years he has been endeavouring to make the King come forward, and he has been killed by almost the first shot which was fired. During the three weeks which he was here, he hardly ever suffered me to quit him, & tho' I had seen him several times before, here, it was only then that I discovered the great qualities with which he was endowed."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *October 19th*, 1806.

"Long before this reaches you, you will have heard of the political arrangements which Mr. Fox's [1] death produced, and which I do not doubt in the present moment at least, offer any new channels of advantage to you, but I think it will be gratifying to you to learn, as it was to me to see, that while it remained undecided, your Uncle Buckm. had in the first moment looked to an arrangement which he thought it might have opened for you, and which he wrote me word he was ready to assist at once by a seat in Parliament (I suppose he meant Buckm. which Lord Percy vacated for Westminster.) The whole thing fell to the ground, and your Uncle appeared at the head of the Admn. But the kindness of the intention will I think give you pleasure. At the same time I must say that all my wise friends tell me that the only thing to wish for you, is that you may remain exactly where you are, nor will they even allow me to say that I wish for a visit from you. The dissolution of Parliament seems likely to produce an unusual ferment, and one of the first surprises that it has produced to me has been the tidings I have just heard of Mr. Wms's [2] intention of resigning Flint, & trying to place his nephew Shipley in his place.

"We shall of course, be on every account most anxious

[1] Mr. Fox died September 1806. [2] Mr. Williams of Penbedw.

for his success, and in none more than from its giving them a stationary winter residence among us all in London.

"Our royal visitor the D. of G.[1] was to me more entertaining than I expected, having given me a great many anecdotes about my favourite Alexander, and now that we may all praise him and look up to him again—I felt increased interest in all his stories of him. He talked, likewise of your Madame Narischin, quite as highly as you did of her beauty, and as much otherwise of her sense, but gave her credit for more sagesse as with respect to my favourite than the world in general do."

CIRCULAR

From Lord Howick[2] *to Henry W. W. W.*

"DOWNING STREET, *October 21st*, 1806.

"SIR,—I transmit to you for your information, a Gazette of this evening containing His Majesty's Declaration, explanatory of the causes which led to the rupture of the late Negociation between His Majesty's Government and that of France.

"I am with great truth & regard, Sir
"Your most obedient
"humble servant,
"HOWICK.

"Henry W. W. Wynn."

From Henry W. W. W to Lady W. W.

"TEPLITZ, *October 26th*, 1806.

"DEAREST MOTHER,—Here I am in the humble character of an *Emigré*, or, rather of a *Renvoye Extraordinaire*. The approach of Jerome Bonaparte and 6,000 French drove me away from Dresden, and I arrived here yesterday morning with my Russian and Hanoverian Col-

[1] Duke of Gloucester.

[2] Ld. Howick, Charles, eldest son of Sir Charles Grey, who in 1806 was created Visc. Howick and E. Grey. He was born 1764; First Lord of the Admiralty as Mr. Grey, in Ld. Grenville's administration. On Fox's death he went to the Foreign Office as Ld. Howick. He retired with his Party in 1807. In 1830 he became Prime Minister. He mar. 1794, Elizabeth, only dau. of Ld. Ponsonby. He died 1847.

leagues. I have not much time to write, but as this is the only opportunity I may have of writing for some weeks, I cannot let my messenger depart without a few words to my dearest Mother to tell her that I am safe and sound out of the hands of the French. I hope my retreat from Dresden will not have been disapproved of by my superiors, I did not conceive that my Post was any longer tenable, but I did not leave Dresden till I saw a party of Bavarian *Chevaux Legers* enter into the town. There is always some good in every calamity and that which I derive from the present disastrous times is the hope of seeing you in England.

"I trust my stay here will not be prolonged beyond the return of my messenger. I cannot describe to you the feelings of regret with which I turned my back to what may rightly be called the *peaceful vale* of Dresden. You will say *que la guerre ne va bien a aucun pays*, but certainly it suits none so little as Saxony, the inhabitants of which country have not known what it is to hear a Gun fired for 44 years. It seemed as if that country was doomed to be the only one in ignorance of the Horrors of War. Their turn is at length come and they feel it the more. The Elector is the most to be pitied; in addition to all his public calamities he has also the private one of seeing the impossibility of preventing the sacrifice of his daughter to the *quondam* Admiral but now General Jerome Bonaparte.[1]

"If you do not hear from me be assured that it is not my fault, but that all communications are cut off."

From Henry W. W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"KONIGSBERG, *December 16th*, 1806.

"I flatter myself that you will be all anxious to hear of my safe arrival at this place, and of my having escaped all the dangers to which I was kindly told I should be exposed. I met neither French Inquisitors or hungry Wolves, but the enemy I had to encounter

[1] Jérôme Bonaparte, born 1784, younger brother of Napoleon and made by him King of Westphalia. He mar. 1st, Miss Paterson (whom his brother forced him to divorce in order to marry Princess Catherine of Würtemberg). He died 1860.

was bad roads, & I will defy any country to produce the like; I travelled in a light carriage *drawn by ten horses*, & in several places we stuck fast & were obliged to have more horses, & men at the wheels to get it out. With the exception of 24 hours I remained at Cracow, we were 16 days & nights in the Carriage.

"I am ashamed to think how behind hand I shall be with my *cadeau de noces* to Charlotte, I have at present only part of it, I was to have received the rest in a few days when the French drove me away from Dresden. If I was not so fully occupied that I have not the time hardly to think where I am, I should not know what to do in a town which is, I think, the darkest & dirtiest I ever saw. . . . I have been twice in the evening to Princess Radzivil's [1] for an hour. All these misfortunes are ill calculated to heal the wound which she received by the death of her Brother. I had at first really a horror of seeing her, as she knew how intimate I was with him. She has also had the additional affliction of one of her Children being so ill as to be given over, but he is now better.

"God knows whether you will be able to read this letter, but I have been writing so much that both my hand & head require rest. . . ."

[1] Princess Radizivil, Frederique Louise, dau. of Prince Auguste Ferdinand of Prussia, and first cousin to the reigning King of Prussia, Frederick William II. She mar. 1796, Antoine Henri, Prince Radizivil. She died 1836.

CHAPTER VIII

AT HOME

1804—1806

LADY WILLIAMS WYNN'S correspondence with Charles touches on the exceedingly complicated politics of the day.

The internal affairs of Mr. Pitt's last Cabinet, 1804 to 1806, were by no means harmonious. He had first tried vainly to form a coalition with Lord Grenville, then in 1805 turned to Mr. Addington (Lord Sidmouth) for his support. In the meanwhile serious charges had been made by Mr. Whitbread in the Commons, against Lord Melville, on the grounds of maladministration of the Admiralty and misappropriation of public money. A Commission of Enquiry was appointed to look into the charges, and the tenth and last report of the Commissioners was presented in February 1805. Lord Melville in consequence resigned the Treasurership of the Navy, and during the June of this year the charges were pressed to impeachment. Pitt supported his old colleague, and his new ally Lord Sidmouth, left the Ministry. Eventually the charges against Lord Melville were not sustained, and in June 1806 he was declared by the Lords "not guilty," but Pitt's health had rapidly given way, under the strain of foreign as well as domestic difficulties, and he died in January 1806, without the satisfaction of knowing that his old friend had been exonerated.

Early in 1804 the King's health again became a

matter of concern to his Ministers, and of curiosity and gossip among his subjects.

The friction between the Prince of Wales and the King was also much canvassed in Society.

From Fanny W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"*April 5th*, 1804.

"They say that Lord Chesterfield [1] having a great desire to see the King determined, at the hour at which he was expected to ride, planted himself in the Riding House, *en fonction*, as Master of the Horse. Immediately upon his Majesty's entrance he is reported, in a breath to have said: 'What's that? Who the D. . . . are you? What's your name?' Lord Chesterfield: 'Sir. Lord Chesterfield.' 'Lord Chesterfield? what business have you here?' 'Sir, I attend as Master of your Majesty's Horse.' 'Master of the Horse! I'll horse you!' upon which the King is said to have seized the long whip, & to have persued Lord C. round & round the House, laughing at his capers & every now & then hitting him pretty *sharp*. If this story be true, on many accounts one cannot but lament it heartily, still I must own it would give me some pleasure to think that Lord C. had been *so paid* for all his vulgar practical jokes."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"GORHAMBURY, *August 10th*.

"I have been all the morning amusing myself with an old French Manuscript History of the Creation which from the quaintness of the expression joined with the old spelling & old length character, has given compleat employment to all my faculties,—you would have read it as easily as what I am now writing, & would therefore perhaps have found less amusement in it, but the clearness of the writing & the beauty of the Illumination would have had its full merit with you. There certainly are many fine old Specimens in the house of their not being a family of yesterday, & though we are no longer

[1] Philip Stanhope, 5th E. of Chesterfield, K.G., Master of the Horse; born 1755; died 1815.

taught, perhaps, to look up to the Old Chanc. as being as *pure* as wise, yet the seeing him over the Library Chimney in the midst of all his cotemporaries with all their Ruffs & Furs & Velvets forms a fine Contrast in ones mind with the figure of the Demagogue & his Rabble rout who have been displaying themselves at Brentford.

"The idea of a sort of Reconciliation being negotiating between the King [1] & P^re^ [1] through the medium of Lord Moira,[2] is universally believed. I *believe* I know that the D. of Portland [3] said last week, that a message was sent to the King from the P. desiring that he would take charge of the little Princess's [4] education, which message was most graciously received, but the Charge declined 'unless with the Mother's consent & full approbation.' This however I should think need not long delay it, as the Princess of Wales [5] would certainly not have much hesitation in seeing that in every point of view the child would be a good deal better to be under somebody's care than nobody's. The truth is that Lady Moira is the dear friend of Lady Elgin,[6] & that she really does want an Usher to keep the child in order. Some people fancy that this Reconciliation may lead to the forming a broader Administration. It is certainly the language of all Pitt's friends to say how much he wishes it, & how much he was struck with the particularly conciliatory disposition which Fox had shown in the opening Negotiation, but still I cannot believe that while Pitt has the

[1] King George III and the Prince of Wales.

[2] Ld. Moira, Francis, 2nd E., born 1754. A prominent and popular politician. He mar. 1804, Flora, Countess of Loudoun in her own right. She died 1840. In 1816 he was created Marquess of Hastings. He died 1830.

[3] Duke of Portland (3rd Duke), born 1738. At this time President of the Council. He had been Prime Minister in 1783, and was so again 1807. He mar. 1766, Dorothy, only dau. of 4th D. of Devonshire, who died 1794. His second wife, Anne Wellesley, whom he mar. 1816, had previously married Sir William Abdy, which mar. was dissolved in 1816; the lady was the natural dau. of Richard, Marq. of Wellesley, and Hyacinth, dau. of Monsieur Roland, whom he mar. in 1794, but by whom he had no legitimate issue.

[4] The Princess Charlotte, born 1796, therefore about eight years old.

[5] Princess Caroline, dau. of the D. of Brunswick.

[6] Lady Elgin, Martha, only ch. of Thomas Whyte, a London banker; mar. 1759, Charles, 5th E. of Elgin, who died 1771. Lady Elgin was governess to H.R.H. Princess Charlotte of Wales. She died 1810.

Staff in his own hands & can in any way keep it from the ground, he will trouble anybody to hold the other end.

"Are you not very glad of Ebrington's success at Barnstaple, beating Mr. Hunt on Government Interest, & Mr. Thelusson on his money bags by the pure weapons of Lord Fortescue's well deserved personal popularity. It is not a little gratifying too that our wise Rulers should find how much they have gained by the manœvre of turning out Sir E. Pellew."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *March 27th*, 1805.

"The tenth Report [1] that is, the eleventh & twelfth that are to be, engross all the attention from the highest to the lowest. . . . It is a thing sorely to be lamented (if there were no other Cause of regret for great men turning out Rogues) that it so exasperates the minds of the lower people & so sadly assists the arguments of those mischief-makers who strive so hard to persuade them that all their woes originate in the corruption & peculation of their Superiors. They were yesterday calculating that the Income of public money enjoyed by Lord Melville [2] himself, his sons, sons-in-law, & nephews (not including a single Dundas Cousin) amounts to £54,000 pr. ann. & still that was not enough. They talk very much of the next report implicating the great man Pitt himself on a Charge of total disregard of the Limitations on the issuing of Navy bills either with respect to their number or Application. That he can ever for a moment be suspected of having been drawn into such misconduct from any interested motive, cannot enter into the Speculation of his bitterest foes, but that from a temper naturally very assuming & rendered ten fold more so by the long enjoyment of uncontrolled power, he may have entirely lost sight of all Check or responsi-

[1] See p. 107.

[2] Henry Dundas, Ld. Melville, born 1742; Ld. High Advocate of Scotland 1775; Treasurer of the Navy and First Lord of the Admiralty 1804–5. Created Visc. 1802; mar. 1st, Elizabeth, dau. of David Rennie of Melville Castle, and 2ndly 1793, Jane, dau. of 2nd E. of Hopetown. He died 1811.

bility, I should not think by any means unlikely. It is supposed that he will at all events support Lord M. but the Addingtons are more than suspected of flying off. If that is so, it may break up the whole Firm, tho' many think that the Catholic question will ride paramount to all & keep them together. . . . Last Tuesday at the Opera Lord T.[1] went into Lady Castlereagh's [2] box where he found the poor dear Doctor [3] more than half seas over abusing Pitt like a pick-pocket & assuring Lord T. that he thought he had 'A very just Consumption of things in general.' Thus 'Nature show thyself how blazonest,' *Shakespeare*. They were all sadly in the dumps about the division of last night which was most unaccountably & provokingly small. . . .

"The Government of Plymouth is given to Lord Chatham [4] who had only £16,000 pr. ann. of public money before, & as Master of Ordinance ought to be in London, as General of district at Coyhth, & as Governor of Plymouth at his Government all at the same moment, but good *Connection* may supply ubiquity as well as every other desideratum. . . . I had a letter from your brother Henry in answer to that which I wrote to him about his Dulcinea,[5] not admitting any positive *Abandonment* to have taken place on either side, but I think evidently slipping away from it, & speaking with the greatest satisfaction of the Wisdom of having kept free of any sort of Engagement. . . ."

Her interest in politics does not prevent Lady Williams Wynn from taking an even deeper interest in Charles's own personal concerns, and once again she urges him forward on a matrimonial venture, once again he allows the opportunity to slip. But he was preparing seriously

[1] Ld. Temple, Lady Williams Wynn's nephew.

[2] Lady Castlereagh, Emily, dau. of John, 2nd E. of Buckinghamshire; mar. 1794, Richard, Visc. Castlereagh, the eminent statesman, who succeeded his father as 2nd Marq. of Londonderry in 1822 (see subsequent note). She died 1829 without issue.

[3] Mr. Addington (Ld. Sidmouth).

[4] John, Lord Chatham, eld. s. of William Pitt, 1st E. Chatham; born 1756; mar. 1783, Mary, dau. of 1st Visc. Sidney. He d.s.p. in 1835.

[5] Hon. Louisa Courtenay.

to rectify his sins of omission, and on April 9th, 1806, he married Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Foster and Lady Cunliffe.

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"WORTHING, *Friday, March* 1805.

"I do not at all admit the force of your arguments on the most interesting subject of your letter. You are neither so young or so romantic as to fancy that there is in some Corner a help mate *put by* for you possessed of that degree of perfectibility which speculation may teach itself to look to, but which Experience shews is not to be found. Your objection to my *favourite*, if it was worth combating, is in the first place founded on an error, in point of fact, there not being I believe in the world a Creature more attached than she is to her family, & certainly is idolized by them. The circumstance of the old Gentleman & Lady's not being particularly affable is too trifling to dwell upon, nor will you I should suppose ever expect to find 'Pa' 'Ma' & 'Apple-pie' all equally sweetened to your particular fancy. All these are only general remarks, for your general benefit as the particular Case to which they apply, is I fear, no longer within our Contemplation, though from what I have heard since I wrote last, I do not believe to be as desperate as I had thought it & if the Opportunity could be found I should be most anxious that you should put yourself in the way of it. Your excuse that you have never been within reach but once, is most *invalid* as you certainly might have gone up to the Box any night at the Opera, tho' she could not so well have come down to the Pit to you, which was what you were probably waiting for. I wish you would go to School for a little while to our poor Paddy persecutor, Mr. Rochfort, whose unexpected Appearance was what upset all the latter part of my former letter & whose unremitting perseverance would I am persuaded have a certain degree of weight, were it not counteracted by the constant resistance which I keep up to its influence. It certainly is now high time for you to look to the provision for your latter days which to ideas formed as yours are, will, I

am persuaded never be found but in a domestic Circle, & therefore it is that I so much wish you to accustom yourself to look at what is to give you through the reasonable medium of Common sense, & not through the fanciful one of a Novel writer or reader."

The Same

"WORTHING, *July 2nd.*

"I am full of indignation at Mr. Upton's [1] having with his one Eye carried off the Prize which no other younger brother had even Spirit enough to look at with his two. I really do feel *quite persuaded* that had you tried you would have had quite as good a chance as him, & in my Conscience I believe that without the smallest regard to her fortune (which however certainly had something to recommend it) you will never find any one as well suited to you, nor would her want of beauty, have been ever felt by you as a matter deserving of serious Consideration. You would laugh if you knew how seriously I lament your never having tried what I so often & so strongly recommended to you. I do hope you will take this, your Sin of Omission into serious & profitable Meditation & find some early Opportunity of profitting by it. I have had a letter this morning from Henry of ye 10th of June telling me he had had the Post before a letter from 'Louise' desiring to be released from her *Engagement*, which of course will, I suppose, put a regular Close to a foolish business exactly adapted to the ages of 18 & 20. Your brother will have bought a certain degree of experience which may be valuable to him, though not acquired perhaps, without some little degree of uneasiness."

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother

"SHREWSBURY, *October 9th*, 1805.

"Every thing relating to the Legion [2] etc. has hitherto succeeded as I could wish. The presentation of the

[1] Mr. Upton, probably Hon. Fulke Greville Upton, 2nd s. of 1st Visc. Templeton, who mar. Mary, dau. and h. of Richard Bagot and his wife Frances (youngest child of William Howard, Visc. Andover, and eventual h. to her nephew Henry, E. of Suffolk).

[2] The Montgomeryshire Yeomanry Cavalry, raised in 1804.

Colours & subsequent dinner under the Walls of the Castle was the most magnificent Spectacle & the most suitable to the dignity of a Castle that I ever saw. Conceive an area of about two hundred yards by one hundred, perfectly flat bounded on one side by the Castle proudly rising above four rows of terraces, on the opposite side by a thickly wooded bank, & at both ends by wood also. In this were laid six tables of 63 yards each & one of 30. Tippoo's tent & a row of Marquees pitched & about 1500 seated at dinner. The Powis' were all extremely gracious & I succeeded better than usual in my speech of thanks. I hear from all quarters of Lady Powis's being highly delighted etc., etc. She asked me afterwards for a copy of my speech but as I felt apprehensive of getting into the Newspaper I excused myself upon the general grounds of having no notes or memorandum of what I meant to say, which happens to be the case. . . .

"At length I am thirty & my dancing days are over. My last ten years have certainly been more uniformly happy & less chequered with undesireable events than those of any person whom I have known."

The year 1806 saw the close of two notable Parliamentary careers. William Pitt died in January, aged 47, and Charles Fox on September 13th, aged 57.

From Charles W. W. W. to his Mother

"WHITEHALL, *Saturday, October 9th*, 1806.

"I am sorry that you do not approve of a pension to Mrs. Fox as it seems to me a matter of strict propriety & a debt due from the Country to the wife of any Cabinet Minister who is left wholly unprovided for, indeed after giving £40,000 to pay Mr. Pitt's debts, £1,200 to Lady Hester,[1] etc., etc. to all the Stanhopes, I should think it disgraceful to refuse it. The solemnity of yesterday[2] was most awful to see within 8 months those two men for whom the Kingdom was too small laid within three feet of each other, to recollect all the triumphant display

[1] Lady Hester Stanhope, niece to Mr. Pitt (see Introduction).
[2] Mr. Fox's funeral in Westminster Abbey.

of eloquence & ability which I have heard from Fox, some certainly, at which I have paused & wondered that the human mind could produce such,—to see the manner in which his old friends & companions were affected, has made an impression which will not soon wear away from me. Poor Lord Holland[1] suffered terribly. In the crowd round the Grave I felt Lord Crewe,[2] who happened to be close to me shivering from head to foot. The ceremony in the Abbey lost much, from their chanting almost all of it. I think only two prayers were read. The Prince[3] was prevented from attending by the interference of the King with the ridiculous notions of etiquette, which as the Prince observes in his letter to Lord Grenville, were never brought forward against his attending Sir W. Fawcett's Funeral. The letter to Lord Grenville pleased me extremely. It is very respectful to the King & expresses the hope he had entertained, that he could not displease the King by any mark of respect to his private friend & the King's departed Minister, the last act of whose life had been a strenuous & successful struggle for the recovery of the hereditary dominions of the Royal family from perfidy etc. & trusting that he should be able to find other opportunities not less public for marking the high regard & respect which he had so long entertained for Mr. Fox. He concluded with saying that he shall not here attempt to express any thing of the confidence friendship & esteem he feels for Lord Grenville, as he considers this rather a letter addressed to the King's Minister than to Lord Grenville."

On October 25th, 1806, Parliament was dissolved.

In Flintshire, Col. William Shipley contested the county in the Whig interest against Sir Stephen Glynne, of Hawarden. Charlotte Williams Wynn's marriage

[1] Ld. Holland, 3rd Baron, nephew to Charles James Fox; born 1773. He died 1840. In 1795 he mar. the dau. of Richard Vassall, previously the wife of Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart.

[2] Ld. Crewe, 1st Baron; born 1742; M.P. for Staffordshire 1765–8, and for Cheshire 1768–1806, when he was raised to the Peerage. He died 1829.

[3] The Prince of Wales.

took place in the middle of the election, when excitement was running high. Sir Stephen, it must be remembered, had married her first cousin, Mary Neville. Both Charlotte and Lady Williams Wynn give Henry—still at Dresden—an account of the anxieties and mixed feelings which the wedding and election aroused.

From Charlotte W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *Sunday, November 9th*, 1806.

"With my mind very much taken up with my own concerns I sit down Dear Henry to write to you, so I fear that the composition will not be very lively.

"The awful day for my marriage stands now I believe *fixed* for Thursday next, and that you will allow is sufficient excuse if my letter writing genius should be less brilliant than usual. Indeed I begin to feel very uncomfortable at the thought of it and though I hope to be weaned very gradually from *home*, yet the change in my situation there, is still very great. I fancy that we shall go immediately to Llangedwyn, stay there a week then return here. The Dean[1] will *do the deed*, which I once thought would have made it much worse, but I *now* feel that no little circumstance of that sort can make a difference.

"I am glad that the Dissolution has agreeably brought down Charles and Mary,[2] as he will support me as much as anybody, but I could have excused its having at this moment occasioned the Election at Flint, as I think that had Col. Shipley been thinking less of Wynnstay and its inhabitants, he would have had a much better chance of success. I do not however quite dispair—the Election began on Friday and they know not yet how much longer it may last or who has the probability of most votes. It is a great object to me that he may get a Seat in Parliament, as he will then have a fair and unobjectionable reason for staying away for some time

[1] Dean Shipley of St. Asaph, father of Col. Shipley.
[2] Mr. and Mrs. Charles Williams Wynn.

from Parliament, but I wish much that Sir S. Glynne had not been his opponent for I fear that which ever way it turns out it may produce a coolness which would be very unpleasant. I wish that I could say that he, Sir S., had carried it on quite in a Gentlemanlike manner."

CHAPTER IX

1808

HENRY WILLIAMS WYNN arrived in England early in 1807. He had visited Vienna on a very short mission, in the November of 1806, after which he had proceeded home as quickly as he could, by circuitous routes. On January 27th he writes to Lady Williams Wynn from Malmö in Denmark, describing his voyage to Copenhagen on board a Danish vessel; this vessel, after having succoured a smaller craft which had sprung a leak, was herself driven on to some rocks. Passengers and crew were finally rescued by Swedish fishermen, and landed at Carlscrona.

During 1807 Henry travelled about England and Scotland, staying in various big houses, and also touring for the real pleasure of "sight-seeing."

The exiled Princes of the Royal House of France had found a safe refuge in England, and early in 1808 the Marquess of Buckingham entertained King Louis XVIII and the Bourbon Princes with great magnificence at Stowe. His invitation to his nephew Henry to join the party is given below, followed by Henry's account of the festivities.

From the Marquess of Buckingham to Henry W. W. W.

"STOWE, *January 3rd*, 1808.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—The recovery of my dear George [1] having allowed me now to fix my Frenchmen for Monday the 11th, I have been anxious to hint to you, that in your

[1] Hon. George Grenville, 2nd s. of 1st Marquess of Buckingham, succeeded his mother as 2nd Baron Nugent 1820; born 1789; mar. 1813, Ann Lucy, dau. of Hon. Vere Paulett. He d.s.p. 1850.

professional pursuits it might possibly not be indifferent to you in various cases that might occur hereafter, to have been personally acquainted with the whole collection *from first to last*, who come to me: so as I understand that the Wynnstay Ball will have released you in time, I have kept a bed for you, & I wish you to come hither that you may be made known to the King, & the whole family &c. Let me have an immediate answer to this letter that I may dispose of your bed if you do not think with me upon this subject, but the best answer is 'Ipse Veni.'

"Best love to your Mother, Watkin & brothers & sisters & all within their gates.

"Ever yours,

"NUGENT BUCKINGHAM."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"STOWE, *January* 12th, 1808.

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—Altho' I arrived here yesterday before three o'clock I was but just in time to see the reception of *His Christian Majesty*. They were all drawn up on the steps, when I, by dint of vociferation prevailed upon the Post Boy to drive in the back way. The moment he entered the House, the Band struck up, & Lord Buckingham conducted him to the State Apartments, where there was a *cercle* till he went to dress, which operation, being I suppose pressed by hunger, did not last ten minutes, but dinner was not accelerated as we did not sit down till ½ past 6.

"The whole of the Family are here excepting Beauglais, who is still ill. The king seems a good-natured good kind of man, but there is not certainly anything, either in his appearance or manners, very attendrissant.

"The dinner party yesterday consisted of 44, & is to-day to be augmented by 11 new arrivals. Among those yesterday were Lord & Lady Carysfort, Proby, Grenville, Charlotte & Fanny, Mr. & Mrs. F. Freemantle, Miss Wynn, Mr. & Mrs. Young, & a young Irish Heiress, Miss O'Donnell, Ebrington, & two Nevilles, Genl. Hervey, Neil Talbot, &c., &c. Lady Louisa Hervey, the Admiral & two Daughters, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd, Lord Temple & the

Duc & Duchess de Coigney [1] with two other Frenchmen arrive to-day. The dinner, *entre nous* (altho' there are four French Cooks in the House) was the worst I ever saw put upon a Table, & worse served than anything I ever saw before. Lord Buckingham took care of the King & all the rest of the Blood were obliged to take care of themselves, without a servant *literally* to take away their plates, or a glass of wine within their reach. The table was covered with dishes, which were so cold that they were not eatable with the exception of a *cold* Pye which from its proximity to an immense fire was warmed up again. After dinner Lord Buckingham got up & said 'The King permits me to give for a toast the Royal & Illustrious House of Bourbon, & God Bless them' upon which the King gave, 'God Bless the King & old England for ever' which Lord Buckingham repeated, & said that the King allowed him to add, 'The True Peace of Europe founded on a strict alliance between the two Sovereigns.' I fear that all the company will be noted in Bonaparte's black book, & that we shall pay for it if ever we go to France. When the first Toast was given the Band played 'O Richard O mon Roi,' after which the Master of the Band came up to Temple, & asked him whether the *Marseillais Hymn* would not be a proper air to play. We did not of course, sit very long after dinner, & by the assistance of cards & a little dancing we got on to near twelve o'clock when we all went to bed.

"We have to-day been out with the Harriers but had not much Sport. The King went with Lady Buckingham in the little Phaeton. Tomorrow we are to Shoot, & on Thursday the King & the other Princes are to plant a *Clump of Trees*, each man his own Tree. On Friday there is to be a Grand Ball & on Saturday they are all to go away.

"Excuse this hasty scrawl as we staid out longer than we expected. Lord Buckingham desires me to tell you that he shall not certainly leave Stowe before the 28th or 29th.

"Ever your most dutiful & affectionate Son,

"H. W. W. W."

[1] François Henri, Duc de Coigny, b. 1737, Marshal of France, a devoted adherent of Marie Antoinette. He served with Condé. Died 1821.

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"STOWE, *January 14th*, 1808.

"I suppose you will expect me to report the progress of the French visit here, though I do not think that any thing particular has happened since I last wrote. We every day have the health of the *Royal & Illustrious*, & he as regularly gives an appropriate Toast in return. Yesterday after the planting we had after the Toast '& may their Posterity last longer than the latest acorn of the latest Tree they have this day planted.' To which the King replied in English, 'Our Noble Landlord, to whom our gratefulness is as rooted as the oldest Oak.' No particular ceremony took place at the planting. I send you the Inscription for a Tablet which is to be placed on the Round Tower near which the Trees are planted. They all seem very much pleased with the attentions which are shewn them, & certainly as far as expence goes, nothing can be finer than the manner in which Lord Buckingham has received them.

"It is a thousand pities that my Uncle had not somebody from London to manage the whole thing, instead of having four men who call themselves masters & do nothing. Price is gone, & as his place is not yet filled up there is nobody to tell the Servants where to place themselves.

"The whole set went out Shooting yesterday, but whether it was that the Hares had been driven away, or that there are none, '*La chasse etait très mauvaise.*' I cannot say, that with the exception of one or two, any of the family have prepossessed me very much in their favour. Old Condé [1] is by far the best, the Duc d'Angoulême [2] seems a gentlemanlike man, but then one cannot easily forget how manfully he ran away from the Condé Army. I cannot of course judge whether the King is pleasant in conversation, but one question he made, did not tell much for his Historical knowledge. He asked me whether I understood Welsh, as he wanted to know what the Prince of Wales's Motto meant!

[1] A distinguished French General, died 1815, aged 79.

[2] The Duc d'Angoulême (1775–1844), s. of Charles, afterwards Charles X; mar. his cousin, Marie Thérèse Charlotte, only dau. of King Louis XVI, in 1799. He d.s.p.

"I long to know when you intend to come. Lord Carysfort has asked me to Elton, an invitation which I think I shall accept when Lord B. goes to London. I never saw a man more eager for hunting than Lord C. is, we are going to-morrow 16 miles to cover.

"P.S.—Dardis comes up every morning, so that you may expect a full & particular account in the *Oracle*."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"STOWE, *Sunday*.

'All the Frenchmen went yesterday & to-day we are almost reduced to a family party, consisting of however more than 20. The Carysforts, 2 Herveys, Fremantles, Youngs, Ebrington, & Nevilles are among the departures.

"Nothing could have been more pleasant than the whole of their visit, & every one was sorry to see them go away. The King behaved during the whole time just as one would have wished, gracious with as much dignity, as his porpoise-like figure would admit of. His last Toast struck me as particularly neat & well expressed for a Foreigner. *May the remembrance of our visit here be as agreeable to all present, as it will be soothing to us.* I do not think we have any chance of a connexion with this Royal & Illustrious House so far as the *Gentleman* is concerned, but *entre nous* I never saw anything so ridiculous as the conduct of the Lady [1] not so much during their stay here, as on their departure when she burst into tears, & remained weeping all day long. The Ball went off very well, she danced with all the Princes who had any *go* in them, & when they retired which they did immediately after supper in order to set off early the next morning, she would not dance.

"Lord Buckingham staid till the very last person was gone, in consequence of which, & of all his other exertions, he was yesterday so completely fagged, that he could not sit dinner out. He had a very good night, & tho' he to-day complains of a little headache, he is a great deal better.

[1] Lady Mary Grenville, only dau. of the 1st Marq. of Buckingham, afterwards Lady Arundel. She died 1845.

"This horrible frost has disconcerted my plans exceedingly,—I have four horses eating their heads off without having seen a hound since I have been here. We had last night a little snow. I trust that it is not the *Echantillon* of what you have in a greater degree at Wynnstay.

"No day has been fixed for my Uncle's going to town, & I think it seems likely that they will remain here till the first week in February. I cannot vouch for this it is only my surmise.

"I intend going to Audley End [1] for a week towards the 25th, & then proceed to Elton.[2] I wish very much to hear what your plans are, as I hope mine will in some measure correspond with yours.

"I think I have been rather shabbily used by the family in not having received any account of your theatrical Gaities."

[1] Audley End, to stay with his uncle, Ld. Braybrooke.
[2] Elton, to stay with his uncle, Ld. Carysfort.

CHAPTER X

1808

WHEN Henry, the youngest surviving member of her family of nine children, became twenty-five, Lady Williams Wynn's long guardianship of his patrimony ceased, and she handed over his fortune into his own keeping. During the years of her "stewardship" it had not grown less, and her letter to him on the subject shows that her husband's trust in her powers of management was not misplaced. Of the three sons, Henry inherited more of her business and financial capacities than either Sir Watkin or Charles.

Henry had begun his professional career as a boy, in his seventeenth year, and his niche at home was perforce one of no great prominence. From 1807 to 1822 he was without an appointment, but he could not bring himself to settle down to any home pursuits or occupations. He indulged his love of travelling, first by tours in England and Scotland, paying visits to the great country houses as they came into his route; then in October 1808, having vainly endeavoured to induce the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Canning, to give him a billet abroad, he arranged for himself a tour in the Spanish Peninsula, during the hostilities. Technically speaking, he was still His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Court of Saxony, and he continued to draw the salary attached to that post until 1816, when his successor was appointed.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"DROPMORE, *July 9th*, 1808.

"I had intended writing to you yesterday, my dearest Henry, but the variety of interruptions of my last morning in London would not allow of it.

"I have at last got the final balance out of my Guardian Accounts, & had the satisfaction before I left London of transferring into your name somewhat over £5,700 stock in your 3 per cents. which at £70 per cent. (the price they bore the day it was settled) is worth £3,900, & I have a further sum of £71 to be placed to your Account with Coutts. I give you all this in a very loose Stile, but I have not brought my papers here with me, having packed them for Wynnstay where I shall explain all at leisure to you, & shall hope to receive your approbation of my Stewardship. I consulted Lord Buckingham about placing it all in Exchange Bills, which he says is what he himself prefers to any other mode of disposing of it, inasmuch as it gives you 5 per cent. whereas you now receive only at the rate of 4½, & that he thinks the Stocks will fall in the event of peace, when there will be more channels open for employing money, & consequently a less glut of it in the market. Antrobus, however thinks quite differently, & says that his opinion is that peace would inevitably raise the Stocks, & that Ministers (the moment they could) would pay off their Exchange Bills at a discount. So you may weigh all this & operate for yourself, & I only hope that wherever you may decide to place your Money, it may not be with 'The Board of Green Cloth.'

"You are a very rich single man, & might, with what you have & a very tolerably portioned wife, be a very comfortable double one, which after all I am quite sure is the state from which you would derive most happiness. You talk of sowing Wild Oats because you hear others talk of it, not that it is a grain, the produce of which gives you satisfaction in reaping, or can satisfy the natural manly object of your mind; I say without reference to any human Being, as I am quite sure I have not in view one whom I could myself point out to you, but many there are, I am persuaded who would make

you a much happier & more respectable man than any Sower of Wild Oats, & it does grudge me as well as grieve me to see such valuable years of such a valuable life so passed. Without profession, without Parliament, a good & sensible man can make himself of the most essential use to his fellow Creatures, & in so doing put to profit those natural, as well as acquired, powers which were never given to be hid in the Earth like the unprofitable Talent. I must not sermonize one moment longer as my letter is called for, but you could not expect that I would notify to you so much 3 per cent. without making you pay for it by reading a little of a Mother's tediousness—which I certainly bestow upon you as heartily as any Guardee that ever gave up a Charge."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"INVERARY, *Sunday Evening, July 17th*, 1808.

"I will soon proceed to thank you in a more detailed manner for your letter, the receipt of which I barely acknowledged before I left Walkinshaw.

"From what I had heard from you I certainly expected a large balance in my favour, but I never dreamt of its exceeding £3,000, I am most sincere in my thanks to you in this respect, but I trust that you will believe me equally so, when I assure you that I consider this, as one of the least subjects of gratitude which I have toward you, during your long Stewardship, & that this last act was not requisite to my conviction of your being the most economical, at the same time that you were the most affectionate & best of Guardians. I should not have mentioned thus much, did I not receive the greatest pleasure in endeavouring to express that which I feel most warmly. I shall not say anything with respect to the remainder of your letter, as I have already discussed the subject with you, & I fear that notwithstanding all your excellent reasoning, I still incline to my opinion, that a man ought to remain single till he is perfectly convinced that he will make a good married one; that conviction I have not, & I therefore think I had better remain as I am for some time longer."

The Same

"DALWYNNIE INN, *August 7th at night.*

"Altho' there was not anyone at Dunrobin but Lady Stafford and Gower,[1] our stay there was most delightful. I have already mentioned how very civil our hostess was, I always thought her pleasant & affable, but I had not the least idea of her having so much quiz; whatever remarks took place after a visit from the natives, I never saw any person do the Honours of the place better, or in a more gratifying way to them during their Stay.

"It appears that Lord Stafford is perfectly right in remaining quiet at Trentham, as he is as unpopular as she is liked. All the Clan have now free access, whereas when he was down he wanted to establish public days like those at Alnwick, which Laurey, was too proud to submit to saying, that the object of his visit was civility, and not to add to the pomp of the family. With all her popularity, she is very much abused for turning off last year a great number of small tenants who had held land under the family for upwards of two hundred years, & making large sheep farms, but I very much doubt whether in a few years, they will not feel the advantage of this new plan. At present nothing can exceed their poverty & misery, & yet, there is hardly a day Labourer in the County of Sutherland. Every family has a small farm which they are too poor to stock with sheep or cattle, & in a bad year, as the last, when all their Oats were spoilt with the rain, they are reduced to absolute Starvation. I have seen misery in Wales, but till I came into this Country, I had no idea of human or indeed any other Creature existing in such habitations as I have seen, & their food is, if possible, still worse. Lady Stafford is doing everything in her power to make them more comfortable by building better Cottages & encouraging them to fish on the coast, but they are too much addicted to filth to enjoy the former, & too idle to attempt the latter.

"Tomorrow we go to the Duke of Athol's."

[1] Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, only dau. and h. of 19th E. of Sutherland; mar. 1785, George, E. of Stafford, Baron Gower (afterwards 1st D. of Sutherland). She died 1839.

CHAPTER XI

1809

DURING the autumn of 1808 Henry was planning a tour in Spain, where affairs were assuming very hostile appearances. The much criticised and debated Convention of Cintra, signed on August 30th, was barren of results, and the ink was barely dry before a "Treaty" had been concluded between France and Spain for the partition of Portugal. This Treaty was practically the signal for the opening of the Peninsular War.

Henry was still nominally H.M. Minister at Dresden, and therefore had to obtain leave from his chief at the Foreign Office before starting on his journey; but he greatly desired something more than mere official permission, and hoped to be an accredited Envoy from the Government.

His cousin Lord Ebrington attached himself to General Cameron's Army as, according to Henry's report, a *franc-tireur*, and gave his family at home considerable anxiety during the anxious days of December 1808 and January 1809.

From Rt. Hon. Thos. Grenville to Henry W. W. W.

"BOCONNOC, *September 14th*, 1808.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—Yesterday's post brought me your letter of the 10th. enclosing the copy of your letter to Canning, which appears to me to be in every respect quite unobjectionable, & very much what I had wished it, because tho' it was easy enough to write an angry letter, & tho' there was ample provocation afforded for

it, you will, I am sure, have satisfied yourself of the superiority that you maintain upon this occasion, by the temper & good sense which you have opposed to so strange a deficiency of both. I do sincerely believe that upon better reflection Canning will be ashamed of himself, & tho' I do not expect that he will have the grace or honesty to acknowledge it, I think you judge perfectly right in waiting three or four days in London for the possible result of your letter. Having no longer no motive to detain me here, I shall quit this place on Friday, & have written to Watkin to say that I will be at Llangedwyn on the 29th, where or at Wynnstay, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing my dear Henry.

"Ever most affectionately yours,

"THOS. GRENVILLE."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"LISBON, *December 15th*, 1808.

"Despatches were received this morning from Sir John Moore,[1] dated at Salamanca the 7th. inst., by which it appears that the accounts received by Sir D. Baird[2] of the immense slaughter of the French, where they three times in vain attempted to take possession of Madrid, & the Spirit which again began to shew itself in the North, had occasioned a complete change in the plan which the defeat of Blake & Romana had obliged him to adopt. In the first moment he considered his Junction with Moore as impossible & had actually began his retreat from Astorga towards Vigo with an idea of coming round to this place. At the date of Sir John Moore's despatches Sir D. Baird was again advancing with the greatest prospect of being able to effect a Junction."

[1] Sir John Moore, born 1761; 3rd s. of John Moore, M.D. He entered the Army 1776, and saw service in America. He was Commander in-Chief of the British troops in Spain 1808. While proceeding to the relief of Madrid, he was cut off, and retreated to Corunna, where, after saving his Army from total destruction, he fell, mortally wounded, during the embarkation of his troops (1809).

[2] Sir David Baird, 1st Bart.; born 1757. Entered the Army at 15; distinguished himself at Seringapatam 1799; Commander-in-Chief at the capture of the Cape of Good Hope. He lost an arm at the Battle of Corunna. He mar. 1810, Anne Preston Menzies Campbell. He d.s.p. 1829.

Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"LISBON, *December 31st*, 1808.

"I returned here two days ago from the Tour which I announced in my last letter to Harriet, & was very vexed to find that Ebrington & the XIVth arrived here the very day of my departure, luckily I was just in time to see him, but he set out early the next morning for Sir J. Moore's Army which however I fear there is little chance of his reaching. He is gone a *franc-tireur* with General Cameron,[1] meaning to ride Post Horse the whole way without taking a second Coat, & hardly a change of Linen. This may, I think, be called *roughing* it.

"Everything is going on as ill as possible, & I have been obliged to renounce my original plan of going by Badajos & Seville to Cadiz.

"A part of the French Army has already crossed the Tagus, & are in possession of Truxille & Merida, parties of Cavalry have also been seen no great distance from Badajos, so that I fear the game is completely up. The odds are also highly in favour of the French being in possession of this place in a month's time, for there is not any British Force sufficient to prevent them. . . . With a fair wind we shall be there (Cadiz) in a day & a half or two days, without ever being out of sight of land, & as the French cannot fly over the Sierra Morena, I shall at least have time to look about me, & by making Cadiz my head Quarters, I shall always be in reach of Gibraltar. After passing a horrible night at Castanheira, we reached Lisbon the next day. The House was better than at Torres Vedras, but as ill luck would have it, we had not been there long before we were greeted by the arrival of Bagage Carts returning from Sir J. Moore's Army, the

[1] General Sir Alexander Cameron, born 1781. Was one of the officers trained in camp at Shorncliffe by Sir John Moore. He was present at the Battle of Vimeiro in 1808, and during Sir John Moore's retreat he was engaged with the Reserve Army in covering actions. He specially distinguished himself at the Battle of Corunna. Afterwards he served throughout the Peninsular War under Wellington. He was wounded at Waterloo. He is said to have been "one of the very best officers of light troops ever trained by Moore and employed by Wellington." The regiment under his command was then known as 95th Rifles—now the Rifle Brigade. He died 1850.

drivers of which, were by turns so jovial & quarrelsome, that all sleep was set at defiance till near 2. As soon as they were quieted, the house was again put in confusion by the arrival of a fresh party, with a noisy child who having taken possession of our sitting-room, rendered a general removal of our effects necessary, & to conclude our night adventures, they, towards day break, with great acclamations, arrested a poor unoffensive Swede as a French Spy."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *January 7th*, 1809.

"I need not tell you my beloved Henry, what delight it gave me to open a letter from you describing a Sea Voyage as a party of pleasure. I am very happy to learn that you have been so well received by Sir J. Craddock, through him you will at least hear as much of the state of Spain as is to be picked up at Lisbon.

"Lord Buckingham is talking of removing soon to Bath, which stops my project of halting there in my way up. George [1] is in full force in the midst of the Christmas Circle, but still panting for Spain. Lady Buckingham has been amusing herself with writing an Epigram on the Prince & Princesse de Condé,[2] which might have begun 'Unlike my subject will I make my Song' having certainly in it a good deal more Spirit of all sorts than the Hero, & Heroine of it. The refrain is:

"Pop, pop, pop. Oh. Oh. Oh.
'Tis the Princess of Mo-na-co [2]
Who with Cupid's Bow
Laid Condé low
And without fear of miscarriage
Consents to a marriage.
Now at Gosfield Hall their Wedding they do keep
And in the Green Velvet Parlour the noble Couple sleep."

"This is quite Christmas Grub dearest, but I have nothing better for you, & to go on in the same stile, I

[1] George, Ld. Buckingham's 2nd s., afterwards Ld. Nugent.

[2] Prince and Princess of Condé. The Prince was a distinguished French General. He died in 1815, aged 79. He mar. the Princesse de Monaco.

must tell you that there never was anything so improved or so agreeable as little Mr. Shipley. . . .

"We have as much eating & drinking in these parts as they could have had in the days of Noah, but no giving in marriage. Catherine Neville [1] who is the great fountain of Intelligence on those Subjects, tells us that Lord Palmerstone [2] is to marry Lady F. Pratt,[3] which seems a remarkably neat Ministerial Alliance."

From Henry W. W. W. to his sister Charlotte (Mrs. Shipley)

"ELVAS, *January 10th*, 1809.

"MY DEAREST CHARLOTTE,—There are about 1,200 British Troops here commanded by Colonel Kemmis of the 40th, who has received me most hospitably & shown me the Lions which are very well worth seeing, & particularly Port La Lippe which is in the first Class of Fortifications. There are still the marks of the Shells, which were thrown by the Spaniards when the French retained possession of the Fortress after the Convention of Cintra. When the French advanced to Prenillo, the British Force here were in a very critical situation & Kemmis made every preparation to throw himself into the Fortress. It is impossible to conceive any thing more ridiculous than the appearance of the Portugueze Troops here. I wish Harriet could see a few of them at Drill. I do not know which are worse, the old Troops or the new Levies. It grieves me to see the English Muskets placed in such hands, they have not the least energy or Spirit. Colonel Kemmis does every thing in his power to make something of them, but without any success.

"We are as yet without any intelligence from Sir J. Moore's Army, we have reports of a great victory on the 28th & 29th, but I fear that there is little reliance to be placed in them. A Gentleman arrived to-day from

[1] Hon. Catherine Neville, eld. dau. of 2nd Ld. Braybrooke. She died unmar. 1841.

[2] Henry, 3rd Visc. Palmerston; born 1784; mar. 1839, Emily, dau. 1st Visc. Melbourne and widow of 5th Earl Cowper. He was Prime Minister 1855–8 and 1859 until his death 1865.

[3] Lady F. Pratt, dau. of 1st Marq. of Camden. Died unmar. 1822.

Seville, where they were as much in the dark as we are. I shall see General Cuesta [1] to-morrow at Badaos but I have no expectations of hearing anything from him. Col. Kemmis was obliged to send an English officer to follow the traces of the French Army, who were at Prentillo as no Spaniard would go. . . ."

From Harriet W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *January 21st*, 1809.

"MY DEAREST HENRY,—I have to thank you for a very long & entertaining letter which I received last week. This morning's post brought us two letters from you, one for Mama & the other for Charles, & likewise a letter from my Uncle Tom, mentioning that he had heard from you & wished very much to answer you, but thought it so unlikely that a letter could reach you in your present unsettled State, that he would wait for future directions. He expresses some uneasiness about Ebrington, whom he had not heard from, but supposed he had joined Sir J. Moore's Army, for the safety of which he says all London are in the greatest anxiety; the News grows daily so much worse that you will not wonder at our not being much delighted with your letter to-day, announcing your intention of going to Cadiz, however I hope there can be no fear of your not being able to go faster than the Army, even supposing you are in so bad a predicament as to fall in their way. . . . We have just had Sir Foster,[2] Harriet, Sir Richard Brooke & Brooke on their way from Porkington where they went to a Play, Farce, Supper & Ball, to which all the County were asked except us, which is exceedingly rude in Ormsby,[3] as we asked nobody to ours & therefore there was no cause for her to take affront—however we easily comforted ourselves for the loss of a ten mile

[1] A Spanish General, at this time 83 years of age.

[2] Sir Foster Cunliffe.

[3] Miss Mary Jane Ormsby, only child and h. of Owen Ormsby, of Porkington, Shropshire. Miss Ormsby was born 1781; mar. 1815, William Gore, M.P., who assumed the additional surname of Ormsby. Their s. became 1st Baron Harlech.

drive & back in a deep snow. They said the performance was excellent. They all came back delighted, saying that it was the best acting they ever saw, that Mr. Wingfield [1] was really excellent—his poor Wife amused them all by her *fidgets*, whenever there was any stop or hitch, her voice was heard speaking to herself 'Good Heavens! Whats the matter! I know it can't be my Rowland I dressed him quite ready,' &c., &c. Miss Gore, likewise excellent. Price very pompous in a gay white satin dress with Mama's precious diamond Pins in his hat, & very much affronted at being made to act a Servant in the Farce, saying he could not think it *quite proper* for a man in his situation to act Servant & *Livery Servant too.* Little Lloyd [2] very shy, & very bad. Miss Ormsby acted Ghost, as white as chalk & as graceful as a Mop Stick. Whititall Davies taught her how to act it, & amused them all by desiring her gravely to endeavour to *sail in*, always keeping her *draperies extended* in a *Horizontal Position.* Mr. Bourke has made a caricature of her with *all* her draperies (beginning at the shoulders) extending in a *horizontal position* & fat W. Davies kneeling below, endeavouring by blowing with a Bellows, to keep the draperies in his favourite *position.* The 'Mock Doctor' was very good but very short. They began it with a Prologue written by Mr. Kynaston [3] & spoke by him in the Character of Merlin, & Harriet Pigott as a female Ariel (which grieved her, as she is particularly fond of appearing in Male Attire, having acted Earl Surrey last year in a *tight knit* dress in order to show her *knees*, which as she is deformed are said exactly to resemble the *Goblin* Page's but nevertheless she is *exceedingly partial to them*) I thought it particularly stupid in reading & so did they find in the acting.

"I have now told you all our Porkington news & must leave off. . . .

"I must tell you of Forester,[4] who arrived at Belvoir in a *wig* & a pair of goggles, as an Irish Dean, & took

[1] Mr. Wingfield of Onslow, Shropshire.
[2] William Lloyd of Aston, Shropshire, born 1779.
[3] Mr. Kynaston, afterwards Sir Edward, 2nd Bart.
[4] Cecil Forester of Willey, 1st Baron, 1821; born 1767; died 1828.

them all in so completely that the Duke introduced him in sober sadness to the Bishop of Durham!"

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *January 29th*, 1809.

"The disastrous Events which accompanied the Retreat from Corunna have no doubt reached you, but as you may not get any English Newspapers with the names of those who have fallen, I cannot think it superfluous to say that thank God none immediately connected with us are of the number. You will see poor Cavendish,[1] (Lord George's second Son) Young Waldegrave, Lord Waldegrave's Brother, & Captain Duckenfield mentioned as having been lost in one of the transports on the Manacle Rocks, I really think this more heart-breaking than if they had fallen in battle. Poor Lady Waldegrave[2] has certainly been tried in the school of affliction more heavily than almost any body I have known of her age. Her husband who she doated on, was carried off by a fever at 30 years old. Her little Son was drowned at Eton, her only daughter died in her arms in child bed, her two only sisters died prematurely, & now this poor boy falls a Sacrifice (I believe) in his first Campaign. Lord Proby[3] came, or is coming home with Sir Samuel Hood,[4] but of our dear Ebrington, we have not yet heard anything. I hope he found his way across to Vigo from Almeida, or that he has returned to Lisbon, but I would give a great deal to know it.

"You will or will not see in the Newspapers that some part of that beautiful Edifice of St. James's Palace has been burnt down. Poor Lady Charlotte Finch and her sick Grand-daughter were obliged to be moved in the

[1] George Cavendish, born 1782, grandson of 4th Duke of Devonshire.

[2] Elizabeth, Lady Waldegrave, dau. of 2nd Earl Waldegrave; mar. 1782 her cousin, 4th Earl, who died 1789. She died 1816.

[3] John, Ld. Proby, afterwards 2nd Earl Carysfort. A General in the English Army; d. unmar. 1828.

[4] Sir Samuel Hood, 2nd s. of Henry, 2nd Visc. Hood; born 1788; suc. his uncle to the Barony of Bridport in 1814; mar. 1810 Charlotte, only dau. and h. of William, 1st Earl Nelson, and as such, Duchess of Bronté. She died 1872. He died 1868.

middle of one of those bitter nights. I learn, however, that neither have materially suffered & au reste the misfortune will not be very great. All I feared was that it might have been so burnt as to justify setting about building a new Palace, which I should certainly have much grudged for the use now made of it. . . ."

CHAPTER XII

1809—1812

In 1809 the attention of the whole country was suddenly diverted from the affairs on the Continent by the charges brought up by Colonel Wardle in the House of Commons against the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief. Mrs. Clarke, the Duke's mistress, was accused of trafficking in promotions and commissions, not only in the Army, but also in the Church. She was examined at the Bar of the House of Commons, and conducted herself with much levity. She pleaded, in defence, that the Duke had knowledge of all her transactions, and connived at them. Colonel Wardle became, for a time, the popular idol, as his persistence in dragging the whole scandalous affair to light pleased the public temper. He was not, however, entirely blameless, himself, with regard to the lady, and his own reputation was not enhanced by the proceedings, though for the moment he was regarded as a hero. A medal was struck to commemorate his action, and he was presented with the freedom of the city of London.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W: W. W.

" Brook Street, *February 19th*, 1809.

" . . . Ebrington contrived to give us all a compleat fidget about him for one fortnight, during which we knew of his having left Lisbon, but could not make out what was become of him, four letters however from him

at last arrived & set us at ease. This horrid business of the Duke of York & Mrs. Clarke occupies all conversation as much, as you will see, it does the newspapers, & I am shocked to find such Topics brought into general discussion between all the young Gentlemen and Gentlewomen of the best Ton & manners. The Gossip of the last four & twenty hours announces his resignation tomorrow, & some add that he means to demand an impeachment, being pretty sure from recent precedent what the result of that appeal would be, & that after consuming a great deal of time, & a great deal of red Cloth, Lord Gwydir [1] would be the only person benefitted. It is, however an ill wind that blows nobody any good, & Ministers have, I Fancy, congratulated themselves a little on the diversation which this enquiry has made of the public attention from the *exterior* events of the last six months.

"Everybody speaks of Lord Grenville's speech on the American Embargo, the division on it was reckoned extraordinaryly good. Neither Lord Ch[m] [2] nor the Duke of Rutland [3] appeared, which rather makes speculations."

From Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *February 27th.*

"London appears particularly dull, the disgraceful business before the House of Commons has been so exclusively the Topic of all discourse, & is so unpleasant to discuss, that I think even the dreadful calamity of the burning of Drury Lane will not be quite without it's advantage, if it makes people think & talk of something else. How providential that it should not have been the night of any performance at the Theatre, so violent, so rapid a Fire was, I believe, scarcely ever known. It has been calculated that from the time of its first breaking out to that of the falling

[1] Sir Peter Burrell, 1st Baron; born 1754; mar. 1779, Lady Priscilla Bertie, dau. and co-h. of 3rd D. of Ancaster. He died 1820.

[2] Ld. Chatham.

[3] John, 5th D. of Rutland; born 1778; mar. Lady Elizabeth, dau. of 5th E. of Carlisle. He died 1857.

in of the roof & Cistern, the interval was not sufficient for one half of the number of the audience to have escaped. The sight was most tremendous, as the Air was illuminated like noon-day for miles round, so that every-body's first impression seems to have been that the fire must be in the next street. The Princess of Wales had a Party at Kensington from whence I hear the sight was uncommonly fine, the reflextion of the fiery sky in the Serpentine with the shade of the leafless Trees thrown across it must have been magnificent."

"Feb. 28th.—Since writing the above I have seen the ruins of poor Drury Lane. Nothing is left standing but the Bow at the end which has certainly a far more beautiful effect from the outside than it had as a complete Building, the ruins were still smoking & the Engines in waiting, & frequently playing. . . .

"You will be surprised to hear that our Moccas friends Miss Devereux[1] & Mr. Wellington are going to be married. I hear Lady Hereford[2] objects strongly at which no one can wonder, as it is certainly an alliance between *la faim & la soif*."

From Lady W. W. to Mrs. Charles W. W.

"Brook Street, *Thursday.*

". . . The Newspapers just come in, & I hope from it that they have at last got through at least one side of this sad business, but what it is to end in, I believe nobody knows. Shocked I am to hear that there is actually a subscription opened in the City for purchasing an annuity of £1,000 per ann. for Mrs. Clarke! That some have already put down their names to £100 & that they give out that sixpences will be received in order that the majority of the people may have the satisfaction of contributing. In the midst of all this however, I hope Charles has transmitted to you the compleat justification which our country-man Wardle's character has received

[1] Charlotte, 2nd dau. of 13th Visc. Hereford; mar. 1809, Henry Wellington, of Hay Castle, Hereford. He died 1868. She died 1861.

[2] Marianne, dau. and h. of George Devereux, of Tregoyd, Brecon; mar. 1768, George, 13th E. of Hereford. He died 1804. She died 1811.

as with respect to the nature of his interviews with Mrs. C. which is asserted to be purer than the driven snow itself. Lord Folkestone says that Mrs. W. has been quite as busy in the whole business as him, & that so clever, & so active a little woman he never saw. She opens all letters, makes minutes of all the conversations, & arranges all the evidence. I understand Mr. W. means to make a public declaration on this subject before the whole is closed.

"Much has been said of the D.[1] asking for an Impeachment of which, after it has cost us all £10 a foot in timber & red Cloth, we know the result just as well at the beginning as at the end, but I rather fancy Ministry will try their strength or foully to bear him out."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"GIBRALTAR, *March 17th*, 1809.

"When at Valentia I saw an Officer who had been taken Prisoner at Saragossa, & found means to escape, his account of their sufferings during the Siege, & the inhuman manner in which these Heroes were afterwards treated by the French Army was truly affecting. He represented the Town as one Mass of ruins, with the most violent Epidemic Fever which in one day carried off 600 Persons. . . .

"I have as yet seen very little of this famous Rock but I never saw so exact a representation of it as the Panorama which was last year exhibited; as I sailed into Port, I was so well acquainted with the different Buildings &c., that it appeared as if I had been here before. I find myself completely in *Pays de connaissance* as the Captains of the three Ships happen to be particular friends of mine, Elphinstone Fleming, Brook Taylor's brother & Waldegrave, Lord Radstock's son.

"I have not yet had time to devour the English Papers, but have of course, looked over the Duke of York's business. I cannot help thinking that it is rather beneath the dignity of Parliament to be occupied

[1] Duke of York.

in examining Mrs. Clarke [1] &c., when so many other important objects require their attention.

"Adieu my dearest Mother &

"Believe me your Ever affectionate & dutiful Son.

"H. W. WILLIAMS WYNN."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, *March 2nd*, 1809.

"Ministers seem to be determined, in spite of all the facts which have come out in evidence, to carry the accused [2] through, & even to maintain him in his Office. I have myself great doubts whether they are strong enough even in doors to carry it, but if they should, the consequences out of doors will be most alarming. I heard yesterday at the Welsh Dinner, that there are addresses ready to be moved both in the City & Westminster in the event of the H. of C. deciding in the D's [2] favour praying for his removal & for the dissolution of so corrupt a Parliament. You will observe by his letter which was drawn up by the Cabinet that it is their intention, if possible, in the first instance to acquit him, & in the second, if that cannot be carried, to have an impeachment. A more absurd & nugatory proceeding cannot be conceived. The only crime that would warrant impeachment, is that of Corruption, which though there are strong grounds for suspecting, can scarcely be thought by anyone to be sufficiently proved by creditable witnesses to warrant a Peer in the Verdict of guilty.

"By the Duke's own letters, it however, appears clearly that he suffered this Woman to be a regular channel of military applications to him, & that through her, he returned answers, & it is admitted that he made her Foot-boy an Ensign in the Army. These are facts, which though they are not such crimes as a Court of

[1] A Committee of the whole House was appointed to go into the matter. The Duke resigned his office before the proceedings were ended, and the investigation went no further.

[2] Duke of York.

Justice could take cognizance of, yet prove such flagrant mis-conduct that the H. of C. would neglect their duty, if in some way they do not recommend that the person who has been guilty of them, should be removed from the important & responsible situation of Commander-in-Chief.

"In one respect this business has been of service to Ministers, for it has diverted the public attention from Cintra & Corunna. Still you see how bad an appearance they have made on their divisions in both Houses. They have mismanaged the whole of the enquiry in a manner which cannot be conceived by any person who was not present. Their first intention after the charge assumed so serious a complexion was that the D. should resign, but by the threat of dismissal they were terrified into their present resolution of carrying him through. Still I doubt their being strong enough, particularly in their present state of disunion. Neither the Duke of Portland [1] nor Lord Chatham [2] nor the Duke of Rutland sent their proxies to the Division in the House of Lords, & from those in the House of Commons, Tichfield, Lord W. Bentinck & Cholmondeley were absent. The order for the House being called over may be of some service to them, by bringing up some of those who are waiting to determine which side they will take, but if forced to an early decision will, of course, take the inside. You will be glad to hear that Pitt's Speech on Cintra is universally allowed to be the best which has been made this year.

"The burning of Drury Lane was without exception, the most magnificent scene I ever yet witnessed. The whole atmosphere was illuminated as far as Windsor. The effect of it from Westminster Bridge where I saw it, was increased by the clear & unruffled reflextion of the flames in the water. The whole of that immense roof, & of the Apollo Tower above it was wrapt in one blaze, & the only representation which could give you an idea of it is Loutherbourg's of the fire of London, to which it bore a striking similarity, for you will recollect, that is taken from London Bridge at the moment of the conflagration of the Steeple of St. Paul's.

[1] Prime Minister (March 1807—December 1809).
[2] Master-General of Ordnance.

"Lord Morpeth [1] told me he had received a letter from Lord Holland of the 9th Feb. dated at Seville, but as you were not mentioned there, I suppose you had set off before that day. He represents the news of Moore's death & the embarkation to have produced the most unfavourable impression to our interests, & the refusal to admit our Troops into Cadiz seems still further to confirm him. The Newspapers will inform you in how shabby a manner, Ministers, to justify themselves, laid the blame upon Moore, which every body knows ought to have rested on their own shoulders. On Cintra they made a most ridiculous figure. Castlereagh's speech was answered by Canning's,[2] & Perceval [2] took a ground still different from the other two.

"You will perceive that I was on the select Committee for examining Mrs. Clarke's letters. Some were highly ridiculous, particularly one from O'Meara the Candidate for a Bishopric, who invites her to a Tour in Ireland, & assures her that he 'will guard her from Pikes & threshing machines.'

"Has Harriet told you of the accident which has prevented Sir Samuel Hood from taking his seat in the House or Hoisting his Flag? He ordered his bed to be warmed, but got in without waiting for it, whereon the attentive Abigail without noticing that he was there inserted the warming pan with so much effect, that for these three weeks he has been unable to stand or sit.

"To complete the present discredit of Royalty among us it is confidently stated that Lord Oxford has commenced an action against the Duke of Cambridge.[3] If true, it is singularly unlucky that this should be the exact moment for such a circumstance coming out against the only one of the brothers who has hitherto maintained a decent & respectable character.

"The Prince most wisely observes a strict neutrality

[1] Ld. Morpeth, afterwards 6th Earl of Carlisle; born 1773; mar. 1801, Georgina, dau. of 5th Duke of Devonshire. He died 1848.

[2] Canning, the Foreign Secretary, and Spencer Perceval, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the Commons in the Duke of Portland's Ministry.

[3] Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, 7th s. of King George III; born 1774; mar. 1818, Princess Augusta, dau. of Landegrave of He He died 1850.

during the whole enquiry & will neither be a party to the attack, or share the disgrace of his brother. Wardle is, of course the Hero of the mob, & will probably be Burdett's [1] Colleague at the next general Election. The effect which the business has produced through the country, is from all accounts unprecedented, & all the old Jacobin leaven is set in ferment to get petitions for reform in Parliament &c."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *March 14th*, 1809.

"The horrible event in the Paget family makes perhaps a worthy diversion of the public attention from Mrs. Clarke. His family are all in the deepest affliction, & to poor Lord Uxbridge [2] it will probably in mercy be a deathe blow. His grey hairs have, in truth been brought by his Children with sorrow to the Grave, & affords a striking Contrast to those which (in despite of Age) might if it were possible receive the brilliant colours of Youth from the kindness of good Conduct of *such Relatives*. God Almighty bless you individually my beloved Son for your valuable Contribution to this message of happiness. Adieu. All the Parenté are well & comme a l'ordinaire. Very dull Operas without Singers, or Beaux, no Theatres, no Balls, No Assemblies even.

"In reading over my letter it occurs to me that you may, by missing your Newspapers, not know that

[1] Sir F. Burdett (1770–1844), 3rd s. of Sir Robert, 4th Bart.; mar. 1793, Sophia, dau. of the great banker, Thomas Coutts. First entered Parliament 1796. An active opponent to the Tories, and a keen advocate for Parliamentary reform. He seconded Col. Wardle's motion for an enquiry into the conduct of the Duke of York on the bestowal of Commissions. After many Parliamentary vicissitudes, he threw his influence, in 1837, on the Conservative side, and represented North Wilts in that interest until his death.

[2] Henry Bayly, who took the name of Paget on succeeding his cousin as 9th Baron. He was created Earl of Uxbridge in 1784. Mar. Jane, dau. of Very Rev. Arthur Champagne, Dean of Clonmacnoise. By her he had twelve children. Died 1812.

it, alludes to Lord Paget's [1] having gone off a week ago with Lady Charlotte Wellesley, leaving 8 Children in his own house & 4 in hers. What a misfortune to his family that he did not find in Spain the Tomb of honour which they say he so eagerly sought. For his Companion in disgrace we must in charity remember the heavy degree of insanity which prevails throughout her family, but it is indeed horrible & alarming to see how these instances of depravity multiply upon us."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"CADIZ, *April 23rd*, 1809.

"I am heartily tired of this place, yet being in daily expectation of embarking, I know not where to go to, the only Society here is that of the Merchants who are mostly *Hiberno-Spanish*, a transplantation which has not at all succeeded.

"Lord & Lady Holland came here a fortnight ago, but at the end of two days Her Ladyship found that there was no possibility of existing here, & nothing would content her, but returning to Seville, apparently *bien malgré* Lord Holland, who does not, however, I think, appear very anxious to get back to England. The fact is he is so completely a Spaniard that his opinion of the cause is very different from that entertained by the opposition in England, & he therefore prefers remaining here, to expressing his Sentiments in England. He has been sanguine all along, but is now more so than ever. Affairs certainly now bear a *rather* better appearance than some time ago, & if there is any thing like an active Government I should be as high in my expectations as any one, at present they will think themselves

[1] Henry William, 2nd Earl of Uxbridge and afterwards 1st Marquess of Anglesey. A very distinguished soldier, at Waterloo and in the Peninsula. Field-Marshal. He mar. 1st in 1795, Caroline, dau. of 4th E. of Jersey, by whom he had eight children. (She mar. 1810 6th D. of Argyll.) He mar. 2ndly, 1810, Charlotte, dau. of 1st Earl Cadogan and wife of Hon. Sir Henry Wellesley (afterwards Earl Cowley), by whom he had six children.

very well off, if the French leave them in *Statu quo* without attacking them. The number of discontents is very great, & the Central Junta seem more occupied in publishing Proclamations declaring it to be High Treason to speak ill of them, than in providing for the public safety."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"PALL MALL, *May 14th*, 1809.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—The most marked feature which has appeared in politics since I last wrote to you has been the widening of the breach between the moderate & the violent parts of the Opposition. It is not surprising that the latter have been so long elated by Wardle's success & popularity that they no longer keep any measures, but bring on their own motions without concert or communication, & stay away from those which originate from us. You will perceive, if the 'Statesman' should reach you, that I was invited to the City Dinner but did not think it advisable to commit myself among so many red hot radical reformers. Madocks has twice brought forward a Charge against Castlereagh & Perceval[1] for selling seats, but with less ability than those who rate him lowest could have expected. In the meantime the moderate part of the Opposition excuse themselves from going into enquiries into abuses, which having been common to all administrations can be productive of no other consequence but that of injuring in the public feeling the character of every man who has ever held a considerable public situation, by their support to a bill introduced by Curwen to prevent the sale of seats in the future. This is a practical & not speculative improvement, & may undoubtedly (if carried) produce much advantage. That it will be carried is however, very doubtful, as it will be opposed by all the violent, both among the Jacobins & Anti-jacobins. Some very sharp language past in

[1] These charges of corrupt practices were negatived, and the matter subsequently dropped by Parliament.

the House on Friday between Ponsonby & Whitbread [1] in consequence of the latter having reprobated the conduct of Austria in going to war as perfidious towards France. Meantime Administration flounders on awkwardly & disgracefully indeed, but still notwithstanding the defection of County Members & Country Gentlemen upon several late occasions, they go on & will I have no doubt continue so to do unless some calamity great enough to render the situation of the Country irretrievable should oblige them to make room for men of superior abilities, when no abilities may be sufficient to avert our fate. Tierney the other day on somebody's telling him that Ministers were much frightened, answered it might be, but that like frightened Horses they would remain in the Stable till they were burnt. Lord Wellesley's [2] acceptance of the Spanish Mission excited very general surprise, especially as not three days before he had the promise of the Seals of the War Department in case Castlereagh had been voted out of the House of Commons, in consequence of which all his friends such as Sir H. Montgomery, Blatchford, Prendergast & Allan voted in opposition on that occasion. I must, however, freely allow that I think it the best appointment that could be made, & only regret that it did not take place last year. Why he continues dawdling here I cannot conceive, unless it is to provide carriages & other Gegaw nonsense to encrease the splendor of his Mission. The folly & impropriety of Frere's conduct have been so universally reprobated on all sides, that there is little fear that even the arrogance of his Patron should soon bring him back into diplomatic employment.

" So much for public news of which if Lord Holland is with you at Cadiz you will probably hear more than I can tell you. I feel somewhat afraid of his being ensnared by the enragez, but as Lord Grey has entirely separated from Whitbread & continues to agree & co-

[1] Sam. Whitbread; born 1758; M.P. 1790; an ardent follower of Charles Fox; mar. 1789, Lady Elizabeth, dau. of 1st Ld. Grey. He died, by his own hand, 1815.

[2] Richard Wellesley, eld. s. of 1st Earl of Mornington; born 1760; Gov.-Gen. of India 1799; raised to an Irish Marq. in that year. He died 1842.

operate entirely with Lord Grenville, I trust Lord H. will be safe."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"WYCOMBE, *July 12th.*

"Pray what think you of your worthy Countryman Mr. Wardle? I verily think he must now sorely lament his Coyness in refusing the presents offered him, which never could have been applied in more strict justice than in discharging his engagements to Mrs. Clarke. They say he is quite ruined, that there are of course many other demands upon him of this same nature & with the same claim, & that nothing but his being in Parliament keeps him out of the Fleet. I grieve for his poor Mother who from her age & seclusion might under any circumstance of less flagrant Notoriety than these, have carried to her Grave the vanity of having given a second Cato to the World. The Triumph & Exultation of the Yorkists is very great, though certainly founded on the gratification of the foul spirit of revenge. Not a shade the fairer do they grow for any die deeper than black with which their adversary may be spattered. It is not a week ago since a Gentleman calling on the D. of Y. found his Hall filled with Camp equipage, & some will still believe that if the début in Holland is tolerably promising, he will still follow & supersede Lord Chatham but I can not think they would dare to hazard a measure so unpopular. A Military Man (Col. Le Marchant) dined here to-day & says there are no less than *800* pieces of amunition of different sorts to be embarked, which he thinks must be to assist the Prussians who are without any, & to enable us to defend some dépot & post of valliement. He says no siege of importance will be undertaken so late. Lord Wellesley lingers still, professedly from Gout, but many think to watch for the D. of Portland's death which the medical people say cannot be averted another month. I should however take great odds in that event on Lord Bath"[1] against

[1] Ld. Bathurst, 3rd Earl; born 1762; President of Board of Trade 1807–12; Sec. of War and Colonies 1812–27; Pres. of the Council 1828–30; mar. Lady Georgina, dau. of Ld. George Lennox, and sister to the 4th Duke of Richmond. He died 1834.

the field. Lady Bath. & all the young family were to succeed me last Sunday at Dropmore, & Lord Bath[st] to follow them on Tuesday 'if he possibly could.' I suppose it more than possible or probable that he has found he '*could not*' but I cannot at all for my part understand his having the option. Tierney [1] likewise went there on Sunday, which I was very glad of, as the report was again most sedulously spread in London that he was *off*."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"PORTSMOUTH, *August 11th*, 1810.

"I dined yesterday at Lord Keith's,[2] who lives about six miles from this place. I was surprised to find Her Ladyship is again in a family way, so that Miss Mercer may still lose her Irish Title. As you have not any Correspondents in London, you may not have heard of Lady Westmorland's [3] attempt to kill herself. She had had a violent dispute with His Lordship about her going abroad again, & taking the child with her, which ended by her announcing her intention of stabbing herself, to which Lord Westmoreland [3] only replied pooh, pooh, & went away, not thinking that any such good fortune would happen to him, in a few minutes she rung for Lord W. who found her covered with blood. I do not understand that the Wound was either deep or dangerous, of that probably Her Ladyship took very good care."

An event of great family interest now looms large in the letters sent to Henry on his travels. Harriet, who

[1] George Tierney; born 1761. An eminent politician. In May 1798 he fought a duel with William Pitt on Wimbledon Common. He held office under Ld. Grenville 1806, and Canning in 1826. He died 1830.

[2] George, 1st Visc., Admiral; mar. 1st in 1787, Jane, dau. of William Mercer, of Aldie (by whom he had one dau., Margaret [Miss Mercer], who mar. Comte de Flahault and became, on her father's death, Baroness Keith); he mar. 2ndly in 1808, Hester Marie, dau. of Henry Thealo and his wife (afterwards Mrs. Piozzi). Ld. Keith died 1823.

[3] John, 10th E. of Westmorland; born 1759; mar. 1st, 1782, Sarah, only dau. and h. of John Child, of Osterley. She died 1793. He mar. 2ndly, 1800, Jane, dau and co-h. of R. H. Saunders, M.D. She died 1857. He died 1841.

could not be persuaded to look favourably upon the eligible Sir Charles Saxton as a suitor, fixes her affections irrevocably upon Mr. Cholmondeley of Vale Royal. That his wooing was handicapped and thwarted by the attitude of Lady Williams Wynn and the brothers and sisters is very evident, but at last the elderly suitor was permitted to put the question, which, it would seem, the young lady was all eager to answer, and Mr. Cholmondeley carried off his bride in triumph.

Henry hears of the likelihood of this event, as a rumour from travellers recently out from England; then, weeks after its accomplishment, he receives letters of confirmation.

Meanwhile, in his wanderings in Syria, he meets his cousin Lady Hester Stanhope. The letters describing this meeting are well prefaced by one from Lord Ebrington, written before Lady Hester began her journeys in the East, and when her eccentricities were less pronounced than in later years. When this strange lady left England in 1810 there was no reason to think that she had any fixed ideas to her future. Sir John Moore's death was a blow to the high hopes she had cherished; whether under different circumstances they would have matured, we cannot tell, but the toll of Corunna had blighted them, and she drifted, without settled anchorage, to Syria, where the lure of the East enveloped her.

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"CADIZ, *September 17th*, 1810.

"I have not heard a word from England since I left it, my natural anxiety to have a letter is augmented by a report which Freemantle brought respecting Harriet. It is particularly provoking that at this moment there should be a probability of my remaining uninformed for some time as it is very much apprehended that the Packet which sailed a fortnight after my departure, has been taken. She has never

made her appearance here, tho' several Vessels who sailed after her have arrived. Freemantle said that he heard it so positively asserted that I do not know how to doubt it, tho' I own it surprises me a good deal. There is certainly a difference in age, but he is so good a fellow, & we have all known him so long, that I cannot but rejoice at it, & applaud her good sense in sacrificing looks etc. for more material qualities. After all the report may not be true, I shall not therefore say anything more on the subject, till I am better informed."

From Fanny W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *October 13th.*

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I leave it to Harriet & her little enclosure to inform you of the most interesting [event] which occupies & engrosses all our minds, & certainly does give a promise of as much happiness as can reasonably be expected. The alteration which the decision of yesterday has made in her Face, which had certainly for the last three weeks or Months looked very anxious & bilious was most pleasing to behold, & as to him, he does look quite as happy as heart can wish. I really hope & trust we have every reason to be the same. His long preference, excellent character, neighbourhood to, & affection for all she loves are obvious advantages, so are the only two per contras, as to the one it is the point of all others upon which her own judgement must decide, & which if she does not think an objection, nobody else can, as to the other, he has so much exceeded the expectations & even the wishes of all her friends in offering to bind himself by every tie of Law, as well as of Honour, that even my dear anxious Mother is almost, if not entirely without apprehension. She is highly pleased with his extraordinary openess, & kindness of Manner, & his excessive delight raises her sinking spirits. Poor Harriet I pitied very much on the day before yesterday, she had been all day expecting him, knowing he was coming to receive his final answer, & to make his last direct application to herself, just as the awful moment drew nigh, she saw not his Carriage driving up,

but one containing G. & Car. Neville, coming unexpectedly from Hawarden, & ten minutes after spied his curricle. She took to her heels, & it was decided that on account of this *contre temps* they must meet *comme si rien n'etait*, & reserve all other communications to the next Day. I then got them all off for three or four hours to Llangollen, & when we returned found all settled & kept our guests so completely in the dark that after dinner, while we were announcing the event to Charles & Charlotte & Uncle Tom. Car was writing down a Bet which G. had made with me in the morning that Mr. Cholmondeley never married, when five minutes afterwards they *were told* it was scarcely possible to make them believe we were not making fools of them.

"G.[1] tells me he hears there is a grand hitch in the *Arundel Junction*, a coolness in the Hero himself with backwardness & unwillingness to come forward in all his family, when in any other family where the *ruler of the roast* had not so completely set her papist Heart upon it, the thing must be at an end necessarily. It grieves one to think that our Cousin should be thrown away upon a man, or at least a family who seem so totally insensible of her merits.

"Next week Mr. Cholmondeley must be absent some days, & we go to G. Grove[2] while Watkin is at Holywell, I fancy as I cannot discover the means of dividing my person, the whole of it will remain with poor dear Charlotte, whom I have not seen for so long, while more than half my heart will be here taking care of my dearest Mother, who in addition to all her cares will have the *desagrèment* of receiving Lady K. Forrester & the Duchess with whom she would feel too much on form to be comfortable. To-day George & I drove over to Acton to announce the News, it was rather entertaining to hear her Ladyship's[3] fine speeches about a Man

[1] George Grenville, who succeeded his mother the March. of Buckingham to the Barony of Nugent on her death in 1812. The reference is to the marriage, which eventually took place in 1811, between Mary, only daughter of Ld. and Lady Buckingham, and James, 10th Baron Arundel. Lady Buckingham was the only daughter and heir of the last Earl Nugent of that creation, and being a Roman Catholic, her daughter was educated in her faith, and her sons in that of the father. [2] Golden Grove. [3] Lady Cunliffe.

whom we all know she hates like poison, tho' why no mortal could ever discover; as is usually the case he fully sympathizes, but I should like to know who began hating first. I am a great deal too full of all this matter, & too stupid to write on any other, fortunately in this you are as much."

From Harriet W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"My dear Henry,—It is impossible for me to allow any body but myself to tell you anything so interesting to me (& therefore I flatter myself to you) as my marriage with Mr. Cholmondeley. I daresay it will surprise you, but I know that you like him as well as Watkin, which is *tout dire.* The situation of Vale Royal is delightful to me as it is within coming over to dinner to Wynnstay, Norton & Hawarden, & he seems as desirous of living with my family as I would myself. Nothing can have been more handsome than his conduct to me, but you will hear further particulars from my family. I am much too flurried to say any more, but that I think this will only encrease that extreme affection between us which has so long been the pride & pleasure of your most, affectionate,

"H. W. W.

"P.S.—I cannot help mentioning that I win a bet of £1 1*s.* which we made last Xmas, & which I expect you to pay. Sir Charles Saxton[1] gave me a horse the other day, which he has been three years breaking for me, *very awkward* in my situation! I hope you like Mr. C. for a brother-in-law better than Sir Charles. I do at least, which goes for something.

"The first thing I shall do at Vale Royal will be to fit up a room for you, do you prefer the Ground Floor? Let me know, or any other particularity, for now's the moment. I wish sadly you were here, as we are quite cocked about it & not at all shy, poor Mama is very low, but I hope she will pick up bye & bye."

[1] Sir Charles Saxton, 2nd Bart.; born 1773; died unmar. 1838.

"WYNNSTAY, *October 13th*, 12.10.

"Very odd letter this, & not at all sentimental, but I am not *romantic* yet, *I will* be tomorrow.

"N.B.—This is a bad letter, but the Compleat Letter Writer, is out of print, or I would have had recourse to it on this occasion."

From Ebrington to Henry W. W. W.

"CASTLE HILL, *October 8th*, 1809.[1]

"MY DEAR HENRY,—We were yesterday somewhat surprised & I may say annoyed, by an incursion of Lady Hester Stanhope, bringing with her Mr. Egerton (Brother of my friend Rowland) & his wife, to see the place on their way to Dawlish, they staid here the night & left us this morning. Lady H. made all the play. I do not know whether you know her, if not, figures vous a great strapping ugly girl, talking incessantly on every subject, though sometimes not without sense & humour, & descanting with as much learning on the get of a horse, as any Newmarket Jockey. We were blind enough not to admire this as a part of a Lady's Character, & upon the whole the evening passed dully enough, & the relief was considerable when we parted. Mr. & Mrs. Egerton were very civil (tho' he's mortal stupid) & pressed us to come & see them whenever we visit Cheshire. He, by way of *inducement* to my Father, held forth loudly upon the jollity & drinking at his House during the Tarporley Hunt, to which he particularly invited us, at the same time hinting to his Lordship that if he preferred Play to drinking, he should be equally accomodated.

"I leave you to guess whether my Father could resist such temptations! . . .

"Yours most sincerely,
"EBRINGTON."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"CONSTANTINOPLE, *October 4th*, 1811.

"MY DEAREST MOTHER,—You will of course, expect a description of our dear Cousin who is living with Bruce [2]

[1] The reason for the insertion of this letter out of its chronological order has been already explained on p. 150.

[2] Bruce, the *ami intime* of Lady Hester Stanhope.

& a Doctor at a small village on the Bosphorus, about six English miles from this place. From the present state of Europe, an Englishman cannot find any society whatever, here, her conversation is therefore of value, tho' I own I have been very much disappointed in her cleverness, for I cannot agree to that detirmination to abuse everything & everybody. The day I first saw her, I had not been in the room ten minutes before she opened her batteries abusing or laughing at every individual of the family excepting Ebrington, Watkin & Cholmondeley. The first she praised up to the skies, but the last two were only well enough in their ways. I gave her as good as she brought, & we were therefore excellent friends. She even does me the honour to say that my foreign education has a *little* counteracted the Grenville blood. I must, however, say that at the time when she is abusing everything which is most dear to me, she does it in a manner that it is impossible to be angry with her, & I believe that it proceeds more from a love of ridiculing, than from the heart. Her great Hero is the Duke of York, who I believe, according to her, is to be the Saviour of Europe, on the other hand the people she most abuses are Lord Chatham & Lord Carrington. I am surprised at her being so inveterate against the latter as she says even the Grenvilles are far preferable to that *contemptible* set who call themselves Mr. Pitt's friends. Her connexion with Bruce is I believe, *en tout bien et tout honneur*, tho' it would be difficult to persuade any one here that they are not married. She is now on the point of leaving this place for Athens, where she expects a Passport to go to Italy & France. If she does not get it, which is most likely, she intends to go to Syria & Egypt. I will now have done with my Cousin tho' I could fill several sheets with all her eccentricities."

The Same

"SMYRNA, *November 14th*, 1811.

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—I was very much surprised to hear of Lady Hester's letter to Cholmondeley. As singular as it may appear, I really did not think there

was anything improper in her connexion with Bruce. She is now wind bound at Scio on her way to Alexandria from whence she is to go to Jerusalem to fulfill a prophecy of Brothero's, that she is to be the means of establishing God's elect there ; she says she will not go there till she knows I have left it for fear that any branch of the Grenvilles should come under that denomination. I can assure you she talks of her Jerusalem Government half in joke & half in earnest. She is the oddest mixture I ever saw of cleverness & folly."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

(*part of a letter begun at Lero, December 7th*, 1811, *and continued at Rhodes, December 13th*)

"I am at length here after having been detained four days at Lero. On my arrival here to my great surprise I found Lady Hester & Co., whom I thought long ago at Alexandria. They have been more out of luck than myself, as they were shipwrecked on the South End of this Island, & have undergone the greatest hardships. After escaping from the Vessel in an open Boat, they were twenty-four hours on a barren rock, without tasting a bit of bread or a drop of water. They have only saved what they had on their backs, & as they were called out of their beds, they had only time to put on the first thing they could lay their hands on. Their escape seems to have been quite as providential as my two performances in the same way. I ought to be very thankful for not having taken my passage in the same vessel, which I certainly should have done had not Lady Hester been on board. She seems to have borne this severe trial with wonderful fortitude, & instead of being alarmed was most active in encouraging the men to bail out the water, for when they discovered the leak, the pump was so choked up that it would not work. . . ."

From Henry W. W. W. to his Sister Harriet, Mrs. Cholmondeley

"JAFFA, *March 17th*, 1812.

"I left here on ye 4th. of this month for Nazareth, where there is an excellent convent of Franciscans,

which for its size is equal to any in Christian Countries. The village is small, & for a Protestant does not contain anything worth seeing, as I have no faith in the Revelations of our Country-woman Helen, (the Mother of Constantine) who by that means pretended to discover the house where the Virgin Mary lived, & where the Angel announced to her the Birth of Our Saviour. Nothing but the Rock now remains, according to the tradition of the Monks, the house has had two miraculous flights, first to Fiume, & then to Loretto, where it now remains. Helen also discovered the Synagogue where Our Saviour first preached to the Nazareens, a large stone on which He is supposed to have sat with His disciples, & lastly the Shop in which Joseph worked. All these places are now the Sites of either Catholic or Greek Chapels, & are held in the greatest reverence by the different Pilgrims. From Nazareth, I made a three days tour to M^t^ Tabor where the transfiguration took place, & to the Sea of Galilee or Tiberias. The Mountain is one single Cone, at the foot of which on one side is the extensive plain of Eskalon, & on the other that of Gallilee divided by a low ridge of Hills from the Lake. The Sea of Gallilee is a fresh water lake surrounded by Mountains, & resembling the smaller lakes in Scotland. The Jordan runs through it, & loses itself in the Dead Sea. On the Banks is the small Town of Tiberias, which is chiefly inhabited by Jews, who come here from all parts of Europe in expectation that the Messiah will make his first appearance there. We slept in the Catholic Church which they pretend is built on the Site of the House of St. Peter. On our way back to Nazareth we passed a small Village which is still called Cana, where Our Saviour performed the first miracle of turning Water into Wine. The Padre Guardiano who accompanied us, also showed me the place where the Miracle of the Loaves & Fishes took place, & the Field where the Apostles plucked the Ears of Corn.

" All the Monks of the Holy Land are Franciscans, & of one community, depending on a President who resides at Jerusalem, & has the power of a Bishop. I ought not to abuse them, as I have always met with a very hospitable reception, but I fear the stories against

them are but too true, praying & religious occupations are very secondary objects to perpetual Squabbles with the Greeks & Armenians, & to complaints of little encroachments by them. The Turks take special care to encourage these depositions, as they receive money from both parties, & he who pays most is sure to be in the right. The Catholics were formerly very well off, as they received Supplies from Spain, Italy, France, Germany, etc., but since the war, Bonaparte has not left the Europeans any money to allot to religious purposes, & they were almost starving, when a very opportune Supply arrived from America. Very few Catholic Pilgrims come, but the Town is filled with those of the two other Religions. They come in November & stay till after Easter. This year there were only 1,600 but in general they amount to 3 or 4,000. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was burnt down a few years ago, & the present one which was built by the Greeks has not been finished above a year. The animosity between the Greeks & Catholics is so great that they even accuse one another of having set fire to it intentionally. As particular parts are allotted for the exercise of each Religion, viz. Greeks, Armenians, Catholics, Syrians, & Copts, the two former, who are the richest, were both anxious to have the privilege of building the Church in hopes of obtaining sole possession. The Greeks, from their number were able to pay higher bribes at Constantinople, & therefore succeeded, but the expence they have incurred, has not procured them an inch of ground more than they had before. The Catholics are the most favoured, but no Christian is allowed free ingress, or egress. The Keys are always kept by the Turks, & each Pilgrim is obliged to pay 25 Piastres (or Shillings) for the first visit & two afterwards. The Church is large, but in a very bad Stile of Architecture. It covers Mount Calvary, & the Holy Sepulchre, which stands in the centre of a large Dome.

"From the Sepulchre a few steps lead to the part of the Church standing on Mount Calvary, where the Catholics & Greeks have each two Altars, one where our Saviour was crucified, & the other where the Cross was

erected ; below the latter they still shew the rent in the Rocks.

" The Sepulchres of Gotfredo & other Christian Kings were destroyed in the fire, but the Sword, & Spurs of the former are still preserved, & are used for the investiture of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The Situation of Mount Calvary, & the Holy Sepulchre seem more authenticated, but without implicit confidence in the revelations of St. Helena, it is impossible to have much reverence for the other places which they show, such as the House in which the last Supper took place, the Palace of Caiaphas, the place where the Cock crew when Peter denied our Saviour etc. etc. etc. Jerusalem having been destroyed so often, there are not any remains of Antiquity, excepting some Sepulchres cut out of the Rock, called those of the Kings of Israel, & two others in the Valley of Jehosaphat which are supposed to be those of Jehosaphat & Absolam. They are certainly of great antiquity, but the Ornaments shew them to be of an age when the Arts were more cultivated than that assigned to them. The Village of Bethlehem is only two hours distant from Jerusalem.

" The Convent there is very large & resembles a Fortress. Having been built by St. Helena, the Catholics, Greeks & Armenians think they have equal rights to it, & as in the Holy Sepulchre, particular parts are allotted to each Religion. Below the Church are several Vaults cut out of the Rock, where they shew the place where the Saviour was born, where the Manger was situated, & where the Innocents were buried.

" As the country between Bethlem & the Dead Sea (the site of Sodom & Gomorrah) is desert & belongs to Arabs, I was obliged to take two Sheiks with me, & five other Arabs. I never saw more luxurious vegetation till within two or three miles of the water. The form of Sand Hills adds to this scene of desolation as at a distance they appear like very extensive ruins. The water is so salt that no fish can live in it. I put my hand in &, tho' I wiped it, in less than five minutes it was covered with cristalisations of salt. On the Bank there are a few Shrubs, but the air will not allow them to grow to any size. The Lake is twenty miles long.

"From the Dead Sea, I went along the plain to the place in the Jordan where the Greeks & Armenian Pilgrims come at Easter to dip in the River. As they count by the old Style, their Easter is this year, five weeks later than ours, I should otherwise certainly have waited ten days to see this curious sight, when men, women, & children all go in at the same time, & at the same place, & excepting a pair of drawers, in a state of nature.

"Though by agreement the Arabs were to have accompanied me as far as Jerusalem they left me here, as they did not dare to go near the village of Jericho, with the Arabs of which place they had *Blood*, that is to say that for the death of one of their party they had not received satisfaction either in blood or money."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"AT SEA, *April 28th*, 1812.

"I arrived on the 28th at Cairo & found the place so full of English, that it was with the greatest difficulty that I got a lodging. Besides Lady Hester & Co., there are a party of five or six young Englishmen, lately come in the Transports from Sicily. Notwithstanding that I partly agree with you, in what you say of our Cousin,—I was very glad to find her there; I had constant society in her house & to me she made herself very agreeable. She has many faults, but has I believe, an excellent heart. . . .

"We went a very large party to the Pyramids, which are two hours distant on the other side of the river. Lady Hester attempted to go in but the undertaking was much too great even for her, who is superior in exertion to any woman I ever saw. The Gentlemen crawled in, the labour is nothing, but the heat & bad air made it very unpleasant, not to speak of the danger of being blinded by the quantity of Bats flying against you. . . .

"Long, long may the Almighty protect our dearest Mother for the happiness of her children, of whom none is more

"affectionate or dutiful than

"H. W. W. WYNN."

The Same

"MALTA, *May 30th*, 1812.

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—As this letter goes by a fast sailing Vessel, I trust you will receive it almost as soon as those which Lady Mahon [1] was kind enough to write by the Packet giving an account of my illness, & that your anxiety will not have been of long duration. I am now, thank God, gaining strength every day, & recovering almost as fast as I fell ill. The leg suppurates very kindly, & I hope in a week to be able to put my foot to the ground.

"The Physicians cannot at all account for so violent an inflamation, & can only ascribe it to the sting of some venomous animal. Six or seven days after I was in quarantine I felt a small pimple on my leg which disappeared, the next day however, it began to swell with great pain & accompanied with Fever getting every day worse, till I was in a high state of delirium with my pulse at 140. They called in two Naval Doctors, who advised the leg being opened, when to their surprise instead of matter, nothing but decomposed blood came from it.

"I was in such a state of delirium that I of course do not know anything that took place, but they told me that I remained in this state for two days, they expecting every minute to be my last, till at length the Bark they gave me stopped the Fever, & some matter began to come from my leg. From that moment my recovery began & has been most rapid.

"I cannot describe to you all the kindness I have received from Lady Mahon, if she had been my own sister she could not have been more attentive to me. When in quarantine she used to come over twice a day in a broiling Sun to see that everything was done for me. When I came over here she used to sit the whole morning with me, & was indefatigeable in procuring any little comfort for me. I know not what I should have done without her, as I did not know a soul in Malta. My Banker has been kind enough to take me in

[1] Catherine Lucy, dau. of 1st Ld. Carrington; mar. 1803, Philip Henry, Ld. Mahon, who suc. his father to the Earldom of Stanhope in 1816. She died 1843. He died 1855. Henry Williams Wynn mar. in 1813 this lady's younger sister.

to his House which is one of the best & coolest in Malta. In these lofty rooms I do not at all feel the heat which I am told is oppressive out of doors. If I had a little society I should be very comfortable, but unfortunately Malta does not afford me a single friend excepting an A.D.C., a friend of Lady Mahon's who calls upon me occasionally."

From Henry W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"CADIZ, *September 29th*, 1812.

"MY DEAREST MOTHER,—My last letter to Harriet from Gibraltar will have informed you of the intention I had of surprising you by my unexpected arrival in England, & of the reasons which afterwards made me give up this plan. I think you will agree with me that under the present circumstances, it would have been difficult for so thorough a Spaniard as I am to go to England without passing thro' those Countries which have just been liberated from the French Yoke. The fortune of War which now opens that road to me, may be shut again when I come out to the Mediterranean next year, so that this opportunity might not be recovered for some time. I still see no reason why I should not be in England by Christmas, but I am too old a Traveller not to know the folly of hurrying on.

"I like this place much more than either of the times I was here before, it is gratifying to see the joy of the people at being relieved from the Bombardment of two years & a half, the last part of which was very serious. I must do them the justice to say that they seem to feel their obligation to the English & to Lord Wellington in particular. He has just been appointed Generalissimo of all the Spanish Armies, & there is a very strong party for making him sole Regent. The first is a great point to have been carried & will be attended with great advantage."

The Same

"SALAMANCA, *November 5th*, 1812.

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—As it is possible that this may reach you before my arrival, I write a few lines to inform you that I am safe & sound out of Madrid. The

confusion of the evacuation was so great, that we with difficulty procured one Calêche for ourselves & servants. Lord Worcester[1] was kind enough to give us a lift as far as Arevalo, & from thence to this place a distance of sixteen leagues we *rode & tied* with our servants. I believe the Corunna road is still safe, but as I fear there is hardly anything to prevent the French advancing I think it more prudent to go by Oporto. We set off tomorrow, & hope to arrive there on the 13th, I shall then take my passage on the first Vessel which sails."

[1] Ld. Worcester, afterwards 7th D. of Beaufort; born 1792; mar. 1st, 1814, Georgina, dau. of Henry Fitzroy. She died 1821. He mar. 2ndly, 1822, Emily, dau. of Charles Culling Smith. She died 1889. He succeeded his father to the Dukedom 1835. He died 1853.

CHAPTER XIII

1813—1816

HENRY arrived home in the autumn of 1812, after his serious illness at Malta, where Lady Mahon had nursed him with much care and devotion. His mind now turned towards matrimony, and Hester Smith, daughter of the 1st Lord Carrington, won and held his whole-hearted affection. The welcome accorded her by his entire family was sincere and spontaneous. Lady Williams Wynn became devotedly attached to her daughter-in-law, and as years went on, transferred her correspondence to a very great extent to Hester instead of Henry, though many of her letters are addressed to "her beloved Hs." Henry's restless nature, however, could not fit itself into the life of an English country gentleman, even when provided with a wife and home, for Sir Watkin had placed the Llanforda demense at his brother's disposal. His trips abroad were almost as frequent as they were before, but not so prolonged, and until he obtained, in 1822, the much-sought-for diplomatic appointment, he constantly found excuses for crossing the Channel—sometimes alone, sometimes accompanied by his wife.

Continental affairs continued to play a leading part in political as well as in military circles. Watkin placed himself and his Ruabon Yeomanry at the disposal of the King, and in the spring of 1814 received orders to proceed to France. Napoleon's abdication and retirement to Elba synchronised with Sir Watkin's arrival, and gave occasion for some chaff amongst his

acquaintances, which the Grenville *parenté*, being devoid of a sense of humour, took very seriously.

The cessation of hostilities after the Congress at Vienna in September 1814 gave Lady Williams Wynn an opportunity in the autumn of proceeding to Spain with her daughter Fanny, for the purpose of seeing Charlotte Shipley, who with her husband had been living in Majorca. Lady Williams Wynn began her return journey through the Peninsula in April 1815, and caused a good deal of anxiety to her family at home, as Napoleon's escape from Elba on March 1st suddenly plunged Europe once again into a state of war. On her return home, Lady Williams Wynn continued her correspondence with her absent children as usual, her letters dealing with the current gossip of society and events of political interest.

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Hester Smith

[1813.]

"It is impossible for me, my dear young friend, to express to you the pleasure which your most kind and flattering letter received this morning has given to me. Indeed, I should long ere this have written to have thanked you for those sentiments of joy and gladness which you have been the joint means of communicating to me, had I not feared by so doing to have made a sort of claim upon you for what you have now spontaneously bestowed upon me. The confidence which I feel in the prospect of happiness which your partiality to my beloved Henry opens to him would be more than sufficient to excite in my heart the warmest feelings of gratitude and affection towards you, but you will easily believe me, when I say that these feelings are increased in a ten-fold degree by the particularly kind and flattering manner in which you have expressed yourself towards myself, and all belonging to him. Nobody knows more than yourself the inestimable value of a large family circle, and I only trust that in

your new connection you will find an extension of those social affections with which you have ever been so happily surrounded.

"I expect my dear Henry to-morrow, and shall have the greatest delight in seeing his happy face, and in hearing from him the praises of one to whose merits I can indeed with the greatest truth say, I have ever been most deeply sensible. I will not to *you* depreciate him so far as to say that he is unworthy of the happiness which attends him, nor indeed would anybody who knows my partiality for him, believe me if I put forth such an opinion, but I will only pray that he may discharge all his new duties and obligations as fully as he has done his old ones, and by that means make the best return for the blessings, which I trust you will *very very* long enjoy in each other!

"I hope nothing will prevent our having the pleasure of seeing Lord Carrington on or about ye 20th. and only very much regret that Lady C. would not be prevailed upon to meet him. Whatever may be to be arranged, I am quite sure that his wishes (in the confidence that they are most sure of being your's) will be certain of meeting those of all belonging to Henry.

"I will detain you no longer *my dear Hester* for so, you must let me gratify myself by addressing you, anticipating my property in you, and repeating to you with my warmest acknowledgments of your kind expressions towards me, the assurances of the very high esteem and cordial affection with which

"I am ever,

"Yours most faithfully,

"CH. W. WYNN."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Hester Smith

"BUXTON, *Tuesday.*

"I am much obliged to you for your gossip, which is here of more value than at any other place where there might be something of external objects. I, however, want faith for both your Matches, but if Lord Cranb[ne.][1]

[1] Afterwards 2nd Marq. of Salisbury. He mar. 1821, Frances, dau. and h. of B. Gascoyne.

should fail at last with Miss W. he had better have a hint to come down here where we have a hundred thousand pounder 'just arrived' in the person of a young lady carrying full as much weight of flesh on her bones as even this fortune can produce of cash in her pockets.

"Our Table d'hote continues very numerous, and I am now grown so well acquainted with many of the members (at least with their faces) that for the time the dinner lasts I am rather amused by it than otherwise. We had two days ago a violent Tirade of politics beginning with hearty abuse of all 'those Grenvilles' and then diverging to Lord Carrington who was as bad as any of them. The speaker did not address it to Fanny, but to her neighbour, and unfortunately on the other side sat Admiral Legge [1] who was put out with it, and spoilt sport by beginning to talk of something else as fast as he could. By the bye, there is nothing he likes to talk about more than your merits, of which he seems to have so very strong an impression as to make me doubt whether I ought not to be uneasy at it, more particularly as during the short time of his stay, I found it quite impossible to hope that Fanny should make any diversion to his tender sentiments."

From Lord Carrington to Henry W. W. W.

"Edgeworth Town, *July 27th*, 1813.

"My dear Sir,—I was made very happy by your letter, which I received last night, and I accept with the greatest satisfaction the flattering proposition which you have made to me, knowing that it is no less agreeable to my Daughter's wishes than to my own. It will be my anxious endeavour to preserve your good Opinion, and to cement the Connection between us, by a sincere and permanent friendship.

"My Daughter's fortune is ten thousand pounds down, and the like sum to be paid at my death. Should there be no issue of the marriage, or, should all the children die before they attain the age of twenty-one or be married,

[1] Admiral Sir Arthur Kaye Legge, 3rd son of 2nd E. of Dartmouth. Died unmar. 1835.

one moiety to be at your final disposal, and the other *after your Death* and my Daughter's to revert to my Family. For the £10,000 to be paid down, I should wish to give a mortgage, for some time at least, but in that I must consider myself bound to obey your wishes.

"As I speak to a partial auditor I hope I may say to you without unbecoming vanity, that for good temper, good sense, and good principles, I do not know any young woman superior to the one whom you have chosen.

"I am,

"My dear Sir, Most sincerely, and

"Affectionately yours,

"CARRINGTON."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"DROPMORE, *February 28th*, 1814.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—We are all in the dumps at the last news, & so I understand are Ministers who have authorized Castlereagh [1] to patch up peace before the 20th, to which Parliament is to-morrow to adjourn, & then in two years we shall have another war. Under these circumstances, it is impossible that, unless some sudden alteration of circumstances should change the whole face of the negotiation, Watkin's Regiment should leave England. At any rate you may set your mind at ease about Canada, as it is *not in their bond.* The Regent has twice been at the point of death in consequence of a dose of Royal Punch imbibed in the company of George Colman, who was sent for on a day rule from H.R.H.'s Royal Father's Bench for the purpose, I suppose, of 'Sing me a bawdy song to make me merry.' He had violent spasms in the bladder, which were only subdued by bleeding—has since had a relapse equally

[1] Foreign Secretary; at this time engaged in very delicate negotiations with the Allied Powers at Bar-sur-Aube. The attitude of the Emperor of Austria and Crown Prince of Sweden, both connected by family ties with the Empress of France, made these negotiations extremely difficult and complicated.

severe, & was last week considered as in a very precarious state from the possibility of another attack.

"Princess Charlotte [1] is to be married out of hand, & packed off for Holland forthwith!"

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"Brook Street, *Tuesday, March 15th* (1814).

"I had intended, my dearest Henry, to have written to you yesterday. I have just had a letter from Charles telling me that orders were that day come down to suspend the sailing of the troops till farther orders, which Sir R. Bickerton [2] ascribes to the necessity of strengthening the Convoy on account of two French frigates, & a Corvette having got out of St. Maloe's but from what I heard yesterday I think it much more probable to be owing to the intention of changing their destination & sending them to fill up the dreadful chasms made by the heavy disaster in Sir T. Graham's Army.[3] Your Uncle Tom said he thought it probable it would be so, & that Major Stanhope had fully agreed with him. You will not wonder that at this moment I feel an additional pang of anguish from the idea of this change, but God's Will be done! We know little what to wish for, or against! Great expectations are entertained of receiving Buonaparte's definitive answer to the ultimatum within the next twenty-four hours, but I fear it will hardly travel to me before Post goes out. Lord Hereford lost 2 whole Guineas on its not arriving before this morning began. Fanny sent you all public details yesterday.

"Stanhope had seen the Crown Prince,[4] & fully joins in the universal admiration of his manners as much in Society as in the field.

"I must not however, omit giving you a most extraordinary domestic event notified yesterday, Lord

[1] This matrimonial suggestion came to nothing.

[2] 2nd and last Bart. of Upwood; born 1759; mar. 1788, Ann, dau. of James Athill. He d.s.p. 1832.

[3] Refers, no doubt, to the losses in Sir Thomas Graham's (Lord Lynedoch's) unsuccessful attack on St. Sebastian in 1813.

[4] Of Sweden.

Althorp's[1] marriage with Miss Acklom. Your Uncle Tom told me of it affaire faite, & I could only say, 'Oh Fie.' I hope I shall be first in communicating it to your circle.

"General Gle.[2] has just been here, & says the Duke of York, whom he saw, told him that he knew nothing of any change in the destination of the Provincial Battalions.

"God bless you all. This letter must, of course, do for yourself & Co."

From Henry W. W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.
(en route for his first trip abroad after his marriage)

"ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, *April 2nd*, 1814.

"I write a few lines to you before I go out my beloved Hester. The Official intelligence of the rupture of the negotiations is at length arrived. The evening Papers will inform you of Schwartzenburg having beat Bonaparte. He made good his retreat towards Dijon where he will be joined by Augereau. There seems nothing now to prevent Blucher advancing to Paris. The news of the rupture of the negotiations was received at Lloyds with three cheers.

"The Austrians entered Lyons on the 22nd., but I am sorry to say that Ghent has been retaken, & several of the inhabitants shot.

"God bless you my beloved Hester."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"RYDE, *August 3rd*, 1814.

"I had scarcely stepped out of the Commissioner's Barge upon this shore, before I saw Lord B.[3] sailing in from Calais to the door of his own cottage here. He is

[1] Ld. Althorp, afterwards 3rd Earl Spencer; born 1781; Chancellor of the Exchequer 1830–4; mar. 1814, Esther, dau. and h. of Richard Acklom, co. Notts. He died 1845.

[2] General Richard Grenville, 2nd s. of Rt. Hon. James Grenville, M.P. He represented Buckingham in the H. of C. Died unmar. 1823. (His elder brother was the 1st and last Ld. Glastonbury.)

[3] Ld. Buckingham, the 2nd Marq. and nephew of Lady Williams Wynn (the 1st Marq. died 1813); afterwards 1st Duke.

quite well, full of health & spirits & as brown as a wallnut. He seems to expect Suchet [1] to be made Ministre de la guerre, & tells us that all Suchet's conversation turns upon the necessity of France keeping up a large military establishment & that he states his hopes of peace to rest upon the boundary of the Rhine being accorded to France by the Allies. I am afraid there is some reason to think that the magnanimous Alexander is so intent upon Poland, that he may be tempted to buy the support of France to his objects by supporting her pretensions on the Rhine: if so Castlereagh will have his hands full enough at his Vienna congress. We none of us understand why the Government who are strong should open the door to Canning & his friends, or why Canning should disgrace himself by making himself the humble bearer of his rival's correspondence with the Court of Lisbon, but however, this may be, it is pretty clear that when Liverpool, Castlereagh, & Canning get into the same bed together, that is not likely to become 'a bed of roses.'

"Love to your good wife, & God bless you, dearest Henry."

In the autumn of this year (1814) Lady Williams Wynn was planning her tour abroad through France and Spain. In writing of her proposed route to Charles, she repeatedly asked him to consult Young, the steward at Wynnstay, as to a suitable courier, expressing herself as having complete trust and confidence in his judgment. While an exchange of letters on this subject is in progress, Charles, in whose hands Sir Watkin left the management of his affairs on his departure, with his regiment, for the Continent, discovered that Young had been carrying on systematic frauds and forgeries ever since he entered Sir Watkin's service in 1810. The discovery was so sudden and so complete that Young cut his throat, and was for some

[1] Louis Gabriel Suchet, Duc d'Albufera de Valencia, 1770–1826. Marshal of France and one of Napoleon's most brilliant generals and administrators.

days in a precarious condition, but he subsequently recovered. In the meantime Charles sent for his son, a clergyman, and overhauled his papers. Among these papers he found a letter signed "A. H.," which he enclosed to his mother, written by Lady Anne Hamilton in 1806, when Young was in the service of her cousin the Marquis of Abercorn.

Sir Watkin, having received a full account of the frauds & peculations, refused to prosecute the unfortunate man, only stipulating that the parson son shall remove his father as soon as possible from Wynnstay, either abroad or to some distant part of the country, and that a property acquired in Lincolnshire by the ill-gotten gains shall be made over in default of payment. He also suggested that a copy of Lady Anne's letter should be handed to Lord Abercorn, but Charles deprecated such action, on the grounds of personal regard for the family.

The Young incident was at its height when Lady Williams Wynn left England, and Charles kept her informed of the progress of affairs in his letters. That the domestic scandal was widely known, and became the subject of much gossip and criticism, is indicated in Lord Carrington's letter to Hester, with which this incident, as far as the present correspondence is concerned, is closed.

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *Saturday* [*September*], 1814.

"I have not yet been able to meet with anything tolerably promising in the shape of a Courrier which is the more vexatious as it is the only circumstance which keeps me dawdling here, while the daylight is melting away before my Eyes. . . . I have just seen an English servant who is very anxious to go with me, & has some merits, tho not much of recommendation that I can get at. He lived 8 years with Ld. Lake during part of which time he was with him in Ireland where he speaks

familiarly of Captain Sir W. Pul[n] [1] & all the other British. He was likewise while in Lord L.'s service fellow servant with Young who he says knows him well. His name is Chesswright, & what Y. knows of him you may easily learn if this finds you at Wynnstay. The man began his career as Servant (out of Livery) to Mrs. Phillips of Rhyaddin, with whom he was 8 years before he married & 2 after. He has been a good deal abroad with Lord Lake, General Ackland 4 Years, & General Capel, but the misfortune is that all are now dispersed & it would take a good deal of time to get at them. William Lyggins answers for his sobriety, but I had rather have Young's judgment on that subject than his.

"If you can find anything about pray let me know per return of post for I am dying to get away. If you are not at Wynnstay I wish you would write a line to Young to ask what he knows of this man, & tell him to pass it on to me by return of post."

Several letters have obviously been lost or destroyed between the above and the next letter from Charles, which at once plunges into the details of Young's attempted suicide, but it is not difficult to fill up the gap. Charles was a better man of business than his brother Sir Watkin, and having taken over the charge of the great estates, at once began to make himself conversant with the details of management, and Young's accounts could not stand the scrutiny.

From Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"[WELSH] POOL, *September 27th*, 1814.

"MY DEAR MOTHER,—What we anticipated has taken place & in spite of the precautions which we had taken, Young has contrived to wound himself in a manner which will probably prove mortal, every instrument had been taken from him but he had contrived to secrete a knife from the tray in passing. He had been constantly watched, but was left alone for a few minutes

[1] Sir W. Pulleston (?).

yesterday about two o'clock when he stabbed himself in the throat. His papers afford the most decisive proof of the regular & systematic plan of depredations which he has carried on, as some very considerable forgeries were committed in 1810. You will be astonished to hear that among his papers is a letter from Lady Anne Hamilton written several years ago, before he came into Watkin's service which appears to direct & advise him in frauds he was then carrying on. Wilkinson sewed up the wound but does not expect him to live. He is better today than was expected but the danger is tomorrow. We had previously sent for his son in the hope that he might have elicited that information which we could not get from him. The one point of anxiety which he has shewn throughout is that his Son may not be supposed to be privy to his crimes & from all the letters which we have found he appears certainly to be entirely ignorant of them. Richards [1] has just arrived here & given me this intelligence. Previous to Young's confession, which appears, as we now find to have proceeded from some reports of unusual strictness in us towards Gummow,[1] & others, from refusing him leave to go up to town, he burnt all the bills & vouchers which he had produced to Pickering [1] & which were for payments previous to Watkin's going abroad. We are therefore perfectly in the dark as to the real state of Watkin's affairs & have no check against any falsehood which may be brought in upon him as soon as this is known, except the vouchers in St. James' Square, many of which there can be no doubt, will prove false.

"We feel great doubt whether sending round to all the Tradesmen or advertiseing in the Newspaper will be the least likely method to excite suspicion among them, that we are thoroughly in their power. There will be now no use in sending down the bills as I had before desired for it will be necessary that they should be investigated in town & Richards must go up for that purpose, Young had left a paper stating the first cause to have been expences in his Son's education which led him to engage in the Lottery & that, of course too

[1] Richards, the agent; Gummow, the housekeeper; Pickering, a solicitor (?).

constantly, accounts for every thing else. I hear however that he had purchased a property in Lincolnshire which cost him £800, & that, according to the wisdom of our law of real property, will descend to his Son free of incumbrance though clearly bought with stolen money."

From Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"Pool, *Wednesday, September 28th,* 1814.

"We have not had any opportunity of hearing any account of Younge since Richards's arrival, but probably he will not out live the night. It is a great consolation that it should clearly appear that Watkin's carelessness has nothing to do with the deception practised on him; & that it should be clear that the man was a rogue before he entered his service. In one bill of the year 1810 he had added £100. When I see Lady A. H.'s letter you shall have a copy of it. From Richards's account it is such as nothing but feeling for her relations should prevent me from making public. . . .

"Upon the other business which I hoped to investigate here, I can tell you nothing as I have failed in the means of information which I expected, but trust Richards will be more successful next week at Newton. My suspicions were unfortunately very strong even before this discovery, which destroys all confidence & makes one think every one must be a villain."

The letter enclosed to Lady Williams Wynn is addressed to "Mr. Young, No. 31 North Audley Street, Grosvenor Square, London."

[*Postmark Shoreham. Date* 1806]

"*Tuesday, 18th.*

"I like your frank open letter to me much, & shall treat you with the same confidence, satisfied that my letter will be burnt as soon as read.

"The Duke [1] I believe is the easiest Man possible to serve, the Duchess [2] manages too much herself, when she cannot possibly know above stairs what is really

[1] 11th Duke of Somerset.

[2] Charlotte, dau. of 9th Duke of Hamilton and sister to the writer.

going on below. She then forms favourites & judges from hearing one side of a story. She also looks too near into expense. But all this may have originated from her never having had Confidence in an upper servant, & it is but justice to say, that she has the same Confidence in you that we all have. You therefore, might find things better. You also would have this advantage, in that favourite Charles [footman] being gone away. Indeed I do not think there is now one favourite left, therefore *if you like to go*, my advice is as follows,—First raise a difficulty, by saying you have taken that fancy to the Marquess—that you consider yourself engaged to Him, & would leave the best place in the world to go to him, that therefore you cannot think of taking His Grace's place on *that* account.—(Mind, I dont mean that you should adhere to what you say, if, upon trying the Duke's place, you prefer staying with him, for then you could not serve the Marquess with pleasure. But by *saying* it, they never could be affronted at your leaving them, should you find things not agreeable.)

"If they still wish to have you upon that uncertainty, then make your Agreement to have the superintendence of *Everything*, either with, or without the Stable concern, as you chuse. But remember one thing, Her Grace has innumerable Books—I believe a lb. of candles or soap is never taken out of the Box, but is enter'd in some Book. This, with you, she may lay aside, but as *your friend*, I wish to guard you against everything, that if you go, you may be prepared, & begin right. I think you had best *manage everything with an exceeding high hand*[1] talk high, or these minutias will plague you sadly,—*you* may do any thing, as your character is so well established.

"I don't know if there is any idea of your wife going with you. I know His Grace dont like near relations in a family, but *she* has so long wished to have *you*, that I believe she would break thro' her rule in *your* favour, otherwise this might form an excuse for your not going. But if you really disliked going, the *vicinity to Orchard Leigh* would be a sufficient excuse, as the Duchess told

[1] The seven words in italics are lightly erased in the original letter, which therefore reads: "I think you had best talk high."

me she was afraid you would not like to come to her on *that account*, thus you see, I furnish you with excuses on both sides, so you have only to consult what you like *best to do yourself*. But *I strongly advise* your giving yourself so good an opportunity of quitting without quarrelling, as your liking to, & engagement with, the *Marquess* [1] offers you, this must please him, at least, & will not I think, lose you his Grace's place. I would even tell it the Marquess himself, if you saw him, that their changes had been so frequent you were afraid of venturing as it would lose you his good opinion. Not that I think it would, tho' it would have the same effect, as delicacy might prevent his taking you from his brother-in-law, but both him & I know enough of that family to be surprised at nothing, & we both *know you* too well *ever to change*.

" As I see it is in the papers the idea of his going to Russia, it is no longer a secret, so I shall write to him by today's post, (without mention of our correspondence, of course) to propose his taking you with him. If you would not go that is an additional reason for your enjoying yourself elsewhere. If you would, you should call upon him after the post comes in on Wednesday, before you see their Graces. How sincerely I wish their Graces' offer had been delay'd for a month, for *between you & I*, if the Marquess dont want you in a month, or even a fortnight, I shall give up hopes of his ever wanting you, almost. However whatever you do I shall consider as right. Only remember one thing, I shall be in town on Friday evening, to stay. Dont mention it to anyone, I come upon particular business. No one knows it but the Marquess. I shall not be in Gros. Place, but with the Miss Radfords, at No. 61 Baker Street Portman Square, where I can see you Friday or Saturday, but not in the morng.

" Ever yours,

" I can add no more the post is just going.

" A. H." [2]

[1] James, 9th Earl and 1st Marq. of Abercorn; born 1756; three times married. Died 1818.

[2] Lady Anne Hamilton, eldest dau. of Alexander, 9th Duke of Hamilton and his wife Harriet, dau. of 6th Earl of Galloway. She died

From Mrs. Charles W. W. to Lady W. W.

"LLANGEDWYN, *October 3rd*, 1814.

"Of course this horrible business made much talk in Chester, but as it was not known that it lay with *Young alone*, many people volunteered their opinion of the whole Household etc. in general made no scruple of saying that it was a gang of thieves. Lloyd of Penylan said everybody knew it except the Family, & Evans of Llwynon, he told Mr. Cholmondley that the wretched Clergyman who hung up his great coat in the Hall, emptied it first of his pockethandkerchief. These I believe are very gossipping people, but the general idea of Goodman's dishonesty seems so decided that Charles, I believe advises Watkin to part with him in due time, but so as to secure him from all suspicion of having been implicated with Young. As people seem to be open-mouthed upon the subject, when they took for granted it was all come out, it would be desireable to press them at this moment when they would hardly draw back, & this I believe Mr. Richards is to do as soon as he has had a little more talk with Charles. There was a good deal of suspicion of Gummow, but Mr. Richards says that as far as he has yet got, his accounts are perfectly correct. Mr. Young's wretched son has not yet come down. Young himself is going on perfectly well. From all we can collect from Young himself & from your report of William's investigation I really trust that the frauds are all retrospective & that there will be no payments to be made which we were not before informed of, so that the only *prospective* effect will be that Watkin will be £800 richer by the acquisition of Young's

1846. She lived at Ashton Hall, Lancs., and in Hamilton Place, and was a connoisseur and collector of French furniture and pictures. The following account of Lady Anne is given in Letters published in *Gleanings from an Old Portfolio*, ed. by Mr. Godfrey Clark, 1898: "From Lady Louise Stuart to Lady Portarlington, July 19th, 1793. 'The eldest Miss Hamilton [afterwards Lady Anne], *entre nous*, I can't bear, she palavers and cants like Lady Dunmore and Lord Galloway, is very forward, very ugly and unpleasant, but that can't procure her friends. . . . Charlotte [afterwards Duchess of Somerset] . . . is very pretty, but spoiled, and a fine lady.'" In vol. iii. Lady Louise Stuart again refers to the lady: "November 13th, 1802. 'Lady Anne is a worthy good woman, and wishes to please and be civil to every body, but has no particular attractions of person, or mind.'"

Lincolnshire purchase. He estimates the amount of his thefts by a rough calculation—between £14 & 1700."

From Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"LLANGEDWYN, *October 10th*, 1814.

"On Wednesday I went over to Wynnstay & saw Young's unfortunate Son, who apeared one of the most miserable & helpless beings that I ever saw. He is desirous of doing everything in his power but scarcely knows what, having been always treated as a Child by his Father & fed from hand to mouth without any knowledge of his Father's means. His wife was with him & is of the two much the most efficient personage. They state themselves to have always believed, from the manner in which he supplied them with money, that he had some out at interest & fearing that it might be lost in case he should die, had pressed him to this purchase by way of securing something.

"The whole income of the Son including the land purchased, which he values at £32 per ann. amounts to about £300 per ann. The land of course becomes Watkin's & the conveyance has been directed to be prepared. He then proposes to reserve £200 to himself & to give up the remainder to the maintenance of his Father till he can get some means of supporting himself & the residue to the liquidation of the debt. I told him I considered the land as legally belonging to Watkin. That with respect to anything else there could be no legal claim upon his (the son's) ecclesiastical income or on the £50 a year which belongs to his wife & that therefore I could enter into no stipulation with him but should leave him to act as he thought himself became him. But that I was clearly of opinion that he ought not, as Clergyman with a family, to reduce his income below £200 a year. By the end of this week the Father may probably be moved & may travel home with them. He must afterwards go abroad or to some distant part of the Kingdom & endeavour to earn his livelihood. In consequence of what you mention of the tradesmen having all acknowledged that there was no further balance due to them than is stated by Young, Richards

has postponed his journey to London till he has had a meeting with Robert about a boundary dispute between W. & Lord Clive. We are also investigating the Montgomeryshire fraud, which I before alluded to & which I have evry reason to believe will be but too clearly proved. It consists in a regular over charge of the property duty allowed in Lewis's Collection; he having, uniformly, from the first imposition of the Tax, charged it to its full amount in every instance, whereas in many it is much less. At any rate we have established enough to require his discharge, as the only possible vindication of his honesty, is gross carelessness & neglect by an allowance to the Tenants of the Tax without producing the receipts. This however is extremely improbable, & I fear he will turn out to be as thorough a Rogue as Young. Fortunately he is rich & can repay all he has embezzled. We at present think of replacing him by Barff, but for the present our suspicions even are unknown to anybody. The amount which he has thus purloined in the course of eight years must be considerable but we cannot yet even guess what.

"No letters have arrived for you except one from Miss Lake referring you for Chesswright's character to Lord Lake."

This letter is addressed to Lyons. Lady Williams Wynn and Fanny were on their way to meet Charlotte, Mrs. Shipley.

From Lord Carrington to his daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

[Part only of a letter and undated, without beginning or end]

[1814.]

"I heard from more quarters than one of the Catastrophe at Wynnstay, & of the Frauds being to an immense amount, which last I ventured to contradict. But I must say that considering the obligations he had received from Sir Watkin, it is unfortunate that the crime of Forgery, under such circumstances of aggravation should escape legal chastisement. This seemed the prevailing sentiment wherever I have heard the matter alluded to.

"I am not sure that a Wife to Sir Watkin, tho, he will be happier & his house more regular as well as more agreeable, will have the effect which you expect upon his economical arrangements. It may be another channel of expence, but it is an event to be wished for nevertheless. A more certain cure for extravagance would be the desiring Mr. Richards, not only to pay everything, but to frame a plan of division of the Income Sir Watkin should spend in a year, into as many different portions as there are heads of expence. As far as Housekeeping goes you have had great experience at home how useful these divisions are at the end of the year to see whether the sum allotted to each head has been exceeded, & therefore in what way it may be retrenched. The larger a person's Income is the more such a Division is wanted. In the largest expence of all namely the national, it is religiously adhered to, & an account is published comparing the actual Expenditure with the previous Estimates. The principle to begin upon is to know the clear Income, after deducting Land & Income Tax, Interest paid etc. & then to regulate the Expenditure accordingly. You will be surprised to find how different these Estimates of expence will be from the actual expence, till you have had two or three years experience & then by more accurate knowledge & a reserve for contingences you may come near the mark."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"PARIS, *October 9th.*

"I need not tell you how very much I am amused here. . . . Much has I fancy been done since you were here, in the erecting new Buildings & opening the Avenues to the old ones. Whatever Buonaparte has done, has been on a scale so vast that it almost makes one tremble still to think what might yet be within the perspective grasp of his imagination. All seems to me quite in extremes, the fine things so much above ones Ideas, & the rest so much below them. The rapidity with which He caused all his plans to be, *not put into a Course of Execution,* but brought at once to perfection,

really makes one giddy, nor can one conceive how with the immense Armies that He keeps on foot, & the constant drain which his wars made on the population, hands enough were found for such immense Works. The Column of Bronze made out of the Russian & Austrian Cannons on the exact plan of the Trajan column and surmounted by a colossal Statue of himself was completely finished in three years. The Magasin de l'Abondance which is a most magnificent depot of Corn for one year in case of scarcity would, if he had remained have been compleated in twelve months. It is now abandoned & so is the beautiful Temple de la Gloire of which the Columns are raised only about 10 ft. Some time or another, I suppose these Works must be finished, but it is already found out that the Grand Genie is gone! There are several very handsome new Streets with wide Trottoirs, but then as I said before the others are wretched in the extreme."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"AIX, *November 20th.*

"The Country round Marseilles is so particularly ugly that we were all equally disinclined to the prolonging our stay in it. . . . We saw there a young Frenchman of the name of Dumenil (a son of a General D.) who was in the Laz[a] with your sister, & came to call upon her. He talked much to us of Lady Hester Stanhope with whom he had passed last winter, & left her after she was recovered of the plague at a village near Seyd. All her friends had left her, & she had nobody whatever male or female with her, but the Doctor. She, however, flattered herself that Lady Oxford [1] was coming to her, & that she should convert her to her own strange way of living, but in this she will be disappointed as Dumenil said he had just seen a man who had left her at Naples meaning to come straight home. Dumenil said he knew *Vynn* very well. He seems a thoroughly self-sufficient young Frenchman, fully persuaded that Paris is the acme of all terrestrial

[1] Jane, dau. of Rev. James Scott; mar. 1794, Edward Harley, 5th Earl of Oxford. She died 1824.

delights. He asked the Shipleys how long the passage actually was from Dover to Calais, & on hearing that it was often done in 4 hours, he jumped off his chair with an exclamation 'Et, Grand Dieu, pourquoi donc n'avons nous fait la descente ?'"

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

Undated.

"The topic which is at this moment occupying the beau monde far more than any thing else, is this last extraordinary performance of that poor wretched Lady C. Lambe [1] who has narrowly escaped fracturing the skull of one of the miserable beings, whom she calls her pages, with a blow either of a Poker or, as she herself modifies it with a broomstick. The offence was the boy's refusing to go down on his two knees (he would have dropped on one) to ask her pardon for some misdemeanor. It was three or four days before the surgeon could pronounce him out of danger, but now I suppose it will be all hushed up, & she will be suffered to walk about in a state which could justify a strait waistcoat. . . . It is certainly a most extraordinary test of the good humour & kindness of Lord & Lady Melbourne to endure such an inmate, but it is said that they do now profess they can bear it no longer."

From Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"LLANGEDWIN, *December 14th*, 1814.

"Baron Richards writes me word that Mrs. Perceval [2] with her twelve children is on the point of being again married to an Officer, Son to Dr. Carr of Northampton who is himself a Widower with five. It is abominable to think that the two thousand a year which we voted to

[1] Lady Caroline, only dau. of Fred., 3rd E. of Bessborough; mar. 1805, Sir William Lamb, afterwards 2nd Visc. Melbourne. She died 1828.

[2] Jane, dau. of Sir Thomas Spencer Wilson, 6th Bart.; mar. 1st, 1790, Spencer Perceval, First Lord of the Treasury and Chan. of the Exch. He was shot dead in the H. of C. on May 11th, 1812. She mar. 2ndly, in 1815, Sir Henry Carr, K.C.B. She died 1844.

her & intended for the support of poor Perceval's children should only have operated as a temptation to induce her to desert them."

Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"NORTON, *January 5th*, 1815.

"A most ridiculous contradiction of Mrs. Perceval's marriage has appeared in the Courrier, assuring the public that Major Carr is twelve years younger than her & 'being a very handsome man had only paid her becoming attention which had been becomingly received' on her part & this had given rise to the report. Would not 'becomingly received' make a good Caricature? I send you all this important trash which the Newspapers furnish, since it probably will not be inserted in your Espnt. des Journaux."

The Same

"CREWE, *January 20th*, 1815.

"There has been much conversation on two Volumes of Tracts lately published by the Bishop of Llandaff,[1] in one of which, I am told, he proposes alterations in the Liturgy & expressly attacks the Trinity. This from a Bishop and Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, is some what extraordinary & one feels a little surprised how he can justify continuing to hold preferment, which he accepted on the condition of subscribing a contrary Doctrine. The case is an embarrassing one & it will be difficult for the ruling powers to know how to act. If it were an inferior clergyman he would without question be cited into the Spiritual Court & as happened two or three years ago to a poor man of the name of Stone, be deprived of his living,

[1] Richard Watson, Bp. of Llandaff, born 1737. Admitted a sizar of Trinity College, Camb. 1754; elected to the Chair of Chemistry, 1764—on his own statement "he had never read a syllable on the subject"—and to the Divinity Chair in 1771: "By hard travelling and some adroitness" he was given the degree of D.D. In 1781 the Duke of Rutland presented him with the valuable rectory of Knaptoft in Leicestershire, and in 1782 pressed his claims for the vacant see of Llandaff, to which he was appointed. He was the author of many papers, historical, philosophical and political, as well as theological. He died Bp. of Llandaff 1816.

but with regard to a Bishop especially of his age & character such a proceeding will not be so easy."

From Sir Watkin to Henry W. W. W.

"VIENNA, *January 19th* [1815].

"DEAR HENRY,—I think there is no doubt of Saxony being partially restored. I have heard that it is calculated according to the latest statistical tables to consist of about 2,200,000 souls, & that as the King of Prussia is to have an addition of 500,000 on that side, he is to have the lower Lusatia & part of Wittemburg with that town as a fortress. There is another report that the Elbe is to be the boundary, but if Dresden is to continue the capital of the remains of Saxony that is impossible. We know nothing & there are few reports about what passes in congress, but it is said that the main points are nearly settled & that Russia is to keep two thirds of Poland without the title. I hear that Castlereagh is to return for the Meeting of Parliament & leave Paddy Clancarty [1] to settle the remainder of the business. I do not see any signs of his packing up, & Lord Clive & those attached to the Mission deny the report of his going.

"We were all much shocked four days ago by the death of Montague, 2nd son to M. of Portman Square. He was a very good humoured lad of 22 & was working hard to improve himself in Lord Castlereagh's office. A Typhus fever carried him off in ten days.

"I will endeavour to speak to Lord C. about you before I leave this place, but I think that the strong report of the restoration of the K. of S.[2] would be sufficient ground for your writing to him yourself to remind him of the hopes that he gave to you in that case. To this letter you would probably get an answer which would shew you what chance you had of being employed. I fear if you do not get something in the

[1] Richard, 2nd Earl; born 1767; Ambassador to the Hague 1813; mar. 1796, Henrietta Margaret, dau. of Rt. Hon. John Staples. He died 1837.

[2] Kingdom of Saxony, established in 1815, and a Minister from St. James's appointed in 1816.

present arrangement you will get nothing hereafter, at least while these people are in. Sir C. Stewart [1] is appointed to the Hague. Military men are all the fashion, but from the specimen we have here it is not in that school that I should look for a foreign Minister."

From Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

"ACTON, *January 28th*, 1815.

"MY DEAREST MOTHER,—In my letter of last week I mentioned the intended meeting to be held at Ruthin on Tuesday. The following are the Resolutions. 'That Sir W. W. W. Bart. in having offered his services to his King & Country in the late awful contest in which this Nation was engaged, & afterwards embarking with his Regiment to France has exhibited that rare instance of manly spirit, zeal, & unalloyed distinguished patriotism, which highly calls for the veneration & gratitude of every true lover of his Country. That the freeholders & inhabitants of this County from their long & near connection with Sir W. W. W. & his family, feeling these sentiments in the strongest degree, take leave to request that he will give them an opportunity of expressing them personally, by honoring them with his company at a Public dinner at Ruthin on any day that may be most agreeable to him. That the gallant band of Officers & Soldiers who accompanied their Colonel to the Continent are also deserving of our best thanks. That the Officers of the Militia of this County who accompanied Sir W. W. W. to France, be also invited to the Dinner to meet their Commanding Officer. That a piece of Plate be presented to Sir W. W. as a token of the high sense his Constituents entertain of his loyalty, gallantry & patriotism, with an appropriate inscription, which may remain in his family, as a lasting memorial of the services he has performed for his country, & transmit to his posterity an example so truly worthy of their imitation. That a Committee be formed of all the Subscribers, to convey these Resolutions to Sir W. W. W. & his Officers to arrange the mode of giving

[1] Charles, s. of 1st Marq. of Londonderry; born 1778; created Baron Stewart 1814. A distinguished soldier and diplomat. Suc. his brother as 3rd Marq. in 1822. Died 1854.

the Dinner & to carry the resolution into full effect, that they do meet etc. etc.'

"Near £300 was immediately subscribed, though the Meeting was only attended by the immediate neighbourhood, the weather preventing the Dean, Wynne of Garthewin, & a good many others from being there. A Meeting had previously been held at Wrexham & very numerously attended to determine on giving a dinner there. I therefore suppose that the subscription will certainly amount to 6 or 700£ which will be quite sufficient to make a magnificent appearance in the centre of the table & to induce every body to read the inscription. Griffith of Gam, proposed, & Lloyd of Hafodunos seconded. William Richards was there & described to me the enthusiasm & zeal of every person whom he has seen in every part of the county to manifest attachment & respect, to be beyond what he could have believed.

"I wish that his (Watkin's) own domestic Establishment was such as might give him a welcome equal to his public one, but really the fraud & plunder which seems interwoven with it, in all its branches is such as sickens one & palsies every plan for improvement as only affording fresh opportunities for peculation.

"Richards has received information that in the Voel Eglwyseg plantation, the digging holes being paid for by the day & the planting by the job, the labourers were regularly taken off from the first, for three or four hours per day, & employed on the second, under the Eye of Dawson's brother, whom he employed to superintend them. On Tuesday morning we are to have all the witnesses & enquire into the circumstances."

From H. E. C. (Mrs. Cholmondeley) to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"ASTLE, *Saturday* [1815].

"MY DEAREST HESTER,—Many thanks for your letter this morning, I am so uncomfortable about my beloved Mother, on account of this news from Barcelona that I must vent my fears upon you & Henry, & entreat you to send me some comfort. I trust that as she did not leave Aix till the 13th there is no fear of her having em-

barked at Marseilles soon enough to be at Barcelona for all these horrible riots, but supposing that she should be ignorant of the state of Spain (which is quite possible) when one remembers how very little they knew of Bonaparte's descent & progress, & should attempt to cross it! And even supposing she knew of it in time to alter her course, where will she direct it to? I hope & trust to Gibraltar.

"I heard to-day from Lord Buckingham & will extract a part of his letter which I hope you will enable me to contradict, as I am quite certain that it is a false report, (of course you will not repeat it as coming from Lord B.). 'I have heard to-day a thing that has plagued me much for Watkin's sake, do pray tell me that it is a lie, as it will much relieve me. The Parenté who are the greatest gossips that God ever formed, have got hold of a story, that the inscription to be put, or rather actually put, upon Watkin's plate given him by his county, is a very ridiculous one about *Bonaparte's retiring from France when Sir Watkin entered it, & returning to France when he left it.* Now I cannot believe this for Watkin's sake, but do pray enable me positively to contradict it, as you have no idea how it is circulating, thanks to said parenté!' Now I suppose this is some very ill-natured joke, which some kind friend has put about in London, but pray let me know whether any inscription is decided upon, as I believe the contrary to be the fact, but it makes my Welch blood circulate rather quickly to think that such a *lie* can be believed.

"With best love to Henry. I remain,

"Ever yours affectionately,

"H. E. C."

The piece of presentation plate took the form of a large silver *jardinière*, 3 ft. by 2 ft. 6. The inscription is in English and Latin and Welsh. The English inscription is as follows:

TO COLONEL SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, BARONET
THE PATRIOT LEADER OF HIS COUNTRYMEN
DURING THE REBELLION IN IRELAND AND INVASION OF FRANCE
AS A MEMORIAL OF HIS REPEATED VOLUNTARY SERVICES
THE COUNTY OF DENBIGH
PRESENTED THIS TRIBUTE OF ESTEEM AND GRATITUDE,
M,D.C,C.C,X.V,

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"MADRID, *May 1st* [1815].

"You will my dearest Henry, have heard thro' some of the family of our safe arrival at this place on the 26th ult., after a journey from Barcelona as unpleasant as any could be, unmarked by the smallest real disaster. Nothing can be so dull to all appearances as this Town, even to those to whom it has the charm of novelty. Our friends who, evidently desire nothing so much as to make it agreeable to us, cannot find a Lion to propose, excepting the Prado, where we drive or walk up & down for an hour every evening before we go to the Play, & from the general effect of both these spectacles all semblance of brilliancy & gaiety is withdrawn by the uniform Black dress, which even we are obliged to adopt before we can appear there. Last night being Sunday, the promenade was enlivened by the Royal Coach which, followed by 2 others, dragged its contents up & down the walk at a foot's pace for a couple of hours. The King [1] is very large & fat with a Bourbon sort of face. He receives the Diplom. twice a week, but has no drawing-room, nor has any Lady been presented to him, but the Russian Minister's wife, who demanded an Audience, for the purpose which she obtained, but neither she nor her purpose could advance one step further.

"The all devouring destroying hand of the French throws an air of desolation, which, while one strongly feels the impression of, as a Foreigner, must I really think to a Native & to a Spaniard, be almost more than any philosophy can resist. In the Road from Barcelona hither, not one of the objects of curiosity mentioned by La Borde exist. In many places not the vestige of a village remains, in others one sees the marks of their desperate resistance, in each separate & individual House being pierced like a sieve.

"I have been very unlucky in missing the opportunity of seeing a Bull fight, which have been exhibited once every week till this precise moment of my arrival,

[1] King Ferdinand VII.

Mrs. Gordon [1] is quite an 'amateur' of the sports, & assures me that after the first or second time I should get over all awkward feelings which might check my delight in it. Of this I do not feel quite so sure but at all events I should very much like to have seen the first coup d'oeil of such an assembly & the dresses of the Piccadores & other performers. Tho' they are exhibited so regularly & frequently they say the Concourse is never less than 12,000 people. The first thing I saw when I went to the Gordon Nursery was a Bull of the proportion of a Rocking Horse upon wheels, with a cork neck into which one little boy was to throw darts while the other pushed it at Him. This is certainly a most national toy.

"Last night I saw a Fandango for the first time, & admired it extremely. I was told that it was extremely 'low, Good Heavens'! & certainly I saw nothing to object to in it, of a contrary description. The Boleros I do not in general like as well as Angrilinis.

"I see nothing which is in the least likely to prolong my stay here beyond my originally fixed day the 23rd. inst. My Muleteers are to deliver me at Lisbon Ferry in 13 days, & I shall have an escort of 4 Soldiers with me the whole way. This is reckoned indispensably necessary & with it I understand there is no danger whatever, as they never come to a pitched Battle. My stay at Lisbon will be governed entirely by the means which shall offer of getting away."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"FALMOUTH, *June 10th* [1815].

"Here I am my dearest Children, delighted to think that my first Letter which I address to you at your own Home should be to remove all the kind anxiety which I have most unwillingly occasioned to you for some months past. We arrived early this morning after a most tedious passage of 14 days, with almost constant Northly Winds, & not without considerable apprehension

[1] Caroline, dau. of Sir George Cornwall, Bart., of Moccas. She mar. 1810, William Gordon, who succeeded his uncle in November 1815 to the Baronetage of Gordon of Halkin, having previously assumed the additional surname of Duff. She died 1875.

of French Privateers. Thank God, however, we have escaped that & many other Evils, which we have certainly been within very immediate reach of, & which will now only serve to make an interesting Story to my Grandchildren. There is so much delay in getting my Coach etc., on Shore that the best I hope is to get on one Stage this evening. This will much facilitate my getting to London on Wednesday which is all I expect. Lady Carysfort has taken Lodgings for me on my arrival at the Camelford House Hotel, which perfectly corresponds with her usual thoughtful kindness, as it will save me the bustle of first landing at a naked House."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"LONDON, *June 29th*, 1815.

". . . Everybody for the last ten days has had so much to hear & say that We have been passing our time pretty much as St. Paul describes the Athenians of old. At this moment Count Woronzow's [1] servant brings the following in an open Note for Lord Grenville (who has left London yesterday) 'Bonaparte s'est rendu a Compiégne, le Duc de Wellington et celuici est probablement à Paris, a Chevre qu'il est, les Autrichiens sont à Lyon. L'armée Russe a passée le Rhin le 25.' I take for granted that this will be in the Evening papers, but I am, from experience so well aware how much kinder it is to give to one's Correspondents the Chance of reading news twice over, rather than not reading it at all, that I shall, I believe, henceforth always make my letters like the résumés in the County papers. We have repeatedly thought how very unhappy you must have been at being met by all this magnificent News when you was parted from your Maps. Every body is wild with Admiration of our wonderful Hero.[2] All the private letters are filled with enthusiastic enconiums on Him, even in the first moments of individual suffering. Lord Grenville insists upon its being considered as the Sum total of a whole

[1] A Russian nobleman, whose dau. Catherine had married, as his second wife, George, 11th Earl of Pembroke.

[2] Duke of Wellington.

& heavy Campaign, & not the losses of a single Day. Still one cannot but feel horror at the idea of the details which are yet to come out, & which I fear will hardly appear to have been aggravated by the dreadful long time of Suspence during which they have been looked for. Many people think that Government will not publish them, but I hope that will not be the case, as such Concealment could not diminish the general impression of the loss sustained, & would only give that of our not daring to look it in the face. The too obvious cause of the returns not arriving is found in there not being one of the Duke's staff who has escaped unhurt, & who therefore has yet been able to make it out. The D. himself had the most extraordinary hair-breadth escapes that can be conceived, Sir William Gordon was killed in the Act of turning the head of the Duke's horse, & Lord Fitz S.[1] was resting his Arm on the D.'s knee receiving his orders, when a Ball took it off, & was by so doing turned off. On this good fortune, & this alone He expatiates in his first letter written with his left hand to his Mother. Lord Combermere sets out to-day, & My Lady is delighted with the thoughts of her trip to Paris, in what Henry's poor Servant would have called 'A leading Character.' The accounts of Lord Uxbridge are said to be unfavourable, which at this particular moment one is in duty bound to lament, otherwise I should certainly excuse myself."

Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"AUDLEY END, *Wednesday.*

"I suppose you have heard of Sir H. Wellesley's[2] marrying Lady G. Cecil, which is considered as affaire faite & as far as it can be ever good to marry into the Wellesley family must, I suppose, give much satisfaction.

[1] Ld. Fitzroy Somerset (afterwards Ld. Raglan, C.-in-Chief during the Crimean War); born 1788. Military Secretary to the Duke of Wellington throughout the Peninsular Campaign. He died during the siege of Sebastopol 1855.

[2] Henry, 5th s. of 1st Earl of Mornington; born 1773. K.C.B. Mar. 1st, Charlotte, dau. of 1st Earl Cadogan (whom he divorced in 1810, and she mar. 1810, 1st Earl of Anglesey); he mar. 2ndly in 1816, Georgina, dau. of 1st Marq. of Salisbury. She died 1860. He was created Baron Cowley 1828. He died 1847.

Lord Sligo is marrying a Lady Catherine de Burgh, daughter of Lady Clanrickard,[1] a poor child barely 16, who has never seen anything of the world, nor probably heard anything of her intended but that he is a great Lord who will make her a fine lady. When one sees the result of the Byron experiment, one trembles at the idea of a Roué turning married man. His Mama, Lady Sligo,[2] is supposed to have found out that it will be pleasanter to live on the Continent without her youthful Lord, than in England with him, but far otherwise his Aunt whose inseparability from her little Phippy has obtained to them the name of 'Hook & Eye' which I think is not without merit.

"Adieu my dearest, love & blessing to my dear Henry & the etc."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *February 26th.*

" . . . The Coburgh Marriage[3] seems to be the only genteel Topic of Conversation. The Measure is supposed to have been forced on P. R.[4] by his Ministers, & that He desires nothing more than to put it forward to His daughter in such an uninviting Shape as may ensure her refusal of it. Hitherto She has had no more intimate communication of it than the rest of her fellow Subjects by means of the Newspapers, where She will at least have the counterpart to sing of 'nobody coming to marry me.' The Accounts of her worthy Sire even from the most courtly & cautious reporters are most unfavourable. The weakness of His lower limbs is so great that He now remains entirely in his Bed with strong dropsical Symptoms. Many will tell you that it can last but few months, which, however, I shall be very slow to believe after what one has seen, & daily does see, of the tenacity of life in the whole family. The

[1] Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Thomas Burke, 1st Bart.; she mar. 1799, Thomas, 13th Earl of Clanricarde, who died 1808. She died 1854.

[2] Lady Louisa Howe, dau. and co-h. of Richard, Earl Howe. She mar. 1st in 1787, John, 1st Marq. of Sligo. He died 1809. She mar. 2ndly, Sir William Scott (Ld. Stowell), and died 1817.

[3] The marriage of Princess Charlotte to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, which took place on May 2nd.

[4] Prince Regent.

Wellesley & Cecil Match takes place immediately which I mention only to introduce a Gentillesse of that respectable personage the Marquis of Anglesea, who upon hearing of it expressed his opinion of the Lady's beauty by saying '*I shall not trouble him again.*'

"Lord Pembroke's[1] inheritance from Lord Fitzwilliam[2] will ultimately be no less than £20,000 a year, at present He gives £4,000 per ann. between the Brothers & their family, which is only to be admired inasmuch as it would have been wrong to have done otherwise. Not above a month before his death Lord F. was expressing to His friend Whitburn the Bookseller, his hesitation whether He should leave it all to Lord P. or to another relation equally near. Nowhere, however, could it have been more acceptable as Lord P. was on the point of breaking up & selling everything to make a provision for his numerous family."

Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *Wednesday.*

"The Royal Marriage is said to be fixed for the 4th April. I suppose the rebound of it will produce something like the usual London Stile of Gaiety, hitherto Lady Salisbury[3] & Lady Camden[4] have been the only people who ventured on the expenditure of a dozen pounds of Sperm Candles.

"I am full of delight with the establishment of the Bazaar,[5] not particularly for the Articles which may certainly be procured at no considerable difference in fifty other places, but from seeing & hearing from people themselves the incalculable advantages derived from it. The Room is a large one, the whole lower floor

[1] Ld. Pembroke, the 11th Earl, who had seven children.

[2] Ld. Fitzwilliam, 7th Irish Visc.; born 1745; died unmar. February 4th, 1816, and was suc. by his brother. (Richard, the 5th Visc., who died in 1743, and was the grandfather of the 7th and 8th Viscounts, had a dau. Mary, who mar. as her 1st husband in 1733, Henry, 9th E. of Pembroke.)

[3] Mary, dau. of 1st Marq. of Downshire; mar. James, 1st. Marq. of Salisbury 1773. She was burnt to death in 1835 when Hatfield was damaged.

[4] Francis, dau. of William Molesworth of Wembury; mar. 1785, 1st Marq. Camden. She died 1829.

[5] Soho bazaar.

of the Corner House next to Sir J. Bankes's in Soho Square. It is fitted up with Counters all round & down the middle, of these, portions of 8 ft. each are let out as Standings, & are paid for at the rate of 2*s.* each, which is paid every night. This is the only expence to the Tenant. The Room is warmed by stoves, & the firing, watching, & everything else is supplied by the Landlord, who will I really think find it answer even in Money, if it goes on, but I am sure He would be sufficiently repaid by the blessings which I heard poured down upon him, by every one of the different Occupiers to whom I spoke. There are 60 in this Lower Room, the same Space is fitting up above for the same purposes, & there are already above 100 applicants. The Gentleman to whom the premises belong, & who has the whole merit of the invention & execution is Mr. Trotter, Brother to the Army Agent. His name ought to be written in letters of Gold. Every Article of every sort is sold there from Apples & Oranges to the fine Lace, all British, all for ready money, & no Abatement ever made."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *Saturday.*

"The Coburgh concern is considered as settled & the Marriage to take place in May. Lord St. Helens says it is a pretty sight 'to see them both on the Sofa together,' but for the present all these prettinesses are suspended, & the poor Lover sent to kick his heels & cool his passion at Weymouth, 'while arrangements are Making.' This, in common life, would not be considered as a very gracious proceeding towards an accepted beau-fils, but I suppose Royal ones are trained to such 'gentillesses.' Fanny made her debut last Thursday, at the Ant Concert where the great Event was the appearance of the new Royal Duchess [1] who came with her Sweet Spouse,[1] & marching up squatted Herself in the very Centre of the Sanctum Sanctorum, the Director's Bench. There happened to be none present, excepting the Duke

[1] William Frederick, 2nd Duke of Gloucester, grandson of King George II; mar. 1816, his first cousin, Princess Mary, 4th dau. of King George III. She died 1857. He died 1834.

of Devon.[1] & Lord Fortescue, who had both dined with Her at the Dinner given by the Duke as Director of the Night. Nothing like a female attendant or Companion appeared either at the Dinner or Concert, two male German sticks followed them into the Concert Room, & so little knew what they were brought for, that they remained planted, while the *Duke went* out to call for His carriage & theirs. Fanny says she has not a trace of beauty, but in a fine skin, & uncommonly beautifully shaped Head extremely well set on. She is passionately fond of music, which together with the particular charm of Her Manners & conversation has so infatuated Lord F. that He is gone to dine there to-day en famille, being I should think almost the only Peer in England who would do Her Royal Husband that honour.

"The Duke of Devon has asked her to come with the Duke of G. to His Director's Dinner next Wednesday & will, I suppose, get the Duchess of Leeds,[2] who is among the very few who have visited Her, to meet Her. What the Archbishop & the other stiff old Gentlemen will do after this precedent will be comical to watch."

Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *Monday.*

"The Royal Wedding begins now to be the only topick, & the going to look at the different parts of the wardrobe the chief employment of the beau monde. She takes only £6,000 for her trousseau, including Jewels which seems very moderate, but Grandmama's[3] prevoyance had laid by the greatest part of what was before purchased for the same purpose, & which of course comes now in aid. They are to be married at 10 o'clock at night at Carlton House, & then to stay two days, which is a more Christian-like arrangement than is usually made for such personages. Her Aunt of Wurtenburgh breakfasts next morning with the King & Queen, & all their suite. It is piously hoped by all court frequenters that the abolition of the Hoop, which

[1] The 6th D. of Devonshire; born 1790; suc. his father in 1811; died unmarried in 1857.

[2] Charlotte, dau. of George, 1st Marq. Townsend; mar. 6th D. of Leeds 1797. She died 1856.

[3] Queen Charlotte.

is given out in Orders for the Wedding will extend to future Drawing-rooms. None of the Household are yet named excepting Lady George Thynne [1] & Lady Emily Murray.[2] The first seems in every respect unobjectionable. Her husband belongs to Court—she has neither chick nor child to want her care, & is I suppose in bodily powers equal to any exertion which her young mistress may call upon her for, but to the latter every one of these points present difficulties. She has a young husband who will have to seek a friend & fire-side when she is unable to supply it. She has a young child, whom she is never satisfied to have out of her sight, & she has a state of health which has always hitherto required her to be kept in cotton wool. It is however entirely Lord James's seeking, & therefore he at least will have no right to complain whatever be the consequence."

[1] Harriet, dau. of William, 2nd Visc. Courtenay ; mar. 1797, George, 2nd s. of 1st Marq. of Bath. He suc. his uncle as 2nd Ld. Carteret and d.s.p. 1838.

[2] Emily Frances, dau. of 2nd D. of Northumberland ; mar. 1810, Ld. James Murray, 2nd s. of 4th D. of Atholl. He afterwards became Major-Gen. and was created Ld. Glenlyon. He died 1837. She died 1844.

CHAPTER XIV

1817—1820

BESIDES events of social interest and the gossip of the beau-monde, the topic of most importance during 1817 in the Williams Wynn family was Charles's candidature for the Speaker's chair.

Mr. Charles Abbott resigned on May 30th, and was raised to the Peerage as Baron Colchester.

Mr. Manners Sutton and Charles were the opposing candidates, and the Commons gave their votes against the nominee of the Grenville Party by a majority of 162. Lady Williams Wynn's disappointment was very keen.

Fanny Williams Wynn, as inveterate a globe-trotter as her brother Henry, began her winter trips abroad in 1817, visiting her sister Charlotte Shipley in Majorca, and making tours through France and Italy. Her mother's letters to her during her wanderings are preserved by the Trustees of the National Library for Wales, at Aberystwyth, by whose permission they find their place in this correspondence.

The family excitement during the General Election of 1818 centred in Lord Ebrington's fight for the county of Devon.

The death of the old King, the accession of the Prince Regent, the subsequent controversies with reference to the Queen's trial, all play a large part in the letters of this time, and an interesting mention is made of the conspiracy, known as the Cato Street Plot, discovered but three weeks after the new Sovereign had come to the



Hoppner

CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN

throne, for the avowed purpose of assassinating the Ministers of the Crown. The plot aroused throughout England a terror which amounted to something like panic; in itself it was not widespread, but confined to the leading agitator, Thistlewood, and a few confederates, all of whom were arrested, tried for high treason, and executed.

The country at large continued in a state of unrest and general discontent.

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"Brook Street, *Wednesday.*

"I met your beau-frere, the Earl,[1] the other day at Lord Grenville's & was, I assure you, quite struck with his improvement in beauty & manners. Lady Grenville declares that he was looking at himself in the Glass, the whole time & adjusting his Neck-cloth which, however I am sorry to say, still keeps a respectful distance from his Chin. We saw, waiting in the Hall, his famous Jager, who constantly attends him, & certainly a most mountebank looking personage, with a Cap 3 ft. high, from the top of which falls a fringe of the blackest Feather or Horse hair hanging quite over the man's face. He is all over silver lace & with an immense Sabre. Lord S. talked of going back in the Spring to fetch his family. The Executors are, I hear, cavilling for everything, they tried hard to claim the Robes (I wonder for what earthly purpose) as personalty, & are now contending with him for all the Stanhope papers which it is feared they will get. These they may make money of, but what they could do with the old Velvet it is impossible to guess. I have not seen the Countess Dowager [2] but hear she is very indignant at the Statement in the Will of her transactions with her Substitute."

[1] Philip Henry, 4th E. Stanhope. He mar. as Ld. Mahon 1803, Catherine Lucy, dau. of 1st Ld. Carrington; suc. his father 1816. He died 1855.

[2] Louisa, dau. and sole h. of Hon. Henry Grenville, Governor of Barbadoes; mar. 1781, as his second wife, Charles, 3rd E. Stanhope (whose first wife, Lady Hester Pitt, dau. of 1st E. of Chatham, died 1780). She died 1829.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *April 30th*, 1817.

"My frank being to you my dearest Henry, I must to you address my letter. I am most unfeignedly delighted with Lady H.[1] & agreeably surprised at finding her hitherto very conversible, which your report did not much lead me to expect. It must however be remembered that you saw her under every disadvantage & suddenly thrown into the necessity of assuming habits of Intimacy with a large family party with whom she could hardly have one subject of conversation in common. They are both very proud of having got their Rooms in St. James' Square so comfortable, & seem to sit down quite reconciled to the dirt & rags.

"The Grand Wedding[2] takes place to-night, the gentlemen of the family are to dine together at Lord Clive's[3] where the Ladies are to arrive at 8 o'clock to pick them up & proceed to Northumberland House. Charles is as you may imagine all fever about the Speakership, tho' for the present it seems at a standstill. The question has certainly already brought forward many more professions of good will & acknowledgements of claim with respect to him than we could have expected, though while the one great Bar to preferment continues, we cannot look to his leaping it. There is much advantage as well as gratification in what has passed, & is passing on the subject.

"The Harvey[4] marriage has richly supplied the town with small talk this week, never was there, I should say, so great a Bicky, tho' some people say that much of it is assumed as naiveté. *He says* he takes her as an 'unsophisticated Being.' What ideas he attaches to that phrase which makes him think it is peculiarly

[1] Lady Harriet, 1st dau. of Edward, 1st E. of Powis, who in February 1817 had married Sir Watkin.

[2] Hugh, 3rd D. of Northumberland, mar. April 30th, 1817, Lady Charlotte Clive, 2nd dau. of 1st E. of Powis.

[3] Edward, afterwards 2nd E. of Powis; born 1785; mar. 1818, Lucy, dau. of 3rd E. of Montrose. He died 1848.

[4] Felton Elwell Hervey, born 1782; assumed the additional name of Bathurst 1801; mar. April 24th, 1817, Louisa Catherine, 3rd dau. of Richard Caton of Maryland, U.S.A. (she mar. 2ndly in 1838, Francis, 7th D. of Leeds, and d.s.p. 1874). He was created a baronet 1818, with special remainder to his brother. He died 1819.

suited to his case I know not, but I think none of His friends seem to fancy it would suit theirs ! She throws herself entirely on the protection of the Duke of Wellington & in the hour of interval which necessarily took place on her Wedding Day, between the two ceremonies she insisted on walking away *on the Duke's arm* to see the Waterloo Panorama. During the Protestant Ceremony, when she was called to repeat after the Minister, she stopped short & burst out into loud laughter, & then began tittering the whole time. During the reading of the Settlement, when they came to the provision for younger Children, she exclaimed a haute voix to the reading Quill-driver, 'how do you know that I shall have any younger Children ?' On her Belle Mere [1] proposing some servant to her for her new ménage, she said it was perfectly unnecessary 'As the Duke has asked me to live with Him, & I am determined to do so.' In short the stories are endless & hold out no encouragement to the Election of unsophisticated Beings for Wives.

"Car Neville's [2] marriage is supposed to be booked for the end of next week which being the last piece of news that occurs to me. I will with all Love & Blessing to all conclude my miscellaneous epistle."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *Friday, May 9th*, 1817.

"I do not know whether Hester or you will take any interest in hearing that, Lady Catherine West [3] is going to marry Major or Colonel D'Arcy, but we who remember all the foolish things she did & said at Stowe & have heard how wretched a life she led with her half-crazy Mother, cannot but think that any change must be to her advantage. You will be sorry to hear that poor Lady Normanton continues very ill, he was to have

[1] Lady Fremantle, wife of Rt. Hon. Sir William Fremantle (Selina, dau. and h. of Sir John Elwell ; mar. 1779, Felton Hervey, who died 1785).

[2] Caroline, dau. of 2nd Ld. Braybrooke ; mar. 1817, Beilly Lawley (who assumed the surname of Thompson in 1839), afterwards 1st Baron Wenlock. She died 1868.

[3] Dau. of 4th E. of Delawarr ; mar. 1817, Col. Joseph D'Arcy, R.A. She died 1824.

dined with your Brother yesterday but sent word that he could not leave Her. Lady Elphinstone [1] the Widow of 45, to whom Lord Exeter,[2] the Marquis of 21, is pouring forth his vows & Entreaties, has desired a Demur of 6 months, at the end of which time, if she appears to Him to have gained in youth, & He to Her, brings proper symptoms of age, she promises to be gracious. Miss Mercer gives herself & her independant £4000 pr. an. to Flahault [3] (whom Lady Perth calls Flott,) in spite of Lord Keith's disinheriting Will, which he shews to her, & everybody else who comes near Him, adding that the rascal shall never come within His doors.

"I hear the Catholic Division to-night is expected to be very stormy & that Fortescue has professed his intention of voting for it, which I can hardly believe. Never was anything so complete as Canning's triumph, nor so handsome as the conduct of Lord Milton [4] who had in addition to all party feelings to get over the remembrance of Canning's most unfair personal attack upon him, & to brow beat Him on his first Speech in the House. And I really think that this does the greatest honour to Lord M. both as an upright Judge & a Gentleman.

"God bless you dearest, I hate this messy way of scrawling but was surprised into it by my subject."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"*May 29th*, [1817].

"I have this moment received dear Hester's letter & having my Frank, to you, my dearest must address to you, my thanks. . . .

[1] Lady Elphinstone, Janet Hyndford, widow of Sir John Carmichael, 2nd dau. of Cornelius Elliott, of Roxburghshire. She mar. John, 12th Ld. Elphinstone, 1806. He died 1813. She died 1825.

[2] 2nd Marq., born 1795; mar. 1824, Isabella, dau. of William Stephen Poyntz of Cowdray Park, Sussex.

[3] Flahault, August Charles Joseph, Comte de Flahault, de la Billardrie, sometime Ambassador of France at the Court of St. James. He married in 1817, Hon. Margaret Mercer, daughter of Baron Keith. She succeeded to her father's Barony, which on her death in 1867 became extinct. General Flahault died 1870.

[4] Charles, Ld. Milton, afterwards 5th Earl Fitzwilliam; born 1786; mar. 1806, Mary, dau. of 1st Ld. Dundas. He suc. his father in 1833. He died 1857. He sat in the H. of C. 1807-33.

"If the news of Ebrington's [1] marriage reached you on Tuesday it was certainly very premature, as not a Soupcon of it had been dropped to any of the family till Monday when it was announced in form, Just in time enough for us to receive the compliments of the Nobility & Gentry at Stafford House in the evening. Everybody seems to consider it as a pretty Match, & his Father & Mother are quite delighted with it. The young Lady has her two Uncles, the Archbishop and Bishop,[2] ready to answer for her merits in all the most serious essential requisites, & for the Ornamental part nobody doubts her being pre-eminent. It is said that Lord Harrowby himself has taken pains with her reading & that she is extremely well informed.

"That she is a most singular fortunate young woman I am most fully pursuaded, being still of my early opinion that He is of all others the man most calculated to make the happiness of a woman who He should really love.

"This moment brings me a note from Lord Glastonbury saying 'The Speaker resigns to-morrow, I have this intelligence thro' a Channel which I conceive to be authentic.' This as you may believe flustered me not a little."

On June 2nd the Prince Regent intimated to the House of Commons that he had accepted the resignation of Mr. Speaker Abbott (who was thereupon created Baron Colchester) and desired the faithful Commons to elect a new Speaker.

Mr. Manners-Sutton, the Judge-Advocate-General, was proposed by Sir J. Nicols, and seconded by Mr. Lyttelton. Mr. Dickinson proposed Charles, and in the Duke of Buckingham's Memories the remark is added, "on whose peculiar fitness for the Office he expatiated." Sir Matthew White Ridley was the seconder, and Mr.

[1] Afterwards 2nd Earl Fortescue; mar. 1st, July 4th, 1817, Lady Susan Ryder, dau. of 1st E. of Harrowby (she died 1827); 2ndly 1841, Elizabeth, dau. of Piers Geale, and widow of Sir Marcus Somerville.

[2] Edward Vernon Harcourt, Archbp. of York, and Henry Ryder, Bp. of Gloucester (afterwards Bp. of Lichfield).

Wilberforce was amongst those who spoke in support of Charles.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"*June 4th*, 1817.

"I have sent, dearest Henry, to Portman Square for a Frank the want of which prevented my writing to you yesterday, tho' I knew full well that every particular of our late most anxious business would reach you thro' a more direct Channel than mine. The result was, I believe, full as good as we had any reason to expect, & it has certainly brought forward much testimony of personal friendship as well as of general good opinion, but still the whole thing has, as you may believe been matter of great worry to me. Nothing certainly can have been more decidedly adverse, to all political speculation than our proceedings in this Session, we have thrown off from us a great many valuable friends, & have not established the smallest claim on any one of our oponents. I am now quite persuaded that We are as much aloof from every Member of the present Administration as We have ever been. Even Lord Liverpool,[1] in making to Lord Grenville the communication of Abbott's resignation, which he did not do, till He was obliged to tell Him that the Committee on the Hab. Corpus was put off, did it in the driest stiffest manner possible precisely as it would have been notified to a Clerk. Lord Buckingham has, I am persuaded, never had the most distant offer of Paris, nor would He take it in my opinion, if He had. He hates the French en masse, & the Court in every branch & subdivision of it, & I think with very good reason. They cannot without pain look at a man whose every feature reminds them of obligations which it wounds their pride to acknowledge.

"June 5th.—Thus far I had written when I was interrupted by morning Visitors & I could not resume my thread line, enough to finish the leaf for the post.

"Among my visitors was your Uncle Tom who came in quite dancing with joy at the extraordinary scene

[1] Prime Minister, 1812–27.

which had passed in the House of Commons the night before, & of which he had been so lucky as to hear the particulars from Canning who was very innocently pressed to say what business had detained him so much longer than he expected from their weekly Literary Club. Your Uncle says that if he had been obliged to have pointed out the precise thing which (Next to M. Sutton's [1] having declined the Chair & proposed Charles) would have given him most pleasure, it was just what did take place. The Manner & the Matter, all was à souhait. Charles tells me that he wrote you a long letter yesterday, so that I need not enter into any further particulars excepting to say what he probably did not, how very great an impression, the mildness & amiability with which he treated his more than half-slain foes, made upon every part of the House. Lord Glastonbury's chuckle upon it has not ceased yet, & Lady Spencer sits to receive the Compliments of the Nobility & Gentry. She has heard that among other strong arguments used in favour of M. Sutton, one was the extreme importance of having a 'Protestant Speaker' & this, as you may believe, roused in her no small jealousy of her own Articles of Faith. Ebrington's resignation of his Seat & public notification of its being accepted did much mischief & spread about so much report of coalition, that one man (Fred Douglas) said He would vote for Charles if he was put up by the opposition, but not if proposed by Government.

"Have you heard of the Earl's (N.B. Stanhope) having on his last return from foreign parts made one of his *very best bows*, to Lord Liverpool, telling him that the time that he had past abroad had so fully convinced him of the folly & mischief of the opinions in which he had been brought up, that henceforth He only begged to be considered as the most devoted, humble Servant of His Majesty's Government.

"I was in hopes that the many new drafts which Ebrington's new pursuit was likely to make both on his

[1] Son of the Most Rev. Charles Manners-Sutton, Archbp. of Canterbury; born 1780; Speaker of H. of C. 1817–34; raised to the Peerage as Viscount Canterbury. He mar. 1st, 1811, Lucy, dau. of John Denison. She died 1815. He mar. 2ndly, 1828, Ellen, dau. of Edmund Power, and widow of John Hume Purves. He died 1845.

purse & time might possibly put by His ill-advised electioneering mania, but of that, I fear there is no chance, nor has his present situation restored one smile to his Face or removed one shade of yellow from his complexion. I hear Lady Harrowby gives her £6000 down which is better than I expected. Every body speaks of her in the highest strain of panegyric, particularly in the Literary line which will be of great value to her Belle Mère who, with great turn for it herself, has never been able to inspire the smallest degree of the same taste in any of her young ones.

"Robert Clive's[1] marriage is avoued, but is not to be declared until Lord Amherst's arrival which in my opinion is a very absurd & unnecessary Compliment, & I fancy R. C. is pretty much of the same way of thinking, for anything so dull & woe-begone as he was at the grand St. James' Square dinner on Monday, I never saw. The bon: ton: Hymen list sets forth, Lord Clive & Lady L. Graham,[2] & Lord Dartmouth & Miss Morton,[3] but the little Earl has shewn himself such a gay deceiver that I shall have no faith in his being fairly hooked till she is ringed. . . ."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *June 10th*, 1817.

"MY DEAREST HESTER,—I have not yet recovered the final blow to all my political Speculations for my beloved Charles, though I certainly never for a moment entertained hopes of his success in this last push, when I learnt how the vacancy had been announced by Lord L. to Lord G. but while the object remained open I always indulged a fond hope that by some lucky chance we might attain it, now Alas! I look upon it as quite gone & after what we saw the other day, I am persuaded that if M. Sutton was to resign to-morrow Ministry could bring down just as many to vote for Mr.

[1] 2nd s. of 1st E. of Powis; mar. 1819, Harriet, Baroness Windsor.
[2] The marriage took place on February 9th, 1818.
[3] William, 4th E. of Dartmouth; born 1784; mar. 1st, 1821, Frances, dau. of 2nd E. Talbot. She died on October 4th, 1823. He mar. 2ndly, on October 25th, 1828, Frances, dau. of 5th Visc. Barrington. He died 1853.

Higgins or Mr. Wiggins as did for Him. The triumph of the next day was certainly very gratifying to my good Charles' friends, but will do little towards fattening his six hungry children.

"The break up of Robert Clive's match, is the high gossip of the day, I regret it, in the first place because I like Him & He is of course in despair, but much more on his sister's account who has made herself quite unwell with unhappiness about it, at the same time I own I cannot but smile at the very different views which old P. takes of the subject of jointure as applied to a son & to a daughter, & at His great surprise at finding himself met by Lady Amherst on his own ground. Still I think when Lord Amherst comes, it may very probably be brought on again, but the truth is that tho' he (R. C.) is wonderously richly appointed for a second Son, a man of £8,000 a year so tied up is no very great Catch for an extremely admired girl of high family with £12,000, but the Clives are so perfectly intoxicated with good fortune that it is impossible they should not just now expect everything to bow before them. There is another match just announced which I think you will reckon particularly well assorted, Lord Selsea? & the youngest of the melancholy tribe of Irbys.[1] The famillies on both sides are in extacies & the young people of course must be something more."

The Same

"Brook Street, *Monday, May 18th*, 1818.

"Harriet[2] has certainly been on the whole much better than usual & has enjoyed her London Campaign very much. She looks to about the 10th June for the dissolution of her Session as well as that of many other great folk, & in the mean time doing all sorts of gay things. She is at this moment in the employment in which she certainly shines the least, of ordering a dress for this Evening to attend Lady C. Cholmondley's[3]

[1] Anne Maria Louisa, 5th dau. of 2nd Baron Boston; mar. 1817, Ld. Selsey, who died 1839. She died 1870.

[2] Mrs. Cholmondeley.

[3] Charlotte, 1st dau. of 1st Marq. of Cholmondeley; mar. 1818, Lt.-Col. Hugh Seymour.

marriage which is to be performed en grande Ceremonie at *ten* o'clock, under the Auspices of P. R. who is to give her away. I should not like to see my son receive a Bride from such an unlucky hand, nor should I think my daughter's virgin purity, unpolluted in approaching the Altar thro' so gross an atmosphere. Lady Cholmondley's sense of the disparity of the match will not be lessened by the obvious Contrast of it with that of Lord Harrington's third daughter with the Duke of Leinster,[1] which has just been announced. The Lady is, as her Sister was, three years older than Her Sposo, but if she is in every other respect the parallel of Lady Tavistock the Duke of Leinster may be satisfied with his lot, as she probably at this moment feels with Hers.

"The Dissolution is now spoken of, quite confidently for the 10th, & the writs are already lodged in the Office, but the State of the Queen keeps them all in a fever. She had another Attack three days ago, which however was again put by, & she took her place as usual at Her Commerce. People have not done talking of the squeeze at Gloucester House, which was a most exact & daughter-like copy of the Drawing-room, both in numbers & *quality*. Mrs. Ross took a faint upon the staircase, & in order to give her room & air, an Alarm was given that the whole was giving way: this sent every body flying or rather pushing one over the other & among others the Duke of Wellington, who declared He never was so frightened in his life, & that it was too bad after all to come here to be taken in by a 'ruse de guerre' & that from Mrs. Ross!

"The Palk[2] marriage forestalled the Cholmondley's by three or four days. It was performed in St. George's at ½ past 7 by Owl light, the Bridegroom having had ½ an hour to pass with the Verger waiting for the rest of the Company who likewise were waiting for the principal performer, the Bishop of Gloucester, he being locked in the House of Lords for a division! What may be the fun of being married at such very uncanonical hours, excepting for Singularity, I cannot conceive."

[1] Augustus Fred., 3rd D. of Leinster; mar. 1818, Charlotte, dau. of 3rd Ld. Harrington.

[2] Elizabeth Malet, eld. dau. of Sir Lawrence Palk, 2nd Bart.; mar. May 15th, 1818, Sir Horace Seymour, M.P. She died 1827.

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *Friday, May 22nd*, 1818.

"Watkin was yesterday assisting with many others at Mr. Mytton's [1] wedding which he says in every respect was the Grandest He ever has seen & was attended by a first-rate list of fashionables. Lords Denbigh, Uxbridge, Stanhope, Cholmondley, & many others, to the number of about 40. The Duke of Marlborough arrived for the Breakfast which was given at Lady Jones' under the direction of Gunter who furnished it largely with Grapes, Strawberries, & other delicacies, in & out of Season. The happy pair went off to keep their noce at Blenheim, to which an Express was sent down the day before to have it all in the highest order for them. How happy would Homberg have been to have had such a 'Cabane' for his temporary Retreat. It is certainly flattering to the young man that so many of His Brother Officers & his Colonel among others should have shewn him such a mark of respect, & one is willing to hope that it looks as if there was some good seed at the bottom of all the Chaff which has hitherto floated about him, but still I should be very sorry to be much interested for his Bride. Mary Glynne & Harriet are now regular Co-attendants on Almacks, & both equally enjoy it. They were last night, full of Speculation about Lord Belgrave [2] & Lady Elizabeth Leveson, & cannot, I think, make up their opinion upon it, though the obvious Symptons seem very decisive as He certainly danced with every pretty girl in the room excepting Her, but still they think there is an understanding between them.

"Foley [3] too affords them again some play, having

[1] The famous "Jack Mytton" of Halston, Shropshire; mar. 1818, Harriet, dau. of Sir Tyrwhitt Jones, Bart., of Staveley Hall. She died 1818. After a notorious career as a sportsman and a spendthrift, and having represented Shrewsbury in Parliament in 1819–20, he died a prisoner for debt in the King's Bench in 1834.

[2] Ld. Belgrave, afterwards 2nd Marq. of Westminster; born 1795. He mar. Lady Elizabeth Leveson, dau. of 1st D. of Sutherland, on September 16th, 1819. She died 1891, and he died 1869.

[3] Probably Edward Foley, of Stoke Edith; born 1791; M.P. for Hereford 1826–41; mar. 1832, Lady Emily, dau. of 3rd D. of Montrose. He died s.p. 1846. She died 1900.

for the last three or four Balls returned to his old habits with Mary F.,[1] but still nobody belonging to Her can attach to it, the smallest importance, & every now & then He takes just the same dose of Pratt.

"The Queen was supposed to be better yesterday, but nobody expects She can last long. She is taking the Fox-glove which is a most severe remedy at near fourscore!"

Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *Saturday.*

"The Leinster[2] marriage made for the 12 hours a more than usual degree of gossip from the difficulty of bringing before the P. R. who was again to officiate as Father, objects so ungracious in his eyes, as the immediate relatives, such as Lord Kinnard,[3] Foley, Faversham, & the Bridesmaid, Lady L. Molyneux.[4] The former was for sometime reinstated, but on the Duke of Leinster's brother protesting that he would not come himself if his Sisters & their Husbands were excluded, they were invited, two or three hours only before the Ceremony. I do think this new fashion of mixing up the frippery of Royal Ceremonial with a solemnity so awful & in general to a parent, so agitating, is of all things the most absurd, but it will soon become as universal a practice as the French Kings signing the Contract, & as an Echo of this new function of Royalty, our friend the Duke of Gloucester is to perform the same for Miss Rowley![4] The town[5] has not hitherto partaken in any degree of the Covent Garden row, but I suppose it will spread every day a little wider. The reports of to-day from Chester seem to show good dispositions of that nature in those

[1] Lady Mary Fortescue, 4th dau. of 1st Earl; mar. 1823, Sir James Hamlyn Williams. She died 1874.

[2] Leinster, 3rd Duke; born 1791; mar. June 16th, 1818, Charlotte, youngest dau. of 3rd Earl of Harrington. Ld. Kinnaird had married, in 1806, the Duke's sister. Ld. Foley had married in the same year another sister.

[3] Lady Louisa Molyneux, 5th dau. of 2nd Earl of Sefton. Died unmar. 1855.

[4] Elizabeth, dau. of Admiral Sir Charles Rowley, 1st Bart.; mar. 1818, Peter Langford Brooke of Mere Hall, Cheshire. She died 1835.

[5] A reference to the excitement of a General Election. Parliament was dissolved on June 10th, 1818.

quarters. I fear the reports from Devonshire are most unfavourable, tho' of course We are bound to hold out hopes all the more perhaps for not having them. The expence must I am afraid be tremendous, & I understand the final resolution is now taken to stand out. At Aylesbury too I hear the Cavendishes will too probably give way to the pig & Candle-seller which is a change sorely to be lamented, but we are to think ourselves fortunate if it does not affect the Grenvilles which is supposed to be quite safe, & that being the case, I do sadly grudge Henry's Mail jumble there & back again, tho' with Lord B.'s unvarying kindness to the whole family, I see not how it is to be avoided if He makes a point of it."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *May 29th*, 1818.

"I am sorry to say that the Devon Contest is formally announced by an Advertisement signed by 3 Gentlemen who, 'pledge themselves to keep the Poll open for 15 days in support of Mr. Bastard.'[1] This is a most severe blow to the poor Fortescues who have thought themselves quite safe from such a heavy demand both on purse & constituents. It will, I suppose, make almost a close to the London Season from the numbers who will be leaving Town, but still We are promised great Fetes at Carlton House to welcome the Bride.[2] I have not yet seen any one who has had a near View of her, but understand we are to expect much beauty. He was handing about Her Picture all round the Directors' Box at the last Concert on Wednesday, & bowing to each person when they passed it on, giving them credit for their Approbation of his choice."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *Wednesday*.

"The Royal Marriage has hitherto been very barren of *Event*, but I trust *it is all to come*. The P. R. who was

[1] Edmund Pollexfen Bastard; born 1784; mar. 1824, Hon. Anne Rodney, dau. of 2nd Baron Rodney. He died 1832.

[2] Adelaide, dau. of Duke of Saxe-Meiningen; mar. 1818, William, D. of Clarence, 3rd s. of King George III, afterwards King William IV. She died 1849.

so good as to go down to them the next day but one after they were married, said He found them sitting by the fire exactly like Darby & Joan, which was, I think, the best report He could make. Their sending post haste the next day after they went down, to beg to be excused from the pleasure of Mrs. Campbell's & Lady Ilchester's Company, I consider as a very good symptom. They are highly dissatisfied with the House, which I should wonder if they were not, & talk of getting another, & of offering Lord Grenville a year's rent to get rid of His. There is as yet no day fixed for the Drawing Room, which of course the Mantua makers & Milliners complain of loudly. The mourning for the Empress of Austria is to be put on, on Sunday & to be worn three weeks, ten days as a Sovereign & ten days as a German Cousin.

"We are of course all anxiety about Ebrington's most arduous undertaking, & the misfortune is that it is impossible to rest any hope or comfort on the accounts which they transmit while it is going on, however flattering they may be. What we know is, that all the weight of Government which includes the whole of the Dock Yard, & almost all the great Interests, are against Him. He professes always that he will not spend money, but has, I am sorry to say, pledged Himself in a hand bill to stand the Poll as long as any freeholder will *bring himself* to vote for Him."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *July 1st*, 1818.

"Franks have been such very scarce Commodities of late my dearest Henry that it required more of activity of mind than these real dog days have left to one, to resist so fair an excuse for idlings.

"The accounts from Devonshire continue most flattering, the Polls at the 4th day stood, Ebrington, 3645. Bastard, 3296. & Acland, 3244, but how far these numbers tell as to the whole there is no guessing. Cornwall [1] has, I fear, little chance for Herefordshire the Poll is to

[1] Sir George Cornwall, 2nd Bart., of Moreas Court, Hereford; M.P. 1774–96, 1802–7. He died 1819.

last only 4 days, & begins I think, to-day. Gordon is, as you see beat, & has, I am afraid, spent a great deal of money which is said to have exasperated some of his Creditors, who may make themselves now very troublesome. Plunkett's [1] success is matter of great triumph, & is as you will believe particularly welcome at Whitehall. Of the issue of the Westminster contest, nobody pretends to have an opinion, excepting what is biassed by their wishes. Lord Amherst [2] told me last night that there are still 6,000 unpolled! He is of course among the most eager of May[b's] [3] Canvassers, & speaks of Lady Caroline Lambe among the foremost & as usual the most crazy. May[b's] connection with the Gordon sets all the Clan most actively to work, but whether these female Canvassers, ever do any sort of good, I should, myself much doubt. Most true, it is I believe that the unprecedented Outrages towards May[b] have made many vote for him, who would otherwise not have done so, in order to separate themselves from the horde of Savages who oppose him.

"They say Sir J. Sebright [4] is of this number & that he has actually canvassed for him. What he has gone thro' personally is quite beyond belief. No wretch in the pillory for the most abominable Crimes was ever so treated, & even now they will hardly suffer Sir Gilbert Blane's [5] Carriage to draw up to the door of the Hotel where He is living. Poor Lady May—'s house was attacked the night before last & she was, not without much reason, terrified out of Her Senses.

"Government have on the whole certainly lost more than they expected tho' they reckoned on a deficit of 25. A Mr. Harvey, who has been brought in for Col-

[1] Plunkett afterwards became Ld. Chancellor of Ireland and was raised to the House of Lords.

[2] William Pitt Amherst, 2nd Baron (afterwards 1st Earl); born 1773; sometime Ambassador to China, and subsequently Gov.-Gen. of India; mar. 1st, 1800, Sarah, dau. and co-h. of Andrew, Ld. Archer, and widow of Other Hickman, 5th E. of Plymouth. She died 1838. He mar. 2ndly, 1839, Mary, dau. and co-h. of 3rd D. of Dorset, and widow of Other Archer, 6th E. of Plymouth. He died 1857.

[3] Ld. Maryborough: William, afterwards 3rd E. of Mornington (in succession to his brother, Richard, Marq. of Wellesley); born 1763; mar. Katherine, dau. of Adm. Hon. John Forbes; he died 1845.

[4] Sir John Sebright, 7th Bart., M.P. for Herts; died 1846.

[5] Sir Gilbert Blane, 1st Bart., M.D. He died 1834.

chester is a man who has been tried for his life, & was addressed by the Judge in Court with the Compliment of being (He & His Father) the greatest rascals He had ever seen before Him. Captain Wells,[1] has as you see been put up for Huntingdonshire. It was without his knowledge or the smallest previous preparation which makes the number polled for Him a circumstance very flattering both to himself personally & to Lord Carysfort, tho' nothing could be less desirable to Him than a Seat in Parliament."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"ELTON, *October 1st*, 1818.

"I found here Mrs. Whitelock (ci-devant Stores) whom you may remember coming over to Stowe the other day almost just married. She had now 10 children, looks younger and gayer than she did then and says *if* they were not starving she should be too happy. We have likewise Lady Seaforth and 3 daughters all ugly likenesses of Lady Hood.[2] They are full of the delights of the young Chieftain of Braun Castle, and of Mrs. Stuart's[3] perfect devotion to conjugality and maternity.

"I had two days ago a most kind letter as usual from Lady Hart, breathing nothing but prosperity, saying that the new Nursery was perfect for its present inhabitant, and that Watkin and she having dined together had just been up to put the Baby[3] to bed, and had left her in the sweetest of sleeps. She is still I believe flattering herself that the Queen will save her from the worry of Wrexm Race festivities, but I think she has no chance, as the old Lady seems by the bulletine to have been rather mending of late than the

[1] Captain Wells had married 1816, Lady Elizabeth Proby, dau. of Ld. Carysfort, and his property was Holme House, co. Huntingdon.

[2] Lady Hood, eldest dau. and co-h. of Francis Mackenzie, Ld. Seaforth; mar. 1st, 1804, Sir Samuel Hood (a distinguished naval officer, and first cousin once removed to Admiral 1st Visc. Hood); he d.s.p. 1814. She mar. 2ndly in 1817, Rt. Hon. James Stewart. He assumed the additional surname of Mackenzie. He died 1843. She died 1862.

[3] Henrietta, who afterwards mar. in 1843, Sir Hugh Williams, 3rd Bart., of Bodelwyddan, and died 1878.

reverse. It is rather supposed that Princess Sophia [1] will call for our Sables before her Mamma, but that likewise has been so often said, that I shall not *air* mine till it happens.

"Granville [2] and his Spouse are in Ireland, happier than the happiest, living at Mr. Parnell's beautiful house, from whence they are within a short drive of their own, which they are fitting up themselves, and all within 20 miles of her father and mother.

"Lady Carysfort has fitted up a remarkably pretty apartment for them here which I am inhabiting, and only wish I could pack up and carry with me to Wynnstay, which alas grows only every day worse and worse by comparison with its neighbours. Lady Harriet writes me word that the new Flower Garden answers most perfectly, and that she is sure I shall like it. I hope at all events to be able to say so without too much violence to my veracity."

The Same

"WYNNSTAY, *October 25th*, 1818.

"Your account of Lady Westmoreland [3] is most curious, and glad I am that she bestowed Herself at a time and place where such an unusual contribution to Society had its full value: Her question about the Duke of Northumberland [4] seemed so perfectly absurd that one knows not where to find the smallest possible clue to it, and least of all can I understand your attempt to eluci-

[1] Princess Sophia, the King's 5th dau., did not die until 1848.

[2] Hon. Granville Proby, 3rd son by his first wife of 1st E. of Carysfort; born 1782; mar. 1818, Isabella, dau. of Hon. Hugh Howard. He suc. his brother as 3rd E. of Carysfort in 1853. He died 1868.

[3] Lady Westmorland: Jane, dau. and co-h. of R. H. Saunders, M.D., mar. as his second wife in 1800, John, 10th E. of Westmorland. She died 1857.

[4] This is an allusion to Hugh, 2nd D. of Northumberland, who had died in 1817. He mar. 1st, 1764, Anne, dau. of John, E. of Bute, which marriage was dissolved by Act of Parliament in 1779, and three months later he mar. Frances Julia, 3rd dau. of Peter Burrell of Beckenham, and sister to the 1st Ld. Gwydyr. This lady's elder sister, Elizabeth Amelia, had married in 1766, R. H. A. Bennet of Babraham. Hence, possibly, Fanny's confusion of the names and the story.

date it by observing that if it applied to any it must be to Lord Pridoe (!), and that the death of Lady Elizabeth (by which I suppose you mean Lady Julie) alone refutes it, this seems to me only to make 'Ignotus Ignotior.' The divorced Wife (divorced Debrett tells us by *Act of Parliament*) is still alive, at least was so when the late Duke died, and was then receiving £1,000 per ann. which certainly was little enough considering who she was, and who she had been. He married 'Julie' Bennett in 3 months after the Divorce. Watkin asked me for your letter at the breakfast table, and I would not give it him, being sure that he would immediately have started the subject, and thinking that however absurd, it was as well not to have it put into circulation from his house.

"I fancy the Bennetts may as yet still lawfully hold their heads up, as I hear no soupçon of a young Hotspur having taken his first Vault into the 'Saddle.' They had 7 or 8 public days, 2 in a week on their first going down since which the echoes of the Old Castle Walls have been awakened only by the gentle efforts of the Duke,[1] Duchess[1] and Lady Elizabeth.[2] Capt. Bennett is just dead, which though an event long expected, and on many accounts perhaps little to be lamented, will I doubt not make at first a painful void to his poor Mother. It must leave Lady Swinburne[3] and Lady Gordon great heiresses, but I have heard nothing of his disposal of his private fortune which was considerable.

"The Queen is, or rather was, two days ago, still not *dead*, alive she can hardly I fancy have been said to have been for some time, but my sending to Town for my Paris Bonnet and another coloured Gown, has, as I always guessed it would, proved her 'Coup de Grace,' and the accounts of this morning are much worse than they have yet been. Princess Elizabeth[4] is said to be

[1] Duke and Duchess: Hugh, 3rd D. of Northumberland, son of the 2nd Duke and "Julie" Burrell, who had mar. 1817, Lady Charlotte Clive, Lady Harriet Williams Wynn's sister.

[2] Lady Elizabeth Percy, the Duke's sister, who died unmar. in 1820.

[3] Lady Swinburne: Emilia, dau. of R. H. A. Bennet and his wife Elizabeth Burrell, mar. 1787 Sir John Swinburne, 6th Bart. She died 1839.

[4] Princess Elizabeth, 3rd dau. of the King; born 1770; mar. 1818, the Landgrave and Prince of Hesse-Homburg. She died 1840.

actually flattering herself with a Soupçon of '*Encrease*' which so long as it is not considered as Synonime to 'multiply' would not distress one's faith. The poor Robert Fitzgeralds' [1] have just lost their eldest, and I fear only promising son, under circumstances most aggravatingly afflictive. He was out shooting with 2 young friends at his Aunt's Lady Charlotte Strutt's,[2] and in coming home they shot a wild duck which fell into a Pond. The dog did not follow it, and young Fitzgerald, who was an excellent swimmer, insisted, in spite of the remonstration of his friends, on jumping in to fetch it. He got entangled as is supposed in the weed on first going down, sunk, and rose no more! The body was not found for some time, and when taken out both hand and feet were found entangled in the weed, but there is some idea that this was done in the struggle to get out, and that the mischief arose from some sudden seizure on going into the water. One's heart quite aches for them when one thinks how severely they have been tried with respect to their family. Matilda [3] was a little while ago waiting only till she could move from her couch to her sister to help nurse her niece, this calamity will of course make her if possible hasten her departure.

"There is a report of Lord Melbourne [4] marrying Lady E. Monck, but I fancy it is merely the talk of the hour. Lord Uxbridge's [5] marriage with Miss Campbell is said to be settled. By the bye, as a Comment on your history of her wise mother, I must tell you that she on

[1] Ld. R. FitzGerald, 6th s. of 1st D. of Leinster; mar. 1792, Sophia, dau. of Capt. Feilding, R.N.

[2] Lady Charlotte Strutt, his sister, wife of Col. Strutt, who died 1845. She was elevated to the Peerage as Baroness Rayleigh in acknowledgment of her husband's eminent services.

[3] Matilda, dau. of Ld. Robert FitzGerald, and sister of the young man who was drowned. She mar. 1817, General the Chevalier Victor de Marian Gaja of Languedoc.

[4] Peniston, 1st Visct. Melbourne; born 1748; mar. 1769, Elizabeth, only dau. of Sir Ralph Milbanke. She died 1818. He died 1828.

[5] Ld. Uxbridge, eldest s. of 1st Marq. of Anglesey and his 1st wife, Caroline, dau. of 4th E. of Jersey. Ld. Uxbridge was born 1797; mar. 1819, Eleanora, dau. of Col. John Campbell, and niece of the D. of Argyll. He suc. his father in 1854, and died in 1869, having mar. on the death of his 1st wife in 1828, Henrietta, dau. of Sir Charles Bagot. She died in 1844, and he mar. 3rdly in 1860, Ellen, dau. of George Burnand.

her change of name was denominated Lady *Goose-berry*,[1] which I think is certainly no mis-nomer.

"We are beginning to-day to thicken for the Birth-day.[2] The Fortescues (4), the Wilbrahams and the Clives are coming to dinner, which with the family etc. is to make up a table of 20 or 22. In the house on Monday night 33 gentlemen and Ladies are to be bedded, the list will be transmitted by Harriet at the end of the week.

"We went the day before yesterday a very quiet Party of Lady Powis, Lady Harriet, and myself to Llangollen, and were received as usual with much cordiality by the old ladies,[3] though I saw evidently that Lady Eleanor wanted a sentiment at expostulation with me which I was quite determined she should not have. She is grown very old, and her poor thinly scattered grey hairs make a coiffure more than ever deplorable. She gave to Lady P. the copy of the original letter written by her Ancestor Lady Nithsdale, with the account of her escape to her Sister Lady Lucy, the Abbess of a Convent at Bruges, from whence Lady Eleanor got this letter, and hopes to get more. It is much more full than the account which was published, and is certainly of much value to Lady Powis who herself visited the Convent on account of her Mother[4] having been brought up there. Au reste they have at present *quite* quarrelled with Lord Dungannon,[5] and have stuck up something of carved oak against the corner of their house which they call an Oratory, and

[1] Lady Charlotte, dau. of 5th D. of Argyll, an authoress of some note; mar. 1st in 1796, Col. John Campbell, and 2ndly in 1818, Rev. Edward Bury. She died 1861.

[2] The celebration of Sir Watkin's birthday was an annual fête at Wynnstay.

[3] The ladies of Llangollen: Lady Eleanor Butler, 3rd dau. of the 16th E. of Ormonde, born 1739, died 1829; Miss Ponsonby, Sarah, dau. of Chambre Brabazon Ponsonby, she died 1831.

[4] Barbara, dau. of Ld. Edward Herbert, who mar. 1751, Henry, 1st Earl of Powis and Baron Herbert of Cherbury. They had one son, Edward, born 1755, who suc. his father in 1772 and d.s.p. 1801, and one daughter, Henrietta Antonia, who mar. 1784, Edward, 2nd Ld. Clive. She became the possessor of her father's estates and her husband was created Earl of Powis in 1804.

[5] Arthur Hill Trevor, 3rd and last Visc. Dungannon; born 1798; d.s.p. 1862. He mar. 1821, Sophia, 4th dau. of Col. G. D'Arcy Irvine. She died 1880.

is more absurd than any protuberance they have yet put out."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"LLANVORDA, *November 8th*, 1818.

"Harriet took upon her to be the Historian of the Events of the Birthday which was certainly most numerously and respectably attended, though, I hardly know why, I thought it less so than last year. The Nevilles and Lady Dungannon made a great vacuum, then we had to fill it, Lady Jones [1] with her 2 daughters all new members and Mrs. Mytton most brilliant in Jewels, unluckily they all went to a side-table which I was sorry for.

"The Williams Girls [2] are much improved particularly in their dancing. The Boulogne Master having sent them home with the addition of a pair of ears quite sufficient for giving the proper impulse to their feet. Why is it that nothing but a French Artist can perform this, and that they never fail? Did I tell you that the good natured Lady Harriet had equipped them both for the occasion with very pretty Tambour worked muslin frocks and trimmings, which I think 'very pretty' of her. She came here with Harriet to pass the time of their Taplow Widowhood, and when she returned home the first thing that met her was an express from Lady Powis to tell her that Lady Lucy [3] had been the night before brought to bed of a Boy at Pershore (the next Stage to Worcester) in her way up to Town, but that she hoped all was doing well, and as the Bells were ringing all day yesterday for the Heir, I trust it is so. She must have made quick work, as she left Oakley Park in the morning, must of course have been well when she passed through Worcester where she would otherwise have taken her bed with the Bishop, and before 11

[1] Lady Jones: Harriet, 4th dau. of Edward Williams, of Eaton, Salop; mar. 1791, Thomas Tyrwhitt, who assumed the surname of Jones 1791. He was created a Bart. 1808, and died 1811. Mrs. Mytton was one of Lady Jones's daughters.

[2] The daughters of Sir John Williams of Bodelwyddan, 1st Bart.

[3] Lady Lucy Clive, wife of Edward, eld. s. of 1st Ld. Powis (brother to Lady H. Williams Wynn). She was the dau. of 3rd D. of Montrose. Her eldest s., born November 5th, 1818, afterwards 3rd E. of Powis, died unmar. in 1891.

o'clock next morning the express had come 60 miles to Lady P. with the news of the event being happily over.

"We have all been much shocked this week by the horrible catastrophe of the death of Lady Romilly, and that of Sir Samuel [1] which immediately followed the former event under the sad circumstances of self destruction! His agitation during the illness, and on the death of his wife had been so great that he expressed fear of losing his head, and his family had taken such strong apprehensions on the subject that they appear to have never left him day or night, till the fatal morning when he sent his nephew and daughter out of the room on some pretext and in 2 minutes time cut his throat with one of his Razors from ear to ear. He is said to have been a man of very warm domestic attachments particularly fond of his wife and children of whom he leaves 7, the eldest son 20 the youngest 5 or 6. The death of both Parents of so large a family (the one under such dreadful circumstances) and the extinction of so much both of talent and integrity, just at the time when they seemed to be in their zenith are certainly a most awful visitation. It is supposed that Brougham [2] will be the candidate for Westminster but his success seems very doubtful. Most extraordinary certainly has been the Sweep of talents from the House of Commons in the last 13 years in the successive deaths of Pitt, Fox, Windham, Percival, Whitbread,[3] Horner Elliot (whose death by the bye I had not named to you) and Romilly's. Your 2 Uncles will I am sure deeply regret their old friend and playfellow, nor could I hear unmoved of the death of one whom I was constantly in the habit of meeting with intimacy, but his fragile form gave too plain indication that it had little power of resistance left. The Queen continues to breathe, and Parliament has just been prorogued to the 29th December which will I hope leave Charles quiet at Llangedwyn.

[1] Sir S. Romilly, M.P., b. 1757; mar. Anne, dau. of Francis Garbett.

[2] Brougham, Henry (created Baron Brougham and Vaux 1830); born 1778; mar. 1819, Mary Anne, dau. of Sir Thomas Eden, and widow of John Spalding, Att.-Gen. to Queen Caroline 1820. Ld. Chan. 1830–4. He died 1868.

[3] Pitt and Fox died 1806; William Windham 1810; Perceval 1812; Whitbread 1815.

"We heard the other day from a man of business that the sum of £600,000 has been through him offered by a *Merchant* for the Chirk Castle Estate,[1] and that the Bidding would have gone to £800,000 but it is refused. It however affords a pleasing reflection on our Commercial Situation.

"It is said that the Berkeley Peerage[2] is to be brought into discussion again as soon as Parliament meets, and that two or three of the principal witnesses against the Colonel's claim being dead, it is thought very probable that he may establish it. The younger Brother has never taken the title, and is said to have behaved very amiably. There is certainly nothing to choose among them in point of blood, but still for the sake of 'Le Morale' in general I can not but wish the eldest to be set aside, as I fancy there can be no doubt of his being the genuine offspring of the Colonel properly so called."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"Brook Street, *Wednesday* [*November* 1818].

"I have delayed writing to you, Dearest H. from day to day literally from want of the dequoi, which you will hardly believe from a London Correspondent. . . .

"To my utter dismay I find on arriving here, that all our sorrow for her late Majesty[3] which I had thought, we had quite exhausted a fortnight & more ago, are to be renewed here in the profoundest degree even to Crape & Bombazine, so that the effect of the gracious Ordonnance made for the special benefit of trade, has been the filling all the Shops with coloured Articles for the Spring, not one yard of which will be sold. Prince Regent notifies that he means 'to wear the longest mourning that ever Son did for a Mother having lost one who was his Guide & Counsellor in all his varied distresses & difficulties,' & that he shall consider it as a mark of

[1] Chirk Castle, the fine Denbighshire estate of the Myddletons, now occupied on a long lease by Ld. Howard de Walden (1920).

[2] When Frederick Fitzhardinge, 5th E. Berkeley, died in 1810, he was suc. by his son, Thomas, as 6th Earl, "whose inheritance of the Earldom was confirmed by the vote of a committee of privilege of the house of peers, on July 1st, 1811, annulling an alleged former marriage." See Debrett, 1817.

[3] Queen Charlotte died at Kew, November 17th, 1818, aged 75.

respect in those who do likewise, in consequence of which I hardly saw a creature of any description above the very lowest either at Church or Play, (which have been my two places of reconnoitring) out of black, & the Guards are (of course by special order) parading up & down St. James' St. with long Crape Scarves round their shoulders, like Undertakers, black Sash-Sword knots & immense Cockades to their Caps. Nothing can be more absurd, but there is no standing out against the multitude, more particularly when one hears that an idea of party is to be mixed up with this, as with every-thing else. The Westminster Election has gone on so quietly that I drove through Covent Garden on Saturday without being aware of it. No doubt is entertained of Lambe's [1] success, one of the Squibs against him may amuse you all as it did me, 'My good Mr. Lambe, we all know your dam, but what we desire, is to know more of your Sire.' The fall of the Stocks is supposed to be a manœuvre of the Bank to frighten Ministers, & will probably have that effect, but I know not à quoi bon! Charles is more absorbed in the House of Commons than ever, his Lady is in high prosperity & so are all the young tribe, excepting Charlotte [2] who is still suffering a good deal from Headache, etc. but it is all voted nerves, & as such of no consequence.

"With kindest love to H. & his play-fellows."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"LLANVORDA, *December 6th*, 1818.

"I must now pass to a far different subject, that sad Catastrophy at Shavington of which I suppose you will have received the first notification from Boddryddan. At least as far as the event of the death of poor Lady Kilmorey [3] followed in a few days by that of her Lord.

[1] Hon. William Lamb, afterwards 2nd Visc. Melbourne; born 1779; mar. 1805, Lady Caroline, dau. of 3rd E. of Bessborough. She died 1828. He was Home Sec. in 1830; Prime Minister in 1834, which office he held until 1841 (excepting from December 1834 to April 1835). He died 1848.

[2] Charlotte, eld. dau. of the Rt. Hon. Charles Williams Wynn, died unmar. 1869.

[3] Ld. and Lady Kilmorey: 11th Visc.; born 1746; mar. 1792, Frances, eldest dau. of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Bart. She died November 26th, 1818, and he died November 30th.

The suddeness of the first event will not shock you more than it did me & indeed all but her own immediate family, & even to them it was preceded only by 24 hours of apprehension. They were just returned from Ireland & at Corwen the two sisters parted to meet no more ! ! Hester [1] went on to Penbedw & the other to Shavington. Both had colds but so trifling that even Bellyse was not sent for till the Tuesday, (the 24th ulto) when her cough was troublesome. On the Wednesday she became so much worse as not to know anybody, & by 4 o'clock on Thursday Morning she breathed her last ! Poor Hester was sent for Express on Wednesday but it was over before she got there. Lord Kilmorey was I fancy seized with a paraletic attack from the shock, appeared very soon to lose even the consciousness of what had happened, & expired on the Monday following. For him nothing could be so much to be wished as his release at 74, from a world where he had nothing left, but the other event was at first quite benumbing to one's faculties. I have not yet been able to learn to what her death is ascribed, there is a Report of its being Water on the heart, (the same that was fatal to her sister Penelope [1]) but that I think would have been still more sudden, & besides I recollect now to have heard that she was ill all the summer in Ireland, but was said to be got well. I have heard twice from Penbedw where Lady Cotton,[2] fortunately was, & where for the present she remains. As yet neither of the old Ladies appear essentially to have suffered, but it has of course been a most severe shake to both. A most severe indeed & unlooked for visitation is it to Lady Cotton that at her time of day, she should not have sunk to the grave without again repeating the bitter cry of 'Eheu superstites.' Her best worldly comfort is in the Idea that her sufferings can not be of long duration, but she has better & higher Sources of Consolation in a perfectly pious mind which will enable

[1] Hester Cotton, the unmar. dau. of Sir Robert and Lady Cotton. Penelope, another dau. born 1770, died 1786.

[2] Lady Cotton, Frances, dau. and co-h. of James Russell Stapleton; mar. 1766, Sir R. Salusbury Cotton, 5th Bart. He died 1807. Her eld. s. was F.M. 1st Visc. Combermere, her daughters Lady Kilmorey and Lady Mainwaring and Hester. She and her sister Mrs. Williams lived at Penbedw.

her, I trust to turn to Good even so painful a trial as this must be! Of poor Hester I have as yet heard nothing but the general report of pretty well, she is to come this week from the Abbey [1] to Penbedw, & then I shall know more about her. To her it is a most severe blow & deprives her of the prop to which she always looked for support when the fragile one at Audlem should fail.

"When I last wrote to you I told you nothing was yet known of the Queen's Will. She has not left above 3, or 4,000£ in money scarcely enough to pay her debts, certainly not her Funeral. Her Jewels she leaves equally among four daughters, much to the disappointment of some of her younger Sons. P. R. was exemplary in his attentions to her to the last. As yet the order has not come out for shortening the Mourning, but it is expected that it will be docked to *six weeks*, which seems almost indecently short, but they say the great injury which trade has received from its having been expected for six months during which nothing was bought makes it necessary. Charles has been looking to the provision which will be required for her Servants, and finds that £24,000 pr. an. is still charged on the Civil List for annuities to the *late Queen*,[2] (who has been dead *80 years*) & those of the Princess of Wales [3] who has been dead 48. This must give a new merit to places at Court as a recipe for Longevity. Poor Col. Disbrowe, Her Vice-Chamberlain died 2 days before the Funeral. He will be a great loss to his family to whom he had long fulfilled a double Parental duty in a most exemplary manner.

"Mrs. Charles Cholmondley [4] is likewise dead, & leaves 8 Motherless Children, who though they have derived little, or no advantage for sometime from her, seem the more forlorn from being quite deprived of her.

"I believe I told you of Bagot Howard's [5] death, but

[1] Combermere Abbey.

[2] Queen Caroline, wife of King George II, died 1737.

[3] Augusta of Saxe-Coburg, wife of Frederick, Prince of Wales. He died 1751. She died 1772.

[4] Mrs. Charles Cholmondeley, Caroline Smyth Owen, dau. and co-h. of Nicholas Smyth Owen, of Andover, Salop.

[5] Richard Bagot Howard, 5th son of Sir Walter Bagot, 5th Bart. (and brother to 1st Baron Bagot); mar. 1783, Frances, youngest dau. of William, Visc. Andover. He assumed the name of Howard. His only dau. Mary mar. Fulke Greville Upton, who assumed the name of Howard and d.s.p. 1846. She died 1877.

I do not think we had then heard of his Will. He dies worth a landed property of £20,000 pr. an. & £300,000 in money without a single sixpence of charge on it. The money he leaves to Trustees for the sole & separate use of his daughter, the landed property He likewise leaves all to Her & Her Husband excepting the Ashstead Estate of £4,000 pr. an. of which he leaves the revision after the joint lives of Mr. & Mrs. Howard to Dick Bagot[1] & his heirs & in failure to them, to Charles B.[2] & his. To his nephew William B.[3] he leaves only £2,000 as his Executor, but the very first Act which Mrs. H. performed was to make a deed of Gift of £20,000 to Him, which was a most generous Way of paying her father's debt to Him. Not a sixpence besides has he left, I believe, to any of his many starving Nephews & nieces, tho' I have no doubt that Mrs. H. will be to them a Kind & liberal relation, which her Father never was, living or dying.

" The young Mytton ménage sets out as was expected, but unpromisingly. He is living with unbounded expence in the midst of every low Company, which leaves her to perfect solitude. The change to her is almost too great for one to hope that it can do well, more especially as there is no prospect at present of her having a play thing and indeed she is said to be in very bad health. The new Bart. Sir John K.[4] and his lady are as you guessed quite full blown & in addition to all these honors Her Ladyship has just received that of being named Lady Paramount to the revived British Bowmen Society, whereby she will acquire the pleasure & privelege of settling the female costume for the same which will, I think, delight her to the greatest degree, & save any one else from the invidious task of being

[1] Richard Bagot, 3rd s. of 1st Baron Bagot, afterwards Bp. of Bath and Wells ; born 1782 ; died 1854.

[2] Charles Bagot, 2nd s. of 1st Baron, afterwards Sir Charles, G.C.B. ; born 1781 ; died 1843.

[3] William Bagot, eld. s. of 1st Baron, afterwards 2nd Baron ; born 1773 ; died 1856.

[4] Sir John Kynaston of Hardwick, sometime M.P. for Salop. He preferred, unsuccessfully, a claim to the Barony of Powis in 1800, but was, in consideration of his descent, advanced to a Baronetcy in 1818, with special remainder to his brother, afterwards Sir Edward. He mar. Mary, dau. of John Corbet of Sandown. He d.s.p. 1822.

made answerable for every little Miss's genteel & tasty appearance. They are all extremely anxious about it, but have made it so numerous that I fear it will never be as pleasant as it used to be.

"The Duchess [1] is to come up in February, unless, by the by, she may now have to come up with him to attend the Queen's Funeral. There is, I fear, no hope yet of the young Percy but I hear she is the most popular person in the North that can be. Lady L. Clive & the young Herbert continue most prosperous, nor will the young Heir suffer now, I trust, from having had for his first covering the Lining of the Imperial, which was the likest thing to flannel that they could get for 24 hours, till Lady Henrietta, arrived. She would have carried them there bare foot if it could have accelerated their arrival.

"We had two days ago a dining party here, the grand features of which were the Ladies of Llangollen,[2] who, having arrived before 5 were actually at the Card Table at ½ past one, & would have been there, I believe still if Mrs. Parker [3] had not got up & slyly slipped out to order their Chaise. They had played with our brilliant Cousin Lloyd & Mrs. Parker 2 Rubbers of 3 Games of Whist & Mrs. Parker passed on to Cassino, & would, I suppose, if they had been let alone have gone on to All Fours, & Beggar my Neighbour. They had set out at 10, in the Morning & gone first to Pradoe, & would make it in the whole a Giro of 41 miles before they could get home which could not be before 4 in the Morning, yet with all this poor Lady Eleanor is more broke down than I ever saw any body. She is one heavy mass, her spirits quite gone, & her eyesight, I fear nearly so, which, I suppose much contributes to the other failure. Miss Ponsonby is much as usual, but quite aware of the change in her poor friend. They were as usual full of enquiries & speeches about you. If they are alive we

[1] Duchess of Northumberland.

[2] See *ante*, p. 218. These ladies had lived at Llangollen since 1779. An assiduous correspondence with many literary and fashionable friends kept them always *au courant* of the latest scandal and gossip of the outer world, while, their house being on the Holyhead mail road, many notable travellers were entertained in passing.

[3] Mrs. Parker, wife of T. N. Parker, of Sweeney.

are to have another dose of them to-morrow at Swan Hill which you would hardly have thought had possessed attraction enough to tempt them to a second expedition so soon."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"HAWARDEN CASTLE, *December 19th*, 1818.

"Car. Lawley told me the other day a story of that strange Girl Har. Capell [1] which may amuse you. You may or may not know that she at last found for herself a husband in a Mr. Oakden, a widower of 40 and upwards with 3 or 4 Children. When Lord Essex [2] was last in Paris she sent to beg him to buy for her 60 yards of black silk, which Lord E. having got & taken a good deal of trouble to get over, was unfortunate enough to lose entirely at the Custom House. Mr. Oakden went to him and hearing of the misfortune expressed his extreme concern saying that he knew not what his poor Har. would do as she was determined not to cease to wear mourning for poor Baron Tripp. Where upon Lord Essex sat down & wrote her a letter expressing his regrets at not being able to be useful to her in the black line, but begged her acceptance of a most beautiful French dress which he had just got over, & which happened to be the most superb Couleur de Roses ever seen. The poor widow (just going to lie in) opened the box, & without hesitation locks up the contents!

"I have one or two pretty marriages for you to-day, but a sad pr. contra to close them with. Lady Catherine Osborne [3] marries young Heathcote, Sir Gilbert's Son, a very young man, but very well spoken of, & very gros parti of course, the Duchess is delighted which one must be glad of as a Cordial to all she has suffered for her Son. Then Miss Dashwood,[4] Lady Ely's Sister walks off with Sir J. Astley, which is likewise very pretty &

[1] Harriet Jane, eldest dau. of Hon. John Capel (and his wife Caroline, dau. of 1st E. of Uxbridge). She mar. December 26th, 1817, David Okeden Parry-Okeden. She died 1819.

[2] George, 5th E. of Essex, who d.s.p. 1839.

[3] Lady Cath. Osborne, mar. 1819, John Whyte Melville.

[4] Miss Georgina Dashwood, 2nd dau. of Sir Henry Dashwood, 3rd Bart.; mar. March 1819, Sir Jacob Astley, afterwards Ld. Hastings.

convenable. The 2nd Miss Morgan *expects* to marry Lord Rodney,[1] if he does not again *jib at the Post.* Now the reverse of all this is Mr. Lacelles (Lord Harwood's Grandson) actually taking for his wife his French Mistress, & Lord Langford's Son, whom we used to see at the French Play, tacks himself for life to one of Lady Berwick's[2] Sisters, ci-devant Lady Worcester, as much senior to him in years as she is superior to the rest of the world in Iniquity. This is, I think so near suicide that it will deserve a place in the High Road. . . .

"The Queen's Mourning has been much slighted, in London there has been as much white to be seen as black, and the Chamberlain's orders are for its being entirely left off (but by the Court) on the 29th, of this Month. This, I really think barely decent for one who has certainly on the whole filled her Station very respectably. Her private & anonymous Charities were, I fancy, very numerous, & are now coming to light every day. Her Jewels which she has left to her 4 daughters are said to be estimated at a Million. She has likewise left to her two unmarried daughters her Wardrobe which is supposed to be very valuable. The Duke of York, wants, as it is said, to give up his Appointment to the Duke of W. & to have the care of the Windsor Establishment, P. R. wants to join Sister Mary[3] in this change, but it is thought Augusta's[4] friends will stand up for her. Billy[5] is not returned from his travels which makes Gossip. Lord Harrowby[6] is, in the Newspapers, confidently spoken of for Paris, but George[7] heard nothing of it. Lord Buckingham is likewise in the *Prints* made 1st Lord of the Admiralty, which in some respects would suit us well. The Queen, among other

[1] George, 3rd Baron Rodney; born 1782; mar. February 1819, Charlotte, dau. of Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. He d.s.p. 1842.

[2] Lady Berwick, wife of 2nd Baron Berwick, Sophia, dau. of John James Dubouchet; mar. 1812. She died 1875.

[3] Princess Mary, 4th dau. of George III, had mar 1816, her first cousin the Duke of Gloucester.

[4] Princess Augusta, 2nd dau. of George III; born 1768; died unmar. 1840.

[5] Prince William, Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV.

[6] Dudley, 1st E. of Harrowby; born 1762; an eminent statesman; mar. 1795, Susan, dau. of 1st Marq. of Stafford. He died 1847. His eld. dau., Susan, mar. 1817, Ld. Ebrington.

[7] George Fortescue (Ebrington's brother).

private bounties, is said to have kept 10 or 12 Carriages for People who from pressure had been obliged to lay them down. Every day brings forth fresh instances of the delightful use which Mrs. Greville Howard is making of her immense Wealth. I told you of her first draft of £20,000 for William Bagot, since which she has settled £500 a year on Mrs. Phillimore, £300 a year on the Dick Bagots & £200 a year with a £1,000 on Elizabeth Chester. She, in the first moment, proposed to add £1,000 a year to the old Lady Suffolk's Jointure which the good old soul declined, but it was equally pretty in the young one. Lord Bagot, has I believe, at last taken on himself the expence of his Aunt's carriage. The Greville Howards are going abroad immediately. The Lytteltons are, I am afraid, getting more sick & less rich, they have parted with their new house, & have taken one, & a very second rate one, at Tunbridge for a twelve-month. Car Lawley has been passing all the Autumn & indeed the Summer with different branches of the Cornwall family. She was 3 weeks with the Herefords at Tenby & I am sorry to say she gives still a very uncomfortable account of the poor boy.

"The Gordons are established in Stanhope Street where the Lewis's [1] are to make joint Ménage with them, which will suit both parties equally well."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *January 17th*, 1819.

"The subject just at this moment uppermost in our minds and conversation is our Ball, which having been going on with the greatest vigour at 5 yesterday morning still leaves the fiddle almost predominating over the Organ in our Ears. It is supposed to have been the most brilliant that was ever footed on these Boards, & certainly was a perfect Almacks in point of Beaux. All my concern was the scarcity of Belles, and still greater deficiency of Beauty. We lodged in and out and about no less than 89, (I think 40 including the Children who

[1] Frankland Lewis.

of course had rooms like Christians) & there was a genteel room to spare for Dongay who did not come. Our Dram. Pers. was as follows, beginning with Watkin and Lady & Baby, Self, Harriet Cholmondley, and Boy, Mary Glynne & 2 Boys, Mary Williams,[1] Lord Belgrave,[2] Wilton [2] & Grosvenor,[2] young Simpson & his Uncle, Lord Bradford, who insisted on being one at the Feet comme toujours, Lord Denbigh & Brother, young Hill, Grandson & Heir to Hawkestone with his Mother & Sister, (most agreable new members) 6 Boddelwyddan cousins, D. Pennant, young Penrhyn & his Brother, Oswald Leicester, Sir Andrew Barnard & his Nephew, son to poor Barnard who died at Stowe, the good hearty Warden as usual, &, 2 Cotes's Sons of Woodcote (one of whom par parenthèse being the poorest man in the set, contrived to lose his pocket book, with all, I suppose that was left of his Xmas Quarter, out shooting), 2 Miss Drummonds, Harriet's Neices, young Hesketh & Henry which I think makes up the number I gave you, & will require as much exertion of Talents from you to put to bed as could be expected from the Great Dr. Battie himself. I hope you will be aware what £20,000 Prizes almost every one of those Men are, & when to them you add the 2 Trevors, Smith Owen etc. who appeared at the Ball, you will allow I am justified in what I said of our Beaux, our Belles were far less novel & striking, 3 Miss Dods at the Vicarage, Miss Lyster of Toft, & 2 very ugly Miss Allansons were, I think, the only new Articles & Emmy Brooke [3] & Miss Parker [4] divided the Apple which is not saying much. Lady Harriet was covered with her diamonds & her wedding gown & looked remarkably well. The Cunliffes are certainly

[1] Mary, 4th dau. of Sir John Williams, 1st Bart. ; mar. 1823, George Lucy, M.P., of Charlcote. She died 1890.

[2] Ld. Belgrave, Richard, afterwards 2nd Marq. of Westminster. Ld. Wilton, Thomas, 2nd Earl of Wilton, who suc. his maternal grandfather, 1st Earl, in 1814 by special remainder. Ld. Robert Grosvenor, afterwards 1st Baron Ebury. These were the three sons of Robert, 1st Marq. of Westminster, and his wife Eleanor, only dau. of Thomas, 1st Earl of Wilton.

[3] Emily, dau. of Thomas Brooke of Church Minshall, co. Chester ; mar. 1825, Vice-Adm. Sir Henry Shiffner. She died 1873.

[4] Mary, dau. of T. N. Parker, of Sweeney, Salop ; mar. 1832, Sir Baldwyn Leighton, 7th Bart. She died 1864.

making a most vigorous attack on cousin John Williams [1] & I have no doubt Lady C. describes him as a fine creature where she is not afraid of being smoked, but I do not think they have the least chance of succeeding, as we were told that he laughed himself at the report, adding that 'the Girl eats her Goose off the point of her knife,' which is an odd circumstance to come in the way of her preferment. The Williams family staid on with us yesterday, and turned out very far beyond my expectation. I think Sir J. a very sensible man, She [2] is very civil & by no means heavy in hand, (when she sits down) and the Girls tho' not genteel have certainly a great deal of genius & talent. The Harp playing of the one who is almost self taught is even to my ignorant Ear most striking, so indeed is their singing but in the direct opposite line, tho' they were in London last year for the express purpose of being Pupils to Knyvett and other such first Raters. . . .

"Lord Bradford[3] was full of the delights of his daughter-in-law Lady Newport who, by his account, is everything that can be wished, & among other merits has that of promising an Heir very speedily which Lord Bradford is as proud of as if it was his own. Lord Newport is quite well & has never been otherwise since he provided himself with a Nurse. His Sea-man Son Charles has just asked & obtained his father's consent to his marrying a Miss Chamberlayne, daughter to the Consul at Rio Janeiro whom he fell in love with like a true Sailor the moment he came into Port. The marriage has, of course, nothing to recommend it, but the young man's anxious desire for it, & to that Lord B. has at once given

[1] John, eldest s. of Sir John Williams, 1st Bart.; born 1794; suc. his father as 2nd Bart. 1830; mar. 1842, Lady Sarah, dau. of 1st Earl Amherst. He died 1859, leaving two daus. only, and was suc. by his brother Hugh, who in 1843 married Sir Watkin's only dau. Henrietta.

[2] Lady Williams, wife of Sir John, 1st Bart., Margaret, dau. and heir of Hugh Williams, of Tyfry, Anglesey. She died 1835.

[3] 1st Earl of Bradford; born 1762; mar. 1788, Hon. Lucy, dau. and co-h. of George, 4th Visc. Torrington. He died 1825 and was suc. by his eldest son (born 1789; died 1865), who mar. 1st, 1818, Georgina, only dau. of Sir Thomas Moncrieff, 5th Bart. She died 1842. Ld. Bradford's 2nd son, Charles (Vice-Admiral, R.N.), born 1791, mar. January 2nd, 1819, Eliza, dau. of Sir Charles Chamberlain, 1st Bart. She died, aged 88, in 1887. He died 1860.

way in the handsomest manner possible. There is a strong report which we learnt from some of our young fashionables, of Temple [1] being likely to marry Lady M. Cambell, Lord Breadalbane's 2nd daughter, which is confirmed by His Lordship's having made a sudden trip to Edinburgh just before Xmas, but he is now at Stowe where not a syllable has been heard of the sort, & where the only remark I heard was that he was much went back in beauty & not improved in manners keeping quite aloof with one or two toadies tho' there was a very good party of Landowners, Rogers the Poet, etc. Lord Belgrave told me that he had met & known the Girl abroad, that she is not handsome but *very well* and a famous dancer. The connection is respectable & the family well spoken of & furthermore it is a matter *entirely* of his own seeking, which altogether if it is to be, sounds promising. Do not you remember Mrs. Hughes speaking of his having been struck with her in Switzerland the year before last ? Lord Bradford had the most narrow escape possible a month ago of being destroyed by an Ox at Welbeck. He had been, in the proper agricultural stile feeling all over, and after having performed that ceremony the next very naturally, was to take out a highly perfumed handkerchief from his pocket to wipe his hands. The moment he pulled it out the Animal turned upon him and struck at him, Lord B. tried to get up directly into the rack but slipped down into the Manger where the Beast pinned him down & kept pummelling him all over. Fortunately his cries brought him assistance, and by the united exertion of *six men* the Animal was removed. He was of course dreadfully bruised but not materially, and soon got well, & the Cowman readily explained the cause of the misfortune by saying, 'the poor Cratur never could boide a Stink.'

"You will be delighted as I have been to hear of a letter which the new Lord Kilmorry [2] has written to Lady Cotton saying that 'seeing as he was perfectly

[1] Ld. Temple, eldest son of 2nd Marq. of Buckingham, afterwards 2nd Duke; born 1797; mar. 1819, Lady Mary, dau. of Marq. of Breadalbane. She died 1862. He died 1861.

[2] Ld. Kilmorey. See note, p. 34.

aware that whatever of kindness he & his family had received from his late Brother had been entirely owing to Lady K. it would be always equally his duty & inclination to shew every respect to her family, that he should therefore be most anxious to wait upon her whenever she would allow him, & in the mean time hoped Miss Cotton would do him the favor to accept the £1000 still due on her Sister's fortune, and that she would come as soon as convenient to Shavington to take away every thing that she chose that had belonged to her Sister.' Nothing could, I think, be more gratifying to poor Lady K.'s family than such a tribute, nor could it be done in better taste. They say the property has come to this man just at the moment to save him from a Tail, but if he lives, there is no doubt that he will do his best to get thro' this as he has done by his former Windfalls. . . .

"You may have seen in your papers that there has been a great search after some Jewels of the King's, His Garter etc., which have been missing a considerable time, but were expected to turn up in the general rummage which has now been making, no such thing however appeared, & when P. R. & his Sisters met last week at the Queen's House, the last search was made, with no better success than the former. After they were gone Lord Arden & General Taylor, the Executors, were putting up many small odd articles which remained, & wanting a Box to put them in, one of them recollected an old Box in a cupboard in the window seat which they thought would answer this purpose. When it was taken out & opened the first thing which appeared was the lost Jewels ! ! Nobody can wonder at any circumstance in this case, however strange, but there is, I think, some thing very extraordinary in the pains which sober people seem to take sometimes to baffle the Thief by playing him a trick. The other day Mrs. O. Gore [1] went up to London on business for a few days leaving her whole establishment at Porkington ; the day after she went, arrived the Tuner making his regular rounds & finding Mrs. Gore's Pianoforte locked he immediately proceeded to open it either with a crooked nail or with the first tea chest Key he could get when

[1] Mrs. Ormsby Gore, of Porkington. See p. 133.

to his great astonishment the first thing he beheld was Mrs. G's whole set of jewels, which in the presence of Butler & Housekeeper he sealed up and delivered to their Care. Surely it would have been more natural as well as safer to have left them at once with her Silver forks & spoons.

"Miss Drummond heard yesterday from her Father that Mr. B. Paget [1] is gone back to live with his poor wife, promising I suppose never to do *so* no more. I am sorry for it, as I fear she can have no prospect of any permanent comfort in him, & will therefore only be subjecting herself to fresh pangs. She has been corresponding with me about a deaf & dumb Election in which I have been very glad to have been able to assist her wishes.

"The Thorwaldson [2] Marriage has I believe taken place & they are coming over immediately, Lord Carysfort takes up entirely the protection of talent & Genius and quoting Charles the 2nd, having married Vandyke to a Scotch Peer's Daughter, professes that the Dane has done his Cousin much honor, whether he would have thought the same if it had been his daughter I take leave to doubt. A strange Story but which cannot now be doubted has appeared in all the Newspapers with the name at full length of the Marriage of Lord Erskine [3] to his Mistress, at Gretna Green where his Lordship went disguised in female Cloaths with a *large Leghorn Bonnet* & Veil. His Son followed but did not arrive till just as the Ceremony was finished, which legitamatizes in Scotland a whole tribe of Ci-devants. It is a melancholy proof of dotage. The Chancellor [4] is very ill, & Baron Richards by appointment is pro tempore Speaker of the House of Lords, but if the Chancellor dies or resigns, Leach will of course succeed by favor of the House."

[1] Berkeley Paget, 6th s. of 1st Earl of Uxbridge; born 1780; mar. 1804, Sophia, dau. of Hon. W. Bucknall. She died 1850. He died 1842.

[2] Thorwaldsen, Bartholomew, 1769–1844, a famous Danish sculptor.

[3] Lord Erskine, 1st Baron; born 1750; Lord Chancellor 1806; mar. 1st, 1770, Frances, dau. of Daniel Moore, M.P., by whom he had 4 sons and a daughter. She died 1805. He mar. 2ndly, Sarah (or Mary) Buck, by whom he had one son, born 1821. He died 1823.

[4] Ld. Eldon; born 1751. One of the most eminent lawyers of his time; Lord Chancellor 1810–27. He died 1838.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

" Brook Street, *Thursday, April 22nd,* 1819.

" Your welcome letter my dearest Henry has arrived with all the despatch that its contents deserve.

" You will find Neville,[1] with his ' young ideas on love-making ' still only beginning to shoot. He takes the thing, as yet very quietly, makes a Morning Call on his Love, eats his dinner at his Father's, if He likes the party (as yesterday with your Uncle Tom, & Lord Grenville & General) & hops across at ten o'clock for the close of the day. This is not quite in Temple's [2] style, who has been from the 1st day to this, in regular & unbroken Attendance from 11, morning to 11, night !

" Neville says that to talk of the smallest pretentions to beauty in his Bride would be absurd, but that she is fresh & clean-looking ' Which is enough for him.' I fancy he has expressed so generally among his own Set, his unfavorable opinion on her Appearance, that it is much best to profess at once entirely to abandon that Ground, & rest on the interior. No Settlements, yet transpires from Authority excepting only that they are to have a London house & to follow the Camp during the Summer. The report of the Town however is that Lord Cornwallis settles on Lady Jane £5,000 pr. an. after his death in default of Issue Male. This will come in famously to supply the place of the Lights, but there being only 8 years difference of age between the Father & Son-in-law, the prospective is not a very immediate one.

" I was quite surprised to hear that Lord C. was so very young a man. I suppose Lady C. is nearly of the same age, but old Gordon [3] was much too careful a

[1] " Dick," afterwards 3rd Ld. Braybrooke ; born 1783 ; mar. 1819, Lady Jane, dau. of 2nd Marq. Cornwallis. She died 1856. He suc, his father 1825, and died 1858.

[2] Richard Plantagenet, E. Temple, afterwards 2nd D. of Buckingham ; born 1797 ; mar. May 13th, 1818, Lady Mary, dau. of 1st Marq. of Breadalbane. She died 1862. He died 1861.

[3] The famous Duchess of Gordon, Jane, dau. of Sir William Maxwell ; mar. 1767, 4th D. of Gordon, who died 1812 without male issue. Of the five daus. of the marriage Charlotte mar. 1789, the 4th D. of Richmond ; Susan mar. 1793, William, 5th D. of Manchester ; Louisa mar. 1787, George, 2nd Marq. Cornwallis ; Georgiana mar. as his 2nd wife, 6th D. of Bedford, 1803.

Mother to suffer the ages of any of her daughters to get into those tell-tale Works of Debrett. I hear poor Caserden looks quite low & crest-fallen which is not to be wondered at. It has been quite a Trojan ten years seige, & the old Duchess must be proud to look down, (if she can) on a daughter so worthily treading in her Shoes.

"There is great talk of political changes among Government Men, but not among their Opponents, so I suppose it will be only some little figuring in & out among themselves, & that this will not take place till after the Catholic Question, on the issue of which there seems to be so great a variety of opinion that I suppose it will be hard won. Many say it will be carried in the House of Commons & thrown out among the Peers, but this, I hear, Lord Liverpool says *must not happen* as he would on no account set the two Houses at variance on such a subject. The Chancellor is very ill, & so they say is P. R. but I fancy the latter is only gout tho' for the first time there have been lately flying reports about Him of a more serious nature, & I believe his family have spoken with uneasiness of the difficulty that there was when He was last at Brighton to get Him to stir out of the house.

"Charles is in high force, as happy at the termination of the Parliamentary holidays as ever he was at the beginning of his Westminster ones."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *Saturday.*

"I trust that I may now congratulate you on being restored to the honor, or as my neighbour Clarke, I find, describes it 'the disgrace' of a seat in the House of Commons.[1] This last is certainly to me a very new view of that subject to which my earliest impressions had always taught me to look up with reverential respect,

[1] Parliament was dissolved on the accession of the new King, on March 14th, 1820.

but when I come to look at you as liable to be jostled in these seats, & on them, by such men as Hobhouse,[1] Hunt[2] & Cobbett,[3] who quit the Jails to come into the legislative Assembly, the character of the whole subject may certainly very fairly be described as Mr. C. gives it, tho' not perhaps exactly as He would mean it. I fear the Elections are going ill, by which I do not mean to lament the exclusion of Government Members, but the admission of Ultra Whigs, who certainly are objects of great terror to me. Nobody I believe considers the Cato Street plot as by any means sifted to the bottom & great indeed, would be my hourly Apprehension if I had any one very near or dear to me standing in any prominent situation in Government. That our mischief is closely connected with all which is going on at Paris, there is no doubt. Miss Grimston who came up from Hertfordshire since our arrival told me, that Lord Bridgewater[4] himself mentioned to her, his having had a letter from Paris dated *the day before* the explosion of the plot here, which mentioned that there 'would be immediately an attempt made on the lives of the English Ministers.' This letter Lord B. sent straight to Lord Sidmouth & had an answer from him saying that the same communication had been made to him thro' several other Channels. Miss Macn[a] likewise told me yesterday that she knows the Channel (indeed she named the man but I heeded it not) thro' which this information was sent to Ministers from Paris two months ago."

[1] Hobhouse, afterwards Sir John, 2nd Bart.; born 1786; M.P. for Westminster 1820; previously in 1819 he was arrested by warrant of the Speaker and committed to Newgate (December 13th); he mar. 1828, Lady Julia, dau. of 7th Marq. of Tweeddale; Sec. at War, 1832; Sec. for Ireland, 1833; Ch. Com. for Woods and Forests, 1834; Pres. of Board of Control, 1835–41, and again 1846–52. Raised to the Peerage as Baron Broughton 1851. Died without male issue 1869, when the barony became extinct.

[2] Hunt, Henry (1773–1835), a politician; unsuccessfully contested Bristol 1812; Parliamentary Reformer; tried for conspiracy at York, May 1820. In August 1819 he had been arrested and imprisoned at Manchester in connection with Reform meetings.

[3] Cobbett, William, an ex-sergeant-major, and publisher of the *Weekly Political Register*. Imprisoned for libel 1810–12. He died 1832.

[4] John, 7th E. of Bridgewater; born 1753; mar. 1783, Charlotte, dau. and h. of Samuel Haynes. He d.s.p. 1823.

From Fanny W. W. to Mrs. Charles W. W.

" BROOK STREET, *April 24th.*

" . . . You probably know that all London has been ringing with the appointment of Lord F. Cunningham's,[1] given in defiance of a positive promise to Sir William Keppel. It is now asserted on all sides that he declines the situation, two opinions are held as to the motive, one is that Mr. Dennison his rich bachelor Uncle has signified his determination of disinheriting a nephew who should disgrace himself by the acceptance of an office acquired by his mother's shame, the other opinion is that Lord F. is so fast bound in silken chains by Lady Burghersh[2] that he will not leave Florence, even for £16,000 pr. ann. One piece of news is that Lady Hertford is grown such a paragon of virtue that she says she always had & still has the greatest regard for the K. but there are things *one cannot do* & she cannot consent to visit his mistress. The day of the opening is said to have been put off because the new Jewels for the occasion could not be prepared in time, report said that a girdle of Diamonds was to grace His Majesty's person. Mamma & I went to Rundell's to ascertain this point, we could not see the Jewels but heard there was to be a magnificent Loop & Circlet of Diamonds for the Hat, how it is to be placed on a Cocked Hat I cannot conceive, unless he means to wear it on his head under the Hat. Nothing is yet decided about the Crown. R. says the Jewels are all loose in the settings many of them false, & the value of the whole of what is exhibited at the Tower & called ½ a Million not more than 8 or 4000£ & quite unfit for any King to wear. It seems Jewels were hired for the Crowns at the last Coronation. At R.'s we saw the Jewels of another Sovereign, two wreaths

[1] Ld. Francis Conyngham, 2nd s. of Henry, 3rd Baron and 1st Marq. (who mar. 1794, Elizabeth, dau. of Joseph Denison); born 1797; mar. 1824, Lady Jane Paget, dau. of 1st Marq. of Anglesey. He survived his elder brother and suc. as 2nd Marq. in 1832. He died 1876.

[2] Priscilla Anne, dau. of William Wellesley Pole, 4th E. of Mornington; mar. 1811, John, Ld. Burghersh, eldest s. of John, 10th E. of Westmorland. He suc. his father 1841. She died 1879.

or Tiaras with a sort of half Eagle in Diamonds, these were just going to Hayte to adorn her Majesty's coal black person. The Eagle is the principal armorial bearing, it appears also in a sort of Locket which was exactly the badge of the Phoenix Fire Office, set in Diamonds. The whole is worth about £4000 & will be paid in Coffee, Sugar & Spices. Our Queen was at Rome on the 12th, meaning to depart immediately for England stopping a week at Pisaro by the way. Report says that there was another great quarrel between the King & his Ministers last week, probably caused by the appointment of Brougham & Denman with the *recognition* thereby established."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *May 12th*, 1820.

"The Town is growing of course Coronation Mad. . . . The Levee yesterday was uncommonly full, and of very long duration. The king went through it perfectly well, standing the whole time, & suffering only from the heat, as every body else was doing. No new Peers are yet announced but I suppose the Batch must come out soon now, that they may have time to make their new Robes. Lord Cholmondley [1] has, to everybody's surprise come forward with an act of patriotic disinterestedness, well worthy imitation, in giving up a certain quantity of plate to which he was entitled as Lord Steward. The claims arising from territorial holdings are infinite, & a very numerous Committee is appointed to examine them. Mr. Coke [2] of Norfolk has all the Table Linen used at the dinner. The great addition to the number of Peers, will give him many more goods than his father had, but then the exclusion

[1] George, 4th E. and 1st Marq.; born 1749; mar. 1791, Georgina, 2nd dau. and co-h. with her sister Priscilla, wife of Ld. Gwydyr, and Peregrine, 3rd D. of Ancaster. Ld. Cholmondeley died 1827. She died 1838.

[2] Thomas Coke, popularly known as "Mr. Coke of Holkham"; born 1754; many years M.P. for Norfolk; created E. of Leicester 1837; mar. 1st, 1775, Jane, dau. of James Dutton, who died 1800; 2ndly, 1822, Lady Anne Keppel, dau. of 4th E. of Albemarle. He died 1842.

of the Peeresses, will as he says, more than tell against that Advantage. The expence of the last Coronation was £700,000, & though much is said of the general wish to keep down the expence I doubt whether we might not be too glad to compound for the present Ceremony's not exceeding the preceeding one; £18,000 is appropriated for new setting the Crown. I suppose as it is fixed so early as the 1st Aug. most people will stay in town for it which will make a late campaign, in short all the best of the Summer will be spent in St. James' Street. . . .

"No news yet of the Queen, the bets are, I think, now all against her coming."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.
A Fragment

[1820.]

"The King professes his determination to open the Session *himself* with his Crown on his head, & to go the next night to the Play in State. He is comme toujours absorbed in the Cares—of inventing the new dress for the Peers for the Coronation which however they say, after all, will not take place, faute d'Argent. He has invited all his Brothers & Sisters from all parts of the world to come & assist at it & sends a Cadeau of £2,000 to Sister Honolulu [1] to make herself decent."

The Same

"BROOK STREET, *Monday.*

"The word procession naturally at this moment leads to Coronation, but whether we shall get at it this Summer many still doubt. The two Royal Robe Makers were however last week at Brighton with Drawings of *troisièmes*, for the Peers which in the determination these moments of total tranquilty & absence of interest for public concerns, happily fills up the vacuity of the Royal mind. These said articles together with the vests are to be of the richest & purist Virgin white Satin, & I have laid in a claim as a Cousin to attend Lord

[1] The Queen of Honolulu.

Glastonbury's [1] private rehearsal of the same. Lord Stanhope with the most commendable activity & foresight laid in his whole Accoutrements last year for £130 & has actually been painted in the same holding his Coronet in his hand. The last Fortescue letters mention our worthy Queen being still at Rome on the 29th of March 'living very quietly & perfectly retired.' The Duchess of York [2] is considered to be quite in a hopeless state, tho' she may hold out for a month or two. He professes that he shall be very sorry when it happens (as making a degree of change in his domestic arrangements), & that he shall certainly never think of taking another in her place."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *April 18th.*

"All the Ladies in London are canvassing for seats to see our new Sovereign open Parliament, which He is to do with more display than ever was yet known. The Crown, which of course he cannot himself put on his head, is to be carried before him on a Cushion, He is to have a Hat with such a plume of feathers as a Phoenix only could supply, with a diamond button & Loop as none but a Fairy-gifted Prince Prettyman ever sported, & pour comble a *Diamond Girdle* which would, I suppose encircle any German Prince's dominion. All these extraordinary attentions to appearance might perhaps appear superfluous, but are perfectly in character with a Giovinetto Amoroso. Lord F. Cunningham's Appointment to be Master of the Robes has put all the Bed-chamber into an uproar there being no instance of its being given but to a Groom grown grey in the Service, such was Lord Selsea, & such as Lord Cardigan the last holder, Colonel Thomas was an exception & considered

[1] James Grenville, s. of Rt. Hon. James Grenville (brother to Rt. Hon. George Grenville of Wootton, the Prime Minister); born 1742; elevated to the Peerage as Baron Glastonbury of Butleigh, Somerset, 1797; d.s.p. 1827. He was first cousin to Lady Williams Wynn.

[2] Frederica, Princess Royal of Prussia; mar. 1791, Frederick, D. of York, 2nd son of King George III. She died 1820.

infradig, but then that was when the whole was under a cloud. Our gracious Queen [1] was at Rome on the 29th of March, living very retired & talking of moving, but not stirring, probably waiting to be courted. Thistlewood's [2] trial began yesterday & with it came out an injunction from the Chief Justice that no part of it should be printed until the whole was over, which however much it may mortify the general curiosity certainly appears a reasonable & wise measure.

"The Duchess of York was again in extreme danger two days ago, but has, I suppose, again parried it for the present.

"I am not sure whether you heard before you went away that poor Mrs. Mytton is going off in a galloping Consumption, exactly as her Sister did, one only wishes that her poor Infant may go with her. The wretched Lady Jones is at Halston & wrote word to Lady P.[3] that the witnessing so immediate & so exact a repetition of the sad scene which she had just gone thro' was almost more than she could struggle against, most heavy & sad indeed has been the sad reverse to that poor woman who this time three years ago was supposed one of the proudest Mothers in London. The Town has within the last three or four days begun to fill, but the genteel Chimney-pieces remain wholly ungarnished to the great dispair of the Misses."

Henry was growing increasingly anxious for employment. The accession of the Prince Regent to the Throne made but little difference in ministerial circles, where he had practically held the reins for so long. He was not, however, popular, and the Queen's trial gave an opportunity to the opposers and critics of the Govern-

[1] Caroline, dau. of the D. of Brunswick; mar. 1795, George, Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV. She died 1821.

[2] See p. 199.

[3] Lady Puleston, wife of Sir Richard Puleston of Emral, created a Bart. 1813. (Sir Richard was the s. of Anne, dau. of Thomas Puleston of Emral, who mar. Richard Parry-Price of Bryn-y-pys. He inherited from his maternal grandfather, and assumed the surname of Puleston in 1812. He had two wives, the 1st Ellen, dau. of William Boats; the 2nd, Emma, dau. of John Corbet, Esq., of Sundorne, Shropshire. This lady is probably the second wife.)

ment to air their grievances, and to agitate for a change in the powers which for so many years had directed the affairs of State.

Lord Liverpool and Mr. Canning, recognising the weak position of the Government in the country, began to seek a *rapprochement* with the adherents of the old Grenville clique, Lord Grenville himself having entirely withdrawn from public life.

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"*May 16th*, 1820.

"I have not yet heard anything my dear Henry, of the success of your Application to Lord Castlereagh & I am afraid that our vote of last night against the Government on the Appointment of the 5th Baron of the Exchequer in Scotland will not be very likely to assist it. Never was so bad a figure made by any set of Ministers & the general opinion of their weakness is such that if there were any persons who were fit to take their places, they would not remain in Office twelve hours. The most marked feature of the night was that while Peel [1] & Vesey-Fitzgerald [2] stayed away William Peel, Mr. Dawson, & Bagwell who is Master General in Ireland voted with the Opposition. If they do not immediately dismiss him they cannot expect to bring any body down to their future divisions. Brougham, on Friday made a declaration without any call for it & without any communication with the rest of his party, that it was impossible for any one party in Parliament at present to form an Administration equal to the exigency of affairs. This has produced a good deal of sensation & of course since the division, is more talked of & considered. Weak as the present Administration is, there is still so little difference of strength between the strong & weakest parts of it that they are afraid to make any change lest the whole should tumble about their ears. Phillimore, Watkin & I were the only ones of our set who

[1] Sir Robert Peel.

[2] Rt. Hon. James Vesey Fitzgerald.

voted. Fremantle, Lewis, Knox & Temple & some others went away.

"Lord Buckingham has just arrived in Town to ask the King for his Dukedom but he still suffers under so much gout that I do not know when he will be capable of taking his Audience.

"Lady Harriet is still going about & in good looks. What her younger brother [1] means I cannot conceive. He first voted with the Government & then to-day stopped me in the street to tell me how glad he was that Ministers had been so well *drest* for that it was a scandalous dirty job & that such a division would do a great deal of good. Meantime the cause of the Catholics is every day gaining ground by the report of the King's being friendly to it. I fully expect that, if some unexpected difficulty does not occur the measure will at least pass the House of Commons this year. The rival Marchionesses [2] were, last week entertained with dinners at Carlton House, on Friday the fair Satira supported by Gloucesters & Warwicks, etc. & on Saturday the fallen Roxana with the Clarences, old P. etc. etc.

"Brougham is certainly I believe, to go to meet the Queen as soon as she comes within reach but I feel myself as much persuaded as one can, about any movements of so extraordinary a personage, that she has no real intention of coming over or she would not have delayed setting off so long or have travelled so leisurely. Remember me to Hester & believe me,

"Evere most affectionately yours,

"C. W. W. W."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *May 25th*, 1820.

"I begin to think it very long, my dearest Hester since I had heard of you, from you my last letter bears date the 1st May, which begins to be hard upon a month. Watkin has himself been the herald of all the happiness [3] which Monday last (the 22nd) produced to him in Lady

[1] Robert Clive. [2] Marchionesses of Conyngham and Hertford.
[3] Birth of Watkin, afterwards 6th Bart.

Harriet's safe accouchment, & in his acquisition of his much desired Son & Heir.

"'My Sister' Po.[1] is quite beside herself with joy, & so is the poor Duchess [2] to a degree which makes me almost melancholy, from the strong apprehension I feel that she will never know herself the happiness, which she so much rejoices in her Sister's having acquired.

"In the meantime there seems no prospect of an End to the Session of Parliament which has not yet begun any of the regular business. Nothing of course, is talked of but Coronation, yet I do not think it has hitherto brought any great influx to London, many houses, & Charles' at the head of them remaining still with Bills in them. . . . It is now given out that the Peeresses are to walk & every part of the Ceremonial is to be gone through, Mr. Brougham, as one of the Wardens of the Cinque Ports holds the Canope over the King's head. Lord Anglesea is to be appointed High Steward, & the Duke of Wellington High Constable for the day, the former says He is the only man in England who can back his horse down Westminster Hall. I am afraid you must have heard the Sobriquet for Frankland Lewis [3] who is called 'Louis le Desivant,' but perhaps not that of the eldest Miss Fitz,[4] who is distinguished from her Aunt Sophia of Windsor, & Her Cousin of Gloucester by being called 'Princess Sophia of Jordan.' . . ."

The Same

"Brook Street, *June 2nd*, 1820.

"I am beginning this letter, my dearest Hester, provisionally knowing that it may not set forth for a day or two on its long Journey.

"This has been a week very rich in events, some of which will probably have been conveyed to you by other Pens, but I must begin with one which under Seal

[1] Lady Powis, mother to Lady Harriet Williams Wynn.

[2] Duchess of Northumberland, sister to Lady Harriet.

[3] Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis (created Bart. 1846); born 1780; mar. 1st, 1805, Harriet, 4th dau. of Sir George Cornwall of Moreas; 2nd, Mary Anne, dau. of John Ashton. He was M.P. for Beaumaris 1812-26. Had several appointments. Continued in Parliament up to his death, 1855.

[4] Miss FitzClarence.

of secrecy I have known some time, but is now announced & I think, fully justifies my introducing it with at least every one of Madame de Sevignes' Epithets, being no other than the marriage of Catherine Fortescue [1] to Mr. N. D. Fellows,[1] a man who has known her most intimately from her Birth, is the sworn friend & oldest Accoutumé of her house, by whom he has always been considered as every thing most estimable & most agreeable, with a clear Estate of £9000 pr. ann. & a beautiful place within 15 miles of Castle-hill, betwen that & Exeter. He is 9 months younger than Watkin, 14 years therefore older than herself, has been a widower only twelve-months, has one son just going to be of age, & one daughter of 24, who has always been Catherine's sworn friend & Toadee. Furthermore he is next brother to Lord Portsmouth, who tho' married for some years has no child, & if he should be taken with a fit of the Agrippa, she becomes a Countess with £27,000 pr. ann. But as it is, it is enough to turn the heads of the whole family with joy, & really I only wonder they have stood it as well as they have done, there never having certainly been a serious Soupcon of anything of the sort till within 36 hours of the proposal. It was wished to have delayed the general Annouce till Lord F.'s answer arrived, merely as a matter of respect, but Giles overheard some words on the subject between two of the entrusted females at Almacks & from him, as you may believe it soon got into Circulation. What may have been the good man's inducement to a step, which to me & to most (but certainly not to all) appears so extraordinary, one should naturally be at a loss to find out, were we not assured that he is over *head & ears in love* insisting on her sitting immediately for a full length picture to the first Artist in London, professing his astonishment that she should have remained single so long to be a blessing reserved for him ! If this should be your first intimation of this Event you will not think

[1] Catherine, 2nd dau. of 2nd E. Fortescue; mar. as his 2nd wife on June 24th, 1820, Mr. Fellowes, 2nd s. of John Wallop, 1st E. of Portsmouth. In 1794 he had assumed the surname of Fellowes on succeeding to the estates of his maternal uncle, Henry Arthur Fellowes. He succeeded his brother as 4th Earl, 1853, and died in 1854. She also died in 1854.

I have dwelt upon it too long. The next is Lord Buckingham's acquisition of the Garter which to his very great surprise was sent to him on Monday of the last week by Bloomfield immediately from the King. Nothing certainly could be more flattering than such a mark of favour, wholly unsolicited on his part. Some of the Opposition Croakers affect to say that it is in lieu of the honor which he so much desired, but this he certainly has, himself, not the smallest reason to think. It is understood that none of that sort will be conferred in the life-time of the present Chamberlain, from the determination that his Son should never receive any benefit or favour whatever from his ci-devant great friend.

" Of other Peers as yet one hears nothing, tho' I suppose there must be a Batch before Coronation, if Coronation there be this year, which in the last 2 or 3 days has become very doubtful. My next Event is the arrival of Her Majesty which is hourly expected & will probably have taken place before this letter reaches you, it being understood that she was to sleep at Canterbury last night. I dined yesterday in Pall Mall, where just while the Gros Cousin [1] was talking big of his reasons for being confident that she would not come, in walked the Gentilhomme Bourgeous, hot from the H. of C. where Van.[2] had in the midst of the Debate got up & giving notice that 'urgent Business of the most important nature rendering it impossible for His Majesties Ministers to attend the House' moved an adjournment. Lord Hutch:[3] had been sent with Brougham to negotiate with her at St. Omers' but the terms which he offered were rejected with scorn. He wrote both to Lord Liverpool & to Lord Melville,[4] to the first for Lodgings & to the second for a frigate, neither of which were assigned, so She came over in the common Packet, & will,

[1] Ld. Buckingham (afterwards Duke).

[2] Vansittart, Nicholas, born 1766; M.P. 1796; Chan. of Exch. 1812; created Baron Bexley 1823; mar. 1806, dau. of Ld. Auckland; died 1851.

[3] John, Baron Hutchinson, born 1757; General in the Army, distinguished at the Capitulation of Cairo and Battle of Alexandria 1801; s. of Baroness Donoughmore and Rt. Hon. John Hely-Hutchinson.

[4] Robert, 2nd Visc., born 1771. He died 1851.

I suppose, drive to the house of Alderman Wood, who went down to meet her. This house is in South Audley Street which is nearer to Brook Street than I quite like. They say Westminster Bridge has been crowded ever since yesterday Evening & I should not wonder if we were made to light up for this notable Event. Lord A. Hamilton[1] went down to Dover to receive her & Lady Elizabeth Forbes[2] notifies her Appointment to Her Household, for places in which, Brougham professes that he has had applications from Nobility & Gentry of the highest degree. Her *Italian Attendants* left her at Dijon, & she brings over only a *little Girl* whom she calls 'le Fille de Mons : le Baron.' They say her new Prime Minister is to be created Baron Brougham, to supply as *far as may be* the place of Bergami. It is however no joking matter, as I fear it is likely to produce great confusion. . . . Adieu dearest, I have hardly left room for the one most Comprehensive & fervent wish, may God Almighty ever bless you both."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BARMOUTH, *August 31st*, 1820.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I see that the Queen's Bill[3] still proceeds at the pace of a lame snail, I cannot myself anticipate the slightest probability of its passing. The case in favour of the present Bill will probably occupy the greater part of September. There is to be a two months delay to prepare the Queen's defence & collect her witnesses, after that is finished comes a pause for the consideration of evidence, the debate upon it, etc., so that it cannot reach the House of Commons till the middle of January. Now really if the House were disposed to expedite it, instead of being universally inclined to avoid the question by all possible means, I do

[1] Ld. Archibald Hamilton, born 1769, 2nd s. of 9th D. of Hamilton; sometime M.P.; brother to Lady Anne Hamilton (p. 177). He died unmar. 1827.

[2] Probably the youngest dau. of George, 5th E. of Granard, who died unmarried 1843.

[3] Bill of Pains and Penalties. The trial commenced on the second reading of the Bill on August 17th; Parliament adjourned on August 21st.

not know how they can get through it with all the ordinary business of the Session & all the arrears of the last, pressing upon them, at the same time—although I am daily more & more confirmed in my original opinion that evil, pure & unmixed evil to an extent which no man can calculate must at all events be the consequence. If as I anticipate the business is dropped or knocked on the head, it will give a most dangerous triumph to the Radicals as well as degrading the dignity of the country, by leaving as Queen a woman against whom such charges have been substantiated, on the other, if it is allowed to proceed, the difficulties will encrease at every step & a precedent is established which entirely subverts the ordinary forms of the Constitution & reverses the functions of the two Houses of Parliament. I am sorry to hear an indifferent account of Lord Grenville's health & doubts whether he will be able to sit through the business, I regret this the more as it is supposed that in the present state of the peers his authority & influence gives him the power of turning the scale on every question. I hear that he hesitated extremely on Lord Grey's [1] motion & even during the debate of the morning was inclined to support it. I heartily wish he had done so. Lord B. writes me word that as the present Bill cannot possibly be terminated during the lives of any of the present Peers it is to be hoped that the Bell Schools,[2] will fit the rising generation to discuss it more calmly & temperately. He says that 'John Bull' already seems to feel some difficulty in reconciling a Lady & her Courier, bathing, sleeping, & piddling, together with perfect propriety, though assured by the news-papers that it is only 'foreign custom & means nothing in the South.'

"God bless you give my love to every body."

[1] Charles, 2nd E. Grey; born 1764; mar. 1794, Mary, dau. of 1st Ld. Ponsonby. She died 1861. He was M.P. for Northumberland 1786; First Ld. of the Admiralty 1806, in the Grenville Ministry of All the Talents; and on Mr. Fox's death became Secretary for Foreign Affairs (1807). He retired when Ld. Grenville resigned office and remained in opposition until 1830, when he became Prime Minister until 1834. He died 1845.

[2] Andrew Bell (1752-1832) undertook the management of Poor Law Schools in London in 1807. He wrote *Experiment in Education made at the Male Asylum of Madras*, in 1797.

From Mrs. Cholmondeley to Henry W. W. W.

"VALE ROYAL, *October 2nd*, 1820.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I am truly glad that I am neither a Peer nor a Member of the H. of C. as I certainly should be very much puzzled how to vote upon the clause of the divorce, upon principle of recrimination depriving any other man from that relief, & yet a degraded Queen is not a fit wife for our Sovereign, as for the present proceedings it really appears to me that the evidence adduced in her defence is nearly as injurious to her character as that brought forward in her accusation, for nothing can be more lamentable than poor Lady Charlotte Lindsay's [1] efforts to retain her veracity & at the same time make the best of a bad case. I hear that Lord & Lady Lauderdale [2] & their daughters are to be examined & that the defence will last a fortnight, exclusive of the peers debate, but what will be the result who can guess! Lord R. Savage [3] who was here the other day, said that he should certainly vote against the divorce, & therefore as he is quite an Ultra Loyalist, I suppose we shall have all the Sainta against the Bill,—He told me that Lord Gwydyr [4] died immensely in debt but still I should think the Perth fortune enough to have kept Mr. Burrell [5] out of Paris if he chose it, but the truth is he likes no place so well & finds it full of amusement."

[1] 3rd dau. of 2nd E. of Guildford (the celebrated statesman Ld. North), who mar. 1800, Lt.-Col. Hon. John Lindsay, 7th s. of 5th E. of Balcarres. She died 1849.

[2] James, 3rd Earl; born 1759; created an English Baron 1806; mar. 1782, Eleanor, only dau. and h. of Anthony Todd. She died 1856. He died 1839.

[3] George, Ld. Rocksavage, eld. s. of 1st Marq. of Cholmondeley; born 1792; suc. his mother (the dau. of the last D. of Ancaster) as Hered. Great Chamberlain; mar. 1st, 1812, Caroline, dau. of General Sir Colin Campbell. She died 1815. He mar. 2ndly, 1830, Lady Susan, dau. of 6th D. of Bedford. He d.s.p. 1870.

[4] Sir Peter Burrell, 1st Baron Gwydyr; born 1754; mar. 1779, Lady Priscilla Bertie, dau. and co-h. of 3rd and last D. of Ancaster. She died 1828. He died 1820.

[5] Peter, eldest s. of 1st Baron Gwydyr, suc. his mother as Baron Willoughby D'Eresby on her death in 1828. He suc. to his father's barony in 1820. He was born 1782; mar. in 1807, Clementina, dau. and sole h. of 1st Ld. Perth, and assumed the additional surname of Drummond. He died 1865.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"*October 3rd.*

"The last report is that Ministers expect that if the Bill is carried in the House of Lords it will get thro' the Commons, but on what this idea is founded I know not. In the mean time the Crowds of Address Bearers encrease hourly & are now as my Brother Tom [1] says, from what he saw yesterday, very respectable, decent looking people, & all this bustle as She says for 'Half a Crown!' He [the King] is, I fancy, frightened out of his wits & never shews His face.

"Adieu dearest I have fifty things to do & therefore must gossip no longer.

"God bless you."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"ELTON, *October 9th*, 1820.

"Charles will, if all this horrid business goes on, be very short of Holidays, as he must, I believe, be in the House on 17th November but really, from the turn which the evidence brought forward by the Queen, cannot fail of giving to the whole Complexion of the business, I begin almost to think that it will fall to the ground in the first instance, which if it could do, & leave no further ill consequences behind, one should be too glad of. I cannot tell you how much I am surprised at the evidence of Lord Glenbervie & Guilford & Lady Charlotte Lindsay particularly of the latter who *upon Oath* says she has never seen anything improper in the Queen's conduct either particularly with Bergami or generally with others. This is certainly very different from what one has heard reported in what appeared the most direct & explicit manner as the opinion both of her & her Brother, but after all it must be said that they should appear Witnesses of a good deal more credibility than the Dimonts & Majorchia. Altogether it is to me now a far more inexplicable business than ever, & I am dying to hear what my Brother Tom, whom we expect to dinner to-day, will say of it. Nothing can alter my general opinion of

[1] Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville.

the person in question, but from the particular Charges now adduced against her it really seems as if she would disculpate herself. Lady Glenbervie's[1] volunteering her services to attend her at Naples just when things were said to be au plus mal, is certainly a very striking circumstance in her favour. I sadly fear the triumph which her acquital, if it does take place, will give to the Radicals & lowest popular party, & the encrease of obliqué which it will throw upon the Plaintiff. Altogether it has been & is &, I fear, will be a most sad business."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"VALE ROYAL, *November 5th.*

"The principal event of this week is one which you will not hear without concern from knowing how much it will have given to me. It is the destruction of poor old Wotton[2] which was burnt to the ground on Monday last, thank God without loss of any lives. The poor Infant was in the greatest danger & saved only by the exertions of Lord Temple's Servant. We have had no particulars since the first account which was written first by Lord Buckingham soon after the Express arrived & afterwards by my Brother Tom. The fire broke out at ½ past 2 in the room next to the Nursery & at half past 5 when the Express was sent off, nothing was left but the walls. It is not known that anything was saved but Lady T.'s Jewels. She & the poor Baby[3] went off immediately to Stowe, & Lord Temple meant to come up to his father the moment he could quit the spot. You will easily believe what a pang it has given to me to think that all which was associated with my earliest & tenderest recollections should be wiped off from the face of the earth, tho' at the same time I feel well aware that

[1] Lady Glenbervie, Catherine, eldest dau. of Ld. North (afterwards 2nd E. of Guilford); mar. 1789, Ld. Glenbervie. She had died in 1817. Lady Charlotte Lindsay was her younger sister.

[2] Wootton, the old home of the Grenvilles; Ld. and Lady Temple, eldest s. of Ld. Buckingham. When his father was raised to the Dukedom, Ld. Temple became Marq. of Chandos.

[3] Lady Anna, who mar. in 1846 William Gore-Langton. She died 1879.

the probability was perhaps very much against my having ever seen it again, but still I often reverted to it my Mind's Eye, which now sees only a frightful mass of ruins. Its amiable Owner however, with that reverential attachment which he has always so strongly felt, looked at nothing in the first moment that he heard of the destruction but restoring it, & actually sent off Soane's foreman for that purpose the *same evening*. We are all wonder at hearing from all sides of the peril of the poor Baby without one word being said of its Nurse, who one should think must have been by its side, but she has never been mentioned. The Queen's business seems at length to be drawing to a conclusion, but the uncertainty of the Bill passing to a 2nd reading is as great as ever, & you do not hear two opinions alike. At all events *if that* be carried, it is thought quite certain that it will then either be abandoned, or lost & that there is not a chance of its ever reaching the Commons. Prince Leopold's [1] Visit made of course a great sensation, and will, I think, cool the extreme enthusiasm of some of his Admirers. The Queen it is said was at first to refuse to see him, but Brougham insisting upon it she said 'you have been my Physician Mr. B. & whatever Pill you give me, I will try to swallow, but this is a most bitter one.' And so it is certainly if ever he entertained a doubt of her Misdemeanors."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"V. R., *Saturday*.

"I cannot tell you my dear Charles how much I am hurt at the account in the Courrier to-day of the insult & ill-will shown to Lord Buckingham [2] at Aylesbury. I would have given many a Guinea that it should not have happened, and that not from my deep feeling of the outrage, (tho' to that from a place so near our own home, I am certainly not insensible,) but much more from being aware how much of it he will attribute to the

[1] Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, who had mar. 1816, Princess Charlotte (she died 1817). He eventually became King of the Belgians and died 1865.

[2] 2nd Marquess, Lady Williams Wynn's nephew. His father had died in 1813.

line of Conduct and Politics so unfortunately pursued by his Brother.[1] That it is connected with it, one cannot but see, tho' at the same time I must honestly own that from what I have heard I do believe Lord B.'s personal popularity in Aylesbury has for some time been, not gradually, but rapidly decreasing. From whatever cause, the result will give him great pain, and particularly at this moment when he had expressed himself so much gratified by the interest and affection manifested towards him in his late misfortune not only by his immediate neighbours but as he expresses himself by the whole County.

"The poor people at Wotton after having worked like horses as long as there was any thing to be done sat themselves down in front of the poor old walls and cried. Pray tell Mary, for her satisfaction that it was the *Nurse* and not the Valet who saved the child. She did not get her out of the room till she saw the line of black smoke running along the beam, and in ten minutes after the ceiling fell in. The fire having broken out at the top of the house could not force its way thro' the Copper Roof, and beat down on the Wooden Stair-cases which were at each end and in the middle of the house."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"V. R., *November 22nd.*

"What think you of the Queen's pilgrimage to St. Pauls! It really quite sickens me to see (what my impression of her cannot but consider as) a profanation of both the place & Service, yet have I more than once to-day checked myself for passing such an uncharitable Judgement, & more than doubted whether what I *knew* of her could justify it, but I feel sure that had I been passing by just as she went into the Church it would have given me a pang. I gave to Harriet & Mr. Cholmondley your message respecting their future Title, if any such should come in question which is certainly not among

[1] George, 2nd s. of 1st Marq. of Buckingham; suc. his mother (Mary, dau. and h. of Earl Nugent) to the Barony of Nugent on her death, 1812. He mar. Ann Lucy, dau. of Hon. Vere Paulett, in 1813. He d.s.p. 1850.

the least doubtful. They are both of them very fully aware of the superior merit of *Delamere of V. R.* to any other, but know not how to set about finding out whether there is any *available* objection to their asking it. I know Forrester's answer on being told that Mr. L.[1] intended, founded on prior possession, to advance a Claim on the title of Wenlock, said 'I have ensured the having my Patent made out for Wenlock & let him get it altered if he can.' To enquire whether there is a barony of Delamere belonging to Lord Stamford would be useful, as we all know the answer, but they want to know whether you would recommend any body to them, from whom they could learn whether the existance of that Barony is a bar to their asking for another of the same name designating it to be of V. R. I thought perhaps you could ask the question of Mary's friend Sir —— Naylor or if not that you could tell them where they might apply for the information, & that speedily as, tho' on the one hand the thing may not come in question for some time if at all, so on the other, it might be brought forward immediately on the Meeting."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"VALE ROYAL, *December 9th*, 1820.

"I may as well give you your Uncle's answer to your message about Pontier. In the first place he desires me to tell you how sensible he is to your kind recollections of him and his hobby-horse. He says 'he thinks *P.* very likely to have some curious books, and if he could see a list with their *dates* of printing, price and condition, he should probably be tempted to make several purchases. Manuscripts of Classicks can not well be bought without examining them, nor do I deal in them. If he has any of old History or Chivalry which are sometimes accompanied with curious drawings and illuminations they are desirable enough; I should suppose He may have some curious old Italian Poets or novellists, but of Italian Topography I am no purchaser.' The only *printed* book which he names is Epictetus on

[1] Mr. Lawley.

Vellum with its 'pendance' on paper at 40 frs. Of this he gives no date, but if it is '*perfect*, and can be had for a Guinea and half I would take my chance with it. If F. could get me a list of what P. thinks curious, with date, price, and condition, I might very likely find something desirable but I doubt her stay in the neighbourhood will not be sufficient to admit of such negotiations.'

"Mary Williams Wynn [1] was giving us the other day a most curious history of the termination of all the debates about General Crewe's [2] children. You remember that Miss Lloyd (Angharad's [3] sister) had in her great love and gratitude to the whole family and to relieve Lord Crewe [4] and Mrs. Cunliffe [5] from their immediate embarrassment, while it was all undecided consented to stay in the house to look after 'the dear children.' The negotiations, to all of which she was made party by Lord Crewe, went on with the General, and all the time they were so doing Miss Lloyd was carrying on an underplot by means of an agent employed by the General, and the out turn was that one fine day Lord Crewe receives a letter from her beginning with 'My Lord' announcing that she had, at the desire of the General, accepted 'upon a certain salary' the entire charge and care of his children, and was his Lordship's humble servant. Here she is therefore settled in a house with these 4 children (or 3 I rather believe) with an allowance of £1,500 a year

[1] Mary, 2nd dau. of Charles Williams Wynn; mar. 1832, James Milnes Gaskell, M.P. She died 1869.

[2] General Crewe, only s. of John, 1st Baron Crewe; born 1772; mar. 1807, Henrietta, dau. of John Hungerford Keats, Esq. She died January 14th, 1820. He suc. his father as 2nd Baron in 1829, and died 1835.

[3] Miss Angharad Llwyd (or Lloyd), a distinguished Welsh scholar and antiquarian. Her *History of Anglesey*, written when she was very young, gained her a prize at the Eisteddfod. She edited the third edition of the *History of the Gwydyr Family*, published in 1827. She lived, during the later years of her life, at Rhyl, and died at a great age. Her father, the Rev. John Lloyd, Rector of Nannech 1774–8, and of Caerwys 1778–94, was a friend of Thomas Pennant, the Welsh topographical writer.

[4] John, 1st Baron Crewe; born 1742; M.P. for Stafford 1765–8 and for Cheshire 1768–1806, when he was raised to the Peerage; mar. 1766, Frances, dau. of Fulke Greville, Esq. She died 1818. He died 1829.

[5] Mrs. Cunliffe, Emma, only dau. of 1st Baron Crewe; mar. 1809, Foster, eld. s. of Sir Foster Cunliffe. He d.s.p. *in vita patris* 1832.

for herself, and £200 more for a Governess, to do with them, and by them exactly as ton lui semble, and perfectly independent of all her family. She has put the Boy without the smallest communication with Lord Crewe or any of them, under the care of a Tutor at Hampstead, whom Mrs. Cunliffe says she hears is a good sort of Man, but the circumstance of Miss Lloyd's being become a violent Calvinist not to say Methodist, does not seem particularly to fit her for the education of children placed as these are likely to be. To be sure poor Lord Crewe has been singularly unfortunate on the subject of looking to those who are to come after him, and has had little inducement for many many years to fall into the dangerous temptation of adding field to field and 'calling the Lands after his own Name.'"

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"LLANGEDWIN, *December 31st*, 1820.

"I am going next week to make Henry enclose to Mr. Vaughan the Quarterly Review and a packet of Literary Gazettes which I think can not from Paris cost a great deal for carriage and may amuse you. I wish I could send 2 vols of a Work called the Sketch Book just published under a feigned name, by an American of the name of *Washington Irvine*. Charles says he has no hesitation in pronouncing them to be the best Essays which have appeared since the Spectator. I have not myself met with them, but everybody speaks of them in the same terms. The man came over to Liverpool with the intention, I believe of settling in trade, but the extraordinary and wholly unexpected success of this book has determined him to go to London, and establish himself regularly as an Author. He had published before a sort of Ironical history of New York which has now come forward, but I should think must be far inferior to the other, though it certainly has in it a good deal of Wit. I wish the Abbot was better for your sake, Chalmer's has been publishing a history of Mary from Scotch Documents which confirm the sort of character given of her by Walter Scott.

"Have the Grims [1] sent you word of Wm. Bagot's intended Marriage with the great heiress Miss Swinnerton? There is however a soupcon that the old Gentleman is out of humor with it and will not give anything, but I suppose it will all come in time. You will have heard from Hart. of all the Combermere festivities for the Duke,[2] but perhaps not of Lord Grosvenor's [3] pitiable folly in refusing the use of the Assembly room at the Hotel for the purpose of giving a Ball to the Conqueror of Bonaparte because as a Peer of the Realm he expressed his opinion of the guilt of the Queen. Surely in this there can be no two opinions. The Meeting of Parliament is drawing near, and nobody seems to have a guess what is to be done. Peele is no longer talked of to succeed Canning.[4] Huskisson [5] is named and is supposed may get it faute de mieux. All the enthusiasts for Prince Leopold have turned right about, and he is now supposed to be at best a vain fool. Charles says the Speaker could not have returned to the House, as no such existed from the moment that the Message to prorogue it had been pronounced. The scene was supposed to be the most disgraceful that ever passed since our Civil Wars."

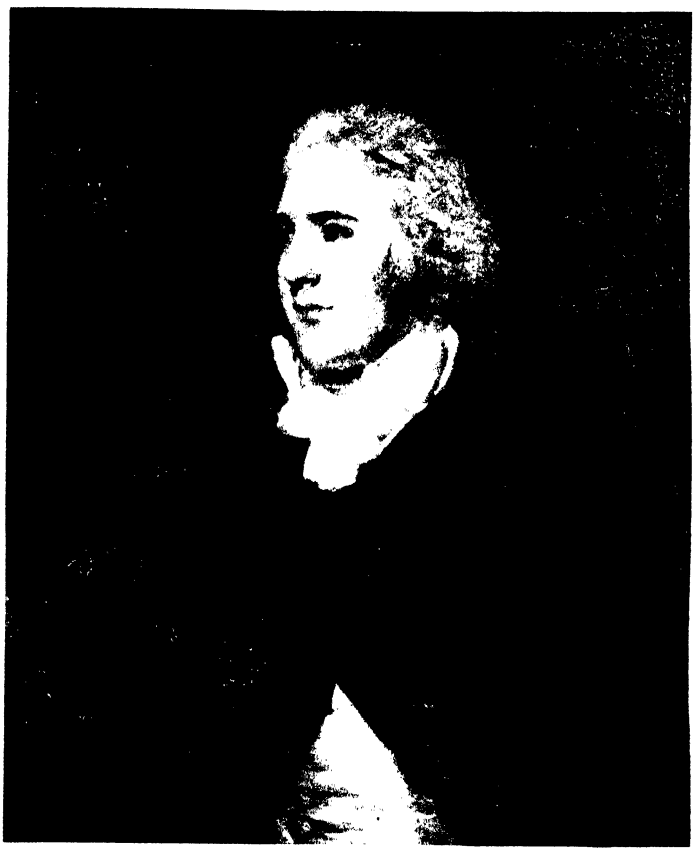
[1] Grimstons, Hon. Harriet and Charlotte. See p. 76.

[2] D. of Wellington.

[3] Robert, 2nd E. Grosvenor; created 1st Marq. of Westminster 1831; born 1767; mar. 1794, Eleanor, only dau. of Thomas, 1st E. of Wilton. She died 1846. He died 1845.

[4] Mr. Canning resigned the Board of Control at the end of December 1820, and Mr. C. B. Bathurst took his place. His resignation was a mark of his disagreement with the Ministers and their policy, with reference to the Queen's trial. Peel had declined the office.

[5] William Huskisson, born 1770; M.P. 1795–1829. Killed at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, September 15th, 1830. He held several Government appointments.



Sir Thomas Lawrence

SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, 5TH BART.

CHAPTER XV

1821—1823

For many years Lady Williams Wynn had suffered great anxiety and concern on account of her daughter, Charlotte, Mrs. Shipley, whose domestic affairs did not run smoothly and whose health was sadly indifferent. Financial embarrassments made it impossible for Colonel Shipley to return to England. Late in 1820, or early in 1821, he died, and it then became possible for Mrs. Shipley to leave Majorca and to come home. Fanny had been spending the winter with her, and the return journey began in January 1821. The sisters travelled to Florence and the South of France, and in April Henry joined them, in order to escort them across France. They reached England in June, to Lady Williams Wynn's great joy.

The three years we are now dealing with proved of considerable importance to the family. Lord Liverpool's and Canning's rapprochement towards the Grenville Party was not lost upon the junior members of the *parenté*, who at once laid claim to such appointments as they considered they might suitably fill.

The Queen's trial and subsequent death only three weeks after her rebuff at the Coronation augmented the feeling in the country against the Government. In 1822 changes began to take place in the Cabinet. Robert Peel went to the Home Office in succession to Lord Sidmouth; while Charles Williams Wynn secured,

after some inevitable scheming, the post of President of the Board of Control.

It remained for the Grenville influence to find a diplomatic position for Henry. Sir Watkin stood outside the political whirligig: his interest in politics was lukewarm; he accepted the family views and gave his adherence loyally to the Party, but he neither expected, nor accepted, anything from it.

In December 1821 Henry was given the British Mission to Berne. After some correspondence as to the value of the appointment, as against that of Copenhagen, he was moved to Stuttgart, in July 1823, with the promise of Copenhagen as soon as it fell vacant.

The tide of political influence had now placed both Lady Williams Wynn's younger sons in "safe" positions, where they were left, undisturbed, Charles only until 1827, and Henry until 1853—positions they filled conscientiously, fully recognising their obligation and responsibility to the nation. Place-seekers they may have been, but rather because they felt themselves equal to the appointments they desired to hold, than because they were seeking steps towards personal aggrandisement. Both Charles and Henry were professional men, proud of the professions they had chosen, and prepared to spend their lives in the faithful fulfilment of their professional duties. Politically Charles was no trimmer; once having taken up a line of action, he did not deviate from it. Take, for example, his attitude on the Catholic Emancipation Bill. It was a measure, the equity and justice of which, there is no doubt. Charles gave it his unswerving support, though time after time it was rejected in both Houses, and wrecked more than one administration. Had the policy of the Grenvilles with regard to this Bill been accepted at the time of the Union, much misunderstanding, misrepresentation, and bitterness might have been saved the Irish question.

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"ASTELL, *February 3rd*, 1821.

"I grudge indulging myself in commenting on your excellent letters, because I feel that any new trash however trifling, is to you of more value, but I must tell you that I read your account of the extraordinary *circular Morn : bow*, with much effect yesterday at Astle, I was however unlucky in having received it a few hours too late to have taken the chance of comments upon it from a very wise man, Mr. Townley, nephew and Heir to the statute holder and one of those universal Dictionary sort of men in whose heads there is always to be found a page on every subject that is started. He and his wife and daughter passed 2 days with us, and were to me very agreeable, the only fault found with him being his talking too much which suits very well with my best part of listener. They are Catholics and like all others of that description, particularly in Lancashire are immensely rich. They have a very very ancient Chateau of Townley in which there are all sorts of odd hiding places and treasures within Walls of 6 ft. deep, and a window of Henry 3rd which is by no means in the oldest part of the building, but with £24,000 per annum he will hardly do anything to it, and the improvements advance pretty much at the same rate as the new building at Eaton of which Lord Belgrave said the other day that as yet it was not going on rapidly, his father having only a cart load of stones in preparation for it brought once a week. I was sorry to hear from the Townleys that your poor friend and Beau Parker of Brusum is ruined beyond all ruin that was ever known, and quite beyond possibility of redemption. Mrs. Townley told us that it was her firm belief that the Lord of Durn had been married to Lady Hunloke [1] these 2 years but I think her wish aided her faith on that subject, as of course, the Popes are all most anxious for the match, and she is quite one of the strictest and severest. Her

[1] Lady Hunloke, Anne, sister and eventual co-h. of Charles Scarisbrick, co. Lanc. ; mar. 1807, Sir Thomas Hunloke, 3rd Bart., who died 1816. She was born 1788, took the name of Scarisbrick in lieu of Hunloke in 1860, and died at the age of 83 in 1872. This marriage did not take place. The Hunlokes were an old Catholic family.

mother (who was Mrs. Robert Drummond [1]) certainly was supposed by Medical Men to have occasioned the death of *4 or 5* of her daughters by the severe fasts to which she kept them, and which they regularly interposed to remonstrate against. At Astle we had the John Drummonds, He grown quite into a Pére de famille with 4 children, the eldest might have been at the head of 5, being but 3 yrs and ½ old when his 4th brother was born. She does not seem very wise, but gentle and good humoured, and he as much in love with her as if they were in their *Treacle Moon*.

" We came here yesterday and find nobody whatever in the house but a set of the plainest children I ever beheld. The son and heir seems a sharp shrewd lad with however a cleverness, which at present tells much against him, as it consist principally of practical jokes on Papa's toadie the old Sooper Scroop. Lady Mainwaring is as blooming and gay as ever, nursing her 10th child with as much pride and pleasure as if it was her first, but Sir Harry looks to me frightfully ill and broken down. Lord Combermere has just got poor Gwynne's Regt. or rather, one vacated by that being given away. This little windfall is worth from 11 to £1200 per ann: to him, and I suppose he is now looking sharp towards Jamaica in consequence of the Lord of Manchester's [2] having fractured his skull, though not mortally.

" Charles' reports of Politics are every day more and more desponding and your Uncle Tom stays on at Dropmore unable, as he says to encounter the melancholy, thrown over all Society in London. The Division on the first Motion brought forward by opposition has turned out so much larger on the side of the Government than the most sanguine could have expected, that Ministry are of course for the present quite on velvet. It surprised me to the greatest degree, as I should have thought many would have found it difficult to vote against declaring the ' Measure of the Liturgy to have been *ill-advised*

[1] Hon. Mrs. Robert Drummond, Winifred, dau. of William Thompson (banker); mar. 1753, Robert, 2nd s. of 4th Visc. Strathallan. She had five sons and one only daughter, Charlotte, who mar. 1794, Peregrine Townley of Townley.

[2] William, 5th D. of Manchester; born 1771; mar. 1793, Lady Susan, dau. of the D. of Gordon. He died 1843.

and inexpedient' (which was the Question tried by Lord Archibald Hamilton) who would have had no difficulty in opposing the undoing it, but this having been carried so triumphantly, will I should think prevent their attempting to bring forward the other. In the List of the Minority appear the names of Sir Lowry Cole and Heneage Legge and no less than 6 Smiths. I think the Honourable Robert must have given qualifications to some of his Sisters. Charles says the opposition are split to pieces among themselves, being so connected with the Radicals that they cannot separate from them, and yet can not follow them. Watkin seems to have no thoughts of going up to London. He is coming to V. R. this week for the purpose of attending to a 2nd Tarporley Meeting just set up, as an experiment whether by doubling a dose of dullness, the force of it may be diminished. At all event it will produce a redoublement of drinking, which seems to be the one object of all Cheshire reunions. At Astle the men never came into the Drawing Room till after ½ past 10 or near 11, and that without there being one single drinking man there but J. Drummond who seems specially fond of it."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *February 18th*, 1821.

"With your poor friends, the Llangollen Ladies I fear the world is going very ill. Poor Lady Eleanor [1] gets of course more and more blind, but what is very singular, she has taken up a jealousy about it which makes her reluctant to go out from an unwillingness that people shall see that she is blind, and she is constantly asking whether people would know by looking at her, which of course is always answered in the negative, but a more reasonable source of anxiety to her, poor soul and to her inestimable friend, arises out of a temporary suspension of the payment of her annuity of £400 a year, owing to the death of her Nephew Lord Ormond. He however secured to her this annuity by his Will, but his brother, who has succeeded to his immense property has actually returned his wretched blind Aunt's Drafts, saying 'that

[1] Lady Eleanor Butler.

till the affairs were settled, which might be some months, none of the Legacies could be paid.'

"This seems almost incredible, but such is their account, communicated of course under the strictest injunctions of secrecy, to all their friends. I am really sorry for them to my heart, and after having heard them say last year that the 43rd Winter which they had passed in Wales had slipped away as lightly as any, it grieves one to think that the 44th should be so doubted. The Wingfields are very kind and attentive to them and are I think now what they most depend upon."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"LLANFORDA, *March 4th*, 1821.

"We have not heard one word from Charles yet on the subject of the Catholic question at which they had at one time expected a much larger majority, but it was apprehended at last that some of the Ultra Whigs (not to say Radicals) would stay away from personal pique to Plunkett. H.M. at the last Levee notified regularly his intention of visiting Ireland this Summer which I thought was in itself a bonne augure for the Catholics. He is to go round by sea from Brighton and will probably take Plymouth in his way. I do not think he can do a better thing, nor one which is more likely to make him popular. I wonder how long it is since a Sovereign has visited Ireland. In peace I should think never.

"I believe I told you in my last that he talks of having the Coronation on the Anniversary of Waterloo which would I think be very well for it in every respect. We hear nothing yet of the new Peers, nor can we succeed, though I am always doing my best, to get Vale-Royal changed for either Davenham (which I think very good) or Eddisbury which is certainly better than the other. Harriet sends me a list of Matches more like the end of the London Campaign than the opening of it, but I suppose she has passed them all on to you from Horton. Among others the pretty saucy Miss Rous [1] who has refused half the Town throws her handkerchief at last to Mr. Isted.

[1] Hon. Louisa Rous, Ld. Stadbroke's youngest and only unmarried dau., did not marry until 1824, Spencer Horsey de Horsey, M.P. She died 1843.

"I am persuaded that some new lights have broken in on the present Generation upon the Merit of these negative accomplishments which we of the last have been utterly blind to. Miss Seymour [1] and Lord A. Hill is I fancy certainly to take place. It begun at Brighton and has been vigorously followed on since at Mr. Smith's where Mr. and Mrs. Hayman met them. I do not think H.M. will give his present de nôce with much satisfaction to his dear adopted.

"The Duke of Manchester [2] is not expect to recover, but I should think that Lord Combermere [3] is now too well off to wish to go abroad again, especially in Lady Combermere's [4] very bad state of health. How awful it is to see how he was struck by calamity just when he had attained the highest point of his wishes in worldly prosperity! I have not yet heard what became of the W. I. property, but if the poor young man had not made a Will, which is most likely to have been the case, it goes to Wm. Cotton.[5]

"I am rejoiced to hear that the 'Sketch Book' pleases you so much, you will be surprised to hear that I have never read it, but I fell in with it only during my last short visit at Wynnstay, when both Watkin and Lady Harriet had it in hand, so now I shall have it to read in London which will suit me exactly. The last number of the Literary Gazette gave us several extracts of Miss Baillie's new Metr.: Legends from which I certainly should not augur well of the tout, but it is a cruel thing to pick out in that manner either the beauties or defects of a composition. I shall be impatient to hear your opinion of Kenilworth, in general people have seemed to me to place it quite among the very first of his performances, which however is not I own my estimation of it, though there is certainly much to admire, but the interest does not *rise* like Mr. Baylis's play in the

[1] Miss Seymour, Frances Maria, dau. of Isabella, Marchioness of Hertford, mar. 1822, the Marquis de Chevigné and died the following year.

[2] The D. of Manchester recovered.

[3] Ld. Combermere was appointed Commander-in-Chief in India 1822.

[4] Lady Combermere, 2nd wife of 1st Visc.: Caroline, dau. of William Fulke Greville. She mar. 1814 and died 1837.

[5] William Cotton, 3rd brother of Ld. Combermere; in Holy Orders; d.s.p. 1853.

last Act. His next production which is almost ready to come out is to be Fotheringay which must I suppose be quite in the same stile. I wish that he would not build his fictions on Historic foundations, it makes a sad confusion in Age-worn memories."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"LLANVORDA, *March 11th*, 1821.

"Lord Conyngham [1] figures in the News Paper as having sent an *order* for all his plate from the Treasury at Dublin Castle to be carried to Slane Castle where the grandest preparations are making for the reception of H.M. I cannot help feeling a little sorry for our poor Queen Bess,[2] though I could not bear the degree of Rank which the Fitzclarence's had taken, on her birth. As to her dear Aunt Caroline she is sinking apace into that entire state of Insignificance which I verily believe, is to her more mortifying than even disgrace would be. The News paper announce the appointment of *Mr. Wm. Madocks* to be her Vice-Chamberlain which is certainly making one step towards having a brilliant Court. She has written to Lord Liverpool saying that 'she accepts with *gratitude* the provision offered to her by Parliament and only expresses her *wish* for the reinsertion of her name in the Liturgy on account of the disadvantage which the withholding it may be to her in foreign Courts in case of her choosing to reside abroad.' That she will choose so to do I should have no doubt, but that I cannot understand why, with that idea, she should have given £15,000 for Cambridge House. The Duke of Northumberland puts forth in the Newspapers of last night a letter to his Bailiffs directing them, on account of the present pressure on the Agricultural interests to return 20 pr. ct. on every payment made to him by his Northumberland tenantry at the next pay day. This is a very handsome and proper thing, and looks as if he

[1] Ld. Conyngham, 1st Marq.; born 1766; mar. 1794, Elizabeth, dau. of Joseph Denison. She died 1886. He died 1832.

[2] Elizabeth Georgina Adelaide, dau. of D. of Clarence (afterwards William IV) and Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen (afterwards Queen Adelaide); born December 10th, 1820; died March 21st, 1821.

would, like his predecessor, do great things well, and little ones perhaps ill.

"Lady Carysfoot writes me word that the Spencers have just given up Wimbledon entirely to the Lytteltons which I am very glad of on both their accounts. It is I think very probable that the time which they all spent together at Althorp this Summer during their deep affliction and subsequent overflow of happiness may have brought them all together and softened and warmed their feelings towards each other.

"I don't know whether you may remember having heard at Paris (by the bye it happened since) of Mr. Griffiths of Garn's son having been seized by the Banditti on the road between Rome and Naples and having been carried up to the Mountains. He had lately been released (after 6 weeks imprisonment during which the Stilletto was repeatedly held to his throat) on the payment of a very large Ransom, accompanied by a threat from Government that if he was not set at liberty they would destroy the small town of Fondi where these miscreants have deposited all their riches, this menace was probably extorted from Government by the interference of the English Minister, but otherwise they never venture to take any notice of them. Not long ago a Body of them poured down upon a very large School and carried off every boy to their fortresses, and whence they send a demand of an immense ransom from the Parents, and upon smaller sums having been offered they cut off the heads of two of the boys and sent them down in a basket, with a Note saying that 2 more would be sent every day till the ransom was paid. When the Austrians were last in the Neapolitan territory they routed them, and it is hoped that their next visit may at least be productive of that benefit again to the inhabitants, but the timidity of Government has encreased them both in numbers and daring to a most formidable degree, and I believe the English are now quite afraid of moving.

"If you have been reading Kenilworth you will perhaps be interested to hear that the house at Cumnor Place did belong to Lord Abingdon, and has been pulled down, being quite a ruin, just before Sir Walter Scott gave it celebrity. The Inn exists, and is going to have

a Black Bear for its sign, by the subscription of the neighbouring Gentry. Anthony Foster's tomb is in the Church with a long inscription. The Catholics are quite on top too. I know not whether I am glad of it or sorry as I never could make up my mind on that question, but trusted to my brother William [1] whose love for Mother Church I consider fully equal to my own, and his means and powers of judging of the political wisdom of the measure a good deal superior.

"It will all tend to add to the effect of the King's landing in Ireland. Indeed I do think he may now toast himself as the Pilot who has weathered the most fearful storm I ever remember. They say he is to give 6 balls before he goes, so that altogether there seems as if there would be plenty to do in the great world when once they begin.

"Adieu my dearest dear daughters, may the Almighty ever continue to you His Holy protection. With that we must not, need not, fear any evil!

"Charles writes word that Tierney [2] has regularly resigned the Leadership of the Opposition, and no new one can be found to replace him. By Brougham they will not be led. How extraordinary the luck of the Ministers has been over and over again. I am sure that is in my opinion a strong argument for continuing them."

Henry's patience was getting exhausted, and Lord Buckingham, always very friendly disposed towards him, took up the negotiations with the Foreign Office in his behalf.

From the Marquess of Buckingham to Henry W. W. W.

"LONDON, *February 27th*, 1821.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I had done nothing in the matter which forms the subject of your letter & my wishes, because I thought the tenure of the whole firm so insecure that I did not think it unlikely we might have to renew our unfinished negotiations with a new Chief. I now however, think the bond will keep above water, just strong enough to swim, with the tide, but neither against

[1] Ld. Grenville.

[2] George Tierney, born 1761; entered H. of C. 1789. He held office under Ld. Grenville 1806, and Mr. Canning 1826. He died 1830.

it or across it. I have therefore written to Lord Liverpool urging your claims & suggesting Turin in the first place & Switzerland in the next. I will transmit his answer, & you may depend upon my urging the matter with all the earnestness which my affection for you dictates, & the anxiety which my own wishes feel.

"General curiosity is excited about the Catholic Question.[1] The expectation is that it will be carried in the H. of Commons. The King's anxiety to go to Ireland immediately, & certain expressions lately dropped by Lord Liverpool induce many to believe that the Ministers are not disinclined to wish the question carried. I conclude the affairs of Naples[2] will soon be settled, & the Carbonars taught their real value & a good lesson to all revolution-mongers there & elsewhere.

"Yours ever affectionately,

"C. B."

The Same

"LONDON, *February 27th*, 1821.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—Not two hours after I sent my letter to Lord Liverpool I received an answer. It is general, but upon the whole, I think, a favorable one, & I am told that the singular haste in sending the answer augurs well. It must either augur well, or mean, as a man does who returns a visit an hour after the visit has been made, to get rid of the visit & writer. But the wise ones tell me it is a favourable symptom. I think it may be so,—at all events the *boat is launched*, & now we must keep Lord Liverpool to the Collar.

"I leave town this day but shall be here again in a week. Write here & of course I need not say you may command my best exertions."

The Same

"AVINGTON, *March 9th*, 1821.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—When I left Town I desired Charles to lose no time or opportunity in pressing Lord

[1] On February 28th Mr. Plunkett brought forward a motion for the Roman Catholic Emancipation. Canning spoke eloquently in its favour and a majority was obtained. But the Bill was rejected by the Lords on the second reading.

[2] A revolutionary movement for the restoration of Ferdinand of Naples.

Castlereagh, whom he saw every day in the House of Commons, to make good Lord Liverpool's letter. Whether he has done so or not I know not, but you ought to press him upon this, & keep him up to it. I have written to him to-day about it. When I go to London I will see Lord Liverpool upon it & if you think it of any use, or if any thing happens to make me think it might, I will write again to him.

"The Duke of Wellington has just left me, extremely pleased with his reception in this country. In fact nothing could be more enthusiastic notwithstanding that the Queen's friends made a push to mob him, in which they very partially succeeded. Above 200 Gentlemen met him at dinner.

"As to Naples, all I wish is that the matter was settled somehow or another. Many people are very sanguine in the belief that the Catholic question will be carried. & its enemies do not seem very confident in their resistance."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *April 3rd*, 1821.

"The report of the Town is that the Queen is determined on having a Drawing-room preparatory to which, however, she must have some female Household, & as yet none have professed a desire for the honour. To Lady Charlotte Berry [1] she looked with confident hope, that from poverty or other circumstances, she might be less fastidious, but even she, I hear, is cruel. Then it is said that if this fails she will make it a plea for leaving a Country where she does not meet with honor due: but the truth is that she & all her *dirt* is entirely swept aside & the Idea of her very large Income, & two Houses has removed everything like a shadow of interest for her even among the lowest of her former followers.

"It was reported a few days ago that Lord Fife [2] was going to console himself for the loss of Entrée to the

[1] See note, p. 218.

[2] See p. 100 and note.

King's Bed-chamber by taking Lady Georgina Bathurst [1] into his own. It seems however to have been a premature Annonce, but from the dead silence of Lady Grenville on the subject, we are all convinced that it is hatching. I shall marvel at her taste at rejecting Lord Dartmouth, for want of personal charms, & taking up with Lord F., but perhaps the lapse of 4 or 5 years may have rendered her less fastidious on that score, & given more value to the Lairdship & £40,000 pr. ann.

" And now my dear Daughter fare you well & assure yourself of the fervent prayers & blessings for your self & Co."

The Same

" VALE ROYAL, *Tuesday, April 24th*, 1821.

" I am sure my dearest Hester that had I no other motive for writing to you, my heart would reproach me if I delayed one hour passing on to you the enclosed, which I do hope may under the blessing of the Almighty hold out to you the prospect of your husband's returning from his pilgrimage of kindness [2] sooner than you could have calculated upon.

" The Ball [3] went off with great Eclat & what was to me the most interesting, with very great satisfaction to the Givers. Nothing but a little more room or fewer Guests was wanting to have made the Supper quite a splendid performance. She had dressed up her tables with flowers, china, lights etc. to look excessively gay & pretty & had so largely provided for covering them that my Artiste who was of course in requisition, tells me this morning that there was nearly as many Chickens, Tarts, etc. left, as were put on, tho', upwards of 60 Children sat down at once & all Pa's & Ma's after them. Lord Kenyon [4] with his 4 daughters & governess were

[1] Eldest dau. of Henry, 3rd E. Bathurst (and his wife Georgina, 3rd dau. of Ld. George Henry Lennox). She was Lady of the Bedchamber to the Duchess of Gloucester. She died unmar. 1874.

[2] Refers to his journey to the continent in order to escort home his sisters, Mrs. Shipley and Fanny.

[3] At Hawarden.

[4] George Kenyon, 2nd Baron; born 1776; mar. 1803, Margaret, dau. of Sir M. Hanmer. He died 1855. His three daughters were: Margaret, who mar. Sir James Langham; Marianne, who mar. Adm. Hon. Thomas Best; and Peregrina, who died 1830.

among the most conspicuous features. They were the tallest girls of their age I ever saw, raw & unformed looking, (Particularly in this premature age) but one if not two of them promising to be pretty. Mrs. Hanbury Tracy's Squad likewise made some good turn-outs but in general there appeared to me little beauty excepting in the absolute Infants of whom there were a dozen, I believe, from 5 to 7 or 8. In dancing there was not one, I really believe, to compare with our own Charlotte,[1] & both she & Mary[1] looked remarkably well, but the extreme disparity in height & age of the performers hurt the effect of the Quadrille very much. We had the High-Leigh Son & Heir who is I believe near 18, then we had two Miss Dundas's (daughters of Lady Melville) whom Mary[2] does not even visit, but sent to 'as Neighbours' & these were both as tall as Mary herself. Miss Hughes, looking as old as her Mama, tho' called only 15 & evidently appearing to be quizzing the whole thing. Good Mrs. Leigh not content with watching over her own brood of 6 but hovering & waiting on every body-elses. Lady K. Stewart with 2, quite babies, but one of them perfectly beautiful, the other poor thing, *lame for life*, owing to a strong *Goulard Poultice* applied by Walker (the famous Apothecary of St. James' St.) to a broken Chilblain, which brought on Paralysis in the Ancle & lower part of the leg & there she is as fine & healthy & active a Child as you can see unable to move but with a Crutch!

"Mr. & Mrs. Egn.[3] with 3 boys looking, I fear too wishfully & sorrowfully at the pretty little girls, besides these, were a squad of Frankes, Strettons, Bullers, & others whom I neither knew or cared about. Miss Crewe dressed out by Mrs. C. in Gauze, blond, & white Lillies, but withal of so unpleasing an aspect that Dr. Somerville (one of the Fell fools) went up to Mary & asked her who was that young Lady who 'looked as if she had had & would have a Will of her own as long as she lived.' It was near 11 before they sat down to supper, & Hugh[4] was so tired that I should have come away the

[1] Charles's two daughters. Mary became Mrs. Milnes Gaskell.
[2] Hon. Lady Glynne, 2nd dau. of Ld. Braybrooke. See p. 11.
[3] Egerton.
[4] Hugh Cholmondeley, eld. s. of 1st Ld. Delamere, b. 1811.

moment it was over if my Carriage had arrived. We were however off by ½ past, but Cross tells me the house was not cleared till one."

From Charles W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"WHITEHALL, *Wednesday.*
[*Probable date about June 12th*, 1821.]

"MY DEAR HENRY,—Lady Liverpool's [1] death has at last taken place, so for a few days to come conjecture will be active in proportion as nothing will be known. I believe almost everything at present to be loose & uncertain & that the extent of change is quite undetermined. Ministers allow that their weakness in the House of Commons is such as no longer to allow them even to totter on as they have hitherto done & many of those who have been their primest supporters, have notified that, that support cannot continue unless they take proper measures to strengthen themselves.

"Upon the whole I expect Lord Liverpool to continue in Office, though some who are intimately acquainted with him are of a different opinion. It has at length been expressly notified to us that as soon as he is again capable of attending to business, a direct communication on the proposed changes will be addressed to Lord B.[2] & that Ministers are desirious of our cooperation etc.

"This of course is for yourself alone, in the strictest secrecy. Canning would also be comprehended, but I doubt whether Peel. I think it however very probable that all this will be delayed, first till after the Session, then till after the Coronation, then till the return from Ireland & then till next year.

"This is all I know, & notwithstanding the strong eagerness to accept, which you are aware, will exist in Lord B. I feel great doubt whether it may, under existing circumstances, be possible to form such an arrangement, as it may be desirable for us to form a part of.

[1] Lady Louisa Hervey, dau. of 3rd E. of Bristol, Bp. of Derry. She mar. as his first wife in 1795, Robert Bankes, 2nd E. of Liverpool and 2nd Baron Hawkesbury. She died 1821.

[2] Ld. Buckingham.

The grand point is that of general strength which is principally deficient in the H. of C. not in numbers, for there are plenty who are disposed to vote,—but in efficient control of the general Administration over the several Departments. The inertness of the Treasury which, for so many years, has been the seat of Government & directions, infects the whole system. The Chancellor,[1] by the support of the Duke of York & Lord Shaftesbury,[2] has set up a standard separate from Lord Liverpool,—opposes, as you see, every measure of improvement & the only excuse for keeping him in, is the want of any one to replace him. But of this enough for the present.

"I hear the proposed Peerages are,
Earl of Aylesbury, to be Marquis.
Lord Eldon & Lord Curzon to be Earls.
M. of Conyngham,
Earls of Ormond, Kingston, Longford,
Marquis of Lothian.
Earl of Wemyss.
Lord James Murray. English Peers.
Wellesley Pole.
Sir William Scott.
Sir T. Heathcote.
Cholmondley & Forrester.

"Undoubtedly we can see no possible reason why Lord Sidmouth, Bragge-Bathurst,[3] Vansittart, Wellesley Pole, & Westmorland, are not fitter to go out of Office than Lord Harrowby,—& if they did, were replaced by Canning, Huskisson, Lauderdale, & Lord Wellesley, the Country would, in my opinion, gain by the change.

"Ever most affectionately yours.

"C. W. W. W.

"The King continues determined to go by Sea to Ireland, & Ministers that he shall go by land."

[1] Lord Eldon.

[2] 6th E. of Shaftesbury; Chairman of Committees in the H. of L.; born 1768; mar. 1796, Anne, dau. of 3rd D. of Marlborough. He died 1851.

[3] Rt. Hon. Charles Bragg-Bathurst, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 1812; mar. 1788, Charlotte, dau. of Ld. Addington (and sister to Henry Addington the Prime Minister, afterwards Ld. Sidmouth). He died 1831.

The King was crowned on July 19th, and Parliament had been prorogued on July 11th. There was a great deal of talk and rumour on the subject of a change of Ministers. Lord Liverpool's Government was weak and vacillating, and the policy with regard to the unfortunate Queen had become a Party question. In a letter addressed by Mr. Fremantle, M.P., to Lord Buckingham, June 16th, 1821, he says, " . . . the King only plays a game with the Opposition, from vexation, . . . and a wish of keeping down a Party for the Queen, but he has no idea of changing his Government " (*Memories of the Court of George IV*, vol. ii. p. 166).

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

" HASTINGS, *Friday.*

" My Brother [1] writes me word to-day that the general report of London was that there had been a compromise between the King & his Ministers, the latter acquiescing in Lord C's [2] being of the Royal Household & the former consenting to admit Canning [3] to the embraces of Lord Liverpool. Still this ought not to make Lord Liverpool feel himself released from his engagement to Henry, but of the ministerial Code of right & wrong on such subjects there is no judging excepting from experience. I grieve for the personal sacrifice which you must make for the experiment, & only wish it may answer to you in other respects as satisfactorily as it must in the consciousness of your never admitting a thought of *Self* to obtrude itself on your decisions. Of my next door neighbours, the Lamberts, I have heard nothing, nor do I believe have they visited any body, at least Lady Lavington, who, moyennant Mrs. Jones, (Lady Claremont's sister) seems to know all the genteel news of the place, did not name them. She told me that Lord Worcester [4] is cer-

[1] Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville. [2] Ld. Conyngham.

[3] Canning led the H. of C. in 1821, after Ld. Castlereagh had suc. his father as Marq. of Londonderry.

[4] Henry, afterwards 7th D. of Beaufort; born 1792; mar. 1st, 1814, Georgiana, dau. of Henry FitzRoy. She died 1821. He mar. 2ndly, 1822, Emily, dau. of Charles Culling Smith. He died 1853.

tainly to marry Lady J. Paget,[1] & that it will be a great blow to Lady Anne, who most unwisely gave out that He would never certainly think of marrying again. He need not, perhaps, have thought of it quite so soon, & for the sake of his poor little girls he might perhaps have made a more promising choice than a Paget. Tom writes word from Lady Elizabeth Belgrave,[2] that the Knowsley [3] Bride has £15,000 now, & as much more at her Father's death, but what Lady Gr.[3] intends to give to the pennyless Earl [3] has not transpired. I suppose she will keep Heaton House for her own Jointure, nor indeed could he live there on Rice-milk."

The unpopularity of Lord Liverpool's Government was growing apace, by the end of 1821 it was evident that, if he were to remain in power, he must try to reinforce his Cabinet by some sort of coalition with the Grenville Whigs. On February 22nd, 1822, Lord Buckingham, Lord Grenville's nephew, was given the step in the Peerage he so much desired, and became Duke of Buckingham. Places and promotions began to fall to other members of the *parenté*.

Ministerial changes were pending, and Lady Williams Wynn could but see that in the near future some appointment would fall to Charles. She had lived all her life on the edge of the political circle, and her views of office, the demands of the position, and the expenses entailed, which, in her opinion, far exceeded the emoluments, are interesting.

From Lady W. W. to Mrs. Charles W. W.

"VALE ROYAL, *August 21st.*

"Lord Grenville, when I was last at Dropmore urged the (more than prudence for he called it) absolute neces-

[1] Dau. of 1st Marq. of Anglesey, by his first wife. She mar. 1824, Ld. F. Conyngham, afterwards 2nd Marq.

[2] Dau. of 1st D. of Sutherland; mar. 1819, Ld. Belgrave, afterwards 2nd Marq. of Westminster. She died at the age of 94 in 1891.

[3] Lady Mary Stanley, dau. of 12th E. of Derby; mar. 1821, Thomas Grosvenor (2nd s. of Robert, 1st Marq. of Westminster), 2nd Earl of Wilton through his maternal grandfather (Lady Grosvenor, wife of Robert, afterwards 1st Marq. of Westminster, being sole dau. and h. of Thomas, 1st E. of Wilton).

sity of your limiting your expences quite as much now as before you went in to Office. He says the entire change which has taken place in the general View of the Claims of those who devote themselves to public Office, makes it no longer possible for those who hold it, to give anything to representation, inasmuch as according to the present system a man has not to look to its supplying him with any means of providing either for himself or his family, & is to expect to retire from it, with less provision for his old age than a Chelsea Pensioner. He told me that when my Father [1] was in Office, the plan which he laid down & in a great measure adhered to, was to continue to live as before on his own Income, & to lay by the whole of his Salary, as what he was earning by labour, & hard labour too ! ! for his family. On these considerations he most earnestly advises that you should not, even if all goes on as it is, think of changing your house. I am sure we have had but too many examples lately of the sacrifices which is made by those who do devote themselves to public life, & of the necessity of their being unabled to with draw from it before they are quite exhausted by the peculiarly severe labour both of body & mind now attached to it. That Lord Grenville was enabled to retire from it when he did, I cannot be sufficiently thankful for, as I really believe he must have sunk under it very soon, but according to the present system, He would not, supposing that Lady Grenville's [2] situation had continued as it was when he married her, have had where withall to have done so.

" Of the Bow-meeting you have heard all the details from younger & livelier pens than mine, I shall therefore only say that I was delighted to see all your family in most especial good looks & spirits. Lady Cunliffe [3] quite blooming but grumbling as much at your economy of her pocket as you can of hers ! It is very

[1] The Rt. Hon. George Grenville, Prime Minister 1763 ; born 1702 ; died 1770. See Introduction.

[2] Anne, dau. of 1st Ld. Camelford of Boconnoc. She inherited this estate from her brother Thomas Pitt, 2nd Baron, who was killed in a duel in 1804. She left her property at her death in 1864 to her husband's nephew the Hon. George Fortescue.

[3] Harriet, dau. of Sir David Kinloch, mar. 1781, Sir Foster Cunliffe, 3rd Bart. She died 1830. She was the mother of Mrs. Charles Williams Wynn.

odd that this should be the one only pecuniary mark of the interest of one's friends, for which one is shy of drawing upon them. Lady Charlotte Neville [1] was more active & gay in doing her honors than I ever saw her, tho' evidently in her usual scrape, & likely to add a 4th little doll to the 3 which were carried about after her, not one of them able to walk for themselves. Her eldest Boy is very handsome & very agreeable, his cousin Lawley equally promising in the last respect but quite autrement in the former. Harriet & Lord D.[2] returned from Willey [3] full of course of admiration & good report, but from others I hear there was a most lamentable deficiency of the 'Staff of Life' & that many, among whom was my informant, having come 15 & 20 miles returned without breaking bread. The two Brides were very pretty & very loving."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"HASTINGS, *Tuesday*.

"I must write one line my dearest Charles to thank you for your letter of this morning & to tell you how very glad I am to hear that you are likely to be able to reconcile all the contending Considerations, which have so much perplexed you of late, into a decision which in many points cannot but be obvious advantage to you. I know too well the perfectly honest & honourable feelings of your mind to have ever had a doubt of your losing sight for one moment of those principles in any decision which you had to make & have therefore really only feared that from an almost chivalrous jealousy of the arguments in favour of your own personal advantage, you would have given to the opposite Scale more than in justice or reason belonged to it. It is however absurd for me to enter into discussion upon points on which I am in utter ignorance & therefore all I have to say is

[1] Dau. of George, 3rd E. of Dartmouth; mar. 1816, Hon. and Rev. George Neville (who in 1825 assumed the additional surname of Grenville, in accordance with the will of his kinsman, Ld. Glastonbury). She died 1877.

[2] Now Ld. and Lady Delamere, so created on July 17th, 1821.

[3] Willey Park, belonging to Ld. Forrester (created 1st Baron July 17th, 1821).

to repeat over & over again my most ardent wishes & prayers that in all things you may be directed to that which may be most conducive to your Weal. Further as you will believe I shall not be a little anxious for my next dispatch which, I suppose, must be *definitive*. The Income is far beyond what I thought, I suppose you must know what you say about it, but I had not thought it was above £3,000. Will it call for a change of house? God bless you dearest."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"HASTINGS, *December 5th.*

"From Charles I have not heard one word, & therefore suspend the letter which in the common course of things, I had intended writing to him to-day. From whom the offer of the Board of Controul [1] has come I do not from your letter make out, but most anxiously do I hope that it may have been in a shape which will leave him no hesitation in accepting a situation which must, I think gratify his most sanguine wishes. All I hope is, that his predecessor may leave in the Seat, some of those adhesive particles of Bird lime, Cobbler's wax, etc. which has given of late such firmness of tenure to those who have got into them. I have been trying to recollect what I have heard of the salary, & fancy that it is some-where about £3,000, but I hope to-morrow's post will give me some fresh light on the subject.

"I cannot fancy that Lady B.[2] will ever consent to his taking the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, or at least that she will go halves in it with him. I know nobody to whom the representation would be so irksome, indeed if half that one hears of her state of health be true it must be utterly unequal to the smallest part of such duties. As to our silence & secrecy on all these Topics, we have no merit in preserving it utterly inviolate, not having even Midas' Confidant to impart it to."

[1] This office was held by Mr. Canning from 1816 to 1821; he resigned on account of his disapproval of the Queen's trial. He was succeeded by Mr. C. B. Bathurst. Charles obtained the appointment in 1822.

[2] Anne Eliza Brydges, dau. and co-h. of 3rd D. of Chandos. She mar. 2nd Marq. of Buckingham in 1796.

Henry Williams Wynn took up the Mission at Berne in December 1821, accompanied by his wife and family. In a letter, dated December 16th, Lady Williams Wynn compares the salaries of her two sons. "I fancy the Board of Control is called £5,000. I hope Henry does not over estimate Switzerland at £4,000, but I cannot help having my doubts."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *April 16th.*

"The first piece of news I heard on my arrival was the Annonce of Lord Denbigh [1] & Miss Morton, which is settled at last, & is to be concluded with all possible despatch that the whole family may set off together in a fortnights time for Paris. An odd place to choose for Honey-mooning! I doubt that a singular history of accession of Wealth to Mr. Benyon,[2] (a man who maried a daughter of Lady Drummond Smith,[2] from whom he is parted,) must have reached you, having been 11 days in circulation, but at the chance of being tedious 'as a tale twice told' I will tell you that a very distant relation of Mr. B's, a Batchelor of 83, dies & leaves him, besides an Estate of £3,000 pr. an. 'all his personal Estate, consisting of Government Securities & including a sum in Bank Stock, amounting in the whole to £8,000,000. Up starts an old woman from Bath & at the suggestion of an Attorney puts in a claim to the Bank Stock, saying however by this man, that at her age she should of course much dislike entering into litigation & should therefore be most ready to accept a Compromise, 'and how much does she require?' said Mr. B. 'You must make your own offer' replied the Attorney. Then, after a minute's pause, 'Will 100,000 satisfy her?' 'Most certainly' says the Attorney,

[1] William, 7th E. of Denbigh; born 1796; mar. Hon. Mary Moreton, dau. of 1st E. of Ducie, 1822. She died 1842. He died 1865.

[2] Lady Drummond Smith, 2nd wife of Sir Drummond Smith, Bart., dau. of William, 2nd Visc. Galway, and widow of Sir Francis Sykes. Her only daughter by her first marriage, Elizabeth, mar. 1797, Richard Benyon (who in 1814 assumed the additional surnames of Powlett-Wrightson and in 1822 that of De Beauvoir). She died 1822.

with a low bow, & ended the matter, & there, as your Uncle observes, is one probably of many instances of a man with above a million of Money dying in perfect obscurity.

" I am afraid Lord Glastonbury [1] is sinking fast, He has no particular complaint, but says he is aware that he is going & is so low that he will not, if he can help it come out of his house. We, his Contemporaries, shall very sincerely miss & regret him, & many younger ones will long remember his singular talents for society."

The leading Whigs looked upon Liverpool's coalition with the Grenville party as a betrayal of principle, and party feeling ran high in London society. The Duke of Bedford, irate at the lavish bestowal of honours and places amongst the Grenville clique, made an attack, reported in the *Globe* newspaper, upon " a noble Duke, late a noble Marquess." The new Duke of Buckingham, with his " blushing honours thick upon him," resented the tone and tenor of the attack, and after some correspondence, demanded " satisfaction," choosing his cousin, Sir Watkin, as his intermediary. Sir Watkin sent Henry a full account of the " Meeting," with copies of the letters which passed between the two noble Dukes. Incidentally it transpires that poor Sir Watkin's feelings at the time of the " meeting " were extremely mixed, as his second son chose that precise moment for entering the world.

From Sir Watkin W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

" *May 3rd.*

" DEAR HENRY,—I wrote to you in haste yesterday, but as I am sure that you will be most anxious for the details of the business which began so unpleasantly

[1] He died 1825.

but has terminated as satisfactorily as possible, I enclose you copies of the whole correspondence & a Newspaper with a copy of the offensive words & a true, but not official account of the 'Action.' As far as I can collect the opinion of the Town, I think, that it is favourable & that the words used were much too strong to be passed by. I lament the long time which elapsed between the offence & the arrangement, but when you look at the dates of the Correspondence you will see that it could not be helped.

"On Wednesday the 24th, I received a letter from the Duke of Buckingham,[1] (No. 1) saying 'that should it lead to further correspondence, he should, trusting to my unvarying affection, have recourse to my advice.' Feeling that I could not refuse such a request, I went immediately to my Uncle Tom, who said that he thought the thing necessary, & only doubted if the words were strong enough. I did not receive No. 3 till 6 o'clock on Sunday, I had waited at home expecting it, till 3 o'clock, when I took my ride, owing to some mistake the parcel was not delivered till ½ past 3. I went immediately to the Duke of Bedford's[2] & as I was denied, wrote to him begging him to fix an hour when I should call upon him, either that evening or the next day, he sent word, he was getting into his carriage to go to dinner but would send an answer in the evening.

"As chance would have it we met at dinner at the Dilittante, I then settled to call upon him at 11 next day, which I did accordingly & delivered No. 3. I called again in 3 hours & received No. 4, which I read & said I doubted it being satisfactory, but that I should send it to Stowe & that I made no doubt of the Duke of Buckingham being in town on Tuesday. As he was not arrived by 5 o'clock the Duke of Bedford settled to go to hear Canning & from there to the Opera. At 9 the Duke of Buckingham arrived, (in the meantime my Boy was born) I was with him in an hour, he wrote

[1] 2nd Marq., created Duke 1822.

[2] John, 6th D. of Bedford; born 1766; mar. 1st, 1786, Georgina, dau. of Visc. Torrington (she died 1801), 2ndly in 1803, Georgina, dau. of 4th D. of Gordon. He was Ld.-Lieut. of Ireland in 1806–7. He died 1839.

No. 5 which is too long but I could not help that. I was with the Duke of Bedford by appointment by 10 o'clock on Wednesday, at 12 I saw Lord Lynedock,[1] he settled to meet me on horse back at the end of Portland Place at 4 to fix the place, we rode together for an hour & half, all about Paddington, Westbourne, etc., but the gates of all the Fields leading to the Road were locked & it was impossible for the Duke of Buckingham to have scrambled into them, I therefore suggested Kensington Gardens, which Lord L. adopted, we chose a gravel pit just on the right as you come in at Bayswater, in a thicket, a place which I will be bound has been most frequently used for the contrary purpose to what we intended, viz. Love. We were all there before the time, I believe I was last as I rode to the Magazine & walked over Bush Hill. Ten minutes passed in discussion when I offered to accept much less than what the Duke of Bedford afterwards said. Tho' I had anticipated exactly such a result I do not know when I ever felt my mind more relieved than when every thing was over. Lord Lyndock called upon the Duke of York to make an apology for having violated the sanctity of the Palace, the Duke of Buckingham begged me to do the same this morning, the Duke of York tho' hardly recovered from the Gout saw me & was very civil.

"Harriet & my little one[2] are going on very well we have not yet settled whether he is to be 'Edward' or 'Herbert' Watkin, Lord Clive is to be one God-father & we doubt whether to ask you upon this occasion, or to wait for the chance of a future one when you can be present.

"Yours affectionately,
"W. W. W."

[1] Thomas Graham, 1st Ld. Lynedoch, a distinguished General in the Peninsular War, and victor of Barrosa in 1807. His wife, who died in 1792, was Mary, dau. of Ld. Cathcart, and the original of Gainsborough's famous picture "Mrs. Graham." He died 1843.

[2] Herbert Watkin, 2nd s. and youngest child. He mar. in 1855, Anna, dau. and co-h. of Edward Lloyd of Cefn. He was sometime M.P. for Montgomeryshire. He died from injuries caused by a fall from his horse in 1862. His eldest surviving son is the present (7th) Baronet of Wynnstay.

Copy No. 1

From the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to the Duke of Bedford

"STOWE, *April 23rd*, 1822.

"MY LORD,—In the Globe Newspaper of 22nd inst. I this morning read the following passage, represented to be part of your Grace's Speech at a County Meeting therein stated to have been lately held at Bedford viz, 'He, (meaning your Grace) would now advert to another transaction which he was almost ashamed to mention, he alluded to a great Borough Proprietor, now a noble Duke, late a noble Marquis, whose services, & the services of whose adherents in Parliament had been purchased by Government, had been purchased by conferring high Offices on those adherents.' I conclude that I cannot do otherwise than suppose the person therein alluded to, be myself, upon this point if I am mistaken, your Grace can set me right.

"I have lived long enough in public life, not to trouble myself about the estimate which it may please the public Newspapers to make of my public or private character, I also know how incorrectly what passes at public Meetings is often reported in the Newspapers, not always intentionally so, by the Reporters, but owing to the confusion attending such Meetings. But when expressions such as these tending to slander my Character both individual, & as a public man, by stating that 'my services have been purchased' by the Government, and by Offices conferred on my friends, are supported by the weight of an authority and name so much respected as yours, an importance attaches to them which in other respects they would not merit.

"I feel myself therefore called upon in vindication of my character to request your Grace will inform me whether these words as reported in the Globe Newspaper were used by your Grace and applied to me.

"If they were not, or if they were accompanied by other expressions not reported in the Newspaper explaining away their obvious and offensive meaning, I will ask your Grace to say so, and in that case I have to apologize



Romney

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM

to your Grace for having taken up so much of your time.

"I have the honor to remain My Lord,

"Your Grace's obedient humble Servant,

(*signed*) "C. BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

"P.S. It has occurred to me that possibly your Grace may not have seen the Globe Newspaper and consequently may not be aware of the manner in which your speech is reported therein.

"I have therefore taken the liberty of transmitting it to your Grace and I will thank you to return it to me.

"C. B. & C."

Copy No. 2

From the Duke of Bedford to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos

"WOBURN ABBEY, *April 25th*, 1822.

"MY LORD DUKE,—I have by this morning's post had the honour to receive your Grace's letter of the 23rd inst. referring to a passage in the Globe Newspaper of the 22nd, represented to be a Speech I made at a County Meeting held at Bedford on Saturday last.

"Your Grace is perfectly correct in supposing that you are the person therein alluded to, but it is impossible for me to say whether the words I used at that Meeting are correctly reported or not, I can however have no hesitation in assuring your Grace that I meant nothing personally offensive to you, and I never intentionally gave personal offence to any man in the whole course of my life.

"My intention was to animadvert on a public transaction in which a public man was concerned, and this I claim a right to do in any public Assembly, whether in the House of Parliament, of which I am a Member, or out of it.

"I have the honor to be My Lord Duke,

"Your Grace's very obedient & humble Servant,

(*signed*) "BEDFORD.

"P.S. I shall be in town on Saturday next, should your Grace desire to have any further communication

with me on the subject. I return the Globe Newspaper as you desire.

"To His Grace the Duke of Buckingham & Chandos."

Copy No. 3

From the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to the Duke of Bedford

"STOWE, *Saturday, April 27th*, 1822.

"MY DEAR DUKE,—I have this morning received your Grace's letter in answer to mine of 23rd inst.

"Your Grace admits that I was the person alluded to in your Speech at the Bedford Meeting. You state that it is impossible for you to say whether the words you used at that Meeting were correctly reported or not but that you meant nothing personally offensive to me, your Grace will pardon me for saying that the words used must be the test of this.

"In referring to the Newspaper report your Grace will see that you are there represented as charging me with having sold my services to Government for places given to my adherents.

"The conduct of every public man is open to remark, observation, and criticism in Parliament or elsewhere. But neither in Parliament or elsewhere is any one justified in imputing corrupt motives or dishonest conduct to any man, especially behind his back, and when he cannot defend himself.

"The question, if made by anyone, that my services were purchased by Government for places conferred upon my adherents is untrue & slanderous, and I should call upon any individual who made it, either to answer it, or make me reparation for it.

"The Globe Newspaper states, your Grace to have made the assertion, your Grace says it is impossible for you to say whether your words were correctly reported therein or not, I have therefore no alternative left, but to request your Grace will be pleased to inform me whether at that Meeting, in the words reported or in any others implying the same thing, you meant to charge me with the corrupt & dishonest act of selling my

services to the Government for places given to my adherents.

"Your Graee having said in your letter that you are going to London this day, I should immediately have proceeded there myself, but as the Duchess of Buckingham is coming here to-day from London, my unexpectedly crossing her on the road would necessarily create an alarm, which in the present state of the proceedings is unnecessary and a publicity which under all circumstances, until the affair is settled it is highly expedient to avoid. I have therefore transmitted this letter by the Coach (there being no post to-day) to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn who will do himself the honor of waiting upon your Grace with it or of transmitting it to your Grace, whichever he may think right, and he will, should your Grace approve of it receive any answer or communication which your Grace may think fit to send me.

"I have the honŏr to be, My Lord Duke,

"Your Grace's Obedient Servant,

"C. BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS.

"His Grace the Duke of Bedford."

Copy No. 4

From the Duke of Bedford to the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos

"ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, *April 29th*, 1822.

"MY LORD DUKE,—Sir Watkin Williams Wynn has delivered to me the letter which your Grace did me the honor to write to me on the 27th inst.

"I beg leave once more to repeat that I meant no personal offence to your Grace in anything I said at Bedford.

"Without disputing upon the accuracy of words quoted in a Newspaper report, I will truly avow that I meant to say that your Grace's services were purchased by the Government, but not in any offensive sense of the word. The fact appears to me to be politically and substantially true and not to be controverted. I imputed no 'corrupt Motives' to your Grace. Every man must be the best & only judge of his own motives.

"At a public Meeting legally convened for a specifick purpose, essentially connected with the conduct of leading men in Parliament, in the part of the County in which I reside, I commented upon the conduct of your Grace, and that of your Parliamentary adherents, as deeply injurious to the best interests of the Country, and this I again repeat I conceive I had a perfect right to do. If your Grace is not satisfied with this statement, I am perfectly ready to make you any reparation which the honor of a Gentleman may grant.

"I am My Lord Duke,

"Your obedient, humble Servant,

(*signed*) "BEDFORD."

Copy No. 5

From the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to the Duke of Bedford

"BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, *Tuesday, April 30th.*

"MY LORD DUKE,—I received your Grace's letter of yesterday's date this morning at Stowe, and in consequence of it have not lost a moment in coming up to London. I sincerely regret to say that your Grace's explanation is not satisfactory.

"The point at issue between us is not whether my political conduct is or is not injurious to the best interests of the Country, upon that subject, your Grace has in common with every man the fullest right to form and express an opinion. But the question which I requested your Grace to answer, was whether you had at the Bedfordshire Meeting either, in the words ascribed to you, or in any other, stated that my services were purchased by the Government, at the expence of Offices given to my adherents, your Grace admits that you meant to say, my services were purchased by the Government, whether at the expence of Offices given to my adherents, your Grace is silent. I am however bound to believe you do not therefore mean to deny that you used terms to express this also. Your Grace says that you used the word 'Purchased' not in the offensive sense of the word. I know no meaning which can apply

to it as referring to the conduct of a public man, that is not offensive, and you must have meant to imply my motive was corrupt, because the very act of selling myself for Offices given to my friends necessarily implies a corrupt & dishonest bargain.

"I must declare this statement of my conduct to be untrue and your Grace in avouing that you have made it leaves me no other course to pursue than that of calling upon your Grace to give me that satisfaction which is due to my character and honor which you have publickly traduced.

"Sir Watkin Williams Wynn will have the honor of placing this letter in your Grace's hands and of arranging with your Grace or with any Gentleman whom your Grace may appoint the details necessary on the occasion.

"I have the honor to be My Lord Duke,

"Your Grace's obedient Servant,

"C. B. & C."

"To His Grace the Duke of Bedford."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"Brook Street, *May 7th.*

"For a bad business nothing, thank God, could have had a more satisfactory termination, the subsequent civilities on both sides, have been quite in the 'vielle Cour' Stile, & it is the fashion to describe it as a most *graceful duel*, which is speaking of it with more levity than I can reconcile to quoting. Next to the trembling rejoicing at the happy out-turn it has been a matter of the greatest gratification to me to hear from all sides how very much my dear Watkin's conduct on the occasion has been approved. My Brother Tom, says it was impossible for any man to have Shewn more perfect judgement & firmness, coolness & good temper, than he did in every part of the business, and in these four merits, he thinks are comprised all that could be brought to avail on such an occasion, my good Watkin, however added one more, that of kind-heartedness, in endeavouring tho' I fear with little success, to turn the softness of the moment to some account towards bringing

the two Brothers [1] nearer together. Watkin's agitation on the Tuesday when he found himself just at the crisis of his arrangements with the Duke of Bedford, taken in for the Crisis of Lady Harriet's Accouchment, must have been very great, but thank God, he was speedily and happily relieved from all anxiety about her in less than two hours. The Boy is not so large as his Brother, but is a fair full-sized Child, & at present very pretty from having what we hope is 'Papa's Nose.' His name will, I fancy, be Edward, which tho' allowed to be much less pretty than Herbert, is considered as more complimentary to Grand-papa Po.[2]

"Many people have said that they really hope that this business of the Duel may be productive of good effect in checking the outrageous black-guard Stile of personality which has been, this year adopted in the debates, I heard that while Lord J, Russel [3] was describing the (to me so honoured) name of Grenville, as one 'Abhorred through out the Country,' even Brougham exclaimed, 'this is too bad ! ! '

"The Swiss Mission, will I suppose be the next subject interesting to me that will be brought into discussion, & that discussion will at least give an opportunity of refuting some of the many false statements which have been put forth on the subject.

"The Bridal Riddels [4] are still in town but talk of soon going to their Villa in the Highlands, to which Edinburgh is not half way, & where, when I asked her if they had a good house, she said he talked of building one some time or other, but at present it is only a Cottage ! ! Love will, I hope resist the wintry blasts but it will have much to do.

"The talk of the town is still whether Lord Worcester [5] *is*, or only is *to be*, married to Miss Smith. There

[1] The D. of Buckingham and Ld. Nugent.

[2] Ld. Powis.

[3] Rt. Hon. Ld. John Russell, 3rd s. of the 6th D. of Bedford; born 1792; created Earl Russell 1861; Prime Minister 1846–52, 1865–6. He died 1878.

[4] Sir James Riddell, 2nd Bart. of Ardnamurchan, mar. 1822, Mary, dau. of Sir Richard Brooke.

[5] This marriage took place (see note 4, page 275). The lady's mother was Lady Anne Wellesley, widow of Hon. Henry Fitzroy, who died 1794. She mar. 2ndly, 1799, Charles Culling Smith.

is a report that our worthy cousin, Silly-Billy,[1] has mixed himself up in the discussion, so as to have produced an angry message from Lord Worcester. This would seem hardly possible were it not already known that there is nothing foolish or impertinent that he may not say or do."

From Lady W. W. to Charles W. W. W.

"HAWARDEN CASTLE, *August 14th.*

"You will easily believe my dearest Charles how very much *even I* feel affairéed by the sad event[2] notified to us in this mornings paper, I am most truly concerned for the breaking up of so much domestic happiness, & am of course lost in speculation on the probable consequences. Will Canning be stopped, will Peel be promoted, or will the whole be bouleversement? Pray, pray write me one single word or make Charles Richards do so. In this house & indeed in these parts I am as much cut off even from an interchange of sentiments upon it as if I was at the Hebrides. I find here a letter from you which came yesterday & in which you speak of your apprehension of any great Event taking place while all your Brethren were so much dispersed, & in a few hours after you had so written this had taken place!

"I stay here till Wednesday next & must repeat that I shall be pining for news."

The Same

"HAWARDEN CASTLE, *Saturday.*

"I am as you will believe all impatience to hear from you, tho of course nothing decisive can, I suppose, be known until the King's return, unless it be necessary even before that to send somebody to Vienna. Pray bestow upon me some loose speculations for I am dying of curiosity & indeed am very truly anxious to hear

[1] Playful reference to William, D. of Clarence.

[2] On August 12th Ld. Londonderry, in a fit of temporary insanity, committed suicide. It was some weeks before his post as Foreign Secretary was filled, but in September the feeling in favour of Canning throughout the country was unmistakable, and the King was forced to make the appointment.

how poor Lady Londonderry [1] supports her dreadful shock. To her the horrible immediate cause must be a cruel aggrevation as she will always think this blow might have been averted, but in every other point of view there is nothing more to regret than if he had died of a violent fever or by any other accident. It does, however, make one feel very seriously alarmed at the extraordinary encrease of labour now attached to Parliamentary duty from the regularly late hours to which the daily business is now prolonged & which when connected with the constant routine of Ministerial business does really seem to make a constant demand both on bodily & mental strength beyond what any can stand."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"PENBEDW, *August 13th*, 1822.

"(Do not read my letter aloud.)

"I have been leading such a wandering life, my dearest Henry since I left London, that my Epistolary communications have been quite broken in to.

"Sir H. Mainwaring [2] who has just gone from hence, gave me the other day, a long history of our young Cousins the Shakerleys [3] whom he had been visiting at Stamford Park in Northamptonshire, where Shakerley had hired from the Dashwood family, for £300 a year, the House completely furnished with 10 Acres of land, buying the produce of the Gardens & Hot houses which are kept up in the highest order at the expence of the Landlord. If all this is so, it seems an extraordinary bargain. Sir H. says no man can be living more

[1] Amelia Ann, dau. and co-h. of 2nd E. of Buckinghamshire; mar. 1794, Visc. Castlereagh, who suc. his father as 2nd Marq. of Londonderry in 1821. She died 1829.

[2] Sir Henry Mainwaring, the first Baronet of Peover, Cheshire; born 1782; mar. 1803, Sophia, dau. of Sir Robert Salusbury Cotton, Bart., of Combermere. He died 1860.

[3] Charles Watkin John Buckworth, of Somerford, Cheshire, who in 1788 assumed the surname and arms of Shakerley, inheriting from his mother, Eliza Shakerley, dau. and h. of Peter Shakerley (whose sister, Frances Shakerley, mar. Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, 3rd Bart.). He died 1834, and his son Charles, created a baronet in 1838, mar. 1819, Laura Angélique Rosalba, dau. of the D. d'Avaray. She died without children; and he mar. 1831, Jessie, dau. of James Scott, of Rotherfield Park, Hants.

quietly & at the same time both comfortably & respectably. Madam is, he says, more stupid & dull than ever, & quite without object or occupation of any sort excepting Angling, but he says Shakerley, is very attentive to her & seems very fond of her. I am sorry to hear that the younger brother Geofrey, who was thought a promising lad, is falling into the same morbid shyness as his Father & is never seen by any body. The daughter, Mrs. Harvey & her Irish husband, are quite ruined & entirely supported by old Shakerley but not at Somerford, of which he will not open the doors even to her.

"The Cheshire Squires are, of course, all in a fever at the importation of a Polish Prince [1] to be considered a land-holder in the County Palatine, they say that one of his Sisters is to marry Dandy Bradshaw, which will be a very good catch for him.

"Miss Isabella Poyntz [2] is supposed not to have condescended to accept Lord Gower who has left Cowdray, but as he is allowed to return thither in a fortnight, there seems to be hopes that by perseverance he may subdue this obstinate fair. I am quite glad 'par esprit de corps' that he & his Brother, who were certainly the two greatest Matches in England, should have been brought so completely on their marrow-bones by two Ladies without any other pretensions, than mental & personal charms. They say that Mr. Cox has at last allowed his daughter Charlotte to engage herself to Punch Greville,[3] waiting only for the death of a 70 year old Clerk of the Peace for Middlesex, whose place the Duke of Portland has promised his Nephew.

"You will easily believe how very much I am astonished by the sad event of Lord Londonderry's death, which the Newsapers of this morning notify to us. I am truly sorry for the breaking up of such domestic happiness & of course a good deal affairéed, in speculating on the consequences. Charles is at Mr. Dallas' & very possibly will by that means lose a post in learning the

[1] Prince Sapieha, belonging to a very distinguished Polish family.

[2] This lady mar. in 1824, Brownlow, 2nd Marq. of Exeter. She died 1879.

[3] Algernon Greville, Bath King at Arms; born 1798; mar. April 1823, Charlotte, dau. of R. H. Cox. She died 1841. He died 1864. (His mother was Lady Charlotte Bentinck, dau. of 3rd D. of Portland.)

news. In a letter from him written three days ago from Llangedwyn which I found here, he says he hopes, 'London will not be burnt down or any Conspiracy break out in the next fortnight, as, of his fifteen Brethren, Lord Liverpool, Van,[1] & perhaps the Chancellor, are all that are within reach,' in 12 hours after he wrote this, this great Event had taken place! I am lost in Speculation. Will Canning be stopped, or will Peel be promoted?"

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Charles W. W. W.

[*Undated.*]

"I am sure you will have weighed well the out-goings & in-comings of the Chair before you decline it, I should have thought that in the present state of Beef & Mutton the dinners to the H. of C. (which I suppose, perhaps ignorantly) will be the only point in which the expenditure need necessarily exceed that of the B. of C. would have been more than counter balanced by £1,000 a yr. & a house free of Rent & Taxes, but certainly the opportunity of doing acts of kindness to others is all in favour of your present situation & to that advantage I know nobody who will attach more than yourself."

(From this letter it is evident that rumours were again current respecting the Speakership.)

Lady Harriet Williams Wynn's health made it necessary for her and Sir Watkin to spend some months abroad during the summer and autumn of 1828.

As regards Henry, there appears to have been a movement on foot within the Foreign Office, to rearrange some of the minor Foreign Missions, Berne being one of those about to be placed in a lower category. The very idea of such action, with regard to a post held by one of the *parenté*, aroused the indignation of the Duke

[1] Nicholas Vansittart, Chan. of Exch., retired with a peerage as Ld. Bexley in 1823.

of Buckingham. Copenhagen, apparently, was not at the moment available, so Mr. Canning tactfully allayed, as far as possible, the rising breeze in the party he was anxious, on the ground of policy, to conciliate, and in May 1823 moved Henry to Stuttgart.

The reigning Queen of Würtemberg was Princess Royal of England, an old friend of Lady Williams Wynn, who in the summer of this year paid Henry a visit at Stuttgart. Unfortunately no letters are preserved from her, written during her stay, but subsequent references indicate the pleasure the visit gave her.

From Sir W. W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"ROME, *January 4th.*

"DEAR HENRY,—A letter which I received from Charles four Days ago, dated Dec. 7th announced to me that you had the offer of Copenhagen, I sincerely congratulate you upon it & think that you have done very wisely in accepting it, as tho' a more Southern destination would have been more agreeable & possibly have been less expensive, yet as the Danish Mission is of higher Class & considered one of more importance than the Swiss, it is certainly *promotion*, which in all professions is of the greatest importance. I should have begun by telling you that I received your letter of the 17th, ulto: this morning & at the same time Paris Papers of the 18th & 19th, which shews you the uncertainty of Italian Posts.

"Of course you will let us know your motions as soon as they are fixed, but the change in your residence makes me still more anxious to see you & Hester. As the Bears must have somebody to look after them, I suppose, there is no fear of your being obliged to move before Easter, & with your family, I should think, the middle of April as good a time for travelling as any. . . .

"The Pearls are to be bought for nothing here, would Hester like to make a figure among the Danes at a small expence? Harriet has bought a necklace & earings for a Louis, which looks like her own & as they are of Alabaster therefore will not break."

From the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to Henry W. W. W.

"AVINGTON, *January 5th*, 1823.

"Confidential.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I lament to hear that owing to the mad-man W. Hill's [1] not knowing his own mind, your arrangement is addled. I also regret to hear that an arrangement has been made or is to be proposed to you, which on every account I consider highly disadvantageous to you & your friends. This proposal is to remove you to a Situation of equal rank etc., to that from which you move, & then to reduce that from which you move, to a lower rate & rank. If you acquiesce in this you permit your new Chief to establish incontrivertibly the truth of the charge brought against your former Chief of making your present situation a *job* for the purpose of Strengthening the Government. I do not see how it would be possible to maintain that a higher rank of Minister was necessary for Bern in 1822 than in 1823, and if this is admitted, in your instance, then the truth of all our Mr. Creevey's [2] & Lord Henry's [3] blackguard insinuations, are directly admitted. In this insiduous attempt to discredit your friends, I know you will not submit & I will not be a party. I trust & hope therefore that you will *stand firm*. I have written to your brother to urge this very strongly to him & I cannot help thinking that he will see this in as strong a light as I do. At all events nothing will shake my opinion upon it.

"I have not written, because I have had such repeated experience of the anxiety of the King of France & Co, to see my letters, that I did not care to indulge their curiosity further, & I have sent this in duplicate through the Foreign Office.

[1] Hon. William Hill, 2nd s. of 1st Baron Berwick, British Minister at Turin, later Envoy Extraordinary at Naples. He assumed the additional surname of Noel in 1824. He suc. his brother as 3rd Baron in 1832; d.s.p. 1842.

[2] Thomas Creevey, M.P., whose Papers were edited by Sir Herbert Maxwell, 1903.

[3] Ld. Henry Bentinck, 3rd s. of D. of Portland (uncle to Ld. Titchfield); born 1774; M.P. for Glasgow; Governor-General of India 1827–33; mar. 1803, Mary, dau. of 1st E. of Gosport. He d.s.p. 1839.

" Give my best love to Hester, & believe me, my dear Henry, always,

" Your most affectionate,
" C. B. & C."

From Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville to Henry W. W. W.

" CLEVELAND SQUARE, *January 7th*, 1823.

" You will long before you receive this, have heard from your Brother of the unexpected check to the Copenhagen arrangement by Hill's refusing the Under-Secretaryship, which he had been understood to have accepted. The other proposal must at this time have reached you, which tho', not accompanied with all the advantages of the Northern arrangement, is still in my eyes, one which I should advise you without hesitation to adopt; your moving to Stutgard is only a promotion in the rank of the Court where you would reside, but besides its being a Royal Court, it has as I understand the recommendation of being more cheerful as well as more cheap a residence than that of Berne, but above all it is a change strongly urged by C.[1] in order to enable him, as soon as you shall have quitted Berne, to put that Mission upon a lower & more ecconimical footing, anticipating by that reform the renewal of last years motion in Parliament, as that subject will undoubtedly be brought forward again early in this Session.

" Your Brother tells me, to my very great surprise that the Duke of Buckingham says he shall write to *Dissuade* you from accepting this, all I can say is this, that I think such advice would be very ill-timed & very prejudicial to your interests. If C. thinks it right to reform the Swiss Mission by putting it on a lower footing, while he at the same time provides against your suffering by the change, surely it would show a very unaccomodating disposition on your part to refuse to lend yourself to it, & drive C. thereby to the absolute necessity of either abandoning his own determination of making that reform or leaving you to be the sufferer by it.

[1] Canning, Foreign Secretary.

"On the other hand I understand that in proposing this present exchange to you C. has expressed the strongest determination to give you Copenhagen, as soon as it can be vacated, & unquestionably it is a plain dictate of Common Sense that you should endeavour by all means in your power to conciliate the good wishes of your Chief, in a Department where all the future promotion will depend upon his good will. It may, I think, be very cheaply purchased upon this occasion, as tho' there is no change of income, the change as far as it goes has always been reckoned a promotion, from a Republick to a Royal residence, & that a Royal residence connected so closely with the Royal family of England. But tho' in my accustomed interest in all that belongs to you, I state these things, I own I have so much confidence in their being suggested by your own good sense & good temper, that I have no fear left as to your decision.

"Of news, if there is any you are so much better fed with it from a more authentick source that I have nothing to add.

"C.'s appointment of Lord F. Conyngham to be under-Secretary is considered as an evidence of a more cordial understanding at Brighton, & will so far be of use, of course he will be attacked for it, but he is pretty much used to attack. I am sorry to find in common talk that there is a great apprehension among Lord Cholmondley's friends that Lord Henry will marry Mad. Jerome [1] at Paris, I don't know the young man, but I am sorry for him, I am told her Son is only two years younger than Lord H.

"Coke of Norfolk has got a Son, & has moreover got beat by Cobbett who, carried against him by an immense majority, resolutions at the Norfolk County Meeting, to petition for taking the Church Lands etc., & for suspending all process for rent for the next year.

"Kind love to your dear Wife & God Bless you, you and yours, my dearest Henry."

[1] Madame Jérôme Bonaparte, Miss Patterson, who mar. Jérôme, younger brother of Napoleon I. She was divorced by order of the Emperor, so that Jérôme, King of Westphalia, might marry Princess Catherine of Würtemberg.

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *January 14th.*

"I am anxiously, my dearest Hester, expecting Charles' return from an Audley End Battu, as I think that when he comes we must get Henry's answer to the proposal about Stutgard, not that I feel any doubt what it will be, inasmuch as in prudence it appears that there ought to be none, & by prudence I am sure he will both be self-directed & advised. I am told that in Stutgard you must be gainers, it being considered as one of the prettiest & pleasantest towns on the Continent, & furthermore it is asserted that you will live there at less expence from escaping the constant influx of Countrymen, but against this is to be set the difference of a regular Court, so that upon the whole I suppose you will find yourselves on that point pretty much where you were. Adieu dear Hester, I am proud to see that I shall get to you thro' fewer leagues, at Stutgard than I should have done at Berne, which I consider as 'autant de gagné.'

"God Almighty Bless you all, Amen, Amen, from the bottom of my old heart."

From Sir Watkin W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"ROME, *February 12th.*

"DEAR HENRY,—Charles has announced the changes in the Administration, upon the whole I approve of them, it will be a great relief to the House of Commons not to have poor Van's [1] croaking any more.

"I hope you are reconciled to your removal, it is vexatious to have all the trouble, tho' I hope no expence, for no immediate advantage, but the having given way must give you a strong claim in future.

"Clanwilliam's [2] appointment is strong, but I have not recovered my surprise at Lord F. Conyngham. I think that Canning has lowered himself very much by it, he came into Office independant of the King &

[1] Vansittart, just made Ld. Bexley.

[2] 3rd Earl of Clanwilliam, born 1799; sometime Under-Sec. for Foreign Affairs; Ambassador to Berlin 1823-38; mar. 1830, Lady Elizabeth Herbert, dau. of 11th E. of Pembroke; died 1879.

because they could not do without him, but this degrades him into a mere Court Favorite. I was told last night that he did not intend to stand for Liverpool, but to put Huskisson [1] up, I own I see a very strong objection to the President of the Board of Trade representing the second commercial Town of the Empire.

"The question of War or Peace occupies every body & now I wish that we may be able to keep ourselves out of the scrape, but I fear it will be impossible. When Russia has got all Europe well involved she will proceed upon Turkey & Greece. Harriet joins me in love to Hester,

"Ever yours affect.

"W. W. WYNN."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *November 10th.*

"I should have written last week my dearest Hester, to have acknowledged my good Henry's letter on his return to Stutgard, but truth to say I have, from one circumstance or another felt so entirely depressed ever since my arrival here that I have hardly had heart to do anything. I cannot tell you how much your provincial Gazette of Stutgard events amuse & interest me. Sir H. Halford [2] gave us an account of his having been invited "en ami" (not professionally) to dine & sleep at Windsor to keep Princess Augusta's [3] Birthday, & of his having met a party of 25, of the first people in the land, at a most magnificent Banquet at which the Royal Host presided, in the highest health & spirits, & closed the evening by taking him into his private Apartments, where half dressed and half undressed he kept him gossiping till ½ past 2 in the morning.

[1] Rt. Hon. W. Huskisson, M.P.; born 1770. He was Under-Sec. for the Colonies and for War, 1795; Pres. of the Board of Trade, 1823. He was killed by an accident at the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1830.

[2] Sir Henry Vaughan Halford, M.D., created a Bart. 1809. He suc. in 1814 to the estates of his cousin Sir Charles Halford of Wistow, on the death of Sarah, Lady Halford, and assumed the name of Halford.

[3] Princess Augusta, 2nd dau. of George III, born November 8th, 1768; died unmar. 1840.

"We met at Whitehall on Sunday last, our new Cousin elect, Mr. Lucy,[1] & truly indeed does he justify his boast of lineal descent from Justice Shallow. He has been the purchaser of the fine Pietra Dura Table, which was called the Pearl of the Font-hill Sale, & for which this good man has actually given 1,800 Guin: I asked him if he bid himself, which he said he did, adding that 'he had not meant to have gone further than 1000, but that bidding gave esprit.' If that be true he certainly made a good bargain, & acquired from the hammer, what had been with-held, or at best most sparingly bestowed upon him by nature. He has, however a respectable old place, (vide Sketch book!) £20.000 pr. ann. in a ring fence & tho' last not least, a most excellent temper.

"He was in town buying Jewels, & carrying down to his Belle-mere [2] a present of a Ruby Bracelet clasp, with which the good Lady's arm will be perfectly en suite.

"Pray remember me to all my Stutgard friends, I assure you I am quite gratified by their kind Souvenirs.

"God bless you again & again & all the etc. etc."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"ELTON, *December 10th.*

"I have passed a most wretched fortnight, dearest Henry, since last I wrote to you, but now thank God, I am comparatively easy. I found my poor sister [3] very ill. Kept us for many hours under the most urgent alarm . . . it is only within these two days she has been able to crawl to her dressing-room. While she continues in this very weak & reduced state it is impossible for me to think of leaving her, tho' as you will easily believe, I am panting to get to Vale Royal,

[1] George Lucy, of Charlcote; born 1798; M.P. for Fowey 1820–30; mar. 1823, Mary, dau. of Sir John Williams, 1st Bart., of Bodelwyddan. He died 1845. She died 1890.

[2] Margaret, dau. and h. of Hugh Williams of Tyfry, Anglesey; mar. 1791, Sir John Williams of Bodelwyddan, 1st Bart. (Her second s., Hugh, afterwards 3rd Bart., mar. 1843, Henrietta, the only dau. of Lady Harriet and Sir Watkin.)

[3] Lady Carysfort, who lived until 1843.

where my three daughters are assembled & looking for me with no small impatience. I had no idea that Charles would have left you in ignorance of every particular of the Lucy marriage, with which when I came to town, I found Mary & him very much occupied, but as it was, I give you great credit for finding out the family, by the clue of the Ruby Bracelet only. He certainly proves the lineality of his descent from Justice Shallow more conspicuously perhaps than might be wished, but he is extremely good sort, & very rich, & I take it for granted, to the young Lady, very agreable. He is bent upon having a very good house in Grosvenor Square, or some such genteel quarter, & we tell Mary that we are sure she is speculating upon frequent seats in Mrs. Lucy's Opera Box, & the entire patronage of her first Ball. Furthermore Charles says that Charlcott will be a very tidy baiting place for the young family on their way to & from Wales. I am afraid you have not got the 'Sketch book' but if you have you will there see a very pretty account of the old place which, I fancy however, is at present one of more interest to the Antiquarians than of comfort to the inhabitants, and for my own fancy I think I should have built my Drawing-room first before I gave 1800 Guineas for a table to put into it.

"Mr. Stewart Mackenzie, who from his being 1st cousin to the Duke of Somerset, knows of course a good deal of the Font-hill concerns, tells me that the table was originally bought at a Sale immediately after it was brought to this Country for £150 & that Beckford an hour afterwards gave the man £100 for his bargain. Lucy told me that Bd. wanted to buy it in, & was bidding against him, but in fact it was Phillips himself, who, they say is privately buying up everything, has never yet come to any account with Mr. Farquhar, and will certainly end in being possessor of the whole concern.

"I have heard nothing in the shape of news, but a marriage between Lord Clifton [1] & Lady C. Osborn,[2] but

[1] Edward, Ld. Clifton, s. of 4th E. of Darnley; born 1795; mar. 1825, Emma, dau. 1st Ld. Congleton.

[2] Lady Charlotte Osborne, dau. of 6th D. of Leeds; mar. 1826, Sackville Lane Fox.

whether it is 'Affaire faite' or only 'L'on dit' I know not. I do not know whether I told you of the report of Lord Stanley's setting up a claim to the Dukedom[1] of Hamilton, in right of his Mother who ought to have taken it on the death of her Brother the late Duke. I have since heard that the matter is certainly in agitation, and that Lord Stanley has from Grove an opinion very favourable to the issue. Mr. Stewart is deeply interested about it, not for the sake of the title only, as his Cousin would still have that of Brandon left (tho' a very inferior one to the Princely Hamilton) but from an Apprehension that the whole of the Hamilton Estate must be entailed on the title. I shall wish against Lord Stanley, upon my general principal of lamenting that two great Estates should merge into one. Each of them individually having £50,000 pr. ann. which seems to be as much as any man can spend with advantage either to himself or his neighbours."

[1] The 6th D. of Hamilton (3rd of Brandon); born 1724; died 1758; mar. 1752 the celebrated beauty, Elizabeth Gunning. They had two sons, who successively became the 7th and 8th Dukes, but d.s.p., one in 1769, and the other in 1799. The daughter, Elizabeth, mar. Edward, 12th E. of Derby, in 1774. She had one son, Ld. Stanley, afterwards 13th E. of Derby, and two daughters. She died in 1797. On the death of the 8th D. of Hamilton, this lady's brother, in 1799, the dukedom passed to the son of James, 5th Duke, by his third marriage, in 1737, with Anne, dau. of Edward Spencer, of Rendlesham, who became 9th Duke in 1799 (and was the father of the Lady Anne who figures in this Correspondence in 1814). He died in 1819, and was suc. by his s. the 10th Duke, whose wife Susan was dau. and co-h. of William Beckford, of Fonthill.

CHAPTER XVI

1824—1826

DURING these three years there was a lull in matters political, no outstanding event occurred, the Catholic Question was still in debate, and before the General Election, in June 1826, the Repeal of the Corn Laws was mooted. The country had been slowly recovering from the effects of the long European Wars, and was now in a condition of quiet prosperity, and progress.

The letters reflect the general peaceful condition of things, and deal with events of social interest, foremost among them being the rejoicings at Stowe on the birth of the Duke of Buckingham's grandson and eventual heir.

The festivities on the occasion of the christening are recounted by Lady Williams Wynn to Henry, now at Copenhagen.

Fanny's journeys abroad during the winter and spring of 1825–6 give her mother a further opportunity for recording the events of the day.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

" WYNNSTAY, *January 14th.*

" Here I am, dearest, writing from the paterno nido.

" My account of both my dear Brothers & Sister have lately become more satisfactory. Lord Grenville has been passing a week or ten days in London, selling Camelford House which Lord Middleton [1] has bought of him

[1] Henry, 6th Baron Middleton ; born 1761 ; mar. 1793, Jane, dau. of Sir Robert Lawley ; d.s.p. 1835.

for £11,000. This is a £1000 less than he asked, but he was very impatient to get rid of it, & inasmuch as he wished it, I am glad he has succeeded, tho' I doubt he will not find it easy to lodge himself as well, at the same time I must say that for myself I have always thought it one of the most unpleasant habitations in London. He is I understand, in treaty for a house in Berkeley Square, next door to Lord Lucan's which is a good situation, but in my mind a very dull street.

"We were two nights ago at the Aston Theatrical Gambols [1] in which there were 18 children of all ages from 13 down to two & a half, performing wonderfully. The last and least was the youngest of Lady Brooke's [2] nine, who went thro' all its little parts of speaking, and singing and dancing quite to admiration. Several of the Characters in the farce were really given with as much humour & correctness as they could have been on any stage and made me feel quite jealous for the honour of the old original performances here which were never as perfect. It is certainly quite wonderful to see how hereditary that talent is in the whole of the Brooke family, but truth to say, the extraordinary beauty of the two girls particularly of the second, added not a little to the general effect. Their dancing is quite wonderful, & even to the little dab, not a foot was moved but in the most perfect time.

"Next to the Brookes, Hugh [3] stood certainly forwardest, and had the more merit, inasmuch, as his could not be in any degree, derived by inheritance.

"In describing the Troup as beginning from 13

[1] Aston Hall, Oswestry, the house of William Lloyd, Esq., who was born 1779, and mar. Louisa, dau. and co-h. of Sir Eliab Harvey of Rolles Park, Essex. He died 1843.

[2] Harriet, Lady Brooke, 2nd dau. of Sir Foster Cunliffe (sister to Mrs. Charles Williams Wynn); mar. 1809 her first cousin, Sir Richard Brooke, 6th Bart., of Norton Priory, Cheshire. She died 1825. Her daughters were: Mary, who mar. 1831, Rowland Egerton Warburton, of Arley; Harriet, mar. 1837, William, 11th E. of Meath; Jessy, mar. 1832, Hon. Richard Booth Wilbraham. Lady Brooke had five sons and five daughters.

[3] Hugh Cholmondeley, 2nd Baron Delamere (Lady Williams Wynn's grandson); born 1811; mar. 1st, 1848, Lady Sarah Hay, dau. of 10th E. of Kinnoull. She died 1859. He mar. 2ndly, 1860, Augusta, dau. of Rt. Hon. Sir George Hamilton Seymour. He died 1887. He was M.P. for co. Denbigh 1840–1, Montgomery 1841–7. He suc. his father 1855.

years old, I ought to have excepted Stephen Glynne,[1] he however took a part, only as a stop-gap in consequence of two of the Troup having been seized with Chicken-pox. Stephen is grown, and is certainly handsome, but is too quiet and slow to shine on the Stage or indeed off it. He still retains that singular indisposition to mix or associate even with his School-fellows, when they visit him, and will, I fear, never be popular, tho' I must add that his piccadillos are all negative ones.

"The dear fine boy[2] here will, I think, never fail in these points, Mary Glynne,[3] who is one of his great admirers, says that 'if he was to stand for the County to-morrow, she is sure he would be returned,' which is I think the highest compliment she can pay him. Indeed the three children are, in their different ways all of them quite 'little perfections,' in health, strength, & manners. Herbert is decidedly the beauty of the set, but Watkin carries off all hearts.

"The poor little Belgrave Boy is just dead and from what I saw of Lady Elizabeth[4] during its illness, I am sure its death will be felt by her most acutely, the more so from its being the first check of any sort that she has ever known since her birth."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *February 24th*, 1824.

"There has been some great uproar at Brighton but what it is nobody knows, further than that the Marchioness of C.[5] was so mobbed and insulted that she dare not, at last put her nose out, and told her friend that he must 'opt' between her and the said place, which she never, never, would come to again. The option was made, and the reconciliation signed and sealed,

[1] Sir Stephen Glynne, 9th and last Bart.; born 1807; died, unmar., 1874.

[2] Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, 6th Bart.; born 1820; suc. his father 1840; M.P. for Denbighshire for 44 years; died 1885.

[3] Lady Glynne. See p. 11.

[4] Lady Elizabeth Belgrave, dau. of 1st D. of Sutherland. See p. 209, note 2.

[5] Marchioness Conyngham.

and furthermore it is said that Mrs. Coutts is to be the purchaser of the Pavillion. At the moment of the separation Lady Lowe [1] was named as successor, the great objection to which seemed to be the expences of a new establishment and the having so many fresh mouths to fill.

"The great event of this week has been the Annonce of Lord Exeter having at last carried off the great prize, Isabella Pointz,[2] who having had all the town at her feet, throws her handkerchief at him. Many wonder at her taste, but he said to be good-natured, and to have been a very kind brother, furthermore he is certainly a very great parti, both in rank and income, the latter of which is just about to be immensely raised by the falling in of all the old leases of Cecil Street Exeter Change etc. On which account I am sorry to hear she is to have a very large Fortune, which to my fancy ought always to go to the second Representative of great famillies instead of the first.

"Your Uncle Grenville is delighted with his House, and what is far more material, we are all delighted with him. Excepting when he moves one hardly sees a trace of illness about him, and I am in great hopes that as the fine weather comes on his limbs will become more firm & strong."

The Same

"Brook Street, *March 9th*, 1824.

"Poor Canning has been very much shocked by the death of Lord Titchfield [3] to whom he was particularly attached. I hear the poor Duke of P.[3] is overwhelmed with grief. His death is supposed to have been occasioned in some measure by an over-turn some month or six weeks ago, but I heard yesterday, that it is to be ascertained by examination.

[1] Lady Lowe, dau. of Stephen de Lancy, and widow of Col. W. Johnson; mar. 1815, Sir Hudson Lowe.

[2] Isabella, dau. of Mrs. Poyntz, who inherited Cowdray when her brother, Ld. Montague, was drowned in the Rhine in 1793; her two sons were drowned at a later date and her daughters were co-heiresses.

[3] Ld. Titchfield, 1st s. of 4th D. of Portland; born 1776; died unmar.

"A marriage has been announced since I wrote to you last between Lady Denbigh's Sister, Miss Morton [1] and a Mr. Langsdon, whose name did not sound to me fit to be connected with that of Rudolphus, Count of Hapsburg, but however, I learn now that he is a very Prince Prettyman in character, manners, fortune, Chateau, etc. etc. The two latter are in Oxfordshire & make him Member of Parliament for Woodstock, d'ailleurc, he has been known to all the family a long while and is a ready made Ami intime of the house, so we think that Lady Ducie [2] may take rank as Artiste in that line, & may open an Academy for Mamas. Many however, I am sure would be very sorry to adopt her system, which has certainly been the precise reverse of her own and much less suited to the activity of her spirits and power.

"You will have seen, probably in the Newspapers of the decision of the Queensbury Causes which gives to the poor Lord Hertford,[3] £500,000 (one is tired of writing the 0's) and furthermore he has lately got an Estate of £7000 pr. an. from a man who is no more kin to him than to you, and only put in his name by way of compliment, at the end of an Entail. I hear he laments himself for having, after every arrangement which he could make, £60,000 pr. ann. more than he can find what to do with. Many, many, I doubt, are the little single Incomes to which the present reduction of 1 & ½ pr. ct. would make the smallest possible subdivision of such a sum, a source of comparative wealth and happiness.

"With best & warmest love to the little Society, & especially to the two Keystones of the Arch, I remain ever & ever,

"Your most tenderly & very affectionate old

"Parent, C. H. W. W."

[1] Hon. Julia Moreton, mar. 1824, James Haughton Langston, M.P., of Sarsden, co. Oxford, who died 1863. She died 1869.

[2] Lady Ducie, Frances, only dau. of 1st E. of Carnarvon; mar. 1797, 1st E. of Ducie. She died 1830.

[3] Ld. Hertford, 3rd Marq.; born 1777; suc. his father 1822; mar. 1798, Maria Fagniani. He died 1842.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"*March 31st*, 1824.

"The conversation of the last three or four days has been much occupied by this duel of Lord Brudenell's,[1] who has been fighting, not with the Admiral Tollemache,[1] nor with Mr. Johnson,[1] but from a chivalrous regard for female honour, with Mr. Heathcote,[2] for declining to marry his sister Lady Emma Brudenell,[3] with whom all previous matrimonial arrangements were made even to time and place. Lord B. fired first and the other of course would not return it, so there it ended, the Brother only requiring him to sign a certificate that he had no reproach to make to Lady Emma, which he said he was most ready to do, never having thought of making the slightest imputation on her. The story told is, that it is all connected with Lady E.'s 'first fault,' or rather to go still higher, with the strong fancy which her Mother took originally for Mrs. Johnson, between whom & her daughters, she formed the strictest intimacy. To the continuance of this intimacy under the existing circumstances, Heathcote vehemently objected as far as regarded his Fiancée, and at last got from her a promise to drop it, in spite of which, however, he found that she continued a private correspondence, & taking fright at such a palpable breach of faith, he declared off. So in this instance the proverb is reversed, and the bad beginning has made nothing less than the good ending. The wretched woman is, they say, dying of consumption and heart broken at the refusal of her Parents to see her.

"A still more recent topic has been the horrible accident happened to Mr. Wrightson,[4] one of the Brothers of Mrs. Douglas the Widow of Fred. Douglas. He was living at his sister's house & three nights ago went out on

[1] Ld. Brudenell, afterwards 7th E. of Cardigan; born 1797; mar. 1826, Elizabeth, dau. of Admiral Tollemache (and sister to 1st Baron Tollemache), the divorced wife of Col. Johnson, of Hilton. She died 1858. (He mar. 2ndly, 1858, Adelaide, dau. of Spencer Horsey de Horsey, who died 1912.) He d.s.p. 1868.

[2] Gilbert Heathcote, afterwards Sir Gilbert; mar 1827, Clementina, dau. and h. of Ld. Gwydyr.

[3] Lady Emma Brudenell, 3rd dau. of 6th E. of Cardigan; mar. as his 2nd wife in 1827, David Pennant, of Downing, co. Flint. She died 1847.

[4] Mr. Wrightson, heir-at-law to the Hodnet property, Shropshire, now owned by the Heber Percys.

the leads with Lord Sheffield to look at a fire which was burning at Woolwich. While he was doing this, he fancied he should see better from the next house and got up on the parapet to jump down, as he thought, upon the next leads, but unfortunately he alighted upon a Sky-light, and fell compleately through to the Hall with such violence as to pull down two or three of the Banisters with him! He was smashed almost to pieces, and tho' still alive yesterday morning, was not expected to survive many hours.

"Charlotte Williams Wynn [1] was dancing with him not 48 hours before the accident at a Ball at Mrs. Rasbotham's. The poor Sister is quite distracted, which is certainly not to be wondered at.

"Have you happened, by any chance, to have heard of the Stipulations under which Lord Sandon [2] obtained his Bride? being no other than that she should remain in Italy with her Mother, while he came over here to attend his Parliamentary duties which he accordingly has been doing en Garçon, for the last two months, too lucky, if from the unusual despatch of business, he is not kept two more. I do think it is the most extraordinary instance of selfishness on the part of a Mother, that I ever heard of, and certainly one which nothing but the poor simple Youth's being over-head and Ears in love could have made him agree to, but the truth is that, Lady Bute' [3] is one of the rare examples of a woman's laying it down as a position that she never was to be contradicted, and that every thing and every body was to give way to her, & having been able to carry that point throughout her life."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *April 6th*, 1824.

"The poor young man Wrightson, who I mentioned to you in my last is not only alive, but thought likely to

[1] Charles Williams Wynn's dau.

[2] Ld. Sandon, afterwards 2nd E. of Harrowby; born 1798; mar. 1823 (September), Frances, 4th dau. of 1st Marq. of Bute. He was M.P. for Tiverton 1819–31 and for Liverpool 1831–47, when he suc. his father. He was Lord Privy Seal 1855–7, Vice-Pres. of the Council 1874. He died 1882. She died 1859.

[3] Lady Bute, Frances, 2nd dau. of Thomas Coutts; mar. as his 2nd wife, John, 1st Marq. of Bute (who died 1814). She died 1832.

recover, with trepanned Skull, broken Jaw, and all sorts of horrors. He has recovered his senses, and recollection of all previous to his accident, but of all that, has not the smallest idea.

"The latest piece of Bon Ton intelligence that I have heard is the Annonce of the marriage of Lady J. Paget [1] with Lord F. Conyngham, for which they have my full Consent."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"Brook Street, *April 13th.*

"I really take joy on the wretched Oeckner's jaw being at last so easily unlocked. Think only of the poor Wrightson's which could not be set on account of the jar to the fractured Skull, it has therefore been actually put together with Carpenter's Glue.

"They say Lord De Dunstanville,[2] another of the Septuagenarians or I believe almost an Octogénaire, certainly marries Miss Lemon.[3]

"I heard the other day an Enigma on the Rolle [4] marriage, which I almost think I sent in my last, but will run the risk of writing it over again.

"How happens it that Rolle at seventy-two,
Stale Rolle! Louise to the Altar led?
The case is neither strange nor new,
She took the Rolle for want of Bread.

"Now fair thee well, my dearest pray make my Souvenirs to all who have not long ago given me their *Oublis*, and with Love & Kisses to all the Dear, Dears, believe me,

"Ever, Ever yours."

[1] See p. 309.

[2] Francis Basset, 1st Baron de Dunstanville; mar. 1780, Frances, dau. of John Hipperley-Cox, by whom he had one only daughter, Frances, b. 1781.

[3] Miss Lemon, dau. of Sir William Lemon, whose sister mar. 1796, Sir John Davis, 8th Bart.

[4] Ld. Rolle, born 1756; created a Baron 1796; mar 1st, 1778, Judith, dau. and heir of Henry Waldron of Bovey in co. Devon. She died 1820. He mar. 2ndly in 1822, Louisa, dau. of 17th E. Clinton. She died aged 91 in 1885. He d.s.p. 1842.

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *May 4th.*

"The putting off the Drawing-room, after a Medically signed Bulletin, which could only state that 'His Majesty had been much indisposed with the epidemic complaint, but was now better' has given much dissatisfaction, I heard however, last night that there were to be a succession of Balls at St. James' in lieu of Drawing-rooms & this would, I suppose, be accepted as a very good compromise.

"The new Apartment is, indeed very magnificent, & great attention seems to have been given to the making the Entrée and Sortie as commodious as possible, but so long as there is only one Drawing-room in the Season the Crowd must always make it quite a Bear-garden. They are trying to make some new regulations about the Presentations, that there may be something like God-fathers and God-mothers to those who come to claim a Royal Bow or Salute, but I doubt how any thing like ancien régime on that subject can be resumed. The Duchess of Argyle's [1] dress has been sometime exhibited at the Milliners, the train alone of it cost £200, and with that there is a report in circulation of an evil design to arrest her Grace even in that identical dress and at that critical moment for a debt of £2500 ! ! to another Artiste. . . ."

The Same

"*May 18th.*

"The one object which is at this moment occupying the Town is the question of the Drawing-room on Thursday, which however I cannot myself but believe will, tant bien que mal, certainly take place. The idea is that He will come in for a very short time, and then retiring leave it to Princess Augusta. The regulations which you will see in the Newspapers with regard to the Presentations will perhaps make it rather less like

[1] Caroline Elizabeth, Duchess of Argyll, dau. of 4th E. of Jersey. She mar. 1795, Henry, 2nd E. of Uxbridge, 1st Marq. of Anglesey, by whom she had eight children. The mar. was dissolved in 1810, when she mar. George, 6th D. of Argyll. He d.s.p. 1839. She died 1835.

a bear-garden than usual, but still the Crowd must be immense and the Apartments are certainly very handsome and the arrangements for the Entré, and Sortie as good as possible, but what I very seriously lament, is the tracing in everything and on every occasion such an unaccountable determination on the part of the King to withdraw himself to the very utmost from every eye. I have just now received a note telling me that not a creature is to be admitted to stand in the outward rooms to see him go by, and at Windsor when a party are seeing the Castle, they forbid to turn their Eyes to the Window, lest the King should be passing under it. What all this can mean it is impossible to guess, but certainly it must keep up a jealous suspicion in John Bull that all is not right.

"The Duchess of Argyle cannot be refused entrée to the Drawing-Room (even if they meant to do so, which I do not know) having claimed a right to be presented to him at Edinburgh on titre de l'Office, Lady Gwydir [1] and the Duchess of Athol [2] both refuse to stand Godmothers to her.

"I have not the least idea of the King's crossing the Water this Summer further than the Isle of Wight, or some such pleasure Boat expedition.

"We are in the midst of Northumberland Assemblies, which take place every week and are to be repeated to the number of 4 or 5. The decorations, particularly of the staircase are very splendid and bespeak a most becoming profusion of expence, all of which one has the satisfaction of knowing is scattered about over our own land; but the Spaces are by no means striking, at least not in the upper Apartments which is all I have seen yet, and which consist after all of only four Rooms, two large and two small, with the lower one however they mean to open the great Gallery which we are told is 100 ft. long by 60, and remains in Statu quo, white & gold panels with pictures."

[1] Lady Gwydyr. Lady Priscilla Bertie, dau. and co-h. of 3rd D. of Ancaster. She became, on the death of her brother, the 4th and last Duke, Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby (1779). She died 1828.

[2] Marjorie, Duchess of Atholl, dau. of James, 16th Ld. Forbes, and widow of Ld. Macleod; mar. as his second wife 1794, John, 4th D. of Atholl. She died 1842.

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *May 25th.*

"The latest Event which I have to transmit is the Birth of the Heir of Oakley Park, which was in due form announced to us at an early hour this morning. I am very glad of it inasmuch as it was an object very ardently wished by the Parents, and of much importance to Mr. R. Clive,[1] with respect to money arrangements. The rest of the noble Parenté are in high health, and at the very Acmé of pride and glory at the out-turn of all the Northumberland House magnificence, with which they have, of course, all been entirely occupied and have indeed every reason to be gratified. The last Performance took in, I fancy, the whole of the visiting list, a thousand was the number said to be invited, and I suppose 8 or 900 must have presented themselves. Lady Harriet gave her two Tickets of patronage to Fanny Hayman, and the Biddulphs, and Watkin his, to the Warden and his wife, all very proper and very acceptable.

"The Gallery is certainly the handsomest company Room I ever saw, it is 110 ft. long and I think, 35 high. The whole of the Ornaments are white & Gold and the Ceiling particularly, is uncommonly rich, which you will believe when I tell you that the gilding alone, (the Duke not having added a single Ornament to the Room) is said by Cundy to have cost above £3000. This eclipsed, in a degree the splendour of the new Apartments at St. James' which for two days was almost the only subject of genteel conversation. They are certainly very fine, and singularly well arranged for Entrance and Exit, but so long as the whole con-

[1] Robert Clive, 2nd s. of 1st Ld. Powis (brother to Lady Harriet Williams Wynn), mar. 1819, Lady Harriet, daughter and co-h. of Other Hickman, 5th E. of Plymouth and Baron Windsor. On the death of her brother the 6th and last E. of Plymouth, the Barony of Windsor fell into abeyance between her and her sister Maria, wife of 3rd Marq. of Downshire. This lady dying in 1855, without issue, the abeyance terminated in favour of Lady Harriet Clive, who became Baroness Windsor, and was succeeded at her death in 1869 by her grandson Robert, created E. of Plymouth, 1914. Her son, born May 24th, 1824, Robert Windsor Clive, was M.P. for Ludlow and Salop; mar. 1852, Lady Mary Selina Bridgeman, dau. of 2nd E. of Bradford. He died 1859.

tents of this town and City are to be summoned into them at once, the result must always be that of a Bear-garden instead of a Court. My vis-à-vis the Duchess of Argyle did certainly exhibit her singed reputation with no small degree of pomp and triumph, attended by his Grace of Richmond,[1] in all their State Liveries etc. and by the carriage of Lord Anglesea, bringing her three other daughters, and handed up-stairs by Lord and Lady F. Conyngham, I think no Mother went with a prouder train.

"Every body agreed that the King looked well, but he is certainly very weak on his legs, tho' he really did, as they said, stand on them from 2, till near 4 o'clock, without availing himself of a very high Chair which was placed behind him, but his sitting down in the beau millieu of the Circle would have had a far less bad effect than his sulking as he does from the eye of John Bull. One of the most extraordinary Phenomenons at the Drawing-room was the Appearance of Lord Carysfort,[2] who came there in full array with his Collar etc. marched in quite alone, and went off in the same way just like any body else, nothing can be so inconceivable and unaccountable as his powers and infirmities. Adieu, dearest, I have gossiped on longer than I intended & now am obliged to break off abruptly, with every good wish and blessing that an old but still warm heart can offer."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"Brook Street, *June 1st.*

"At Whitehall[3] all is returning to its usual train and losing apace the character of sick restraint. Mary is still however so weak as to express doubts of her being able to undertake Stowe, but at the same time so much reluctance to abandon it, that I have little hope of her prudence prevailing. What the mass is

[1] Charles, 3rd D. of Richmond; born 1791; mar. 1817, Caroline, dau. of 1st Ld. Anglesey (and of the Duchess of Argyll). He died 1860. She died 1874.

[2] Lord Carysfort was 73. He died 1828.

[3] Where Charles Williams Wynn lived.

to be made up of I know not, but the Duke [1] announces that his Parlour mess mates for the 5 days will amount to 90. Some of whom however, are to be bedded at Buckingham. I sadly fear, however, that, as generally happens on such occasions, there will be much heart-burnings from the exclusiveness which I fear extends to all married Members of the Fortescue family. To some, it would perhaps have been difficult for him to have drawn a line, but I lament that it should so be on account of my Sister."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *June 22nd.*

"You will not have been disappointed my dearest Henry at receiving a blank Literary last week, if you had previously calculated on our Stowe Junket which has fully occupied the last seven days, and of which I shall forthwith give you a résumé while the impression is still warming my tepid imagination. We all met as we were bid to do on the Monday preceding yesterday, when I say all, however, I must mention our great disappointment in learning on Sunday that our Good Watkin had been laid hold of the day before by his old Enemy St. Anthony, and was confined to his couch, but still bent on setting out the next day, this was of course out of the question, but on the afternoon of Tuesday he coaxed Sir Henry [2] to allow him to go, and late in the evening he arrived to the great satisfaction of the party, and particularly of the Duchess,[3] who

[1] The D. of Buckingham (Lady Williams Wynn's nephew), who was inviting his party to celebrate the christening of his grandson, afterwards 3rd and last D. of Buckingham, born September 10th, 1823: he mar. 1st, 1851, Caroline, only dau. of Robert Harvey, of Langley Park, Bucks, by whom he had three daughters; he mar. 2nd, 1885, Alice, dau. of Sir Graham Montgomery, by whom he had no children. He died 1889, when the Barony of Kinloss (which came into the family through the wife of the 1st Duke) devolved upon his daughter, Lady Mary, wife of Major Morgan, who assumed the additional surname of Grenville.

[2] Sir Henry Halford.

[3] Duchess of Buckingham: Lady Anna Brydges, *de jure* Baroness Kinloss, only dau. and h. of James, 3rd D. of Chandos. She mar. 1796, Richard, 2nd Marq. and 1st D. of Buckingham and Chandos. She died 1836.

with more warmth than usually belongs to her, lamented him as 'the darling Watkin whose absence would throw a gloom over everything.' Lord Braybroke likewise fell off and so did Catherine of course, and likewise so did Lady Jane, and poor Neville, who has been seriously ill with a bilious attack, but is now quite well again, tho' unable to attack so very large a party. As it was, I think the numbers mustered above 50, on Monday night, consisting of all the worthy family, excepting those whom I have named, and the married branches of the Fortescues, none of whom were asked, to the Kings[1] and to the Ebringtons the exclusion is obvious, to the two others, (the Wilbrahams[2] and Hamlyn Williams[3]) the reason assigned was their not having troubled themselves to give the general token of affinity by a letter of congratulation on the Birth of the young Hero, but perhaps the reason might have been to avoid too strong a mark of particular hostility to the two others, but in truth one of the very positive reasons, as good as the other 99, was the impossibility of lodging more. As it was the whole almost of the Bachelor Gallery was occupied by Ladies, and the young men quartered for Beds in the Duke's houses in Buckingham. Our extraneous Guests were Lord and Lady Breadalban,[4] Lady Elizabeth Campbell, and two more of the name & Clan, Sir G. & Lady Nugent,[5] Master & Miss; old Lady Lyttelton,[6] why or wherefore nobody

[1] Hester, eldest dau. of 1st E. Fortescue; mar. 1804, Peter, 7th Ld. King. She died 1873.

[2] Anne, 3rd dau. of 1st E. Fortescue, mar. 1814, George Wilbraham, of Delamere House, co. Chester. She died 1864.

[3] Mary, 4th dau. of 1st E. Fortescue; mar. 1823, Sir James Hamlyn Williams, 3rd Bart. She died 1874.

[4] John, 4th E. and 1st Marq. of Breadalbane; born 1762; mar. 1793, Mary Turner, dau. and co-h. of David Gairn, of Langton. She died 1845. He died 1834. Their 2nd dau., Mary, mar. 1819, Richard Plantagenet, Marq. of Chandos, s. of 1st D. of Buckingham, afterwards 2nd Duke. She died 1862.

[5] Gen. Sir George Nugent, 1st Bart.; born 1757; mar. 1797, Maria, dau. of Cortlandt Skinner, Att.-Gen. of New Jersey, N. America. Their eldest s., afterwards Sir George, 2nd Bart., was born 1802, suc. at his father's death in 1840. Their eldest dau., Louisa, mar. November 1824, Sir Thomas Fremantle, afterwards 1st Ld. Cottesloe.

[6] Lady Lyttelton, Appia, 2nd dau. of Broome Witts, of Chipping Norton, and widow of Joseph Peach, Governor of Calcutta; she mar. 1772, Thomas, 2nd Ld. Lyttelton, who died 1779, without issue. She died 1840.

knows or could make out, excepting the Duke & Duchess' having met her at Malvern & being in her society in the first moment of Ebulletion on hearing of the birth of the Boy ; Leighs [1] of course in number, but not too many as they seem all pleasing and good-humoured, with young Bunny's wife, we every one old & young, Male and Female, fell in love. One Miss Pigott [2] was lodged in order to supply a room for dressing for the rest of the family, who were at Buckingham, and a similar arrangement was made for the Freemantlery,[3] for short of the number lodged my shortest way of giving them to your computation, will be by telling you that Mrs. Nicholson, the old Housekeeper, to whom I was making my compliments, yesterday morning, told me that she had on the Saturday previous to our arrival given out 150 pairs of Sheets to prepare the beds, & on the Monday following had added 40 pairs more, most of these carried double and many I doubt not treble. Of the servants in waiting not one, as the Duke told me had their cloathes off from the Monday to the Saturday. Indeed that part was quite wonderfully done, and so was every part, but la Cuisine where we failed as usual, tho' much was to have been expected from the fortunate circumstance of his own performers being sick and 3 London ones invited down to supply his place. Gunter, was as usual in great force, and his department was particularly well executed. We dined from 100 to 112 in the Gallery & the Music room, and very, very, handsome the decorations of both Tables were in every respect excepting the Centre of that in the Gallery, which was occupied by a most unfortunate large unmeaning Group of Gilt plaister of Paris being a model of an immense Fountain which the Duke proposed having executed at Paris but of which the estimate was so enormous that the Duke wrote the Artiste word that without the addition of the River Pactolus in 'propria persona,' the effiges of the others were quite out

[1] Leighs of Stoneleigh.

[2] The Pigotts of Doddershall.

[3] The family of Admiral Sir Thomas Fremantle, who died 1822. His son, Sir Thomas, mar. Louisa, dau. of Gen. Sir G. Nugent (see above). He was created 1st Baron Cottesloe in 1874, and died at the age of 92 in 1890.

of his reach. So here comes the frightful model, costing Heaven knows what, and mounted upon a double black Plinth, covering a space of nearly five feet of table-cloth and leaving barely room for a Salt cellar as the Centre flank dish. Altogether it was a most horrid piece of lumber, nor is it possible to find a spot or destination to which it could be, even negatively, applied. The Christening took place in the Church on the Tuesday Morning, and seven Christian Names were imposed on a pale & slight looking Child, but who, I hope will grow equal to the burden. I suppose the Newspapers will give them, but lest they should not, I will fill my last line with them, 'Richard, Plantagenet, Grenville, Campbell, Chandos, Nugent, Temple.'

"A quoi bon, Christening the little innocent with all his Titles, I know not, but if they like it, and that he becomes a 'ready writer' it matters not, the Newspapers made me God-mother, but it was Lady Breadalban, and My Lord and Uncle Tom were God-fathers.

"To my old fashioned notions the very quiet way in which the Toast of the day was given by the dear Duke, and received by his Company, was quite painful, but truth & honest truth to say, the perfect frigidity of the *young couple*,[1] & the neglect on our part, of *their belongings* threw quite a damp on all the 'sensibilities of the heart.' The one and only object to Lord Chandos was his Yeomanry, and they were so paraded about and made so much too prominent throughout the whole Gala that I was quite disgusted.

"The dear good Host left nothing undone to mark the occasion to every human Being. The day of the Christening, every Tenant, Yeoman, etc. within reach were invited to the house and danced and supped to the number of 1100, in a large temporary room attached to the house with the addition of one of the large Ordinance Tents, sent down by the Duke of Wellington for the purpose,—On the Wednesday there were Yeomanry Races to which the Duke gave three Cups, one the Christening Cup, gilt and really beautiful, in the Even-

[1] Ld. and Lady Chandos (for Lady Chandos see Breadalbane. She died 1861). Ld. Chandos succeeded his father as 2nd D. of Buckingham and Chandos in 1839 and died 1862.

ing was a Lottery for all the Ladies and dancing, on the Thursday was an Archery Meeting in which nothing was wanting but a magnet to draw your Arrows to the Targets, which were almost wholly unwounded, and Mary Williams Wynn [1] by two random shots had the good luck to carry off both the Prizes. In the Evening there were most beautiful Fire-works on the water, and a Ball for all the Servants. On the Friday there was again a Rifle Shooting for the Yeomanry with Prizes and in the Evening a fancy dress Ball, which lasted till 5 in the morning, with a very few very good Masks. Besides this there was a set of Singers to fill up gaps and a Ventriloquist etc. So that certainly there was no lack of amusements. The morning after the Christening there arrived a most superb Mantle of Gold and Silver Brocade with a Blue and Silver border and a magnificent gold Fringe all round it, a present sent from Dublin by Lord Wellesley.[2] This of course gave great pleasure to the Duke and will I doubt not have been very gratifying to Lord Grenville, in truth there could not have been a more pleasing testimony of remembrance and respect.

"The pattern was a repetition of Rose, Shamrock, & Thistle, which are all individually united in the little great personage. His sister is a nice little girl, and the Boy has fine large black Eyes, which I daresay will make him well looking, but he is not so stout at present as one could wish. . . ."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *July 13th.*

"It is always a great pleasure to me, dearest, when I can think that my old pen can convey to you any degree of amusement & as such I rejoice to hear by yours of the 1st inst. received yesterday, that mine was your first Gazette of the Stowe festivities. I have

[1] Charles Williams Wynn's daughter, afterwards Mrs. Milnes Gaskell.

[2] Richard, Marq. Wellesley, s. of 1st E. of Mornington and eldest brother to the D. of Wellington; born 1760; Gov.-Gen. of India; twice Ld.-Lieut. of Ireland; mar. 1st, 1794, Hyacinthe, dau. of Monsieur Roland, by whom, who died 1816, he had no legitimate issue. He mar. 2ndly, 1825, Marianne, dau. of Richard Paton, U.S.A., and widow of Robert Patterson. She died 1853. He died 1842.

myself been enough abroad to be, well aware of how often one suffers by the fear of one's Correspondents of repeating a before-told Tale, which to the reader is certainly a much less evil, than not having it at all.

" The idea of the permanent & vengeful spell thrown over the Cuisine of the proprietors of Stowe, amuses me much, I can certainly speak to it in 3 successive Generations & I hear there are strong symptoms of its passing on still further. The noble science of Gastronomie has been quite the genteel Topic of the last week, owing to the opening of the Dining-room in the new Hertford House, in which a French Artiste for the dinner, & an Italian one for the Desert, were supposed to have surpassed anything ever produced in their respective Branches. The House is as magnificently furnished as possible, and all with English manufacture. Everything, however, in the shape of expence must shrink to insignificance when compared to that of Lord [1] and Lady Londonderry.[1] She opened her half finished Suite the other night without Balustrade to the Staircase, or Balcony to the windows, but, as people were assured, with plenty of Feather-beds laid below to receive those suffering by 'faux pas,' which arrangement might seem to the wicked, equally adapted to cause or affect, but as yet, like other precautions, they appear to have had no suite, either en bien ou mal. Lord Londonderry is not content with having gutted the whole of Lord Middleton's house, & added another story to part of it, but is likewise, as it is said in treaty for the next house to throw into it. With all this however, the report is that of 'Ready,' there is an absolute and entire stop, which nothing but such insane waste of money as his is said to have been, could, with his incalculable great Income render credible."

[1] Ld. Londonderry, 3rd Marq.; born 1778; mar. 1st, 1804, Catherine, dau. of John, 3rd E. of Darnley. She died 1812. He mar. 2ndly, 1819, Frances Anne, dau. and h. of Sir Harry Vane Tempest, and assumed the additional surname of Vane. (Her mother was Anne, eld. dau. and co-h. of William, 6th E. of Antrim, and became on her father's death Countess of Antrim, which title passed, in accordance with the limitations of the patent, on her death in 1834, to her sister Lady Charlotte Kerr.) Ld. Londonderry had suc. his half-brother the 2nd Marq. (Ld. Castlereagh) in 1821. He died 1854. Lady Londonderry died 1865.

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"*July 20th*, 1824.

"Watkin & Lady Harriet set off most gallantly with the Duke & Duchess of N.[1] and Mr. & Mrs. Henry Clive [2] to make their way to Alnwick per Steam Vessel by which, they were in less than 48 hours, to perform their five days journey. The first and only report however, which has yet arrived, stated the two Sisters as being both of them driven to their Beds, but if when there, they were able to sleep and forget their miseries, (as was stated) they will comparatively have little to complain of."

From Lady W. W. to Henry W. W. W.

"DROPMORE, *July 29th*.

"I heard once from Lady Harriet since their Voyage to Alnwick, and a more piteous picture, even Matthews himself could not draw of the detail. They were nearly 52 hours on board, above 40 of which was passed by the Duchess, herself and all their female Attendants, in the extreme of woe, which she says was, as long as she was capable of knowing anything, receiving the greatest possible aggrevation by seeing all the Males of the party devouring Turtle Soup, Pasties, iced Wines, etc., with a zeal and perseverance actuated, I suppose, by the desire of maintaining a just Equilibrium in the Vessel, by adding thereby as much Balast as the Ladies were throwing over board. I think even Watkin's perseverance, will hardly be sufficient to induce Lady Harriet to put herself again soon into such a predicament. She gives a most splendid account of their landing at Alnemouth, where all the population was turned out to receive their Graces, arriving in so new a shape, and every demonstration of joy put forth at their having escaped the perils of the Ocean."

[1] D. and Duchess of Northumberland (Lady Harriet Williams Wynn's sister and brother-in-law).

[2] Hon. Henry Clive, 3rd s. of 5th E. of Plymouth; born 1768; mar. 1798, Anne, dau. of Thomas Copson. He suc. his brother the 6th Earl as 7th and last Earl of that creation in 1837, and d.s.p. 1843.

The Same

"VALE ROYAL, *October 9th*, 1824.

"The Annonce of your immediate Recall and of your new Appointment [1] at three months date appears to me to leave you precisely in the predicament "between two stools," the result of which is proverbially known to be the reverse of elevation. Your Uncle, however, assures me that such a result can never be intended, and that in some way or another it will be prevented, which I hope will be the case.

"I am very glad your visit to Munich turned out so agreable, and as you are so soon to leave Stuttgard, the contrast will not so much signify, tho' certainly from your description it appears to be as strong as a comparason between two extremes could render it. Your account of the Royal Salute to dear Hester's Bonnet de Nuit, has amused us to the greatest degree, and is quite 'incroyable.' Of the Court at Copenhagen, I have tried in vain to pick up some ideas by applying to every odd body whom I meet with, it seems to me as if as little was known of it as of Pekin. You will be glad to hear that the Duke of Buckingham has just now had the great delight of signing and sealing for the purchase, not only of the Lamport Estate, (old Dayrell's) which you know comes up close to the Gothic Building, but likewise of the whole of Mr. Coke's property at Hillesdon which has been a constant temptation to the Breach of the 10th Commandment to the possessor of Stowe, time out of mind, and which from political feelings Mr. C. was so anxious to keep out of their hands, that, in proposing the purchase to the Gentleman thro' whom it was privately negotiating for the Duke, he expressed in the strongest terms, a Caution never to let it get into his hands. The Duke has bought it with the money for which he sold Gosfield, and written word to your Uncle [2] that he has improved his Rent Roll by it, £3600 pr. ann. I believe it includes the presentation to the Living of Buckingham, but at all events it makes everything quite sure and safe

[1] To Copenhagen.

[2] Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville.

there, and gives him a beautiful property lying just between Stowe and Wotton."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"VALE ROYAL, *October 2nd*, 1825.

"I must open my little budget, with the news of Old George Cholmondley's [1] Marriage, tho' I can hardly flatter myself with the hope of being the first to announce it to you. The happy fair is Lord Sydney's 2nd daughter, their relative ages being 73 & 29 ! ! Lord Delamere says he is *not one to object* to a *certain degree* of difference, but that this really does pass all permission & what adds not a little to one's surprise is that the Lady actually has by some odd chance an independant fortune of £45,000, & is of an age when she might reflect & certainly need not despair. It came upon us at once in its full force being notified by Lord Braybrooke, who is asked by Lord Sydney to be trustee to the Marriage Settlements, I hope all due care will be taken to provide for the issue which I have no doubt will come like Moreton Pitt's,[2] by doublets. It is really quite disgusting to look at such a poor old withered Being attired in the *Saffron robe* thrown over his flannel Bedgown, but after all the Speculation is certainly on his side not a bad one, & he may once more describe himself most justly as tottering (not standing) between the Grave & the Altar.

"We returned yesterday from Madeley Manor where we have had a very agreeable Visit. Our party consisted of Grevilles [3] in large quantities, such as old Charles [3] & Lady Charlotte,[3] Lord & Lady Francis

[1] George Cholmondeley, s. of Rev. Robert Cholmondeley and his wife Mary Woffington; born 1752; mar. 1st in 1790, Marcia, dau. of John Pitt, of Enscomb, Dorset (by whom he had one son, George). She died 1808. He mar. 2ndly, 1814, Catherine, dau. of Sir Philip Francis. She d.s.p. 1823. He mar. 3rdly, October 4th, 1825, Hon. Mary, dau. of John, 2nd Visc. Sydney, by whom he had one dau.

[2] William Moreton Pitt, M.P., of Kingston House, Dorset, mar. Margaret, dau. of John Gambier. His sister Marcia was George Cholmondeley's first wife (see above).

[3] Mr. Charles Greville, s. of Fulke Greville, of Wellow, Wilts; born 1762; mar. 1793, Lady Charlotte, dau. of 3rd D. of Portland. She died 1862. He died 1832. His daughter Harriet mar. 1822, Ld. Francis Leveson (2nd s. of 1st D. of Sutherland), raised to the Peerage as E. of Ellesmere in 1846.

Leveson & Mr. & Mrs. Morier, besides which we had the last day our London neighbour Lord Dudley who fortunately was my chum at dinner & was very talky and odd. The House is super excellent and so it well may be having been built from the ground on the joint taste of Harrison & Cunliffe, & having cost £12,000 to defray all which Lord Crewe cut down all out of sight Timber upon the Estate only, & put in his daughter & son-in-law rent free, including Garden etc. Of course they have to furnish it, & lay out the Grounds which really are very much above par in point of beauty surrounded with hills & woods, & with what will be, when done a very handsome piece of Water with a Trout Stream running thro' it. The House consists of a remarkably comfortable Drawing-room 49 feet long opening into a smaller, et puis a very good eating room, billiard, etc. etc. sitting-room for Mr. C. & two Bed-chambers all on the ground floor, Hall & very handsome Staircase included, so you may guess there is no lack of lodging, but what is most surprising is the celerity with which it has been done, having been actually inhabited in 18 months from the time of laying the first stone. The wonder however lessens when one hears that there were 80 men employed at once in the building. Lord Crewe's surrounding Estate is £6000 pr. an. of which Mr. C. may of course rent whatever he likes, so that you may believe he is pretty much Grand Seigneur & certainly very much Maitre Cordonnier. She was, as indeed I have always found her, courteous & even more, I should say kind, & agreable to the greatest degree, & the Grevilles have, all of them, very much the talent of society, so that I enjoyed my junket really very much. They took us one day to Trentham which disappointed me very much. There are certainly some very handsome rooms, & very good external objects, but there was a general air of tristesse both within & without which I could not well account for. What pleased me most was in going away seeing the covered Shed for the reception of the weary Traveller with a good table in the middle at which we saw two men & a woman quite decently & respectably dressed sitting eating their *Maunchet* of bread & cheese or meat,

& with their respective mugs of Beer in their hands. This Custom is, I fancy, of very old standing but is kept up only when the family are there. I am afraid to say to how many thousands the list of those so fed amounted to last year when Lord Stafford was down only for a very few months. I think my brother told me nine thousand. Perhaps, by the by, you remember his speaking of it. On our return hither the whole party accompanied us to Crewe Hall which I had great curiosity to see, not having been half over the house when I was there last, & that being 20 years ago. We were very much gratified in walking it all over, it being, I fancy, a unique Specimen of a building of that date remaining so much in its original State, & having been so very rich in ornament. Harriet was quite in love with all the old Ceilings & odd beasts. The Staircase put me in mind of course of that which gave you so much trouble to draw, but I think, when we saw it, it was painted white which is more Analogous to its date than the light bright modern Oak colour now put upon it. Lord Crewe was absent otherwise we could not have taken Mr. Greville & Lady Charlotte with whom He is not on Terms, I ought to have told you that on our return from Trentham we stopped at Keel where we saw 3 or 4 of our Sneyd relations & a very curious old front of a house. But what struck me most was the sudden apparition of a long black woman who turned out to be the Duchess Dow. of Newcastle whom I had not seen I believe, for 40 years & who claimed me as an Intimate.

" God bless you my ever ever dearly loved."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

" LLANGEDWYN, *October 22nd, 23rd*, 1825.

" I suppose, you will, at Munich have fallen in with a long arrear of English Newspapers which will have been a great treat. In them you will have seen the premature return of your friend Captain Parry [1] owing

[1] Capt. Parry, afterwards Sir William, Knt. and Adm.; born 1790; entered Navy 1803; commanded three expeditions of discovery to the Arctic Seas 1819-20, 1821-23, 1824 to October 1825; mar. Isabella, dau. of Sir John Stanley, 1st Baron, 1826. He died 1855.

to his Consort Ship 'The Fairy's' having been wrecked & his being thereby obliged to crowd his own vessel with her crew & stores, with which he was too much encumbered to proceed. I own I cannot but rejoice at their being returned from an Expedition from which no one benefit was ever anticipated, but a display of Englishman's daring & enterprize which wanted no further confirmation. It is a wonderful testimony to all the attention & expence in fitting out these 2 Vessels, that in the course of two years of such service, but one single life has been lost & that from a Casuality. I give you all detail on the general principle of its being unfair to friends at a distance to trust to their picking up even public events as we do at home, & knowing how much you have always interested yourself in this expedition. Among the passing events of the Day the most prominent is the Announcement of Lady Georgina Ryder's [1] Marriage with Mr. S. Wortley,[1] which is as you will believe matter of the greatest rejoicing at Sandon. Next comes a far less *pretty* one between Lord Wellesley & Madame Jérome née Paterson which is said to be certainly settled & to which the Cholmondleys will say 'heartily welcome Sir;' & then lastly Lady Catherine Eliot [2] with a *Mr. Boileau, a perfection* with £4,000 pr. an. Lady A. Maria [3] announced it to Mrs. A. Hayman with great joy, & of course much fun. She says she does not herself think the name as pretty as Eliot, but that *He* assures her it is much prettier, & that she has nothing to do but to look up *Racine.* After all, she says 'Mama's [4] Grandfather made an immense fortune as a Physician in consequence of which she has always considered herself as one of the Medici family, & his name perhaps was not much more illustré than Boileau, who is some how or another more or less Pollen to boot.' Charlotte has perhaps written you word of their having been (I suppose moyennant

[1] John Stewart Wortley, afterwards 2nd Ld. Wharncliffe; mar. 1825, Lady Georgina Ryder, 3rd dau. of 1st Ld. Harrowby.

[2] Lady Catherine, dau. of 1st E. of Minto; mar. 1825, Mr. Boileau, afterwards 1st Bart. of Tacolnestone. She died 1862. He died 1869.

[3] Lady Anna Maria, eld. dau. of 1st E. of Minto; mar. 1832, Lt.-Gen. Sir Ruffane Shawe Donkin, K.C.B. She died 1855.

[4] Lady Minto was the dau. of Sir George Amyand, Bart.

Lady Jones) able to trace the origin & out turn of one of those strange Matrimonial advertisements which one always supposes to be the production of some such Author as G. G[lle] but who in this instance was a Mr. Thompson of Waverley Abbey Surrey, & who not only asked, but was answered by one of the pupils belonging to the Academy of Music whom he actually married & made the Partner of his £11,000 pr. an. What is still more comical is that in telling the Story to our friend Hayman, I found her an intimate Acquaintance of the Gentleman, who gave me all his history. His father was a great Russian Merchant, who with the *help* of the late Empress Catherine was supposed to have enfantéed the late Mr. Angerstein, & to have brought & settled him in England at his house. Mrs. Hayman knows him, Mr. Thompson, & used very often to meet him. His first wife was, I fancy, rather 'high' than otherwise, & was more or less the Amie intime of the late John Madocks who used to be always running up & down to Waverley Abbey & his daughter is Mrs. G. Lock. . . . The Gentleman is 70 years old, of the Lady's age we may suppose that as a *Pupil* it cannot be much within the Cholmondley Scale. Altogether the Story looks long & prosy on paper, & may most probably not interest you, but I was amused at having traced so many particulars belonging to it, & so I give it to you. Mrs. Hayman had a letter while she was here from Lady Charlotte Neville written from their new Chateau where she is surrounded by all possible Nevilles and Legges with the addition of 2 or 3 Fortescues, and is quite in a delirium of delight. She says they are at the time she writes 50 within the walls, and no man sleeping in his neighbours Bedroom, or shaving in his Wife's dressing-room. . . .

"You will probably have seen in the Newspapers much report of the Gros Cousin [1] going to India, so much smoke can probably not have arisen without some fire, but one should not easily believe that surrounded by so much of external and domestic comfort as he is, and with health so precarious, such a Situation could be, to him an Object of Ambition. In politics however as

[1] D. of Buckingham.

in Marriages one learns not to wonder at anything and have only to keep one's opinions to one's self."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *November 6th*, 1825.

"We went over one morning last week to Llangollen where you know I have never been since Lady Eleanor's fruitless operation on her Eyes. I found her therefore very much altered but in her usual spirits, & full of enquiry and gossip about the Beau Monde. They were both of them delighted to see us, & of course expressed the greatest anxiety about you. Furthermore Lady Eleanor gave me a *pint* Bottle full of Rose Water of 'our own make,' N.B. not near so good as Mrs. Motts, and Miss Ponsonby presented Charlotte with a smaller ditto so flat & thin that she is afraid of punching it in two with her finger & thumb. They talk much of the Wellesley [1] Marriage of which Lady Hariett had all particulars from Lady Caledon,[2] & among others a wonderous difalcation in point of fortune on the side of the Lady, she herself having told a friend of Lady Caledon's that she had only £60,000 which we have since heard is still much over-rating it. Lord Wellesley professes his Object in making the marriage to have been 'purely moral' for the sake of 'preventing that profligate Long Wellesley [3] from ever bearing the immaculate title of Mornington.' Nous verrons, but I should be sorry to bet upon the production of an *obstacle*. The young Wilton Heir [4] has just been Christned quite

[1] Ld. Wellesley's (2nd) marriage, with Marianne, dau. of Richard Caton, U.S.A., and widow of Robert Paterson (whose sister was the wife (div.) of Jérôme Bonaparte, King of Westphalia), took place on October 29th, 1825. He died 1842, and was suc. by his brother William, Ld. Maryborough, as 3rd E. of Mornington.

[2] Lady Caledon, Catherine, dau. of 3rd E. of Hardwick; mar. 1811, 2nd E. of Caledon. She died 1863.

[3] William Pole Tilney Long Wellesley, eldest s. of the above William, 3rd E. of Mornington; born 1788; mar. 1st in 1812, Catherine, dau. and h. of Sir James Tilney Long. She died 1825. He mar. 2ndly, in 1829, Helena, dau. of Col. Thomas Paterson and widow of Capt. Thomas Bligh. She died 1869. He suc. his father as 4th E. of Mornington in 1845, and was suc. in 1857 by his eldest son, with whom the Barony of Maryborough terminated, the Earldom of Mornington devolving on his cousin the 2nd D. of Wellington.

[4] This child died as an infant.

privately, & I hear the Grosvenor one is to be performed in the same stile, which, I believe I rather approve, tho' how it can be so in the last instance I do not understand, as I hear the Corporation of Chester are to present a Bason of Massive Gold for the purpose. I think it can hardly be bigger than a Thimble, but as the Child is not to be submerged it will not signify. Lord Bagot [1] has lately been at Eaton, & went from thence to P. Park [2] taking Grommow with him to improve & add to the house. This is the first time that he has been there since Lady B.'s death."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *November 16th.*

"The two heirs [3] of the House of Grosvenor are to be Christened together at Eaton this next week without any parade or bustle but they are to have a very large party the ensuing week to which your Brother and Lady Harriet cum multis aliis are invited.

"Lord Belgrave [4] notified at a Chester Corporation Dinner, that his Son was to be Christened 'Hugh Lupus' a name born by one of the Ancestors 'of his family 800 years ago.' They say he is a very healthy promising child, but not as large as his Cousin Grey [5] who is his senior only by five days.

"Our last letter from London notified the expectation of a young George Cholmondley it will be well, I

[1] Ld. Bagot, William, 2nd Baron; born 1773; mar. 1st in 1799, Hon. Emily Fitzroy, dau. of 1st Ld. Southampton. She died 1800. He mar. 2ndly, in 1807, Lady Louisa Legge, dau. of 3rd E. of Dartmouth. She died 1816. He died in 1856.

[2] Pool Park, near Ruthin, Denbighshire.

[3] Hugh Lupus Grosvenor, afterwards 1st D. of Westminster; mar. 1st, 1852, Lady Constance, dau. of 2nd D. of Sutherland. He mar. 2ndly, 1882, Katherine, dau. of 2nd Ld. Chesham. He died 1899. The other heir here mentioned is the s. of Thomas, 2nd E. Wilton (see p. 276, note 3), who did not survive.

[4] Ld. Belgrave, eld. s. of 1st Marq. of Westminster, afterwards 2nd Marq., who mar. 1819, Lady Elizabeth, dau. of 1st D. of Sutherland. He died 1869. She died 1891.

[5] Viscount Grey de Wilton, 2nd title of E. of Wilton.

think, if he does not arrive with a doublet like his Cousin Moreton Pitt.[1]

"I see the Newspapers still full of Mrs. Coutts [2] and her noble paramour, but Mr. Antrobus, who your Brother saw last week in Cheshire told him, that he had just had a letter from the Lady saying 'I am going here there & every where, but am not going to marry the Duke of St. Albans.'"[3]

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"WYNNSTAY, *December 11th*, 1825.

"The event of the Duchess of Rutland's almost sudden death made, at the moment, a great sensation, but like other such things it is now gone by. So premature & hasty a close to a life of such uninterrupted dissipation as her's appeared to be, cannot but be very awful, & one only hopes such a warning may not have been given in vain. The Duke is in the deepest affliction, but will, I should think, not remain in his widowed state longer than is necessary, as he seems to be one who could not live without female Society. My Sister & all her family are lodged at Lord Fortescue's. They were in a great fidgett last week when the Duke of Dorset's [4] house was under the hammer knowing that Uncle Tom had actually made up his mind to bid for it *more* than he ought, but it went to such a price as to put it out of the question & who think you run it up & remained the Purchaser, but Lady Bridgewater, who of course would not be out bid, & bought it at £18,460, the highest valuation of it having been £12,000. I think her quite in the right, as I am very sure I should have much preferred it as a habitation to her own, for which I suppose she will expect half as much again. The Strathavern [5] Marriage is, as Mr.

[1] See p. 324.

[2] Harriet Mellon, actress, widow of Thomas Coutts the banker.

[3] William, 9th D. of St. Albans; born 1801; mar. 1st, 1827, Harriet, dau. of Matthew Mellon and widow of Thomas Coutts. She died 1837. He mar. 2ndly, 1839, Elizabeth, dau. of Gen. Joseph Gubbins. He died 1849.

[4] Charles, 5th D. of Dorset, born 1767.

[5] George, Ld. Aboyne, who in 1836 succeeded his kinsman, the 5th and last D. of Gordon, to the marquessate of Huntly; born 1761;

C. Jenkinson [1] told them at Eaton again at a *hitch*, Lord Aboyne saying that He has since the last time of asking paid £10,000 for his Son's debts, & can not therefore make his allowance what he then offered, & Mr. J. says that for this once he is in the right, supposing the fact to be as he states it. I must next digress to some Provincial News to fill my Gazette, & tell you of Mrs. Ll. Williams [2] having actually lett the Mines at Penbedw for £500 a year & the House with them for £200. Furthermore there is now an advertisement in the Chester, offering to sell all the Timber on the unentailed Estates, for which they say she will get at least 7 or 8,000, & she has sold a property valued at £10,000 for £24,000, all which it is supposed to make a purse for Bergami. She is going to settle in Hampshire which I am heartily glad of, that one may not have the pain & disgrace of hearing any more of her, but it is a striking lesson of the vanity of 'Laying field to field' to think how Mr. Williams starved himself & all about him for the sake of extending & improving a property which will now be all cut to pieces.

"Of the Gros Cousin's [3] strange Object of ambition the general opinion is decidedly that he will not attain it, & I am sure no one who loves him can wish that he should, but he has unfortunately taken it into his head that it is to give him health, wealth, & all things most desireable, & He is not apt to give up his fancies when once they have laid hold of his Mind."

mar. 1791, Catherine, dau. of Sir Charles Cope. She died 1831. He died 1853, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Lord Strathavon (10th Marq. of Huntly); born 1792; mar. 1826, 1st, Lady Elizabeth Conyngham, who d.s.p. 1739. He mar. 2ndly, 1844, Maria Antoinetta, dau. of Rev. P. W. Pegas (and his wife Dow.-Countess of Lindsey). She died 1893. He died 1863.

[1] Hon. C. Jenkinson, 2nd s. of 1st E. of Liverpool (and brother to 2nd Earl, Prime Minister). He was born 1784; mar. 1810, Julie, dau. of Sir George Shuckburgh-Evelyn, suc. his brother as 3rd E. in 1851, and died without male issue 1851.

[2] Mrs. Lloyd Williams, widow of the 2nd s. of Richard Williams, of Penbedw. Mrs. Williams (the sister to Lady Cotton née Stapleton) was the widow of Watkin the eldest son. He d.s.p. 1808. Mrs. Williams died 1824 or 1825, aged 85, and was succeeded at Penbedw by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Lloyd Williams.

[3] The D. of Buckingham.

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"Brook Street, *December 20th*, 1825.

"I told you, I believe in my last, of Lady Bridgewater's [1] having changed her abode, but not of her meditating a further *change of Situation* which the gossip of the town reported her to be induced to do by our Cousin Lord Chatham.[1] I thought this was merely idle talk till I came to town & was told by your Uncle Tom that Lord Stafford [2] spoke of it as a thing which he thought very probable. If she likes it, I am sure there is nothing to be said against it, & as to him, He will certainly be better lodged than in his own single house, & I do not think he will ever find her in his way, but it still seems to me unlikely that she should bring her mind to such a bold step. I find my Vicinage here full of new inhabitants, among others Lady Gordon, whom you will be glad to find so near a neighbour. She is at present in Herefordshire & so are Lady Cornwall & daughters. Mrs. Lewis is still hanging about Town waiting on her Son who is however got so decidedly better as to be no longer to his sanguined minded Mother an Object of Anxiety, & I trust he will not become so again.

"Charles is still kept in Town & from the pressure of public business, particularly from the Storm which there has been in the last week in the Money Market, & now from this great political event of the death of Alexander,[3] I am urging him strongly to send for his family being persuaded that he has no chance of being able to get down to them."

The opening up of new markets in South America, and the general revival of commerce during the years 1823–5, had given an impetus to speculation, and had encouraged a vast amount of dishonest company pro-

[1] This "arrangement" did not take place. John, 2nd E. Chatham, born 1756; mar. 1783, Mary, 2nd daughter of 1st Visc. Sydney. She died 1821. He did not remarry.

[2] George Granville, afterwards 2nd D. of Sutherland; born 1796; mar. 1823, Harriet, dau. of 6th E. of Carlisle. He died 1861.

[3] The Emperor Alexander I of Russia; died 1825 (December 10th).

moting among financial agents, with the result that a monetary crisis of great magnitude was brought about during the December of this year, when seventy country banks suspended payment.

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *December 27th*, 1825.

"The failure of so great a number of Country Banks will, I fear be felt most severely among the little Farmers & small Shop-keepers, & the Check it will give both to Manufacturies & public Works must equally affect all the Working Class. Nothing could exceed the Gloom & dismay of the beginning of the last week, but now in London all seems again quiet & calm & many of the houses which had stopped are expected to open again. Thank God none of our own friends have been sufferers in the first instance, but many of course will feel the rebound of it among their Tenants, & in this description, I fear, our dear Vale Royal must be more or less included by the failure of the Nantwich Bank.

"There is a large party to be assembled at Ashridge for the Xmas Week, & of course Lord Chatham at the head of them. I believe I told you in my last that it is really thought likely that the match will take place, & I am sure I see not why it should not. Lord Chatham will get a very good hot supper, & she a remarkably good tempered Companion to do the honors of her table. Mr. Cholmondley says of his Bride, 'we shall probably pass a couple of years tolerably comfortable together, then she will have two more years of nursing me, & then she will have her jointure.' This last can not be Lady Bridgewater's speculation, but perhaps it may in some degree be his.

"I am sorry to hear that by some quirk of the Law it has been discovered that Lady Plymouth [1] has the power of cutting off the entail of the Dorset property and is now actually doing it, saying however that it is *most profitable* that '*we*' shall still leave it on to the

[1] Lady Mary Sackville, dau. of 3rd D. of Dorset; mar. 1811, 6th E. of Plymouth. He d.s.p. 1833. She mar. 2ndly, 1839, William, 1st E. Amherst, d.s.p. 1864.

De la Warr's, but that is a far different thing from an Entail, & I am quite sorry that it should be in question to take such property out of the Sackville line & blood.

"Nothing is yet finally settled respecting the Gros Cousin but I trust there is little probability of his obtaining the very unaccountable Object of his wishes, of the utter inexpediency of which in every possible point of view there seems to be but one opinion. Think only of the provoking luck of some people, Lord Clanrickarde [1] two days before the Lottery began drawing, sent orders to his Bankers to buy him ½ a Ticket & in three days after received a letter desiring his Lordship's directions where to pay in the sum of £1500, being his Lordship's half share!! Such a sum turned up to a poor Curate with 8 or 10 Children would have been the making of the family.

"Charlotte Boycott has just walked in chaperoned by Lord William Fitzroy,[2] I asked them in vain for news, they gave me only the renewal of the Contracts between Lord Strathaven [3] and Lady Elizabeth Conyngham, which has probably been facilitated by Royal interference, so I again repeat my hope that the poor man will not die, furthermore Lord Dunnally [4] marries one of the Maudes which you will probably have heard where you are from the Hawardens."

The Duke of Buckingham was, at this time, nursing grievances against the Government, which are fully dealt with in the ten volumes of voluminous correspondence (published 1855–62) entitled the *Memories of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos*, from MSS. at Stowe. From the perusal of these papers, one is fain to conclude that the Duke was an egotist of the first water, full of lofty sentiments, and living up to a high, though conventional and artificial standard of integrity.

[1] Ld. Clanricarde, 14th E. and 1st Marq.

[2] Ld. William Fitzroy, Admiral, 5th s. of 3rd D. of Grafton; born 1782.

[3] In a previous letter, not included in this collection, the serious illness of Ld. Strathaven is alluded to.

[4] Ld. Dunnalley, 2nd Baron; born 1775; mar. as his 2nd wife, Emily, dau. of 1st Visc. Hawarden. He d.s.p. 1854.

He failed to perceive his own limitations in statesmanship, and he could not recognise worth in men of lesser degree. The object on which his heart was set, was the Governor-Generalship of India, and he did not scruple to press Charles, a Cabinet Minister, and a cadet of his own house, to further his interests.

In consequence of the failure to attain his desires he visited his displeasure on Charles, with whom, up to this moment, he had been on terms of great intimacy. He also withdrew the light of his countenance from society in England, and in the summer of 1827 commenced a prolonged tour abroad. Three volumes of his *Private Diary*, obviously written for publication, and faithfully given to the public in 1862, contain all he wishes to be known of his princely "progress" from place to place.

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *January 5th*, 1826.

"You will learn from Charles that the Gros Cousin continues quite impracticable and gives out right and left that malgré the opposition of the two ruling powers, he is sure of attaining his object, & what an object it is when he has attained it!! I should really have thought it infradig to have been offered to him! In the meantime your dear Brother [1] grows quite yellow, and thin upon the worry of it, and heartily glad shall I be when it is brought to a decision, as I am sure that the irritation is hourly encreasing, while it remains in suspense."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *January 10th*, 1826.

"Lady Charlotte [2] is nearly recovered, and they are going Hawarden Way next week. They have at

[1] Rt. Hon. Charles Williams Wynn.

[2] Lady Charlotte Neville, dau. of 3rd E. of Dartmouth; mar. 1816, Hon. George Neville, 3rd s. of 2nd Ld. Braybrooke. Mr. George Neville inherited under the will of his kinsman, Lord Glastonbury, and assumed the additional surname of Grenville. He died 1854. He had four sons and five daughters. Lady Charlotte died 1877.

Brighton been seeing a great deal of the Cholmondeleys and are of course full of stories about them, indeed it seems to be quite his object that everybody should have something to retail of his saying or doing. He pressed Mary Glynne to come and dine with him having as he said 'everything new about him, a new house, new set of servants, new table, and new Wife!' The latter they say seems far the most *in love* of any who have borne the title, and never takes her eyes from the object of her affections, and has long announced her being, as those having such affection *are said* to wish to be. Just before they were married he was driving in his Gig and met Mrs. Vansittart or some such old Berkshire friend. After the "how dye's" had been hastily exchanged, he said he had a piece of news to tell her 'I am going to be married.' 'No, no,' said his friend 'that I am sure you are not,' of course he repeated the assertion with strong asservation, and she then anxiously asked 'to whom.' When turning to his companion he replied 'to this fair Creature,' and the Creature with all proper blushing and down cast eye owned the soft impeachment. Frankland Lewis soon after the report was in circulation called upon him in Cumberland Place and said he heard he was soon to wish him joy, 'Just come from the Altar' was the reply, 'and by the bye I was finishing this little job, this little business when you came in, the making my Will, before I step into my Chaise, so you may as well if you please sign and witness it for me.' In short it is all Coleur de Rose but they say Papa Sidney does not yet take to the joke of having a son 12 years younger than himself. Next to the young Cholmondeleys[1] the Belvoir affliction is still the wonder and talk of the day. The disconsolate Duke of York has been passing a fortnight with the disconsolate Widower, mingling (as your Sister Harriet says) their sighs and regrets over the Ecarté Table, and with their united tears making a Pool in the middle. I heard yesterday that the Royal amant had this summer brought from

[1] Rev. Horace George Cholmondeley, only son of "Old George" (by his first wife, Marcia, dau. of John Pitt of Luscomb); he was born 1796; mar. August 1825, Elizabeth, dau. of Godschale Johnson, Esq.

Rundall and Bridges a pair of brilliant earrings which had belonged to Josephine [1] and which were sent over here to be sold at the moderate price of £10,000 but which he was fortunate enough to get for 8,000 guineas. He carried them to Belvoir, where the Duchess used to wear them with a quite plain White Muslin Gown and Cap, lest it should not be sufficiently conspicuous that she was possessed of so *honourable* a badge, I wonder who will wear them next."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *January 17th*, 1826.

"Lord Braybrooke called upon me the day before yesterday, and sat with me nearly an hour talking all the time. He came on a flying visit to town for the purpose of letting his Burlington house for a twelvemonth. He intended to let it for 800 guineas, which he is told he may be sure of getting, and with which he means, for the next season entirely to new furnish and decorate it. In the meantime he says he shall have plenty of amusements and employment in watching the indoor improvements at Audley End, upon which he is going to begin immediately, and where he expects to make himself in the interior, as it is magnificent, in the exterior. This can only be done by the entire abandonment of the ground floor, which though I must consider as a great sacrifice in a country residence, was I believe in this instance an indispensible one. He told me among other things that Lord Sydney told *him, himself* that his 2 daughters had £40,000 a piece settled on them at the death of their Uncle Lord de Clifford. This sum, together with what may come from Lord Sydney (which he has never mentioned) Mr. Cholmondeley, magnanimously leaves to his Lady's sole disposal adding to it £1,000 a year Jointure and £200 Pin Money! He gave to his son £50,000 on his marriage, whether there is issue expected in that quarter I have not

[1] Empress Joséphine, wife of Napoleon I; born 1767; died 1814.

heard, but in the other it is I believe decidedly announced. They have been so liberal in supplying stories and gossip to the town, and have made themselves so much and almost so entirely the subjects of conversations that I am grown quite tired of hearing of them, yet was I so amused at the last which I have heard that I must pass it on. A Lady going in the Autumn into a Haberdashery Shop and asking for some Lace for trimming was shown some which she rejected as being coarse and vulgar, upon which the pert shopwoman insultingly replied that, 'It was plain that all folk were not of the same mind, for it was out of this very drawer, and one of these very Laces which Mr. Cholmondeley chose for the trimming of—His Wedding Night Cap!' and this was actually *vouched* to me. Au reste they have been exhibiting themselves all the Autumn at Brighton, Cupid and Psyche in their demonstrations of Love and perfect January and May in appearance.

"Lord Clare [1] wrote 8 days ago to Dropmore to announce his marriage with Elizabeth Burrell as he calls her. She will have a great fortune which will certainly be convenient, and what is better she is I believe a foncierement good, well principled, person which is the best security for well doing, but I can not help thinking that the entire uncontrouled indulgence in which she has passed some 4 or 5 and thirty years is a bad preparation for the little travers which must now and then occur in the best regulated marriages. The hitch which has kept it so long in suspense arose from the Lady's objection to the settling in Ireland which he, on the contrary, could not give up, having just built his house there, and given himself up with the greatest unthusiasm to the care of all his poor neighbours and dependants which one should have been very sorry if he had withdrawn from. Probably she was loth to get so far from her Mother whose health and habits render her very dependant upon her daughters. My Whitehall Gd. daughters announced to me the other day from their correspondant Lady Eleanor

[1] Ld. Clare, 2nd E.; born 1792; mar. April 1826, Hon. Elizabeth Burrell, 3rd dau. of 1st Ld. Gwydyr.

Campbell the intended marriage of the Duke of Buccleugh [1] (just 19) with a Miss Kilpatrick. His Guardians have of course resisted it as long as they thought it could be of any avail, and at last gave a reluctant consent at the interval of a twelve months probation of the youth's constancy. This I think is pretty sure to stand the test, as chivalrous Honour must now take the field in support of Love. Lady Elizabeth writes to them furthermore a repartee of her own which rather amused me, and so I give it you. When Mrs. Coutts was at Taymouth this Summer, and was as usual attacked about her Inamora to the Duke of St. Albans, she said, 'I promise you he shall never get at my *Cash*, the utmost I would ever think of doing for him would be to make him my Head Gardner at Holly Bush,' to which Lady Elizabeth observed that 'as Queen of Diamonds, she certainly could not do better than make him Knave of Spades!' which was I think very *cute*.

"Hester gives me a good deal of Russian Politics, and tells me that our Princess Royal of Wirtemburg is supposed to be making herself a very important personage from her influence with Con: [2] Her husband is often very brutal to her, but she is supposed to be much attached to him. Madame Lieven [3] has been in much delicate embarassment having at first taken the death of her Master very quietly, and dwelt only on the amiability of Con: [2] but now she has put on her Weeds for Alexander [4] and holds her tongue about his

[1] The 5th Duke. This marriage did not take place. He mar. 1829, Lady Charlotte Thynne.

[2] Con, the Grand Duke Constantine, next brother to Alexander I, and therefore, as he had died without children, his rightful successor. But Constantine had previously renounced his rights, in favour of his next brother the Grand Duke Nicholas, who ascended the Russian throne as Czar Nicholas I.

[3] Madame Lieven, Princess Dorothea de Benkendorff; born 1785; mar. at the age of 15, Count de Lieven. He was Russian Ambassador in London 1812. She was a woman of extraordinary cleverness, and was the friend and confidante of Kings and Ministers. Count Lieven died in Rome 1838, and she after that made her home in England and Paris. She died 1857.

[4] Emperor Alexander I of Russia, died December 1825.

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"Brook Street, *January* 31*st*, 1826.

"Heber's [1] resignation of his seat in Parliament has been the topic and wonder of the last week, nor does anyone guess at the motive of so strange a step. Had he retained it till the general Election he might then have given up without exciting any Surmises or Wonderment, but writing from Brussels simply to ask for the Chiltern Hundreds without assigning to anybody the smallest cause for it, and returning all the kindness and exertions of his Oxford friends by putting them to the trouble of an Election for 2 or 3 months has of course made them all very angry. Everybody thinks that it must arise from some pecuniary embarrassment with the firm of the great Booksellers' failures with which he was always supposed to be in some sort of partnership and some think it will end in his taking orders, and stepping into his own Living, but he is grown so strange and so altered that nobody can make out what he is about.

"You will be sorry to hear that Sir Walter Scott is a loser of £70,000 by the failure of Constable and Ballantyne, the former is giving in his *Assets* set down £10,000 as the expected profit to him from the novel coming out of *Woodstock*, exclusive of what he has given and agreed to give for it to Sir Walter. Lockhart and his wife are settled in London and have been of course handed over by Mrs. Hughes to Mary. *He* (Mr. L.) has engaged himself to the Quarterly Review and is to have £1,700 a year for it. Mary however doubts his being equal to the undertaking.

"There is a new Newspaper just set up by Murray at a most extraordinary expence. It is called 'the Representative' and appears with all the advantage of Paper, Type etc. that can be given to it, with 3 or 4 Reporters at 6 or £700 each besides travellers to all the Foreign Courts. Hitherto it has certainly made no effect, but they say that when Parliament begins it

[1] Richard Heber, M.P., s. of Rev. Reginald Heber, of Hodnet. An accomplished scholar; brother to the hymnologist Bp. of Calcutta. He died unmar. 1833.

is to be most interesting. It is supposed to belong wholly to Canning.

"I have got your Landor, but I cannot say that I admire the conversations in general, though there is in many, a good deal of wit, but the spirit which pervades every part of the book is to me more than unpleasant.

"Of marriages I have heard of very few, one however is striking. It is however as yet only report, that our old acquaintance Clanronald [1] is going to marry Lady Ashburton whose ancient Lord has been so good as to dye and leave her £14,000 a year at her own disposal. It would be a fine thing for the Clanronald who they say has hardly a sixpence left. Then Lord Southampton [2] is to take to himself Miss Stanhope, the daughter of Colonel Stanhope, a Girl older I should think than himself, but very highly spoken of, and Lord Clancarty's son is talked of for Lady S. Beresford.[3] Lord Southampton has had so strange an education and is so perfectly raw to the world that his taking a helpmate a little more experienced than himself should seem all the better.

"Mary and her 2 daughters are as usual up to their ears in London. Ch. and I heard of them last Saturday in one of the large Boxes at the Opera with 7 or 8 beaux in attendance the whole night. Young Mary is certainly much improved, and is *very* much followed and admired, I heartily wish some good may come of it, but as yet, I believe, 'nobody has offered nothing.'"

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *February 3rd.*

"Mary [4] is just come up from Brighton where she has been living entirely with the Cholmondleys who

[1] Reginald George Macdonald, 25th Chief of Clanranald; born 1788; mar. 1st, 1817, Catherine, dau. of E. of Mount-Edgcumbe. She died 1824. He mar. 2ndly, Anne, dau. of W. Cunningham, Esq., and widow of Ld. Ashburton. She died 1835, and he mar. 3rdly, Eliz. Newman.

[2] Charles, 3rd Baron Southampton; born 1804; mar. 1st, 1826, Harriet, only dau. of Hon. Henry FitzRoy Stanhope. She died 1860. He mar. 2ndly in 1862, Ismay, dau. of Walter Nugent. He died 1872.

[3] Lady Sarah Beresford mar. 1828, John, 18th E. of Shrewsbury.

[4] Mrs. Charles Williams Wynn.

are billing and cooing all day long and taking the utmost care of the expected progeny, which was announced so early to Silly Billy [1] that even he said, 'Had you not better be quite sure before you talk of it.' H.R.H. is now regularly engaged as Sponsor, and great is the delicate embarrassment about name which Mrs. Cholmondley thinks ought to be William on account of its having been that of his Eldest Son. Charles, of course, writes you all political news which in truth is not a subject on which at present I have any satisfaction in dwelling.

"Mr. Heber's most extraordinary Compliment to his friends and Constituents has occupied every body last week. Lord Stowell [2] says 'Heber's friends have found that he never brought any thing out of his own mouth when in the House of Commons nor put anything into theirs when out of it.' Many think he will take Orders and slip himself into his own Living. It is certain that he has had very expensive speculations with the booksellers, and in the account of Thorpe who is become bankrupt it appears that he has received £500 pr. ann. from Heber as 10 p.c. Commission money on the Book which he bought for him.

"The Duke of Buckingham in his distress for money has just been giving £1200 for an illustrated Penant's London, and £2000 to Molten's alone for prints for his Walpole's Reminiscences."

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"Brook Street, *February 10th*, 1826.

"The only bit of Gossip which I have picked up since I wrote last is of Lord Sydney's being about to marry

[1] William, D. of Clarence, afterwards King William IV.

[2] Stowell, Ld. William Scott, brother of 1st Ld. Eldon; born 1745. A friend of Dr. Johnson. A barrister; entered Parliament 1784. Actively opposed to concessions to the Roman Catholics. In 1820 he proposed Manners-Sutton as Speaker, which was his last prominent appearance in the House. In 1821 he was created Baron Stowell. He mar. 1st, 1781, Anne Marie, dau. of John Bagnall, and 2ndly, in 1813, Louisa, dau. of Adm. Ld. Howe, and widow of John, 1st Marq. of Sligo. His daughter, Mary Anne, mar., as her second husband, Ld. Sidmouth in 1823. Ld. Stowell died 1836.

his remaining daughter in a manner probably quite as little satisfactory to him as her Sister's was, the object of this Lady's choice being a Revd. Mr. Dawson, not related to any of the *respectables* of that name, and distinguished only by having lately got the living of Chislehurst in Kent, in virtue of which he has been seen at Mrs. Weddel's table together with her roast beef and plumb pudding.

" Dailleurs he is a *grave homme* 6 feet high, and looking like a decent *harmless farmer*, this is the report of those who have met him, and as such leaves one only to repeat what we have all said of Mrs. Cholmondeley, qu'on ne peut pas disputer des Gouttes. Lord Sydney in offering the other day to come to Lord Montague, told him he need have no fear for his daughters as he was not yet near old enough to make love to them. Lord Clare's marriage is suspended for 2 months, which I should think by no means safe with a young lady so entirely dependant on her own will and fancy, furthermore it is stipulated that they are to live on with Mdme at Whitehall which *I* can not criticise as I feel how entirely poor Lady Willoughby [1] must exist upon that one Source of comfort and support. The Town is still talking of nothing but Sir Walter Scott's ruin, which is far greater than was even at first stated, and would have included Abbot's Ford with his Library etc. had he not fortunately entailed it quite lately on his son in order to facilitate his marriage with a little Scotch heiress. I believe I told you that Constable, in the list of his Assets brings forward £10,000 as his profit on the coming out Novel of Woodstock exclusive of what he had already paid Sir Walter for it. Lockhart has likewise lost whatever he had in the general smash, but the interest which it has excited is quite incredible. From one Gentleman alone Sir Walter had the offer of £30,000 and from many others, smaller sums, but he has refused them all, and trusts to his head alone for supplies to the rest of the frame.

" The Gros Cousin is at Stowe, very much I fear in

[1] Wife of 1st Ld. Gwydyr, Baroness Willoughby d'Eresby in her own right, dau. and h. of 3rd D. of Ancaster. Ld. Gwydyr died 1820. She died 1828.

the dumps, and very indignant with *us* all, but I hope the ferment may gradually subside. At all events, you, I am sure need not be warned that 'least said is soonest mended.'"

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *February 17th*, 1826.

"The melancholy state of all Money Concerns and the daily instance of private distress arising out of them produces much general Gloom, and must I should think, check in some measure the usual turmoil of London Gaiety. One good result was expected to arise out of it in its diminishing the number of contested Elections, but yet there appear to be a good many already announced.

"You may recall much of your compassion, if you have felt any, for Sir Walter Scott, whose affairs are to be all quite brought round again in 5 years. They say he is to have £20,000 for his life of Napoleon, half of which sum would I should think go a good way in housekeeping at Abbotsford.

"The Duke of Buckingham is still fermenting his *Ennuis* at Stowe saying, he can not come to Town on account of his coolness with Charles, that he is vegetating his life away like a cabbage, feeling that there is not a creature in the World who loves Him, or cares what becomes of him. A more wretched feeling than this there certainly can not be; but naturally it need not have been his, and one is only sorry that such he should have made it.

"Lady Cornwall [1] is just come to Town, and with her Lord and Lady Hereford whom she is lodging, and their little Boy.[1] The Grand Mademoiselle and her Governess are with Lady Gordon who is my vis à vis next door to Lady Haselridge. They are all most prosperous and happy and Lady Cornwall herself growing handsomer and handsomer."

[1] Lady Cornwall, wife of 3rd Bart., dau. of William Napier; mar. 1815. Her daughter Catherine was the Heiress of Moccas until 1824, when "the little boy," afterwards Sir Velters Cornwall, was born.

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *February 21st.*

"I heard last night of a marriage which was said to be announced between Lord Dartmouth[1] and Miss Inge (Lady Elizabeth's daughter) which is all in his own neighbourhood and set, and therefore I should think very likely, but I should hardly supposed quite declared, as we have not heard it thro' the Nevilles.

"Mary Glynne sent us word that she had just heard of, what she called a 'ring-fence Match,' between Lord Porchester[2] and his cousin Miss Morton,[3] but that, if it be en train, must for the present moment be suspended by the death of their poor Grandmother, Lady Carnarvon.[4]

"The departure of Contemporaries and Companions is a Tocsin which of course must occur more frequently the longer one's own life is spared. It must, to the most unthinking, be an awful Sound, and ought to be a profitable one!"

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *March 17th*, 1826.

"I have never heard one word of the Gros Cousin's going to Paris, and I should think it at this moment highly improbable. It is a proof of the truth of the old Proverb respecting the effects of an *Ill wind* that his present estrangement from Charles appears to have thrown his brother and him much more together, and so far at least it is good. Nugent is just come down from Stowe, and says he does not know when he has

[1] Ld. Dartmouth, 4th E.; born 1784; mar. 1st, 1821, Frances, dau. of 2nd E. Talbot. She died 1823. He mar. 2ndly, 1828, Frances, dau. of 5th Visc. Barrington. She died 1849. He died 1853.

[2] Ld. Porchester, afterwards 3rd E. of Carnarvon; born 1800; mar. 1830, Henrietta, eld. dau. of Ld. Henry Howard.

[3] Charlotte Moreton, 3rd dau. of 4th Baron, afterwards 1st E. of Ducie (her two sisters had been married, Mary in 1822 to 7th E. of Denbigh, and Julia in 1824 to James Langston, M.P.). She mar. 1834, 1st Ld. Fitz-Hardinge and died 1881.

[4] Elizabeth, Lady Carnarvon, dau. of Charles, 1st E. of Egremont; mar. 1771, 1st E. of Carnarvon. She died February 10th, 1826.

seen his Brother so well for so long a time together as he has been this Winter.

"The *bulletin*[1] in the Newspaper will have shown you that the public world has been this week in a very considerable State of anxiety, and though yesterday's report speaks of amendment, I fear we are by no means out of the Wood. Sir Henry has never stirred from his post since Monday and yesterday the brother was sent for. Local Inflammation is supposed to be the immediate evil, and calls for remedies such as bleeding etc. which are of course decidedly adverse to the general Gouty disposition. The Horror of the General Election[2] is already beginning to gather, and the bare apprehension of such an event as has seemed to threaten us, of course increases it ten fold. Who are to make up our Cousin's Parliamentary Squad is not known, but Philly[3] is decidedly excluded, which will be a most serious misfortune to him. Lord Hertford is to enter the field with a train of *ten*, and Lords Grosvenor and Darlington will muster nearly as strong.

"In return for the account of your pretty subject for a picture, I must give you the report of one painting at Belvoir for the Ceiling of the Great Saloon, which is to be all mythological, and for which the Duke of York has actually been sitting for his portrait as Mars, the Duke of Rutland as Jupiter, and the Duchess as Venus, of course I suppose the Amis and Amies of the family are to appear as inferior Divinities. Who they will find for Dian (unless it be one of the infants, I know not). Trench must I fear resign Cupid, and content himself with personating Vulcan as an Artificer. I rather believe that the Ceiling was doing when the Duchess died, and that the idea of introducing the Portraits has been suggested by the new administration. I can hardly think *she* would have left such a record of folly and Vanity. The new residence building for the Duke of York from her plan, is most magnificent, it is a solid square with 4 sides of 11 large windows in each.

[1] Illness of the D. of York.

[2] Parliament was dissolved on June 2nd.

[3] Joseph Phillimore, M.P., of Shiplake House; born 1775; died 1855. Reg. Prof. Civil Law, Chancellor of the Dioceses of Oxford, Worcester and Bristol.

"Did I tell you in my last that your Uncle Tom is exerting all his energies and those of his friends to try to get the refusal of Mrs. Wheeler's house, which is likely to come to the hammer in consequence of her death and her daughter's inability to stir from Brighton. I can not tell you how very anxious we all are that he should get it inasmuch as it seems quite made on purpose for him giving him 4 good rooms on one floor for all his books, looking full south and west, and therefore catching every gleam of sun. It is in short so perfect that I dare not look to his being fortunate enough to get it, though I think he is determined that a very extravagant price shall not prevent it, and in this we all clap him on the back it being obvious that it is the only one shape in which he can derive personal advantage from his accession of wealth.

"All the fine Ladies here have tucked up their petticoats again to mi-jambre, and I believe they are still on the ascent, so true it is, that alternately, by some times at one end, and some times at the other, Eve's petticoat is nearly all which remains unliable to curtailment."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Charles W. W. W.

"V. R., *November 26th.*

"I begin my dearest to grow very impatient to know how your own concerns are shaping in the midst of all the Storms past, present & I fear too probably to come. I find our Gros Cousin has *positively & decidedly* carried his point & that solely by that Canvass which you considered as so prejudicial to his views. He must be more than ever persuaded of the duplicity & unfairness with which he has been treated by those with whom he has had to deal, & that duplicity has, I have no doubt been in no small degree exercised towards you. That the Seat which you hold in the Cabinet has always been particularly irksome to one of those who most constantly sit by you, has always been known, & that *He* has had few things more at heart than to get you out of it by any means. Of the present negotiations

the most material part passed unfortunately between him & you, & by adroitly slipping his head out of the Collar, He flatters himself that He has thrown so much of the unpleasant part of it upon you, as may induce you from a Spirit of Quixotism to make a Sacrifice, which would be no less gratifying to Mr. Canning & Co than it would be personally injurious to you & to your family. Of your doing this they entertain so little doubt that *I know the Successor is actually named by them.* Upon what ground you might rest such feelings as would make you think it necessary for you to take such a Step, I am too much in the dark to form an opinion, but sure I am that it is one of too much importance to you & your family to be taken without the maturist & coolest deliberation. To the Duke it could only supply a fresh proof how adverse you must have felt to his appointment that you should have made such a Sacrifice rather than continue in a situation of constant Communication with him. This consideration is ever an additional reason why I should deplore your throwing it up, being persuaded that it would immediately lead to a renewal of those habits of intercourse which have for so many, many years subsisted between you & which have been founded on very sincere mutual affection on both sides. We all know that whatever Errors he may have of Head he has none of heart & that he is warmly attached to you as one brother can be to another, I feel quite persuaded. At all events therefore, I hope you have not dropped the habit of writing to him, as I am sure you would by so doing hold out to him the Appearance of a degree of Alienation far beyond what he feels towards you, or you towards him. The triumph of Canning when he thinks he has not only got you out of his way, but likewise produced a Coldness between you, & your greatest Political Supporter is such as I can not bear to think of. C. will undoubtedly take advantage of this to *strike at your place*, & in truth I know not what should in policy prevent his doing it, for your *individual* Support very certainly tells for nothing, & that you should have lost what did give you weight, for what individually could be of so little consequence to you,

as the question whether A. or B. should be Governor General of India quite cuts me to the heart."

From the Rt. Hon. Charles W. W. W. to Lady W. W.

[*Undated.*]

"I wrote to you a few hurried lines to-day before the post went out my dearest mother & fear that I have not sufficiently explained myself to you respecting the strange assertions which have reached you.

"So far is the Gros Cousin from having carried his point that Lord Liverpool in consequence of the Duke's canvas being mentioned by the *Chairs* (?) as matter of complaint, assured them first verbally & then in a written minute that if a vacancy in the Office of Governor General occurred before the termination of hostilities he should not recommend the Duke to them & that he had already stated this to his Grace ! ! On this subject there has been no *duplicity*. Both the D. & Ld. Ch[r] [1] have made assertions of having promises, which so far as they have thought fit to produce proofs to me, are wholly unsupported. I believe these to be equally so—I believe that they have in some respects been imposed upon but in others I cannot allow them this credit. With respect to resignation I have not the slightest intention of it. I certainly have not been treated by the Duke in a manner which either gives me the example of sacrificing myself to promote his interests, or affords me a reason for doing so. I have done what I could honestly to assist his object though I believe it to be prejudicial to him & only pressed forward by the personal ambition & violent party feeling of his Son, I have urged his pretensions & the assurances of support which he alleges himself to have received. I do feel, however that Lord Liverpool & the D. of Wellington have the full right if they think that another person is more fit for that Office to urge the claims of that person. I cannot tell what he means by the Chairs being *unanimous*, if it is that they are to support him, I can only say that they hold a very different language, & that what I imagine is that he

[1] Ld. Chandos.

construes civil words, of which they will give him plenty, into promises."

The chief topics before the country, at the General Election in June 1826, were the Corn Laws, and again the question of Catholic Emancipation. Ireland was in anything but a tranquil condition; no confidence existed between any party on either side of St. George's Channel.

The new Parliament met on November 14th and adjourned on December 13th.

From the Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"CLEVELAND SQUARE, *November 9th*, 1826.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—London is very barren of news tho' tolerably full of Members of Parliament escaped from their Wives and families to come and take their seats in a House in which they will have nothing to do until the second week in February, when Catholic, Corn, Commerce, and Currency, will amply repay them for the inactivity of their November Session.

"There is no disturbance in Ireland, but common report describes a higher state of exasperation in all ranks of Society there, and a considerable alarm among them, of the Orange faction, in consequence of the prevalence of the Catholics in the last general Election there, and associations which are made against holding any trading, or dealing transactions with Protestants there. Things seem fast coming to a pass there as must probably at last produce a less bigotted view of the subject on this side the water.

"Upon the matter of Corn, I should have expected a lively, but certainly, an unsuccessful war waged by the Country Gentlemen, but as I see that Mr. Canning in giving his notice, expresses a hope that his intended measure would be found to 'conciliate all interests,' I am afraid that the essence of the question will be all but lost in the desire of general accommodation for tho' I do not believe that a reduced price of Corn would

materially affect the landed interests, as they are influenced only by that apprehension, they will not be conciliated except the inefficiency of the proposed measure relieves them from their Pounds, Shellings, and Pence, alarms.

"The King has held a Sitting Levée with so much success that I think it will tempt him to receive his subjects, male and female more frequently than his legs have latterly allowed him to do while he depended upon them only.

"The Duke of York has very much recovered from his Dropsy, which at times was full of alarming danger, and by what I hear I should think would have a chance of getting well, but I believe the legs which were sacrificed to let out the water have never yet been healed, and till they are sound again he cannot be safe. He still occasionally suffers great pain from them.

"Perhaps you know that 'Rudbeckii Atlantica'[1] even in 3 Vols, is very rare, the fourth Vol. (which I have in M.S.S.) was half printed at Upsal, and for the most part destroyed by a great fire there in 1702. It is supposed that of this half-printed 4th Vol, three or four copies were preserved, but I have never been able to ascertain whether any do really exist, perhaps in the Royal Library at Stockholm or Copenhagen, or perhaps some of your Literati could ascertain this which I should like to learn if you could get the information.

"Kindest love to you & yours, my dear Henry.

"Evere most affectionate yours,

"THOMAS GRENVILLE."

Henry Williams Wynn, from very early days, had himself been something of a book-collector, and it appears that whenever an opportunity offered for securing some rare book, during his long sojourn on the Continent, for his Uncle Tom, he never failed to do so, and was thus one of those who assisted Mr. Grenville to collect that great library which is now one of England's treasures.

[1] *Olavi Rudbeckii Atlantica.* Upsalae, excudit Henricus Curio, *s.a.* 1675, 1679 (1696), 1689, vol. iv. MS. A work of great rarity. *Bibliotheca Grenvilliana*, vol. ii. p. 623.



Zoffany

THE RT. HON. THOMAS GRENVILLE

From the Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"CLEVELAND SQUARE, *January 11th*, 1827.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I am afraid you will be sadly tired of me and my Rudbeckius and of the question whether there exists any printed part of the 4th Vol. but since I wrote last I have obtained the knowledge of the particular authority on which the assertion of *part* of a 4th *printed* Vol. stands. Dryander who was a man of science and Librarian to Sir Joseph Banks (and was himself a Dane or a Swede) always asserted that in the University Library at Upsala, he had several times seen a printed fragment of a 4th Vol. of about 150 pages. Dryander also said that in the Academy of Science at Stockholm, there was part of a printed 4th Vol. as may be seen in Rounadler's Catalogue of his books given to the Academy at p. 4. No. 48–52. Dryander was also told of one Copy in the possession of Aurivilliers at Upsala, and one that had been sold from the Library of the late Dr. Hawswolff, Rector of St. Clara, in Stockholm. The last three Copies had not been seen by Dryander, but the copy in the University Library of Upsala he always maintained that he had often seen. Now if at your leisure you could obtain any special information about these alledged 4 Copies, which are probably the 4 alluded to in Brunet, you will do a special service to us Book-worms: if the Copies exist and are accessible, it would be desirable to know what number of pages exist in each Copy. Of course my dearest Henry you will not let me give you any real trouble on so trifling a matter, but when no other business is stirring if opportunity arises, perhaps you will not forget it. By Ferdinand's reinstating his Ambassador at Lisbon, it is supposed that all hostile appearances will subside, and peace in no way be disturbed. Watkin comes up on the 12th Feb. (an early period for him) to hear Canning's Corn-motion, of which motion Canning announces that it would please all parties, but I have generally observed that measures of so filmy a description usually please no party.

"Love to Hester & Co.

"Ever most affectionately yours,

"T. G."

CHAPTER XVII

1827—1832

THE new House of Commons was still led by the same Cabinet, a Cabinet divided in itself on every important question of the day. Liverpool, the Premier, opposed the Catholic Emancipation Bill; Eldon, the Chancellor, followed Liverpool; Canning, the Leader of the Commons, and Palmerston, the Minister for War, were strong in its support. On other questions such as the Slave Traffic in the Colonies, and the Corn Laws, there was an equal divergence of opinion. Compromise and expediency had for years been the best which this long administration, held together by the personality of the Prime Minister, had accomplished. Suddenly and dramatically the old order closed. Lord Liverpool was seized with a paralytic stroke on February 17th, 1827, and although his death did not supervene for some months, the office of First Minister to the Crown, after nearly fifteen years, became vacant.

Canning, by sheer weight of character, was pre-eminently the one man to take the lead in the government of the country, but he was unpopular in the House, and the task entrusted to him by the King, to succeed Lord Liverpool, was beset by great difficulties. Many resignations took place in the Cabinet, but Charles remained for the present at the Board of Control. Palmerston stayed at the War Office, but the Duke of Wellington, the Commander-in-Chief,

withdrew his support, on the Catholic question. Canning's death in August brought the new Ministry to an abrupt end. The only party now with any semblance of unity, in Parliament, was the ultra-Tory, led by the Duke of Wellington and Robert Peel. Charles Williams Wynn, embittered by constant friction with Canning, though on the Catholic question in agreement with him, now found himself even less in accord with the rising powers, and when the Duke of Wellington became Prime Minister he vacated the Board of Control.

Social events are few—the King's failing health and the Duke of York's death are the subjects of greatest interest.

Of family matters there is little to say; the Duke of Buckingham's prolonged sojourn abroad is commented upon by Lady Williams Wynn with some disfavour.

On June 26th, 1830, King George IV died, and with the accession of the new King the Duke of Buckingham's "ennui" ceased, and he was offered and accepted the post of Steward to the Household.

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"Brook Street, *January 23rd.*

"The Newspapers will give you full details of all the Pagentry attending the lying in State,[1] and the Funeral which had for some time certainly engrossed the Royal Relative so entirely that Mr. Wash, the Undertaker, shewed about the Programme interlined in twenty places by H.M.'s own hand. It is the fashion to say that the Duke died very rich, and that the debts altogether will not exceed £130,000, which certainly, as compared with what we have heard them estimated at, sounds quite trifling.

"They say a heavy part of this is due to his Playmates the Duke of Rutland, Lords Darlington, and

[1] Of the D. of York, who died on January 5th.

Hertford,[1] with none of whom has he settled his Books for the last fourteen years, but whenever he won, he regularly held forth his hand for payment. His income was very large and the immense building in the Park, was certainly paid for by weekly drafts on the Bank."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *February 15th.*

"Never was there anything equal to the fatal consequences which are still occuring from the Funeral of the Duke of York. It quite reminds one of the accounts of the savage Nations, where Ministers, Officers, Wives and Servants, horses and Dogs, are all shovelled into the same grave as their Royal Master. They say the common Soldiers have died to the number of half a dozen a day. Canning has certainly been, I fancy, in much danger, and tho' recovering now, it is so slowly that his Corn Bill Motion is, as you see, again put off to the 26th. He had, however, a double dose of damp, having, after he quitted the killing pavement, been put into a best Bed at the house of some toadee at Windsor, which had, I suppose, never been used since the last Gala, whenever that may have been.

"The Duke of Buckingham has not yet arrived, I shall be very curious to see what line he will take with the Parenté, when he does come. His Sister[2] is in Paris very much fetéed by the Court, and of course happier than the happiest. She is joining her Brother in the Autumn."

Lord Bloomfield's letter and those of Mr. Grenville find their place in this correspondence in their chronological sequence, although their main subject is that of books, but the incidental remarks on the current political topics link them on to the letters they precede and follow.

[1] Francis, 3rd Marq. of Hertford.
[2] Lady Arundel.

From Lord Bloomfield[1] *to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.*

"STOCKHOLM, *March 13th*, 1827.

"MY DEAR WYNN,—Since your letter of the 4th inst. you will have received in a further communication the result of my enquiries at Upsala, and which I think will be found tolerably authentic.

"Respecting the Copy stated to be in the Copenhagen Royal Library, I refer you to the 'Catalogue Bibliotheca & Thothenoe.' Vol. 5. page 49.

"In the Library there appears to have been one of the Copies saved from the fire and it is stated that in the disposition of the Library by the Will of the Proprietor, a certain portion went to the Crown of Denmark in which it is conjectured was included the fragment in question. If this conjecture be erroneous & that the Volume was sold, you can have no difficulty in tracing its destination.

"As we are on the subject of Books, I discovered in the Edition which is possessed by the King, of the Works of John, Duke of Buckingham, two MSS. the 1st, of 32 pages giving an account of our Revolution and left unfinished, the 2nd of 11 Pages, entitled 'A feast of the Gods.' It has occured to me that these originals might be of some interest to the present Duke, and that his Grace might be desirious of having Copies made of them, in which case pray offer my humble services with the expression of my grateful recollection of the many kindnesses I have received at his Grace's hands.

"The Work is in 2 Vols. Quarto, entitled "The Works of John Sheffield, Earl Mulgrave, Marquis of Normanby and Duke of Buckingham,' and was printed in 1723 by John Barber, London.

"What a blow our Country has received in the Seizure of Lord Liverpool! According to my notion it is the severest that could have befallen us. My letters all hint at the probability of the Landsdown[2] party coming

[1] Ld. Bloomfield, 1st Baron; born 1762; mar. 1797, Harriet, dau. of John Daylas. He was Ch. Equerry to Prince Regent; Min. Plen. to Sweden 1824, when he was raised to an Irish Barony. He died 1846.

[2] Ld. Lansdowne, 3rd Marq.; born 1780; mar. 1808, Lady Louisa, dau. of 2nd E. of Ilchester. He was a member of Mr. Canning's Cabinet, without a portfolio, and subsequently became Home Sec. and Lord President of the Council. He died 1861.

in. Mr. Canning's health is quite re-established. His Medical Advisor states 'his constitution to be, next to that of the King, the most powerful I have met with.'

"Believe me, Ever yours,

"BLOOMFIELD."

From the Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"CLEVELAND SQUARE, *March 20th*, 1827.

"MY DEAREST HENRY,—It does not surprise me, tho' it much gratifies me, to receive so satisfactory an answer to my bibliographical enquiries, because you always was a most active and intelligent Commissioner, neither does it surprise me to find that your Torquelin was so much mistaken, because I now know Dryander, to be a most accurate & careful Bibliographer.

"It is very kind of Lord Bloomfield to give himself so much trouble upon this subject, and tho' the obligation is to you, perhaps you will think it right to express to him how sensible I also am to his kindness in this matter and most particularly for the hopes that he holds out of being able to procure me that fragment. I would therefore, with my usual prodigality not hesitate at any price within £100 for a Copy which should furnish all that is known to be printed: I say a Copy of the Book because I suppose there is little chance of obtaining the 4th Vol. separately, which of course I should prefer, as my Copy is a very magnificent one in Mr. Lewis's choicest Morocco: but it is barely possible that Lord Bloomfield's friend might scruple to part with the whole set, & yet might be tempted to take £50 to exchange his printed 4th Vol. for my MSS. 4th Vol. if this were found practicable it would suit me best, but if the whole Copy is required to be taken, I should not object to any price not exceeding £100, provided it be first well ascertained that the printed fragment contains all that is to be found in any Copy yet seen.

"If I am not fortunate enough to procure by any means the original printed fragment, then I should wish to have any deficiency in my MSS. supplied, supposing that it is defective, and for ascertaining this

I enclose herewith the best description that I can furnish of my MSS. Copy. I should hesitate to tax, even your kindness with such a troublesome commission, if I did not flatter myself that the peaceable state of the North of Europe offered you sufficient leisure even for such absolute trifles as them.

"We are still without a Premier, and tho' conversation varies from day to day enough to show that nothing is finally settled, yet to speak as a Jockey, one may say that with all these variations, still Canning appears to be upon the whole the favourite horse, and the odds continue to be, that he will be found at the head of the old Government. There is at the same time a notion, how true I know not, that the King will not formally announce his intentions before Easter. Lord Liverpool continues to improve enough in health to have no apprehension for his life, & the hopes of his having a comfortable existence would be stronger if he were not still so difficient in point of utterance.

"Kind love to Hester & all your young Brood."

The Same

"CLEVELAND SQUARE, *July* 3*rd*, 1827.

"It was very kind in you to interest Lord Bloomfield about my Library and it was very kind in him to take cognizances in such a petty concern; I had an opportunity of thanking him, of visiting him, and of inviting him to dinner, and tho' my last two civilities were not realized, they made, I hope, a proper acknowledgement of his courtesy and attention.

"The Parliament was yesterday prorogued by Commission, and Members will now have time to look a little around them, and take their measures for a more vigorous and efficient result than was exhibited in the first moments of their appointment. I regret that the Corn Bill is still left in an undecided shape, because as long as that remains so, the Government incurs a great disadvantage by a larger appearance of Hostilities to them, than really exists; because it seems evident that many vote against them on that particular measure, who

would not oppose them on any other, but I have always observed that as long as there is any single point on which a large Opposition can be found to unite there is always danger that some other topick may be scored to produce the same result, and there are one or two very active heads at work, to supply fuel to feed this incipient flame."

"The general opinion is that the King continues to feel and to express the same indignation which he at first expressed, at the desertion of those on whose attachment he had counted.

"He has accepted the resignation of Lord Errol [1] and Lord Delaware,[2] and I believe the Duke of Argyle succeeds to the Duke of Gordon's Office in Scotland, and the Gr. Ribbon is supposed to be destined to Lord Rosebury." [3]

From the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"ON BOARD MY YACHT OFF RYDE, *August 4th*, 1827.

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I am now embarked on a Cruize in the Mediterranean and wherever my fate may lead me. I count on two years absence, unless politics recall me which I should think unlikely, as I have no idea that the Government can stand. I cannot join Peel, I will not act with Canning. I distrust the Whigs, I think exceedingly ill of the whole Government. I have therefore thrown myself into the King's hands & given him my proxy,—and am either for or against the Ministers as he chooses,—reserving certain points." [4]

[1] William, 18th E. of Errol; born 1801; mar. 1820, Elizabeth FitzClarence, nat. dau. of King William IV; was made a Peer of U.K. 1831. He died 1846.

[2] George, 5th E. Delawarr; born 1791; mar. 1813, Lady Elizabeth, dau. and co-h. of John, 3rd D. of Dorset. She died 1870. He died 1869.

[3] Archibald, 4th E. of Rosebery; born 1783; mar. 1st, 1808, Harriet, 2nd dau. of Hon. Bartholomew Bouverie. He mar. 2ndly, 1819, Anne, dau. of 1st Visc. Anson. He was made Baron of U.K. 1828. He died 1868.

[4] In the *Private Diary of the Duke of Buckingham* already referred to, a detailed account of this interview is recorded by his Grace.

From Lady W. W. to Fanny W. W.

"HAWARDEN CASTLE, *September 5th*, 1827.

"My Brother [1] & I arrived here yesterday. Mary [2] is comme toujours the picture of health & happiness, & so are her young ones. Her daughters in very good looks & much grown. Catty [3] ½ an inch taller than her Mother, a long strait thread paper figure, without a pretension to womanhood, which in this very precocious days when Girls adopt the dress & manners of the drawing-room the moment they quit the Nursery, has to my eye the Merit both of Nature & Novelty. The new Governess appeared at Prayers this morning & in looks does not seem senior by more than a couple of years to her Pupils. Stephen is still evidently very shy, but works hard to make play with your Uncle. As to Henry he has never opened his mouth excepting to read the Psalms this morning, which of course he is doing for practice. To-morrow, we leave them all to string their Bows & brush up their Jackets for a Bow-meeting the next day at the Rectory. Mary said she had written to ask Conway,[4] but of course he is, I suppose, not come-at-able. Hugh will arrive to-morrow passing us on the Road. We have had a very snug comfortable ten days visit to Wynnstay which we have enjoyed much. There has been no Lady excepting Mrs. Sullivan for the first two or three days but a succession of *good* Males such as Lord Talbot [5] & his Son,[5] Mr. Peploe, Lord C. Manners,[6] etc. Mr. Peploe had left his wife at Leamington where she had been very unwell, but she hopes to find the benefit of the waters more after she leaves the place than at the time. D'ailleurs the house of Cornwall seems to me to be

[1] Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville.

[2] Mary, Lady Glynne.

[3] Catherine Glynne, eld. dau. of Sir Stephen Glynne, 8th Bart. (and Mary his wife, dau. of 2nd Baron Braybrooke); she mar. 1839, Rt. Hon. William Ewart Gladstone.

[4] Conwy Shipley, s. of Col. William Shipley (and his wife Charlotte Williams Wynn); born 1807; d.s.p. 1869.

[5] Ld. Talbot, 2nd Earl; born 1777; mar. 1800, Frances, dau. of Charles Lambart. She died 1819. He died 1849. His eldest s., Visc. Ingestre, born 1802, was killed accidentally in Vienna, 1826.

[6] Ld. C. Manners, 2nd s. of 4th D. of Rutland; born 1780; a General in the Army; died unmar. 1855. A great personal friend of Sir Watkin.

the only people who have profited in the late storms, & may all join in confirming it 'to be an ill wind which blows nobody good.' Lady Hereford [1] has, you know the Band of Gentlewomen Pensioners (between 1200 & 1000 pr. an.). Lewis [2] is Under Secretary of State, between 3 & 4,000 pr. an. & young Gordon [3] is to be taken as Clerk into Lord Goodrich's [4] Office which last appointment appears to me to be in its way quite as valuable as either of the others. Lady Gordon [5] was, when last heard of, at Brussels, having sent her 2 Schoolboy Sons with young Devereux [5] as their Tutor to make the Tour of Switzerland, falls of the Rhine, etc.; said Tutor having, I fancy, been sent abroad from having a little broken bound at home. To be sure She has good nerves, & even if it should happen not to do very well, She will have saved any expenditure of anxiety from the anticipation. The day before I left Wynnstay, Lady Harriett & I drove over to Llangollen where, we were of course received à bras ouvert, & really passed what was to me a very pleasant hour & a Half not a little brightened up by the arrival of Lady Cunliffe who was come there for a two nights visit. I was most truly rejoiced to see her in better looks & better spirits than at any time (at least) for the last 4 years. In short she was quite herself, & made so much play with poor Lady Eleanor that it was one continued laugh & Story telling. Of course I had many enquiries and profusion of love to transmit to you. I think Miss Ponsonby looking better than when I saw her last, but Lady Eleanor worse, she has just glimmer enough of sight to enable her to remark on the brightness of Lady Harriett's yellow Schall.

[1] Lady Hereford, Frances, 3rd dau. of Sir George Cornwall, Bart.; mar. 1805, Henry, 14th Visc. Hereford. He was given the office of Captain of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms. He died 1843. She died 1864.

[2] Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis, who mar. 1805, Harriet, 4th dau. of Sir George Cornwall.

[3] Gordon, s. of Sir William Duff Gordon and his wife Caroline, 5th dau. of Sir George Cornwall.

[4] Lord Goderich, afterwards 1st E. of Ripon; born 1782; Premier 1827–8; mar. 1814, Sarah, dau. of 4th E. of Buckinghamshire. He died 1859.

[5] Devereux, 1st s. of Ld. and Lady Hereford; born 1807; d.s.p. 1839.

They were in hourly expectation of a visit from their friend the Duchess of St. Albans,[1] who is touring about with her sleeping partner of whom Lady Eleanor reported an Anecdote which she says she knows to be *true*, that on *the* night, He tapped at the door of his Bride's Chamber to desire her to accomodate him with a Night-cap not possessing such an Article of his own. She could do no better for him than to apply a Towel which however she put on with her own hands to the best advantage & probably in so doing added a fresh circumstance of unprecedented singularity to the whole of that extraordinary business. I have heard of nothing within the last 4 or 5 days, but genteel marriages which, as I wrote word to Mary, looks as if London was still on the "high go." The first & most interesting of my Matches is *Our* Mr. Heathcote,[2] who has certainly ventured once more to get on the brink of Matrimony with Miss Burrill a 17 year old daughter of Lord & Lady Gwydir who they say will not lose sight of him till the knot is actually tied fast. It has been for sometime the height of their ambition to catch him, having, to them, the particular Merit of near neighbourhood in addition to all other general ones, so that I think he will hardly slip away, & I really shall feel it a personal relief when he is settled, or at all events when he is off our shoulders, which I think the proposal to Miss B, effects, whatever may be the result. Lady Emma Brudenell[3] is likewise provided for, tho' indeed I am sorry to say, that can hardly yet be said, her intended having been twice very seriously ill since the beginning of the Summer, & not yet recovered, they talk however of their marrying in October. Furthermore it is strongly reported that the Duke of Buccleugh[4]

[1] Duchess of St. Albans, Harriet Mellon, the famous actress; mar. 1st, Thomas Coutts the banker, and 2ndly, William, 9th D. of St. Albans. She d.s.p. 1837.

[2] Mr. Heathcote, afterwards Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 5th Bart.; created Ld. Cleveland 1859; born 1795; mar. October 8th, 1827, Clementina, eld. dau. Ld. Gwydyr. He died 1867. She suc. her father to the Barony of Willoughby d'Eresby in 1870. She died 1888.

[3] Lady E. Brudenell, 3rd dau. of 6th E. of Cardigan; mar. as his 2nd wife in 1827, David Pennant, Esq., of Downing, co. Flint. She died 1847.

[4] D. of Buccleuch, 5th Duke; born 1806; mar. 1829, Lady Charlotte, dau. of 2nd Marq. of Bath.

is to marry the one remaining Miss Sheridan, which as the girl most admired & talked about, was pretty sure to be said, & may or may not be true for ought I know or care, excepting from the aristocratic feeling of its being in fra: dig. George Neville on his return hither from Escrick passed two days at Chatsworth, & says that he never saw a Creature so pleased with a piece of preferment as the Duke of Devonshire with his Gold Key. Indeed he is free to own his being made quite happy by it from its giving him so much patronage, which is undoubtedly a very gratifying circumstance, & one which shews the pillow with *roses only*, far different from that on which either the Canning had, or the Goodrich will have to repose their weary heads. The Duke gave the first vacant Hampton Court Apartments to *Mrs. Bochur* with which the King expressed himself to be particularly pleased, & indeed every body approves of it, her good conduct in her adversity having acquired to her the esteem of those who most laughed at her in her prosperity.

"I was very sorry to hear from the Ladies of Llangollen among many other peices of news, that poor Mrs. Heber [1] has been robbed at Leamington both of money & Papers, to what amount they did not know, but the smallest must be more than she, poor soul could conveniently spare. They assured me they did not doubt the fact, but I still would fain doubt it. I was surprised to hear of her being gone to settle at Hodnet, I hope & trust that cannot be the case without essential assistance from her Brother-in-law. . . .

"I do not think I half answered your last letter, or thanked you half enough for all the amusement which the delightful details gave me. I see on looking back to it that you ask me Lord Grenville's opinion of the life of Napoleon, which I can give you in a few words, by telling you that both he & your Uncle Tom, forbade the Bookseller from sending it to them & can hardly be pursuaded that Sir W. has written a word of it. The extracts from it have pointed out to them a number of statements perfectly erroneous, & with-

[1] Mrs. Heber, Emilia, dau. of William Shipley, Dean of St. Asaph; mar. Reginald Heber, Bp. of Calcutta. He died 1826.

out one single new story even to enliven it, & the stile, is by every body considered as so heavy, that I believe, of those who have attempted to read it, hardly any have got thro' it."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"Upper Brook Street, *February 19th.*

"Great are the political Storms at this moment, & never was there a Union so widely disunited as that of the present Administration but nothing I fear can arise to our advantage out of the Jars & squabbles. They have got a most despotic Chief [1] at their head, who has been used to find in his Aid de Camps mere instruments to his will and Cyphers in his Councils, such may be found in the Cabinets as well as the field but some will I doubt not be given to kick. Our late Premier [2] has certainly not proved himself equal, even to be dernier, and has, with the best intentions towards Charles, done him a mischief, which I fear, will be long irreparable.

"All the young Band of débutant Orators are, I fancy, in high spirits and Lord King [3] as usual rubs his hands, and chuckles over the prospect of such good sport. Poor Ebrington [4] has just come, I met him on Sunday at Church and thought him looking wretchedly ill, but he had probably not recovered the painful impression of his first return to the house in Grosvenor Square, where he went thro' all the sad Scene of misery last July, your Uncle Tom saw him yesterday and thought him quite as well as he could expect, and talking with much interest of all which was going on, which I was sincerely rejoiced to hear.

"We have had a very serious alarm about your dear Uncle [5] at Dropmore who has had another Attack of the same nature as his former one. It however gave way to bleeding and he is now recovering as well as we could expect, but of course much enfeebled by

[1] The D. of Wellington.
[2] Ld. Goderich.
[3] See p. 317, note 1.
[4] Lady Ebrington (Lady Susan Ryder) died, after a long and painful illness, in July 1827.
[5] Ld. Grenville.

the necessarily exhausting remedies which the nature of his Attack rendered necessary. I live, now so entirely, out of the Circle of Gossip that I have not a word of any sort to send you, Charles' St. Antonio's bon mot in describing Lord Dudley,[1] (whose name you may have seen lately in the 'Chronique Scandalue' more or less coupled with that of my Lady Chancellor [2]) as a 'Ward in Chancery,' may I fear have reached even Copenhagen, and it is the only bit of small talk that I can give you."

From Fanny W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *May 2nd.*

"We were last night at a Party at Lady Elizabeth Belgrave's, the wonder of the night was a Malachite Vase of great size which he bought at Petersburgh, and at which, almost every John & Jenny Bull looked with amazement, that a Block so large had been found, they have also imported a fine set of Chrysophrazes for her, and for their Guests a more than foreign paucity of Refreshment, not a drop of wine not an Ice, not even homely Tea, nothing but Agrippa's fare, Lemonade, Orangeade, and Chiny Water, set out with all the pomp and circumstance of a Repast. She is as round as her Vase and pale as her Lemonade."

From Lady W. W. to the Hon. Mrs. Henry W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *May 15th.*

"The great event of this week in the Bon Ton Circle has been the King's Ball to all the Juvenile Nobility. It took place last night, and Harriet and Lord Delamere were graciously admitted to it tho' without a regular ticket of Entrée, not having a Child even of the smallest dimensions to Chaprone them. How very

[1] John Ward, 4th Visc. Dudley, created Earl 1827; born 1781; died unmar. 1833.

[2] Sarah Garey, Lady Lyndhurst, dau. of Charles Brunsden, widow of Lt.-Col. Charles Thomas; mar. 1819, as his 1st wife, Sir John Singleton Copley, 1st Ld. Lyndhurst (Ld. Chancellor 1827–30, 1834–5, 1841–6). She died 1834.

tiny an Article would have answered this purpose was exhibited in sundry instances under three years old! Harriet says that such a beautiful Fairy Ground Scene, she never beheld or could have imagined. All the magnificent new Suite of Rooms at St. James' were opened, and the immense proportions of the Rooms, (particularly the great height of the Banqueting Rooms) contributed to make the little pigmy Guests look still more diminutive.

"Lord and Lady Worcester[1] were there and my Lord Glamorgan,[2] a leetle newborn Mount-Charles[3] stood almost all the evening between the King's legs dressed in a red velvet long Coat. The young Branches of all sizes were admitted, and when Harriet came away at twelve the younger were sweeping off, and an influx of young Oxonians and Cantabs, were starting with the Misses in their teens. The King looked very well and seemed to enjoy it as much as the least of his company.

"Isabella Forester[4] was the decided Beauty of the Room, and many, I believe, thought her too good for our young Taffy, Lord of the Castle, who is not, I think, at present very popular, but they have neither of them numbered many years, they have both had a large proportion of dissipation, and if they are fond of each other, they may, and I trust will, sit down quietly in their new characters. I understand they are not, at present, to have more than £2000 pr. ann. and are to go abroad immediately, which I always think a hasardous way of starting.

"Harriet, had to-day a letter from the Duke of Buckingham, written apparently under great depression of Spirits, but speaking of his health as much improved by the sudorific effects of his toilsome ascent

[1] See p. 291. Ld. Worcester mar. 2ndly in 1822, Emily, dau. of Charles Culling Smith. She died 1889.

[2] Ld. Glamorgan, only son of Ld. Worcester (afterwards 7th D. of Beaufort) and his 2nd wife; born February 1824. He suc. his father as 8th Duke in 1853. He mar. 1845, Lady Georgina, dau. of 1st E. Howe. She died 1906. He died 1899.

[3] Ld. F. Conyngham, on the death of his elder brother in 1824, took the courtesy title of Mount-Charles. His eldest son, afterwards 3rd Marq. of Conyngham, was born February 1825.

[4] Hon. Isabella Forester, 3rd dau. of 1st Ld. Forester; mar. 1830, Hon. George Anson. She died 1858. The marriage referred to did not take place.

up Mount Vesuvius which I believe, in point of fact nearly killed him."

From Sir W. W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"*Tuesday morning* [*May* 1828].

"MY DEAR HENRY,—I received a letter from Charles this morning from Dropmore desiring me to send you whatever political news I could pick up, all that I can learn at present being that Huskisson, Palmerston,[1] Grant [1] and Lambe, are out, that Dudley [1] remains in and that Huskisson is to be succeeded by Sir George Murray,[1] if I can pick up anything later I will add it.

"I am happy to say that Charles makes a better report of Lord Grenville and says that he was riding on his pony for near an hour yesterday.

"Poor Lord Forrester [2] died on Thursday last. He had been very ill, in consequence of a fall from his pony, for the last three weeks, but Lady Forrester was not aware of immediate danger and is, I fear, suffering very severely, they had not, yesterday been able to persuade her to take off her clothes and go to bed. I hear that Smith has been very useful and does everything for the family. I believe that Forrester had ensured his Life to ensure a comfortable provision for Lady F. but I fear her younger Children will be ill-provided for.

"We were at the Ball at St. James' last night which was very magnificent & well arranged, I thought the King looked very well, he did not walk much, but what he did was done much better than I expected.

"I thought that the description of Stowe was too large to send by post and have therefore waited for an opportunity to send it.

"The Duke is now at Sea, and I do not know where to direct to him. Charles has lowered himself very much by making his attack upon the memory of Can-

[1] Huskisson resigned the Colonial Office and Sir George Murray took his place. Ld. Palmerston left the War Office, Mr. C. Grant the Treasury of the Navy and Presidency of the Board of Trade. Ld. Dudley did resign the Foreign Office.

[2] 1st Ld. Forester; born 1767; mar. 1800, Katharine, 2nd dau. of 4th D. of Rutland. He died May 23rd, 1828.

ning the day after the debate and then leaving the House lest any body should answer him. Palmerston gave a general dressing to the detractors and then Dawson most foolishly put the Cap on Chandos' head."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"VALE ROYAL, *September 10th.*

"I will talk of the great event of the Principality the bringing young Sir Stephen [1] of age, for which all sorts of preparations are being made, excepting the one most necessary to give effect to the whole, a hearty gaieté de Coeur, in Mary,[2] whose Spirits are so low at the thoughts of quitting the Castle, that I know not how she will assume the semblance proper for the occasion. I cannot conceive how an event so common, and so looked forward to with as much certainty as can belong to anything in prospect, can so subdue her, but such certainly is the case.

"He has never said a word about her continuing there as his . . . (?) & at all events it appears much more desireable that all her Concerns with the Castle should be closed at the natural period. She talks of going straight to Paris for 3 or 4 months, but speaks of it quite with horror, being sure that she shall be tired to death of it from the first day of her arrival, of which indeed I have no doubt, and why she should impose upon herself such an infliction, I do not understand.

"Your Uncle Tom, who is really as well, I am happy to say, as ever I saw him in his life, & I assure you 3 Septuagenarians [3] are quite vain of their active powers."

The Same

"VALE ROYAL, *September 24th.*

"Hugh returned last night from Hawarden Castle, where he had been assisting at the Tenantry celebra-

[1] Sir Stephen Glynne, 9th and last Bart.; born 1807; suc. his father 1815; died unmar.

[2] Hon. Lady Glynne.

[3] Lady Williams Wynn, aged 74; Ld. Grenville, aged 70; Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville, aged 73.

tion of Sir Stephen's coming of age, which took place on the 22nd, and was ushered in by a letter from him to his Mother desiring that she should continue to make the Castle her permanent Home, and assuring her of his perfect confidence that his Concerns there never would be so well looked after as under her Eye. This was the more gratifying to her as he had never dropped a hint of his having an intention, and that she had, as her Brother George [1] said, fretted herself quite thin & ill with the thoughts of quitting a place so endeared to her, and looking for another Home. There is to be a grand Ball for the Nobility & Gentry at Hawarden on the 29th. to which about 300 are asked. The Tenants Fete went off as usual with great satisfaction, i.e. with great profusion of eating and drinking, hallowing & Speechifying. The Chester Papers notify five consecutive Dinners on the same occasion at different Towns & Inns with tickets from a Guinea to 5/- each.

"Your Sisters have, I hope been the Historiographers of the grand Ceremony of the Eisteddfoed, which from the beauty of the Spot where it was held, & the uncommon brilliancy of the day, must I have no doubt, been for a short time a most striking and interesting Scene, but when it went on to a second and a third day, I should think the greatest Enthusiast both for the National Music and Poetry must have been a good deal over done.

"Your Sister Charlotte [2] says the first day's dose was more than enough to last her for the rest of her life.

"Watkin's presentation of the successful Bardess, Angharad,[3] to the Duke of Sussex,[4] must have been a treat, and her Welsh-English answer to his compliments on the occasion, surprised the Royal Ear probably not a little. . . ."

[1] George Neville, born 1789; 3rd s. of 2nd Ld. Braybrooke; assumed the additional surname of Grenville 1825, in accordance with the will of his kinsman Ld. Glastonbury. He mar. 1816, Charlotte, dau. of 3rd E. of Dartmouth. Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and Dean of Windsor. He died 1854.

[2] Mrs. Shipley.

[3] Miss Angharad Llwyd (see note p. 256).

[4] Augustus Frederick, D. of Sussex, 6th s. of King George III; born 1773. He died 1843.

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"CASTLE HILL, *December 17th*, 1828.

"Of my dear Brother [1] at Dropmore, I fear the best that is to be said is that he does not grow worse, but Lady Grenville's [2] fears for him are such as to make her desirious of keeping him in as uniform a state of quietude as possible, which of course excludes all Society, excepting just those whom she must admit, & reduces him, therefore poor Fellow to depend entirely on her unwearied attentions & his own mental resources. Of public Concerns, there is, I think nothing to be said which either generally or individually can make them a pleasing topic. *We* have only to comfort ourselves with the idea that we know nearly as much on the subject here, as those do who are in the Cabinet, where the Duke of W.[3] puts forth, as I hear, the dictum, 'that if he thought that the hairs of his head knew what was passing in his Brain he would pluck them out.'

"The grand Annonce of the Approaching Fetes at Wotton & at Stowe certainly gives me a pang, but after all when the Owner of the Demain chuses to put on his night-cap, he can hardly reproach the young Prince [4] for taking the Crown. The Duke has sent home his yacht, and notifies his intention of passing the Winter at Rome with the A's, and of returning home in the Summer, I wish I thought the last was as probable as the first."

The Same

"UPPER BROOK STREET, *March 2nd*, 1829.

"The defeat of Peel [5] at Oxford, will I suppose be matter of great triumph to the Antis',[6] and seems in

[1] Ld. Grenville.

[2] Ann, Lady Grenville, dau. of 1st Ld. Camelford of Boconnoc. She died 1864 (see p. 10).

[3] D. of Wellington. [4] Ld. Chandos.

[5] Robert Peel, now Leader of the Commons, had changed his policy with regard to the Catholic question, and early in the session of 1829 had brought in and carried a Bill for the Emancipation of the Catholics; in consequence of this change of view, he felt himself bound to resign his seat for the University of Oxford, and to offer himself for re-election. Charles voted for his return. He was defeated by Sir Robert Inglis, but at once found a seat at Westbury, and returned to lead the Commons.

my humble opinion to have been a very weak attempt on his part, but as to the general question it leaves it only just as it was, no one having ever doubted the general feeling of the University. In the House of Commons there can be no question of the Majority, but among the Lords, I can not help thinking it very uncertain and the public ferment upon the Measure is at this moment so great that I dread the excitement which will be produced by its being even hard run. The encreased virulence which all this ferment has excited among all my Stowe relatives, is to me matter of very serious concern, nor do I see any shape in which there appears at present a Chance of its subsiding. The Duke talks of coming over in May, but when I look at the state in which he will find his domestic Circle, and even all his nearest neighbours, and his oldest Allies, I hardly bring myself to wish for his arrival.

"I have, I grieve to say, but an indifferent account to give of my poor Dropmore Brother who is suffering more than usual this last week, owing to his having got a fall in crossing his Library, most imprudently without his Stick. I trust, however that there is now no reason to apprehand any evil consequences from it, but of course in his weak state it must be some time before he recovers such a severe shake and jarr."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"Upper Brook Street, *June 25th.*

"I do not know to which of my two loved 'H's'[1] I ought to address this Scrap, feeling that I owe to both acknowledgements for letters received since I wrote last, but truth to say I feel so utterly dépousse of news, & so entirely out lived the power of making the gossip of the day in any degree matter of amusement to my correspondents. Of marriages and deaths you have, of course regular reports in the Whitehall Gazette. In the Matrimonial line the Season has, I think, been uncommonly prolific, and some, I understand, are still in embryo, such as our Cousin Algernon Herbert, who

[1] Henry and Hester Williams Wynn.

takes to his very nice Board a young lady without, as I understand, either name or fortune, and throws himself, as many others have done, and are doing, upon the excellent Petworth Milch Cow. Far different is the speculation which Lord Graham [1] is said to be making in offering himself to Miss Strachan, to whom (for why or wherefore nobody pretends to guess) Lord Hertford gives £10,000 in present with the reversion of his house in the Regents Park.

"Our Cousin Porchester [2] seems to have drawn a first-rate gros lot in his accepted suit to Miss Howard Molyneux,[3] the daughter of Lord Henry Howard who, with every possible merit of character, brings him an Estate of between 5 & £6000 pr. ann. which will be 7000 on the death of her Mother,[3] and moreover a very good set of white Teeth, a circumstance of no small value to that Family, d'ailleurs, truth to say in the Congress of parenté which was invited the other night, to meet her at Lady Ducie's,[4] she was certainly voted nem. con. to have as little external Charm as can easily be found in 20 years old.

"The London Campaign is breaking up a pace, and it is supposed to have been a very dull one, owing to the protracted state of anxiety about the poor King, who is said to have often lamented that he may not be suffered to die. He is now sinking from extreme weakness and inflamation on the chest, but it appears probable that he will not have any more of his horribly painful Spasms. The Bishop of Chichester is in daily attendance, to read & pray by him, & his mind seems, by report, to be very calm and resigned.

"The close of poor Lady Powis [5] life was quite to the last, correspondent to the enviable frame of mind

[1] Ld. Graham, afterwards 4th D. of Montrose; born 1799; mar. 1836, Caroline, dau. of 2nd Ld. Decies. He died 1874.

[2] Ld. Porchester, s. of 2nd E. of Carnarvon and his wife, Elizabeth Acland. See p. 19.

[3] Lady Henry Howard was sister-in-law of Bernard Edward, 12th D. of Norfolk.

[4] Lady Ducie, dau. of 1st E. of Carnarvon; mar. 1793, 1st E. of Ducie. She died August 1830.

[5] Henrietta Antonia, Lady Powis, dau. of Henry, 1st E. of Powis, and sister and h. of George, 2nd and last E. of Powis. She mar. 1784, Edward, 2nd Ld. Clive, created E. of Powis 1804. She died June 3rd, 1830.

which had so peculiarly and invariably marked her bed of sickness and her last words to the Duchess [1] were, 'I am quite happy.' Lady Harriet [1] is still at Richmond but comes up in 2 or 3 days, & from her own report as well as that of the Friends who have seen her, essentially improved. I have every reason to hope that I shall find her essentially improved in health & strength, both of body and mind. She certainly has passed the last 7 months under a pressure of sorrow & anxiety which would have shattered the stoutest nerves, & much more a frame so easily overpowered as hers has been ever since we have known her."

Public events in the last week of June and throughout July 1830 tumbled over each other. On June 26th King George IV died. Parliament was dissolved on July 23rd. In the meantime a revolution was in being in Paris, and the Bourbon King, Charles X, after fruitless efforts at conciliation and compromise, withdrew from France and for a second time found hospitality in England.

King William IV's accession was the signal for Wellington's resignation. Parliamentary reform was urgent, and Lord Grey, to whom the new King entrusted the formation of a Ministry, was prepared to make it a Government measure. Charles Williams Wynn accepted the post of War Secretary, vacated by Hardinge, but he resigned it as soon as the character and scope of the Reform Bill became known.

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"UPPER BROOK STREET, *July 13th.*

"This has been, my dearest Henry, rather an eventful week in the family Circle beginning on Sunday last with a sudden summons to Thompson [2] to repair to

[1] Her two daughters, the Duchess of Northumberland and Lady Harriet Williams Wynn.

[2] Beilby Lawley Thompson. See p. 11.

Wenlock where an alarm of Opposition had arisen from two Iron-masters, who had subscribed, some say 500, other £300 a piece to get a Candidate to stand against the old Interests. It is not, however, supposed that they will be able to make anything of it, but it has induced the necessity of your Brother's going down to attend their Races to-morrow.

"Then comes to him (Watkin) this morning a note from Lord Hill [1] signifying that he has H.M.'s commands to desire he will attend *Him at St. James' at* 12, *it being His gracious intention to appoint him Aid de Camp for the Militia of Wales.* This is, I suppose a Compliment and Feather, and as such will be agreable to him, but it will be brisk work for him to get down to Wenlock to-morrow, attend the Races and be back the following day for the Funeral,[2] which he thinks it, now necessary for him to attend.

"The third Event of the Duke of Buckingham's appointment to be Steward of the Household, was notified officially, only yesterday, tho' known to be in Embryo the day before. I am sincerely glad of it, as I think it just the one thing which will suit him best, in giving to him importance and occupation without mixing him up more than he already is, in political intrigue or Jobbing. It will furnish him with details of business which will save him from his sad Ennuie, and what is best of all, will induce the necessity of his associating with those of his own situation and time of day, instead of having to beat up for an Audience of Ghost-story listeners among all the Misses of the Family. Of course he professes it to have been offered to him in the 'most friendly manner by the Duke of Wellington, and confirmed in the most gracious one by the King,' which all 'va sans dire,' there is as yet no Chamberlain appointed & it is supposed that both that and the Lord Stewardship has been left to the Duke of Wellington to make the best use of them, that he could. When

[1] Ld. Hill, 1st Visc.; born 1772. Distinguished General in the Peninsula and other campaigns; Com.-in-Chief 1828–42. Created a Baron 1814, and a Visc. 1842. He died unmar. 1842.

[2] The King's funeral.

Nugent [1] learnt the News, he to my great amusement, immediately said that he could not but 'be diverted at the idea of Her Grace of Buckingham being selected to replace the Marchioness of Conyngham' which I think had merit, but when I offered my Compliments & congratulations to Her, her answer was, 'It is no matter of Joy to me, I can assure you' which, if felt, had certainly better not have been expressed.

"I do not hear of any new Peers, but hitherto the King has been indefatigable in his endeavours to make himself popular, and to do goodnatured and amiable things in every possible instances. He opens the Communication from Regent St. to the Park, restores the Sunday Promanades on the Terrace at Windsor, & takes every opportunity of showing himself, driving at a foots pace thro' the Park etc. with his head out of the Glasses of his Carriage the whole way, bowing right & left. This will of course, after the utter seclusion in which the two last Kings have lived, come with re*doubled effect, & must, at least, for a time render him very popular.*"

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"UPPER BROOK STREET, *July 27th.*

"Nothing ever equalled the spirit of amiability and kindness, which seems to govern every act and word of our new Monarch. Even Uncle Tom, who is not too much given to the being a Courtier, said yesterday, that he has done only two things which he could have wished otherwise. The one was the alteration in the Naval Uniform, (which was done from a recollection of the worry which it used to be to the young Lieutenants to see their new blue Coats spoiled by the Pipe clay necessarily applied to their white cuffs) and the other the keeping up one half of the late King's racing Stud, saying that for his part he never wished to see or hear of one of the set, but that he thought it might be right

[1] Ld. Nugent (the D. of Buckingham's brother), 2nd s. of 1st Marq. of Buckingham; born 1789; succeeded to his mother's barony, by special remainder, on her death in 1812. He mar. 1813, Ann, dau. of Hon. Vere Paulett. He d.s.p. 1850.

that the King should in some degree encourage the Breed and therefore he ordered Delmé to keep every other Stall inhabitant in the Racing Stable! The French Cooks are all turned off to a man but still his dinners are said to be properly handsome. The German Band is all disbanded which Article alone cost £14,000 per. ann. & throughout His Household he has dismissed every Foreigner, all this, however has been done with great personal attentions, and upon every occasion he shews the most marked desire to please his loving subjects, with whom he is, as you will believe popular to the greatest degree. Never was there, certainly a more striking contrast than he exhibits, in some instances perhaps a little more than might be wished, but that will find its level.

" He seems not to have the slightest recollection of any former greivances or animosities and in token thereof at his Dinner the day before yesterday at Apsley House, in drinking the Duke of Wellington's *health, He made a Speech of a full half hour long full of Enconiums to him & professing in the strongest* terms, ' that He possessed his entire Confidence & that nothing could or should ever shake that feeling so long as he should continue to govern this Kingdom.' This has, as you will believe made a great Sensation & will, I have no doubt, very essentially influence the pending Elections. The Speech was addressed very pointedly to the D. of Laval, and other Foreign Ministers who were present & who took it in with open Eyes & Mouths.

" His Steward begins to complain heavily of this uninterrupted Succession of great Dinners, which of course are persued with redoubled vigour to do honor to ' our dear Brother ' of Wurtemberg,[1] but tho' working so very hard from Morn till Night, certain it is, that the King never has appeared in any way affected by such encreasing exertion & fatigue both of body & mind.

" The Queen has extorted from him a promise that he will wholly abstain from his perambulations about the Streets, which certainly was a very worthy cause for her exerting that influence, which I have no doubt

[1] The King of Würtemberg's wife was Charlotte, Princess Royal, the King's sister.

that she possess over him, tho' she is withal much too prudent to bring it forward unnecessarily."

From the Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"CLEVELAND SQUARE, *July 28th*, 1830.

"Many thanks, my dearest Henry, for your Danish Catalogue, altho' it does not furnish to me any article of curiosity enough to excite your bibliographical activity which you so kindly offer in my service.

"Our new King is daily gaining great personal popularity by his grace and kindness to every-body that approaches him, and at his Dinner two days ago at the Duke of Wellington's the King in giving his health, made a Speech of a quarter of an hour long in praise of the Duke of Wellington and declared at the same time his 'unlimited' confidence in him, and his 'determination to support him to the uttermost.' So that you see there is the strongest avowal that can be given of the King's favour and confidence, more especially as the King added in his Speech that he purposely took the opportunity of making such a declaration in order that all the Foreign Ministers might hear it from his own mouth. I hear the Duke has made a short, a modest, and a proper answer, to say that as long as he enjoyed the honor of his Master's favor and confidence, he should use it only for the purpose of endeavouring to maintain peace and concord in Europe.

"July you see has been fertile with us of great events. . . ."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W

"CASTLE-HILL, *August 17th.*

"What an extraordinary convulsion has been taking place in France since I wrote to you last. The rapidity with which the Change took place & the sudden apparent calm into which it seems to have subsided, made it at first seem quite like a dream.

"Nobody is able even to suggest what is likely to become of the wandering ci-devants for whom, (or rather for some of whom), it is impossible not to feel great compassion.

"George Fortescue was at Wardour attending his Hindon Election, when the Storm broke out, and Mary Arundel's [1] distress was very great, indeed it was impossible that she should not feel much Concern for some of the Individuals.

"Even her Brother G.[2] with all his ultra Liberal feelings cannot entirely divest himself of personal regrets for those mixed up with so many of his early recollections. I hope they will all go to Rome which seems the best & most natural refuge for them.

"I think I have hardly written to you since your good Cousin's [3] appointment in the Royal Household. Never was there such a creature more pleased than he is with his new situation, which he has found quite a specific for his Gout, his low spirits, & in short all his ills. I really believe that the constant fluid State in which he was kept by the daily duties of his Office have kept him, thro' all the hot weather which we had in July, has had upon him all the beneficial effects of his dear Colchicum, without its deliterious ones, while all the extraordinary good-nature and kindness of his Master to all about him, must render their Attendance infinitely less irksome than it can in general have been found. He has now given him a furlough of 'as long as he pleases,' but I suppose he must come up again for a short time at least, in October. The early Meeting of Parliament & the expectation of important business with which the Session must open, will sadly break in, both on the Lords & Commons and make a very dull latter Season.

"I hear the King has regularly notified to the Duke of Buckingham his intention of visiting him at Stowe next Summer in his progress to Edinburgh."

[1] Lady Arundel, Mary Anne, dau. of 1st Marq. of Buckingham; mar. 1811, James, 10th Baron Arundel. She was sister of the 1st D. of Buckingham and niece to Lady Williams Wynn, Lady Fortescue, and Lady Carysfort. She died without children 1845.

[2] George, Ld. Nugent. See p. 376.

[3] D. of Buckingham.

The first pause in the long correspondence of over thirty years comes unexpectedly: on November 27th Lady Williams Wynn had a stroke, which for some months enfeebled her powers, but she gradually regained something of her old vigour, and in the summer of 1831 she was moved out of London for a change, to a villa at Richmond, an arrangement made for her through the kind offices of "Uncle Tom." At Richmond she once again takes up her pen, and her letters show that her interest in politics, as well as in her neighbours, is as fresh as ever. In the autumn she had the joy of receiving a visit from Henry, now K.C.B., and his wife, but after their return to Copenhagen, in the spring of 1832, her letters become very few and far between, and her outlook on the world is narrowing.

From Lady Delamere to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *December 3rd*, 1830.

"MY DEAREST HENRY,—Thank God I have nothing but comfort to give you about our beloved Mother. Sir Henry Halford has this moment left saying that she is going on as well as possible and that 'he scarcely ever saw anyone in a similar case recover so satisfactorily or regain strength so fast.'

"Her memory and intellect are most astonishing, as when I read the Psalms to her she repeats every one of the responses by heart. . . .

"No words can ever express the affection and tenderness of my dearest Uncle who is, as she herself desired me to tell him, 'quite an Angel of comfort to her.'"

From Fanny W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Henry W. W. W.

"BROOK STREET, *December 10th.*

"Thank God my dearest Henry our beloved Mother goes on as well as we could expect. Sir Henry Halford has every day expressed himself perfectly satisfied,

he says, 'I care not two pence for her age there is so much spring and vigour in her Constitution.'

"Letters arrive sometimes so irregularly at this time of year that it may be better to say in two words that my dear Mother suffered on Saturday 27th, (November) a paralytic Stroke which deprived her of the use of the left side but never for one moment affected her Mind. Her mouth is very slightly compressed on one side, & her Speech very little thickened."

From Fanny W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry W. W. W.

"Brook Street, *June 10th.*

"Thank God I may still report some progress towards recovery in my beloved Mother, and have just heard a most favorable report from Sir Henry. He does not think it at all advisable that she should undertake a long Journey, I am therefore now in high hunt for a Villa for the Summer, and as yet cannot fix upon one, I am looking between Hampton and Richmond, the society of Hampton Court, though not very intellectual, will I think furnish a card table and a morning visit better than those of higher pretensions."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry W. W. W.

"*July 9th*, 1831.

"You have of course heard from some of the family correspondants of the fresh instance of your dear Uncle Tom's liberality or rather boundless kindness in supplying me with the great and valuable desideratum of a Villa with which he presents my most excellent Nurse Fanny and thereby gives her an interest in it which will in some degree counteract the dullness of her monotonous hours by the side of my great Chair. The spot itself is certainly uncommonly cheerful & full of varies objects, being close upon the banks of the River, opposite to Mr. Cambridge's meadows &

within a hundred yards of the beautiful Bridge. Of society too she will be sure to have a choice, which will be to her of more value than any external beauties, and if it pleases God that I recover some little use of my limbs, which have of course been enfeebled in no small degree by the heat of the last month, I trust we shall pass three or four months very comfortably. We have it for six months & the house is good enough to give me no fear of suffering cold. My dearest Brother completed his kindness by taking a Lodging by me, by the week that he may come and look at me. Grieved am I to think that I cannot look to the dear Principality as in my neighbourhood, but in the present state of things there seems little possibility of any body turning their backs on the Metropolis for any length of time this Season.

"Within the last three days there has been much talk of Coronation which they say must come on during the Summer but is to be as much compressed in point of expence and parade as possible. There is not to be any ceremonial beside that which is confined to the Abbey, no Banquet, no procession, in short as little as can be attached to the necessary form of the King's taking the Oaths, & putting on his Crown. I should suppose it is most likely just to fall in with your intended trip which will be a very tidy coincidence.

"The Town has been mad with Balls and Fêtes of various kinds, the last always the finest, and gratifying it is to think of what advantage it must have been to trade, which indeed one has gratefully trumpetted in every shop in to which one goes. I hear from Fanny that the last nights Irish Ball at Drury Lane was the finest spectacle she ever saw, and it is gratifying to think that the brilliancy of it did not end with the extinguishing of the lights.

"I have been writing to you with a wretched hard pen which is very unfavorable to a weak and trembling hand and will not allow me to proceed any further, so with much love compressed into as few words, I remain to my dear Hs and all their belongings, their most kindly affectionate Mother.

"C. W. W."

From Lady W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry W. W. W.

"RICHMOND, *October 14th*, 1831.

"We are still as you see under the influence of the horrible Reform Bill and when or how we are ever to look to the being at rest again God only knows. It is fearful to think of being at the mercy of an infuriated mob but we must hope for the best tho' in what shape that is to be looked for nobody I believe can tell.

"Ebrington's speeches from as far as the Newspaper report one can collect, have been very calm and gentlemanlike which is an enconium which few others can lay claim to. I hear they talk of proroguing the Parliament this week, which will be to many a most welcome prolongation of holidays.

"My brother Tom and my sister have most kindly devoted themselves to me for a fortnight from Monday next. We have taken for them a house within 3 or 4 doors which I trust they will find very clean and comfortable and I know it will give you pleasure to hear of a circumstance which holds out to me the prospect of such unexpected gratification and enjoyment.

"Adieu my dearest, dear Henry, I hope you duly gave all the assurances of kindest love & remembrance from me to your most dear and excellent moitie, and all your Board of young ones, and remain comme toujours,

"Ever, Ever most affectionately yours,

"C. H. W. W."

From Fanny W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry W. W. W.

[*Undated; probably April* 1832.]

"Did I tell you of the extraordinary kindness of the Duke and Duchess who want my Mother to make Stowe her Summer residence, giving her the Clarence Apartments and the one above for me, quite a House, to live as much in her own rooms as she pleased, with a backway and a very few steps into the Garden & tho' last but best of all a Medical man always in the house. No son could do more, few would and none of hers

who would can, indeed I hardly know any where such a position for an invalid. It would be to me a great comfort to feel that in their present total lack of society one can in some degree repay this excessive kindness by attention and conversation."

The visit to Stowe during the summer was never accomplished. Fanny and her patient remained quietly at Richmond until the autumn, when the last act ended suddenly and the curtain was rung down.

On October 3rd, 1832, sitting in her "great chair," her writing materials round her, and some finished letters on her table, the final seizure came, and thirty-six hours later Lady Williams Wynn passed away.

All her children, excepting Henry, were with her. Their sorrow in her loss was shared by the nephew, who had ever looked for her presence at the times of his own rejoicings, and who, when her health failed, offered her a welcome, and lavish care. With a letter from Copenhagen, and one from the Duke, these selections from the Correspondence fittingly close.

From the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry W. W. W. to the Rt. Hon. Charles W. W. W.

"COPENHAGEN, *October 13th*, 1832.

"MY DEAR CHARLES,—Your letter of the 1st only reached me at the same time as those from my Sisters announcing to me the death of our beloved Mother. Her age and former attacks ought perhaps to have prepared me for this melancholy event, but the blow when it came was most unexpected, we had only the preceding week received a letter from her, the substance and handwriting of which delighted us, as they were like those of former days.

"I have, notwithstanding my frequent absences, so long considered her existence as bound up with my own, that I can hardly persuade myself of the sad reality that she is gone. Few Children ever owed so much to a Parent, we have not, I hope any of us, been

insensible of the Blessing conferred on us, by so effectually supplying the place of him we so early lost. God grant that we may follow her bright example, and that we may go to the Grave as justly regretted by our Children.

"God bless you my dear Charles, to our lamented Parent we owe those precepts of attachment to one another which makes the comfort of our latter years.

"H. W. W. W."

From the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to the Rt. Hon. Sir Henry W. W. W.

"AVINGTON, *November 1st*, 1832.

"MY DEAR WYNN,—I have been so unwell since the late sad event that I have scarcely had the power of taking up my pen to offer you my condolences. All that can be said is that it must be a great comfort to you all that your poor Mother died full of feeling of the affectionate care taken of her to the last moment by her children, and it is indeed a consolation to you to reflect how fully you all deserve, by your attention to her, her latest and warmest feelings. Never did children follow, or better do their duty by their Parent.

"Thank God your dear Mother was spared the consciousness of the pain of parting, and she died free from pain.

"I fear that my poor Uncle Tom is severely beat down by the blow. Harriet is also very heavy struck. In short the death of one so beloved as your Mother was, is felt like an electric shock through all parts equally of a very extended circle. I trust that your health is good. Remember me most kindly to your Wife, and believe me always,

"Yours affectionately,

"BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS."

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