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Sneyd Papers

Calendar of correspondence to Henry William Vincent from Ralph Sneyd

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CORRESPONDENCE

To Henry William Vincent (1796-1865) from Ralph Sneyd (1793-1870), returned (?) after Vincent's death. For Vincent's letters to Sneyd see S[RS/HWV].

1.

Naples,
'or properly
Mergillina'.
9 June,
[1822]

R[alph] Sneyd to Henry [William]
Vincent, at the Treasury.

Had been still expecting his letter from Venice, when missives had arrived from his [the writer's] mother, announcing his apparition at Mrs Stanhope's, and he was still rapt in the wonder of it. What had snapped the thread of his travels and plunged him into the cloaca maxima of London? Vincent was much to be pitied. It was Sunday and the witching time of night. Vincent was doubtless gasping in Lord Salisbury's long, hot, dirty room, surrounded by all the stale hacks of the town, whilst the writer was sitting down '(of itself no trifling Advantage)' in a room 'of which the frescoes are an accurate fac-simile, as

well in Design as execution, of the bower-Scene at the opening of the 4th Act of every New Comedy,...'. Describes the view across the moonlit bay to Sorrento. Thanks him for the pretty things he had sent him.

2. Ischia.
9 Sept.
[1822]

The same to the same, at the same place.

What did he expect him to say to palliate the sin of his long silence? Was repairing his shattered strength in the cool breezes and warm baths of that island, for the fury of the summer had left him in a pitiable state of exhaustion. On the 1 or 2 November he should plant his standard on the walls of the Eternal City. Vincent was, he presumed, in Scotland. Should like to have see the 'Entry into Edinburgh' and the Court of Holyrood. There must be so much more of regal circumstance and antique splendour around an English king in Scotland, than in any other part of his dominions. Sir W. Curtis and Lord Graves did not lend to those illusions. Invites Vincent to stay at Keele and should tell them to expect him. Had not said a word of Lord Londonderry's dreadful end, one must either write a volume or be silent.

3. Rome.
26 Dec.
[1822]

The same to the same, at the same place.

Divers reasons of neither pith nor moment had kept him at Naples till the early part of that month, and though his pen leaped from the inkstand, yet he had restrained it till he had planted his standard on the Capitol. Of the seven hills he had chosen the Pincian, and there, in a corner house of the Via Felice, he had established himself. How dare Vincent suspect his fidelity to that 'City of the Scul'. It was, beyond every other in the world, the residence he should choose if his choice were free. Considers his situation, and local news. Carnova's atelier had nothing for sale excepting a colossal bust of Napoleon, the only one he ever sat for. It had been bought by Lady Abercorn. They called her and Lady Julia 'La Tragedie et la petite pièce'. The Duke of Devonshire was there, buying everything, indeed the whole House of Cavendish was scattered about the town, the Berries, Lady Charlotte Lindsay, Lady Sheffield, Stanleys, Peploes, Sir Watkin, Kinnairds, Comptons, Lord Carnarvon's company, 'cum multis aliis...'. Lady Moreland, Bedlam mad, had turned off every servant in her house, 'swearing there was a Conspiracy amongst them agst. her life - She never appears.' A Russian merchant had got a troop of French actors and was entertaining them all the winter. The English were all furious respecting some indignity to which they had been subjected by the government in the distribution of opera boxes.

4. Paris.
26 June,
[1823]

The same to the same, at the same place.

For the last 2 or 3 months the writer had been deterred from writing by the extreme difficulty of beginning his letters. If that prefatory impediment of a guilty conscience had been effective at that period 'what must it be now - that each Succeeding

day of the interval has aggravated my guilt - ...'. So Vincent had 'taken the Turnpike', the house next to the gates of Holland House? Was in treaty with his bookseller, to publish Vincent's letters, periodically, in a work to be entitled 'L'hermite de la Barrière'. Describes his progress since he had left Rome in the middle of April, through Florence, Genoa, Milan and Geneva, to Paris. Comments upon the war [between France and Spain] and the comical behaviour of the Cortes. Comments upon Talma's acting.

5. Keele.
14 Aug.
[1823]

The same to the same, at the same place.

Where had they left off? Remembered that instead of Vincent he had received a note stating that he had been unwell, and had it not been impossible, he should have done as Mahomet did to his mountain. Had been at Keele ever since, saving a few visits in the neighbourhood, and a martyr most of the time to a rheumatism in his head. The forty days and nights of rain must be nearly accomplished, and the Admiralty should contract for an ark. Teak and steam were advantages over Noah of considerable importance. They flattered themselves that Vincent intended to visit them, and the Ansons, who were in Scotland, returned to Shugborough in a fortnight. The Dowager Lady A. was to come to them the following week, would that Vincent could meet her. Had been sincerely sorry to read of the death of Lord Cornwallis. Knew he had been a friend of Vincent's and one he would lament. To whom would it please Lady Conyngham to assign his place in the household? Lord C. had already one less liable to jokes. Had heard lately two or three stories which furnished a disgusting proof of the cunning and meanness with which she attempted to undermine all the R.'s friends who did not hold to her. One had struck at the D. of Dorset, but had fallen on her own head. Knighton was the Âme damnée who conducted the plots. Had Vincent seen some letters upon England which pretended to be translations from those of Victoire Vicomte de Soligny? Had been dipping into the book, and though provoked, confessed himself amused. What was the history of it? Desired a letter.

6. Keele.
31 Aug.
[1823]

The same to the same, at the same place.

They should be at home after the 20th of that month. Suggests two methods of coming to Keele. Warns him that they were 'a Family party of the most humdrum habits at an old, cutoff-the way, unfrequented House.' A cordial welcome, and a quiet wholesome life were all the allurements he could honestly put to the mouth of the trap. That day the year before, his ill-kept and irregular journal informed him he had dined with the (?) Stackelberys at Castelmare, and had returned in the evening by water to Naples.

7. [Keele].
'Monday'.
[13 Oct.
1823]

The same to the same, at Shugborough, Lichfield.

Was sorry for him. The writer should have precipitated himself into Repton's Serpentine 'rather than browsed & dawdled on amongst those blue-bottle

Uncles another week - The Roman Fathers too!' If Vincent survived it he must be as hard as old Horatius himself. Had the writer seen into the seeds of time, he should have sent over to urge him to spend his three spare days at Trentham, 'where they much ambition your acquaintance - ', and where nothing abided which bore the faintest resemblance to Mrs Richardson. Should not much wonder if his eye verified itself and he took flight for Nottinghamshire. Had done and heard nothing since they had parted, unless he cared to know that young Duncombe was going to marry Lord Galloway's third daughter. The writer had proposed very honourably to Vincent in not proposing to the Dowager Lady Harcourt in his absence. 'She told me the mornng. She left Trentham that I was doubly related to her - Ly. Stafford had the malice to prompt - "Say, you fondly hope to make it triple" - whh. was irresistible & I misbehaved, so the odds are now very Considerably in your favor.' Vincent would be 'at rehearsal' when the writer's letter reached him ' - poor devil!!!'

8. Keele.
4 Nov.
[? 1823]

The same to the same.

Would have to bribe Vincent into a renewal of intercourse. His own life had 'not lent a page to my future biographer' since they had parted. Had been into Nottinghamshire, and since his return 'nous allons toujours notre train of the quiet & hum drum of which your goodnature has given you some experience - '. The Charles Percies and Lord Bagot were with them, and Arundell Bouverie was to come that day. The following week the writer should go for a fortnight to Eaton. Wanted Vincent 'in that old ear-protecting chair'. The rain was falling heavily. Wished Vincent would marry Lady Bridgewater and offer the writer a carriage in his suite to travel in.

9. Keele.
18 Dec.
[1823]

The same to the same, at the Treasury.

The very words of Vincent's salutation "make very forges of my Cheeks, that might to cinders burn" my paper up.' It was a case beyond all apology. Recalled the circumstance under which he had received Vincent's last letter. Vincent had concluded with a wish that Sneyd could contrast it with one Vincent had just despatched, ex officio to [Viscount] Belgrave. Vincent's letter to the writer had reached him at Eaton, '& you may imagine Belgrave's face of amazement when I requested to see the letter he had just recd. from Mr. Vincent.' For a day or two he had been convinced that the writer had clandestine dealings with the Chester postmaster, and examined his correspondence before it came to his hand. Had been paying visits which had an air of duty about them. Mrs and the Miss Johnstones had needed Vincent's mustard and cayenne 'to relieve the mawkishness of their eternal simper - '. Clare was to come to the writer on the 26th, and shortly afterwards they were to move together, to Wherstead, which would take them through London, where it would not be the

writer's fault if he did not see him. Did he not exult in the desertion of Rome that year? Should have been miserable to have heard it was agreeable, but the Duke of Devonshire had drawn a cordon of cooks and fiddlers round Milan, and Comus-like, detained all travellers. The Duchess too 'has gone into hot opposition, since the Congé of the Cardinal & left the City in disgust.' Had Vincent seen Young in Sir Pertinax?

10. 'Sunday Night'.
[Jan. 1824]

The same to the same.

There was nothing like a friend who passed through London, for leaving one a troublesome commission. Would Vincent see Mr Jaquier of the Clarendon Hotel and catechize him touching an Italian who lived as valet and courier with Robert Grosvenor, and had returned with him three weeks previously? Was about to part with his servant, and Grosvenor had written him a very high character of that man.

11. Longleat.
'Tuesday, 20th.'
[Jan. 1824]

The same to the same, at the Treasury.

So Vincent washed his hands of him and his Italian? Comments upon a note he had misdirected to Vincent, about a new valet. Had read Confessions of an Opium Eater, which had bound him by a spell. St Ronan [is Well] he heard generally condemned. Had arrived there the previous day, from Wharstead, where he had passed a most agreeable week. The shooting had been prodigious. Heard that the Bishop of Lichfield was dying, that Hall would go to the Deanery of Durham, Goodenough to Christ Church 'and Ld. Harrowby will endeavour to fix his Brother at Lichfield - but I shd. imagine he wd. find Ld Liverpool - & (I hear) the King himself very restive.' The writer should be in Town for the meeting of Parliament, 'though I have nothing to do there.' Adds a postscript about Lord Byron's Werner. There was a MS. play on the same subject by the late Duchess of Devonshire, 'from which the greater part is a transcript! - What paltry things great men will do!'

[1. Henry Ryder, translated from Gloucester 10 Mar. 1824].

12. Longleat.
[23 Jan.
1824]

The same to the same.

Was all gratitude for the trouble he had taken but desired him to give himself no more, for the season of his advent to the great city was so near at hand, and a doubt or two had arisen in his mind touching the sonorous servingman. Heard that though a man of letters he did not speak a word of English, which might amount to a great inconvenience in an English family. Who was to have the see of Lichfield, and who was to be the new bishop? Hale and Goodenough would mount to Durham and Christ Church - 'I do not much like a Schoolmaster for a Dean of Ch[.] Ch.' St Ronan [is Well] was still too much 'in hand', as the circulating libraries had it, to have passed into his. In the meantime he had a certain pleasure in provoking its censors by his utter incredulity in

the possible demerit of any book of Scott's. 'If he were to write a book about nothing I am convinced it wd. [be] better than any one else's.' Had thought of a squib, out of which something droll might be made. Let it be called 'the blotting book', containing the unfinished letters, etc. of those who came and went from a great house of reception in the country. If one turned it into personal satire the writer was sure it might be laughable.

13. Keele.
16 Sept.
[1824]

The same to the same, at the Treasury.

The syncope in their intercourse was altogether Vincent's fault. The writer should have written long ago, but had argued that Vincent would write first. Had anchored in the sand, it seemed. Was Vincent quill-driving at Whitehall or grouse shooting in Scotland? What were his autumnal and winter projects? The writer's dream of Italy had been painted on one of Vergil's elm leaves, and after fluttering before his eyes for six weeks a cross wind had blown it through the ivory gate. The motive of his change had been the sudden dispersion of the whole congress, 'which was bound to meet at Rome'. The Agar Ellises could not go, Lady Bute and the Sandons had yielded to medical advice, and wintered at Niece. Several other important failures had withdrawn the attractions which had first moved him to the resolution of going. His life since he had left Town had been passed chiefly between two targets. Had met Lady Anson, and they were, he believed, great friends again. The Baroness (?) Rutzen, from the recesses of a bonnet [sketch], had looked defiance at him. Adds a postscript, that he believed the Arthur Stanhopes were coming there the following week. When should Vincent take them?

14. Keele.
25 Oct.
[1825]

The same to the same.

How the devil would the writer have the face to begin? The Eliots were at Keele and Lady Jemima had desired the writer to tell Vincent that she should be in Town on 12th November. Liked her extremely. Chatsworth had been his furthest point from home since he had left Town; and his family, with the exception of a month, had been fixed there. Would not admit that his neglect could have influenced Vincent's floating scheme of visiting Keele, for he should have come home to meet him from any moderate distance. Had seven letters unanswered of dates prior to Vincent's. Was so deeply mortgaged for the winter at places so infinitely remote from each other that he had almost made up his mind to escape to Paris, where Granvilles, Hollands, Baths, Granthams and various other of his friends were assembled. Had not spirits for the pedlar's life he had led the previous year. If Vincent were to be in Town in the early part of the following month, 'do not call on Mrs. Stanhope without taking an observation of the window Shutters in Audley Sqre.' There was no entering upon the matrimonial field. Lord Wellesley's was a powerful diversion in favour of George Cholmondeley. Miss Cavendish and

Charles Fitzroy, he had said all he could contrive to say about it - to themselves. Wortley and Lady Georgiana Ryder interested him. She had left a splendid post vacant, which he did not see any young lady exactly competent to fill, and he had given a quietus to the efforts of several highly respectable mothers, who had had different views for him.

15. 'Tuesday Night.'
[? 1st half of
1820's]

The same to the same.

It was extremely agreeable to the writer to possess a memento of the pleasant hours they had passed together and a pledge of their renewal. Sends Vincent a ring, which he begs him to accept. Would do his bidding the following day, '& take you to Paul - but I must have a word with ye first, - within the walls - How early may this be?'

16. 'Shugboro' [.]
Thursday 5th
[Endorsed]
'Autumn of
1826.']

The same to the same.

Had arrived there the day before, 'thereto moved by a note from Ly. A.', who had ordered him to take her into dinner and had chosen him for a tête à tête at écarté and 'a great many less profitable Confidences.' Not to tempt Fortune too far, he proposed to make his retreat the following day. On Thursday there was an archery at Blithfield, and on Saturday he had announced himself at Wortley, where he believed he should meet Cradock. Lord Stafford had had another seizure at Dunrobin. Lady Bathurst had been overturned by Lord Charles Wellesley's bad driving and had been much hurt. Lord Wiltshire had run away with Mrs. Drummond.

17. Keele.
26 Oct.
1826

The same to the same.

Had just had the pleasure of reading his last letter again. The verses he had often read over, and liked them still better than when he had first heard them. Vincent seemed to have enjoyed his Scotch tour. Had returned a week before from Yorkshire, where he had visited for six weeks from house to house agreeably enough. Doncaster he had sedulously avoided in spite of entreaties. Cradock, he was told, had failed altogether, his soft, southern graces had been set down 'as Man Millinery'. He had gone away in disgust. In a day or two the writer should return with the F. Levesons, who were at Keele, to Trentham, then go for a week to Eaton, and home, 'not to junket anywhere for the remainder of the winter.' Having no Parliamentary call to Town he did not think he should make his appearance there till the spring. Was intimately acquainted with Burke's Vindication of Natural Society, which he had always thought the most splendid parody in the language. Had read, on Vincent's recommendation, The Mohicans, a very eager story, but its palpable impossibility deducted a good deal from its merit. 'That "intrepid Aeronaut" Mr Green is amusing us by ascending in his balloon from Newcastle. We all Caught Colds, Catarrhs & sore throats by going to see him yesterday.'

18. Blithfield.
23 Apr.
1827
- The same to the same.
- How were Vincent's political nerves affected 'by this Explosion?' Thirsted for the outpouring of his spirit. It sorely vexed him. It had set his most intimate friends at variance and compelled him to blame those of whom he wished to approve. [The remainder of the letter describes the writer's view of the political situation, and Canning].
19. Blithfield.
28 Apr.
[? 1827]
- The same to the same.
- States his view of Peel's resignation, on Canning's succeeding Lord Liverpool as Prime Minister.
20. Blithfield.
28 Jan.
[1828]
- The same to the same.
- Death could alone furnish a decent excuse for Vincent's silence. Comments upon the political situation. If, by his comments, he had not phrased and metaphored Vincent into a rage, and roused the demon of controversy in him, Vincent's right hand had forgotten its cunning.
21. Keele.
4 Feb.
[1828]
- The same to the same.
- Was it not mighty provoking, as Lucius said, when the writer penned a challenge and on the receipt of Vincent's letter he could only ejaculate: "What - quarrel with my dear Friend, Jack Absolute! - not if he were fifty Beverleys." Their political sympathy spoiled a very pretty controversy. Vincent's retrospective reasoning he could not entirely fall into. The writer took a different view of Canning. Gives this. There was hardly an article in Vincent's creed to which he did not subscribe (the Catholic question always excepted). The roots of the writer's political opinions were deep in a Tory soil, but he could not conscientiously adhere to a system which professed never to change, while the moral state of the population on which it had to rest had altogether changed. Was going the following day to Sandon. His father was at Bath.
22. Keele.
3 Jan.
1829
- The same to the same, at Queen Anne St., Cavendish Square, London, redirected to Bradwell Grove, Burford.
- Takes Vincent to task for his long silences and short letters. Had not penetrated the distant latitudes that Vincent had, but had been roaming from house to house for nearly three months. Why had they not met in Yorkshire? Wished he would come to Keele. The writer's father had been ill and frightened, but was returned from Bath. Walter had gone to Blithfield, 'to perform a Chinese play of his own inditing'. What was Vincent reading or writing? Thanked God that people had left off giving him the credit 'of every vulgar middling novel of Society (of all species of Composition the most Contemptible) that issues from Colburn's shop.'

23. Keele.
 5 July,
 [1829]
- The same to the same, at Queen Anne St.
- Since they had met in Audley Square the writer's life had been passed 'in a scene of very trying affliction.' Had to be in Town the following week and hoped to have a glimpse of him.
24. [London].
 'Friday
 Mornng.'
 [? 17 July,
 1829]
- The same to the same.
- Was to stay in Town that and the following day, leaving Sunday morning, returning Tuesday night, and getting out of it for good on Wednesday or Thursday. He would see Vincent by some means, but how was rather an intricate question.
25. [London].
 'Saturday
 Morg.'
 [18 July,
 1829]
- The same to the same.
- 'Never were obstacles more formidable placed between cup & lip [than] those interposed by the arrangements of my Solicitor to our meeting.' If Vincent looked in to the Travellers' Club towards five o'clock, he should endeavour to be there.
26. Keele.
 10 Sept.
 [1829]
- The same to the same.
- His letter had regaled his spirits and his grouch his palate. Had received an invitation to Shugborough, where he had met Mrs Phillips, Baron & Baroness (?) Rutzen, Wyatt 'the land agent', and five or six others. It had required all the charms of Lady Gower and all the talent of Lady Stafford for several days, for the writer to recover. The following Monday he was to take two of his sisters to Eaton and Pool Park for a change of air and scene. Had hoped to persuade his mother to pass a fortnight at the latter place, but she had not courage for the exertion, her health and spirits mended very slowly. Considers events in France.
27. Keele.
 18 Jan.
 [1830]
- The same to the same, at 24 Queen Anne St.
- Meditates upon imagination. Was really 'as much interested in planting & thinning & realizing petty visions of improved landscape' around Keele, as he was probably 'now Capable of being, (if not as much as in boyhood I thought I shd. have been, "to settle Peace & to unfold the drift of hollow States.")' Had been entirely alone there for a fortnight (his mother and sisters were at Blithfield). The following day he was to go to Eaton, to meet the Francis Levesons on their way to Ireland. Early in the following month he would be resettled at Keele.
28. Keele.
 15 Feb.
 [1830]
- The same to the same, at Queen Anne St., redirected to Blendon Hall, Dartford, Kent.
- Had returned home on the previous Saturday after a month's absence, and the following day should be up to his eyes planting, if the frost did not return. Should be pleased to see Vincent. Comments upon King Leopold and Greece, and the Catholic question.

29. Keele.
 'Wednesday.'
 [? 31 Mar.
 1830]
- The same to the same.
- Should be delighted to see him [on his way to Scotland]. Recommends the Swan Inn at Lichfield.
- [1. Endorsed by Vincent '30 March 1830' - a Tuesday].
30. Keele.
 6 May,
 [1830]
- The same to the same, at 24 Queen Anne St.
- His letter had been most welcome and he rejoiced to find from it that Vincent's 'Event' was likely to be accelerated. Was persuaded that it was unwise 'to protract unnecessarily that "Syncope & awful pause" that intervenes between the 'betrothing & taking to wife'.' As to the April cloud which had passed over her beauty, at her age it mattered nothing. Was touched by Vincent's amiable proposal to give him an early introduction, but did not think he would be at Keele. He hoped to cross the water in July, London had for some years palled upon him, and the death of one of his oldest friends, whose house had long been his house there, had given him an unusual disgust to it. Thanks to the Italian spring he was able to be out painting landscapes in the retina of his eye, for the benefit of God knew whom. The writer's iron railway went clattering along over the country and he was told he would have put up a mile and a quarter of it. Should certainly be in the King's Bench, - 'or rather in the D. of Clarence's - for the King - alas! - will die - & though It wd. require at least a Mme. de Genlis to make him a Hero, I consider his loss a serious Misfortune. The Monarchy in these disjointed times cannot afford to spare all the personal Consideration & authority, which, somehow or other, Surrounds him.'
31. Sackville St.
 11 [June],
 1830
- The same to the same, at 14 Cork Street, [London].
- Vincent had succeeded in puzzling him. 'What the terrible Equivoque, whh. you say you launched at me when I left yr. room the other day, could have been, I have not the most distant notion.' Would go with him to Lawrence's exhibition and talk it over with him. Tom Liddle wanted them to dine at Ravensworth.
32. Keele.
 26 Apr.
 1831
- The same to the same, at Queen Anne St.
- His letter had been most welcome, as he could imagine any details of the ugly events of those time would be 'to a remote & Solitary Excavator of Pools'. Comments upon the political situation.
33. Keele.
 12 May,
 1831
- The same to the same, at 14 Queen Anne St.
- Whenever he had a letter from Vincent he always grasped at his pen as a stage Hero seized his sword, and in either case nothing generally came. Comments upon the political situation.
34. Keele.
 21 May,
 1831
- The same to the same.
- Heartily shared his happiness and wished his daughter

as brilliant and prosperous a lot as Crammer pronounced over the little Elizabeth, in the last scene of Henry VIII. Vincent should not expect them to come into the world perfect models of beauty. Doted on a baby when nobody but its nurse would look at it. Considers the progress of his landscape gardening and refers to [? William] Kent.

35. Keele.
4 Dec.
1831

The same to the same.

'Coming events Cast their Shadows before'. Comments upon the political situation. Rejoiced that Vincent was so happy. Was at Keele alone, putting in his trees. His pool was not half excavated, his mountain not half high enough. He was turning two roads, laying down another mile of iron fence and employing half the county. Was to meet his family at Blithfield at Xmas and might, cholera permitting, appear for a moment in London in January.

36. Keele.
30 Jan.
1832

The same to the same, at Queen Anne St.

'Take up your pen & write, Man - Have ye no bowels? How do you Suppose the mind of a Country Gentleman is to be kept air'd & ventilated?' Had waded out of his pool and visited for about a month, getting as near London as Woburn, at which point he had taken fright and turned back again. Had made a sort of promise to go to Brighton in March. May and June he was determined to pass at Keele. Had plunged into brick and mortar that spring. Comments upon the political situation. John Bull informed him that day that the Queen was with child and that the Duchess of Richmond had eloped. 'He must Calculate on my believing anything - & I would, with great pleasure, - if it were not my principle to believe Nothing.' Had always said that Cradock would make himself a name, though he little thought it would be by pulling about the old one. Was going to Blithfield the following day. Heard Lord Aylesbury was to marry Vincent's cousin, Miss Hervey.

37. Keele.
15 Feb.
[18]32

The same to the same.

Had lived, since Vincent's last letter, up to his chin in a chaos of long forgotten correspondence. Considers a letter of Vincent's to which the latter had alluded. Considers the question of his own solitude. Would not comment upon the Bill. Sometimes stuffed The Times between the bars of the grate. That spring he plunged into brick and mortar, 'Where to Emerge Heaven Knows, for I have at least 2 years' work before I get to my house.'

38. Keele.
12 Mar.
[18]32

The same to the same, at 24 Queen Anne St.

Perhaps Vincent had been right not to answer his last letter, because it did seem an unreasonable proceeding to thrust between a man & his morning paper at that season of bustle and tumult. They would speak of the decline and fall of the British Empire. Comments upon the Reform Bill. Adds a postscript, taking Vincent to task for his 'irreverend railings agst. Sir W. Scott.'

39. Brighton.
16 Apr.
1832
- The same to the same.
- The writer's cockney date would partly explain why he had not before paid off an instalment of his double debt. Had come two days before 'to this great, glaring, dusty, Vulgar Show-box' to visit Lady Bute. Comments upon the Reform Bill. Had 'a sort of idea' that he might be in Town on Thursday, at all events after Easter week, and would bow at the shrine of his household gods, with whom he longed to be acquainted. Comments upon a review in the British Critic, No. 18, on Moore's life of Byron, and upon Channing's essays on Milton and Napoleon.
40. Mivart's Hotel.
28 [May,
1832]
- The same to the same.
- Would not have so neglected his letters had he not been in the daily expectation of seeing him. Entreats Vincent to meet him the following day. Had just received and read his last letter and did not think there was a sentiment in which he did not cordially concur. That gave him great satisfaction, 'for as times approach in which political differences sensibly affect the temperature of private affections, it is very delightful to find an entire Coincidence in quarters where one is most jealous of a Change of feeling.'
41. [? Mivart's Hotel].
'Monday night or rather Tuesday mornng.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1.'
[28-29 May,
1832]
- The same to the same, at 24 Queen Anne St.
- Could not tarry. Invites Vincent to come if possible before 12. Should return to Town on Thursday to be presented to Mrs Vincent.
42. Keele.
30 July,
1832
- The same to the same, at 24 Queen Anne St, redirected to Ballikinnrain, Balfron, Glasgow.
- It was difficult to satisfy a curiosity that one shared. What could the writer say for himself? Had refused to stand 'for a fragment of this dismember'd & bismember'd County - because I am stedfastly purposed not to lead a new life.' If things had not been altogether desperate he might have felt a qualm, as it seemed probable that he should have come in unopposed, whereas their present champion was 'Exceedingly opposed & has only a doubtful Chance.' However, the writer would take as much trouble for him as he would for himself. Was going on with his improvements, which employed his time and absorbed his money. Considers the political situation in Europe and sincerely hoped that 'if we embark in a war, with the Paris rabble & the offal poltrony of Brussels for our allies, to jacobinize the world, - we shall get thresh'd as soundly as we deserve.'
43. Keele.
30 Aug.
1832
- The same to the same, at Ballikinnrain, Balfron, Glasgow.
- From Vincent's programme of progresses, the writer thought he might just hit him before he rose on the

wing, and though the proceeding was unsportsmanlike, he would fire. Vincent wondered why Sneyd was not a candidate for his county, 'having, in the previous page, Sketched me a Specimen of that genus after the Manner of Hogarth - which you conclude with these words "I thought him a perfect Madman, & was really glad when Such a fellow was fairly out of the House".' After that the writer thought he need not be at much trouble to explain why he declined. Describes the progress of his landscape gardening and refers to 'that Scoundrel' Kent. Comments upon the political situation. Adds a postscript, that he had sprained his foot and been a prisoner for a week, and that the rain had destroyed the harvest.

44. Keele.
14 May,
1833

The same to the same.

Had had it so upon the tip of his pen to write to him, that if he had ever taken such an implement into his hand it would have led off with 'My dear Vincent' of its own accord. But he could really do nothing without the spur in his side and thanked Vincent for applying it. Vincent seemed to have been buffeted by a sea of troubles. In those which still continued he sincerely sympathized. Rejoiced to hear that his genial spring and country air were repairing the ravages of the influenza in Vincent's house. Should not be in Town until the 3rd or 4th of June. Looked forward with dread to the day when he had to exchange the freshness of Keele for St James's Street. Proceeded in his vocation of changing square things to round. 'I am only at my Stables yet - My House is to Come - & then I must turn out myself for such time as it shall seem good to Blome to banish me.' Had not the courage to open the chapter of politics, his soul sickened for shame and rage, grief and gloomy foreboding. It was quite clear that the whole fabric was trembling to pieces faster even than he had supposed possible.

45. 'Monday.'
[July,
1833]

The same to the same.

The writer should be most happy to accept Vincent's invitation. He was 'to see the grave Close upon an old & dearly loved friend upon the previous day.' Expresses the hope that longer years would be the portion 'of her at whose Entrance into life you kindly ask me to assist'.

[1. Identified by Vincent as Lord Dover].

46. 'Sunday'.
[4 Aug.
1833]

The same to the same.

Was to go to Becket[?t House, co. Berks.] on the following Wednesday and would have to leave it on the Saturday. It would be delightful if Vincent would contrive to pass those two days there. Sorely regretted Mrs Vincent's inability to accompany him. Augustus Liddell had told the writer the day before that Tom was going down.

47. Keele.
29 Sept.
[18]33
- The same to the same, at Portugal St., London, redirected to Lily Hill, Bracknell, Berks.
- Fate seemed to have crowned the writer steward and patron of all archeries, races and balls. There he was at last, without so much as an assembly or play at Newcastle to break the monotony of his life, or vary the society of his fat gardener or head stone-mason. Relates the progress of his works. Had ridden over from Cirencester to Sherborne, for he had a mania for place-seeing, of which he wished to do as much as possible before the laws of primogeniture were abolished. The living rooms [of Sherborne Park] were, he agreed, 'noble', but they were upstairs, which he considered a cardinal objection. People liked to be in and out. Considers the property.
48. Sandon.
28 Jan.
[18]34
- The same to the same.
- Expresses sympathy for Vincent [for the death of his child]. Hoped to find him at the end of the following month in London. Was to return home in a day or two.
49. Keele.
5 Oct.
[18]34
- The same to the same, at Loudoun [sic] Lodge, Camden Hill, Kensington.
- Thought their pauses grew, like Kean's, too frequent and too long. How was Mrs Vincent's health? Had been busy. His sisters were at last in the country and were to join him in ten days or a fortnight. They were anxious to let Cheverells. The vessel of the state floundered on, at least it did not sink. The Chancellor was talking himself down faster than the Press was writing him down. The legal appointments must deprive the people of all confidence in the law, ' - a longer Step towards Revolution than even the Reform bill.' Asks for news.
50. Keele.
24 Nov.
[18]34
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- Was, he admitted, of a voluminous taciturnity. Comments upon the political situation.
51. Blithfield.
14 Dec.
[18]34
- The same to the same, at Loudon Lodge, Camden Hill.
- Comments upon the political situation. 'I have fallen on Evil days, with my indolent Speculative quiet habits. - Perhaps you will be tempted to add prosy to these Epithets.' Was to go home the day after next. Asks whether it were true the Duke of Newcastle had left more than he had to leave in legacies. Trusted not, or that if he had, the Duchess would 'not feel it incumbent upon herself to beggar herself by supplying the deficiency.'
52. Keele.
26, 27 Mar.
[18]35
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- His few days in London had left unseen nearly all those whom, when he went there for pleasure, he went to see. Had been obliged to content himself with a report from Mrs Stanhope. Supposed he should not be

in Town again until May was spent. Comments upon the political situation: 'Our remaining lives must be pass'd under a new order of things - a much worse & a much more precarious one in my opinion it must be - but Still, if it be yet possible to make it fit for a gentleman to live under, the Case is not altogether desperate - ...'. Invites Vincent to Keele. Asks pardon that the railway should not be completed, but the Liverpool Mail, which took him up at 7 p.m. would deposit him at Newcastle the next day at 12.00.

53. 'Mivart's[.]
Friday Mornng.'
[Mar.
1835]

The same to the same.

Had one foot on the carriage step and was off for Staffordshire. Had lived almost exclusively in his solicitor's dark room in the Albany during the week he had been in town. On Wednesday he had been to Roehampton, with the full purpose of calling at Loudon Lodge in his way back, but had been detained so long that he had been obliged to abandon that part of his scheme. Mrs Stanhope had given him a highly satisfactory account of Mrs Vincent and himself, '& she says yr. little girl is the prettiest Creature of it's inches in Existence.' Should be in Town later in the spring.

54. Keele.
12 Apr.
[18]35

The same to the same, at Loudon Lodge, Camden Hill.

Had had great pleasure in his letters and 'the ingenious device of that burlesque parody of a Statesman - Johnny Russell - (in thrusting his Contingent Speculations upon the subject, into a Government bill upon another) - has removed our difference.' Comments upon the political situation. Had been active in sending up addresses from Staffordshire, '& in the organization of a Conservative association, from which I think good may come.' Was charmed to hear that Mrs Vincent was so warm in their cause - 'Ladies are apt to side with the Gods & not with Cato.'

55. Baginton.
29 May,
[18]35

The same to the same, at Loudoun [sic] Lodge, Camden Hill.

Would it suit him and 'Madame' to receive him on Tuesday, 9th June and to retain him till the 12th? Would Vincent write him a line to Guy's Cliffe? Were they not gallant men in Staffordshire? Longed to ask Lord Hatherton how he did.

56. Keele.
11 July,
[18]35

The same to the same, at Bagshot Park, Bagshot, redirected to Camden Hill, Kensington.

Had to take things up a long way back. No man could have conceived an intention more positively than the writer had of dining at Loudon Lodge, but the cold and rain had set in, and then had come a Conservative summons. So much for his non-appearance. 'Now for my Silence. - I was Scarcely arrived at home when I was called away by the death of my Uncle (John Sneyd) who had requested me to act as Executor of his will - '.

Had then had to return to London. The writer's brother was with him, being inducted and instituted. Comments upon the political situation.

57. Keele.
3 Aug.
[18]35

The same to the same, at Loudon Lodge.

Asks to hear from him. Was he still at Loudon Lodge and when did he start for the north? Was at Keele, 'in the Solitary enjoyment of this Oldfashion'd Summer, winding up my worldly Concerns preparatory to turning my back upon them & all their concomitant Cares & interests for Some Seven or eight Months in Italy.' What a lucky fellow Louis Philippe was, 'to pass unscathed out of a slaughter so subtly & effectually Schemed,...'. Had Vincent read Coleridge's [Specimens of his] Table Talk? A great deal was mystically unintelligible to the writer. What did Vincent think of it? Comments upon the political situation. 'Here is my post - with nothing but Whig Marriages - I am sorry the race is to be Multiplied.'

58. Keele.
18 Nov.
[18]35

The same to the same, at the same place.

Vincent's letter had showered a whole pan of hot coals on his head. Had been into Cornwall, to see George Fortescue, whom Lady Grenville had settled at Bocconoc in a way that left no doubt that the place and estate were destined for him, a matter of infinite joy to the writer. Had laughed at Vincent's three books, which certainly could not be brought into the same course of study. When Vincent was next in Mount Street he should ask at Dighton's to see a model he had made of Cossey, Lord Stafford's house in Norfolk, 'the prettiest toy I ever Saw. He is going to make me one of Keel (Keelituric).' It was worthy of Tom Liddell's inspection if he were in Town. Was afraid the Duke of Beaufort was dying.

59. Keele.
21 Dec.
1835

The same to the same.

Vincent's perservering search after Deighton [sic] has deserved a better success. The writer should be in Town in January and they they could lay siege to him together. Deighton would have unpacked Cossey and perhaps have begun Keele. 'I liked very much his quiet enthusiasm about architectural beauty. - If it be that Sentiment whh. has driven him from Mount Street however, I cd. wish it less ardent.' Vincent's Edinburgh Phydias would not starve with the genius Vincent represented him to possess. Did not think the present age could be justly charged with indifference to the arts, 'though it is true that Colossal Sculpture is not often within the reach of Individual Patronage.' What Vincent said of Tom Liddell was conclusive. Almost wished he were not a commissioner. Hoped finance would 'step in to Curtail the preposterous dimensions of any building erected according to the present instructions of the Cttee....'. Went on working, and Baring Wall, who had just left him and who had a very correct eye, approved him - 'Everything here however must for Some years to Come look raw & Spotty.'

60. Travellers[' Club]. The same to the same.
23 Jan.
[18]36
Vincent had missed his aim and no wonder. Vincent's letter, having travelled round by Oatlands and Roehampton, had found him at No. 83 Jermyn Street only that morning, and had he seen it before he had 'hotel'd' himself, he would have established himself in the quarters so hospitably proffered. Had a great deal to do and very little time. Must see him somehow or other.
61. Jermyn St.
'Wednesday.'
[? Jan.
1836]
The same to the same.
As to going to Camden Hill or anywhere else 'whilst these Tartar excesses of Climate Continue, - the thing is flatly & plainly impossible.' Invites Vincent to look in at the Travellers', on his way home, and they would make another appointment. 'A Kick from Walsall & a Cuff from Canterbury - but the Crazy machine will go tottering on!'
62. Jermyn St.
'Saturday.'
[? 30 Jan.
1836]
The same to the same, at Loudon Lodge, Camden Hill.
Had received Vincent's note of the 27th the previous night. 'Though our Institutions are crumbling round us, the 2d. Post is still spared.' Would call upon Vincent the following day.
63. Keele.
29 Feb.
[18]36
The same to the same.
Had no facts and no fancy. Clare had just left him. All the writer's 'handyworks' were smothered in snow, so he could show him nothing.
64. Keele.
7 Mar
[18]36
The same to the same.
Vincent's meteorological observations were exceedingly shallow. 'Let me tell you that a Thaw is a Thaw at Keel as well as at Trentham - '. By the time Vincent had arrived at the latter park, Keele was whitey-green and before twelve o'clock every vestige of snow had disappeared - ' So, no more of your impudence!' His visit had been the most agreeable incident that had occurred to the writer for long. Was gratified by his approbation of his grubberies. The only danger was being ruined, 'for if you include my house in your Estimate, I fear (from what I have already Spent) you will be a good deal below the mark.' Was sorry for (?) Ossulston's scrape. Was just starting for Hagley - 'the Omniscient Bob Curzon's,...'.
65. Keele.
17 May,
[18]36
The same to the same, at Loudoun [sic] Lodge, Camden Hill.
Had just been reading again the last letter he had received from him. Comments upon it. Desired to know whether his six weeks at Hastings had strengthened Mrs Vincent. Wished Vincent and Tom would run down for a few days. Was so poor that year he was obliged to delay various operations.

66. Keele.
26 May,
[18]36
- The same to the same, at Loudon [sic] Lodge, Camden Hill.
- His letter gave the writer very serious concern. Knew Hastings and Fairlight and could well imagine that the latter must be dependent upon climate. Comments upon the cold weather at Keele. His gardener stood like Niobe in the last spring's shrubbery. Had had a glimpse of the Sutherlands. They intended to pass the winter in Italy. If the writer could so order his affairs, he hoped to do likewise. Should accept Vincent's invitation to Camden Hill. Wondered when he should be rich enough to live like a gentleman, 'cleanly', and forego hotels and hackney coaches, 'with a very Comely looking rental, I never have a sous.' His neighbour Swinnerton had died, 'a great fat ill condition'd litigious Squire of 80. - but that is not the point - I look Conjointly with his heir (for he was impracticable) to effecting that first of all desiderata to my place, a road from Trentham whh. will avoid that foul Smithy Newcastle & bring me 2 miles nearer to the South - & whh. will be moreover the prettiest approach imaginable.'
67. Keele.
1 July,
[18]36
- The same to the same, at Loudoun [sic] Lodge, Camden Hill.
- Wished that Vincent's letter offered more temptation to dwell on the subject that engrossed his interest. As it was, the writer's liking for the object of his anxiety secured for Vincent all his sympathy. Did not see any chance of his moving. Why should he distrust his 'negatively-largely-happy vegetable State, this fine weather - when the roses are just blo[om]ing - ...'. If he did come up, in view of the state of Vincent's wife's health, he should put up at his wonted hostelry and go down and talk in Vincent's garden. Complements him on 'the whitewashing of your Cousin Aspasia.' Was waiting for his post to announce the victory in S. Warwickshire. Prays Vincent to congratulate the Stanhopes in his name when he saw them. Wished him all joy in the change of ministry in his garden, he had got rid of Pitt and secured Addington.
68. Keele.
5 Aug.
1836
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- 'Who would Ever have thought of Mrs. Vincent going on Such a Bacchanalian Pilgrimage - ...'. Vincent's letter gave him most sincere pleasure. He had hardly ventured to anticipate such an improvement or such a brightening of his prospects. Should like very well to wander a little on the banks of that 'Illustrious Rhine' with him, but it was out of the question. Was up to his chin in coal controversies, and all went wrong. Wished he could transport himself to Becket[t House] and see the house, its architect and its proprietors in their glory. Comments upon the political situation.

69. 83 Jermyn St.
6 Feb.
[1837]
- The same to the same.
- The packet he had just received had in no wise blunted his longing to 'aboucher' its author. Could Vincent call, or give the writer an assignation at the Travellers'?
70. Keele.
15 May,
1837
- The same to the same, at Loudoun Lodge, Camden Hill.
- If their accounts were balanced, the writer's debt would be overwhelming. The writer's life was a mere abstract entity, and were he obliged to prove he existed, he should hardly know where to go for evidence. Not a bud had broken. Remembered that a certain thorn on the west side of his garden had begun to put out little green pellets on 1st April. The reason why he recollected the precocious doings of the said thorn was that it was under its branches that Vincent had encouraged him in the hope that he would visit him. Had made up his mind to go abroad towards the end of July or beginning of August, and not to return till the following year. Comments upon the political situation. What was Thomas Liddel about? Did Lord Hardwicke approve of Vincent's selection of a drawing? Heard of a Murillo to be sold for 6,000 gns., which, admirable as the writer thought him in his way, appeared to him an absurdity. Desired to know what was good in the new exhibition rooms. Was Vincent as much charmed as he was with Wilkie's (?) 'Cotter's Saturday Night' and as little with his other pictures, saving his portrait of Lord Tankerville?
71. Keele.
30 May,
[1837]
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- The affair was settled. There was no just cause why they should not be joined together for a little space in the course of the coming month. Gives directions regarding coaches. The King's illness at his age was something like a notice to quit. Hoped he would not die. Had 'no fancy for having the jobbing time-serving House of Coburg grafted upon it [the House of Hanover] - whh. I imagine wd. be the Case, were he to die now.' Saw their papers were preparing them for the loss of Glasgow. Comments upon the use of British Marines at Barcelona.
72. Keele.
22 June,
[18]37
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- That it should come to Vincent offering to make the writer a visit and that the latter should decline it! Explains the situation. Comments upon political affairs. Quite agreed with Vincent, 'that I shd. not think well of our young Q. if she immediately threw off the natural influence of her Mother - pernicio[us] - MS. imperfect] as I have no doubt that influence is in all public matters, - but we may be Easy - the Mother will reign till the reign of the Husband begins - & we shall very soon go to the Dictionary for the meaning of the word 'reign'. - The Radical animus in the Sovereign will however tell Severely agst. us at the Dissolution - It solders up one wide

leak in the Crazy Vessel of the Administration. - Is it not rather a queer proceeding that the King of Hanover shd. swear allegiance to the Q. of England, - as he does by his oath of Privy Councillor?'

73. Keele.
5 July,
1837

The same to the same, at the same place.

Vincent's visit would have been over by then, if his generous intentions had been executed, and the surveyor, who kept the writer company, would by comparison have been still more disagreeable. Could fix no date for his flight. Comments upon court appointments.

74. 'Sunday Morn.'
[Aug. 1837]

The same to the same.

Had been obliged to throw him over, as far at least as dining at Loudon Lodge went, not that the Queen had asked him, but that certain gentlemen of Staffordshire chose to meet together at a most unearthly hour of the evening, for some purpose that he did not clearly understand, 'about the 'Organization' of the Conservative forces - & I must be in the midst of them or I shall lose Caste.' Should still be at the Travellers' at 4 and would drive or walk with him or do his pleasure till $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6.

75. 'No. 64. bis.
Rue du Faubg.
St. Honoré - Paris'.
19 Sept.
1837

The same to the same, at Loudoun Lodge, Camden Hill.

Calculated that Vincent would want to know something about him. His history, his future for some time to come were contained in his date. When the writer had returned to London from assisting Brigham Baring in his extraordinary coup de main in Staffordshire, he had gone to see his sister, Fanny Bouverie, in Hampshire, thence to Longford, thence to Wilton. On 19 August he had put himself to water, and some five days afterwards, for he was a very leisurely traveller, had arrived in Paris, lounging in the streets and never seeing what was called good company, 'except now & then, at Mme de Lieven's - who sits at home in the Evening, & to whom I go when the Spectacle is not to my mind.' The court was at St Cloud, the Granvilles at Dieppe, the 'Elegantes' were in the country, the English '(Such at least as one is likely to know)' had not come. They had had a season [of weather] like a tailor's pattern book. Had made an excursion with Baring Wall to Versailles. Had been utterly disappointed. It was very wonderful what Louis Philippe had done in the time, and the writer had no doubt that the political purpose for which it had been undertaken was as effectually answered as if it had been well done - 'but never - no never - did I feel the humiliation of the Age of plaister & painted paper in whh. we live so forcibly as when I pass'd from the massive magnificence - the lavish & gorgeous but imaginative & grandiose taste - & exquisite Execution of the time of Louis 14. to the Shewy, make-believe - the lacker'd trumpery & the detestable daubing of that of his Citizen Successor.' Fontaine-bleau, he was assured, was really well restored, and if he were less lazy or if Vincent were there to go with him, he would go. Desires news of Vincent.

76. Paris.
21 Jan.
1838
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- Vincent's letters had given the writer very hearty satisfaction and he hoped the plague of cold had done no more than retard the progress in the state of his long suffering wife. Had already heard of the amendment, from Ld. G. [?], with whom the writer had been very glad to renew his old acquaintance. It had brought some melancholy recollections back - 'I hope the reluctance of my assent to the first question he asked upon introducing me to his daughter - "Does not she remind you of her Mother?" was not apparent - but truth to say - though She seems an intelligent well-educated girl, I could hardly forgive her for so reminding me.' The dissipation of Paris was more manageable and more social than that of London. There had been a great political excitement when the Chamber of Deputies had discussed the address - the Spanish question. The result had been a great Conservative triumph. It was an important decision for the peace of Europe but a disappointment to Palmerston. Comments upon the French political situation. What did Vincent think of their Lord Effingham having been offered Canada - 'to tranquilize & re-organize!', and if he were the right man, how very odd that Lord Durham should be the next best. So Lady Essex was dead, was sorry but could not bear that she should have given Lord Essex the gratification of dying before him.
77. Paris.
23 Mar.
[1838]¹
- The same to the same.
- Only knew M. de Lamartine from some of his works. Of all his works that which he preferred was his last, that of inducing Vincent to come to Paris. There was nothing new, 'except that Europe is about to arm in the Cause of black or white lappets - Ask at the foreign office - for the story is too long to tell...'. If Lord Essex were to marry or had married Miss Stephens it was not from good nature to her but from ill nature to his heir.
- [1. The Earl of Essex married Catharine, dau. of Edward Stephens, 14 Apr. 1838].
78. '64. bis. R. du fg.
St. Honore.
Tuesday.
[? Apr. -
May, 1838]
- The same to the same.
- Note, relating to the writer's address in Paris, and a visit by Vincent.
79. [Paris.
Apr. - May,
1838]
- The same to the same.
- Note, agreeing to dine with Vincent and to go to a play.
80. [Paris].
'Saturday.'
[? Apr. - May,
1838]
- The same to the same.
- Would he dine with the Granvilles on Monday? They had charged the writer with that commission. If so, he would send his carriage for him at a little after $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6.

81. Siena.
26 Aug.
1839
- The same to the same, at Thornwood [formerly Loudon
alias Loudoun] Lodge, Camden Hill.
- Vincent's letter [about the death of his wife] had
had a very deep though a very painful interest.
Vincent had the two best of consolations, the proof
that it had been inevitable, and a retrospect without
reproach. The writer had passed his winter at Rome,
March and April at Naples, May at Rome, and early in
June he had settled in Siena. Describes the view
from his window, and the town. Should probably remain
there the whole of the following month, then go to
Florence. Meant to be in Rome before the 1st November.
82. Rome.
30 Mar.
1840
- The same to the same, at the same place.
- Had two letters to thank him for. Considers the
political situation in England, with reference to
the salary and position of Prince Albert, and the
character of Queen Victoria - 'I wd. have her respected
& upheld - but if She is flatter'd into the notion
that She may play Q. Elizth. She will be laughed at
& put down. - She is wayward, obstinate & arrogant -
& has announced herself from the Commencement of her
reign, with uncall'd for ostentation & even bitterness,
as the Head of a Faction. - Lessons & Severe ones must
be read to her. - All Reverence to her high Place! -
All fair indulgence to her Youth! - To her Sex, all
Courtesy of "Men of honor & of Cavaliers"! - but no
Sacrifice, either to Queenly assumption or to womanly
Caprice, of the interests - 'Even to the Estimation
of a hair' - of that jeopardized Cause whh. alone
sustains the tottering throne on which she sits in
blind security!' Etc. Would leave Rome on the 9th and
should stay at Florence, then, if he had energy, he
should go to Genoa, then Venice, the Tyrol, Munich
and Paris. [Letter incomplete].
- With, (i) another (incomplete) version of the same
letter.
83. Keele.
22 Sept.
[1840]
- The same to the same.
- What was Vincent about? What cause was there why he
should not slip down to Keele? 'A mail train leaves
Euston Square at 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ - deposits you at Birmingham at
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - where in a quarter of an hour you are taken up
by the Grand Junction whh. will drop you at Whitmore
at or soon after five - a mere morning's excursion
you see!' Was only half way in his improvements, but
to Vincent, who remembered the place in its original
state, considerable advance would have been made.
84. Keele.
3 Nov.
[18]40
- The same to the same.
- 'Let me see - where did we leave off? - I prescribing
the mail train from Euston Square - You declining
the same from Clarendon Park.' Vincent was free from
all further importunities till the following summer,
'for Adam & Eve, after the Fall, cd. not be more Shy
of being Seen without their leaves than I am.'
Vincent did not by any means enjoy the same
immunity from invasion, on the contrary when the

moment arrived for his journey to London, it was to Vincent he should write, '& not to mine Host of the British.' Now Trentham was inhabited and the writer lived backwards and forwards as much as his duty towards his plantations would admit of at that season. Mourned the loss of Vincent's neighbour. It left a chasm in society. Comments upon the death of Lord Holland, and with him ceased Holland House. Comments upon French politics. Had Vincent read Romilly's life?

85. Keele.
7 Dec.
[1840]¹

The same to the same.

'This, if you have writ your programme true, will wing you at Wimpole.' A roof and walls were, he admitted, 'a Superflu très nécessaire' at that season, and he sympathized in Vincent's want of them. Was starting in a few days for Castle Howard and Wortley. The intellectual destitution in which the writer lived was pitiable. Trentham was gone to London. The writer's brother had just left him, with sciatica, for Jephson at Leamington. Had Vincent read the French debates? The fierce hatred which exploded against England showed 'too clearly' that war was inevitable. The writer did not mean the following spring, but it had to come.

[1. See Vincent's letter to Sneyd in this correspondence, 28 November 1840].

86. [London].
'Saturday.'
[June
1841]

The same to the same.

Had not written the day before for he had hoped to get down to him before he had left Camden Hill. Could Vincent come to the Travellers' Club the following day? On Monday he was to go to Walter at Denton, and intended to take the opportunity of commemorating at Oxford on the Tuesday.

87. Keele.
24 June,
[18]41

The same to the same.

It was clear that unless fairly roofed under Vincent's battlements, he had no chance of seeing him. Had left Town for his brother's early on Monday, who had twisted a ruinous old squire's nest 6 miles from Oxford, into the snuggest abode Vincent could imagine. There he had passed two days, on one of which they had driven over to Oxford to see the show - the Commemoration. Describes the popularity of the Duke of Wellington and Prince Albert, who had been forbidden to attend the Waterloo Banquet by Queen Victoria. From Denton, by a complicated process, he had effected his journey to Keele in a day. Till the infernal elections were over he should be perfectly unhappy. Their Whig county members had had the wit to withdraw. Newcastle and the Potteries would be hard fights, but he hoped they should win both. Upon the whole, the restoration of something like good government was on the cards. What were Vincent's speculations?

88. Keele.
 9 July,
 [18]41
- The same to the same.
- Vincent's letter had most agreeably interrupted a train of 'Sorriest fancies' which election worries and business bothers had given him for companions since his return. Was steadfastly purposed to pass some days at Thornwood Lodge that summer. Had entered keenly into the vexations and triumphs of Vincent's royal soirée. Thought Vincent had been indebted to Estherhazy, 'for with the greatest regard for the D. of C. he is much too loud for your Spaces. He shd. dine in Westminster Hall. It is certainly a most Singular practice, that of Shouting through private life as if he were in a furious passion & his Company Stone deaf.' Agreed with Vincent very much in his 'palliatory pleading for Strawberry Hill', but had seen it in early life '& I confess felt only indignation at the hoax.' The essential principle of Gothic proportion was contrast, 'whh. necessarily requires great Space for it's [sic] effects.' Thought the application of ecclesiastical Gothic to a residence altogether a mistake, Strawberry Hill was a more ridiculous failure but a more excusable one in taste than Eaton. Considers the political situation, with reference to Peel and 'the little Whig Q.' Had his lawyers still suspended over him.
89. Keele.
 19 July,
 [18]41
- The same to the same.
- Vincent had let his house to Alvanley! 'To be sure 'Alvanley & his Sister' does give a certain regular, domestic, debt-discharging air to the Firm...'. Would visit Vincent at Lily Hill. Considers the political situation.
90. Keele.
 'Sunday.'
 [Aug.
 1841]
- The same to the same.
- Accepted Vincent's offer of coming to Keele provided Sneyd returned with him. Nothing the writer had heard of in those days of reform equalled Alvanley talking of payments in advance.
91. Keele.
 'Thursday.'
 [Aug.
 1841]
- The same to the same.
- Had not had so pleasant a letter, he did not know when. Vincent could not bestow himself where his presence would create more joy. Describes to Vincent how to get to Keele from London.
92. Keele.
 10 Sept.
 [1841]
- The same to the same.
- The writer could not leave home till Monday. Had seen how much Vincent had been suffering, and admired the fortitude and good temper with which he had endured 'not only your own Maladies but the rustic health of Your host & his Multitude of grubby lions, whh. I feel Certain wd. have irritated me into a high fever under any Similar State of body.'

93. Keele.
 'Sunday.'
 [12 Sept.
 1841]
- The same to the same.
- Vincent would cry 'Treachery' and believe himself 'deccoyed under false pretences into 300 miles of 'tramping''. Explains the reason for postponing his visit.
94. 28 Sept.
 [18]41
- The same to the same.
- Had projected Thornwood Lodge that morning. Had returned from Brighton the day before, where he had gone for two days' change, and proposed returning home on Thursday or Friday. Would still endeavour to squeeze a couple of hours out of the swarm of small bothers which engrossed him, for Camden Hill, before he went, but Lily Hill he renounced for the present.
95. Keele.
 17 Oct.
 [18]41
- The same to the same.
- Rejoiced to hear of his progress towards health and hoped that Brighton might complete the recovery. The writer had had his turn too, having been taken ill in London. What did Vincent think of the American news? Comments upon diplomatic appointments, had misgivings about Ellenborough in India, did not believe him to be a man of 'Safe judgment'. Wished Vincent joy of having extricated himself so well 'from the Royal Embarras.' Augustus Liddell would be a great improvement on Higgins, socially, 'whether departmentally you know better than I do.' Supposed Alvanley's pamphlet had been written under one of Vincent's Irish yews.
96. Trentham.
 27 Oct.
 [1841]
- The same to the same.
- Recommends a silversmith to Vincent. If Vincent went to his shop he should look at Sneyd's wine coolers, which had been modelled for him and which he thought pretty. The writer's date would show he was better but not well. If he were not chained to the car by his affairs, he almost thought he should take flight to a summer land. 'We have here in the Juvenile line The Archbishop of York in his 85th year - Mr. Grenville in his 86th & Ld. Harrowby in his 80th - They are severally the most wonderful Specimens of Green Old Age I ever beheld. - We are going to be a little bewhigged by the Lansdownes & Lord Cottenham (of all birds in the Air!) - I want to get home, but it is difficult without ungraciousness to go four miles off to live alone.' Had no news. The sooner the war with America came, 'if Come it must - (as I believe) - the better.' The Queen certainly had written to Lord Melbourne to express the highest satisfaction with Sir Robert Peel. That was good in itself. The writer's land was all in such a state from the long continued deluge that planting appeared out of the question. Adds a postscript, asking Vincent whether he had heard of Lady Charlotte Bury Seeking refuge from her Creditors in Holyrood House & Escaping from thence to the Continent in Man's attire!

97. Keele.
20 Apr.
[18]42
- The same to the same.
- By the Treaty of Thornwood, negotiated at the door of the writer's Brougham, it had been stipulated that they should occasionally exchange a pennyworth of biography. Perhaps, à la Guizot, Vincent intended not to ratify. Nothing could equal the solitude of a provincial April. One was left like a stranded boat when the tide had receded, that the writer did not mind, but the east wind he did. When the rain had fallen and his hollies were disposed of, early in the following month he hoped to propose himself to Vincent for a few days. Heard that, with the exception of the miniatures and prints, and some of the books, the learned spoke slightly of Horace's heterogeneous collections. What was Vincent about? How had old Rolle left his wealth? Was it true that Mansfield was to marry Lady W. Stanhope?
98. Keele.
27 Apr.
[18]42
- The same to the same.
- As far as a short-sighted mortal might answer for the future, the writer would break bread with Vincent on the 10th May. Describes the rhododendrons at Keele. To think that he should have ratted to Augustus Barrington, what reliance could be placed on any man's principles after that? Takes Vincent to task for abandoning him in favour of Augustus Barrington. Complains of his neighbours' cutting down their trees. 'A few years ago it was what a Surveyor wd. call a "heavily timber'd" County. - A few years hence, except my own & the D. of Sutherld.'s there will not be a tree in it.' Could not tell him how seriously it affected his happiness.
99. Keele.
'Thursday 5th'
[May, 1842]
- The same to the same.
- 'Be it the 12th then.' The earnestness of Vincent's defence in the matter of the Augustan heresy had made him laugh. Vincent reproached him for not compassionating his Exchequer toils, but the writer's nature was so debased by idleness that he could only wonder how it was possible to lead such a life. The nature and duties of Vincent's office had always been to the writer as profound a mystery as an entailed estate had been to the lady in Miss Austen's novel. It seemed that Vincent was dovetailed into the 'Thing', as Cobbett had called it. Trusted his drudgery would not make him ill.
100. Keele.
30 May,
[1842]
- The same to the same.
- Had left on one of Vincent's tables the Strawberry Hill catalogue, with certain pencil marks. Desired Vincent to have it deposited at Thorpe's, 178 Piccadilly, with an instruction. Had been unwell. [His grounds] were green and fresh, at Trentham they were devoured by blight - 'one of the advantages of a hill over a Valley.' Considers his rhododendrons, and desires to be told the result of Lord Bute's sale. The easy fortnight the writer had passed with Vincent had so domesticated him with his household and garden gods that he felt his interests touched by all that affected them.

101. Jermyn St.
'Saturday'.
[? Early
June, 1842]

The same to the same.

Had intended to go down the following day, to ascertain whether Vincent and his 'imprudent transplantations' were alive, but it seemed that he had been disporting himself with 'Miss Fanny Byng' - & Co! Could not go to Wilton at that moment. On Monday he was to run down to Otlands. The Monday or Tuesday following he was due at Nuneham, and might go with Baring Wall to the seaside. It was not the writer's fault if Sir Robert Peel did not like Thornwood and the Duke Bute Lodge 'at a guinea a minute for exactly the term you wish.' The Beverleys had not been thinking of the latter for themselves, 'but for Littleton & Ly. Margaret. Seeing the very mesquin allowance whh. Hatherton makes, I shd. imagine it too expensive for them - but toute la boutique is always at Richmond, So there is no hearing them on the Subject.' A marriage was to be declared that day between Prudhoe and Eleanor Grosvenor.¹ Had been made fidgety by the serious illness of his youngest sister. Prays Vincent send word of 'dutiful & grateful attachment' for him to the Duchess and Princess Sophia. Parliament was wiping up its slops, '& this on the 10th.' Thought Vincent right to let Lily Hill.

[1. Lord Prudhoe married Eleanor, daughter of the Marquess of Westminster, 25 August 1842].

102. Keele.
7 June,
[18]42

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his very agreeable letters. Thought Vincent would be 'Thane of Bute'. The failure of 'Bonny Sweet Robins' was a trump card and promised to place Vincent in the denounced category of those who removed their neighbours' landmarks. Should rejoice in his extension and envied his tenant. Had listened on Saturday evening 'for the Chorus of Your 'God save the K.' - but in vain. - I suppose the wind was Contrary.' Had read Bab's article on Frederick II and agreed in Vincent's criticisms and could add a good many more. Had been suffering from influenza. The following day he had to attend a road meeting and break a lance with his neighbour Pilkington. They had, he heard, sent a writ to Newcastle, confound them, before the writer had escaped from the country. Government had put up a Mr Colquhoun, '(I wish the Pot walloppers joy of the particular Combination of Syllables) & we must bring him in.' Adds a postscript, about Howden's debut in the House of Lords and the 'Guardsmen's Monument'.

103. Keele.
12 June,
[18]42

The same to the same.

Vincent would know the manner of the writer's most ill-advised 'Soubresant'? Describes an accident with his horse. Had there ever been anything like the bungling, incoherent, unworkmanlike manner in which the House of Commons dealt with the bribery question? They were in all the uprear of election 'A bas' at Newcastle - a disfranchised district would be the only one to live in. Vincent's defence of Howden's black

flag acquitted him of all Byronic buffoonery. Comments upon the Bishop of London's opinion of the Bishop of Quebec. The royal dinner and soirée read like a great success.

104. Keele.
27 June,
[18]42

The same to the same.

Well, Vincent had it now - Bute - Lily - Thornwood. Believed he had made a good investment. When the new house was built at Lily Hill he would have more villas than any man since Cicero. Comments upon his lameness. What an advantage Vincent's situation gave him for small impromptu receptions. Was sure Vincent would appreciate Bouffé, in the writer's view 'incomparably the best Actor I ever saw in that line...'.
The same to the same.

105. Norman Court.
4 Sept.
[18]42

The same to the same.

On the chance of his being at Thornwood, he directed two words there to advise him that he had written to Barrington to propose himself to Becket, and hoped Vincent would be there. Adds a postscript, that he was to go the following day to Longbridge Deverill, Warminster.

106. Keele.
18 Oct.
[18]42

The same to the same.

Desired Vincent's news. Since the writer had come down he had made one excursion to Chatsworth to meet the Duchess of Gloucester, and home by Ashbourne (Sir W. Boothby's) and Alton Towers. The former certainly stood apart, Alton, he thought Vincent knew, 'I consider it one of those monsters whh. tasteless wealth Spawns over the face of the land, - & rank it in the Category of the Pavilion & Eaton.' Lord S[hrewsbury] was fortifying it as a man might have fortified in the Middle Ages. People laughed at him, but he had told the writer that he apprehended tumults. The writer was at his dirty work again. Was in extreme perplexity at a published letter from Sir C. Bagot to Mr Lafontaine, not at the matter but the style. Should perhaps have named him as 'the Man who wrote the best of any with whose writings I am familiar.' If it were not for 'those devices of the Devil - railways', the writer should say that Vincent 'could not "pass my check" from Ravensworth to Camden Hill', but supposed he would sweep by with a bubble and (?) phiz and laugh at him. Did not know the post town to Ravensworth, but that could not signify.

107. Keele.
26 Dec.
[18]42

The same to the same.

Might his shadow never be less. It seemed impudent to tell a man whose letters one neglected for so long, that he narrowly escaped an answer by return of post. Such was the truth. The writer's pen was always strongly impelled to leap from its inkstand to continue the conversations Vincent commenced. That first impulse thwarted, the almanac told the rest. Hastened to put on the sackcloth of contrition and wished rather than expected that 1843 might reform his ways. As he had just read over Vincent's last

letter he was tempted to start off on modern castles, but that would be too much after the manner of Lord Bessborough, 'who having Somewhere disputed with Rogers on the Vex'd question of Junius & meeting him Seventeen years afterwards. on the Steyre [sic] at Brighton, took him by the button & began "To return to Junius's letters",....'. Was it true that Tom Liddell was going to be married to Miss Barrington? Passing to another Tom, did Vincent like the Lays of Ancient Rome? The writer did. Lady Grosvenor's book, too, was very pretty reading, but the book that moved his spleen was Mahon's. There was a conceit about writing a French book which was too provoking. Had read it with a malignant desire to catch a fault of language and by the blessing of Providence had had two or three good bites. Was going in a day or two to Castle Howard, stopping at Worsley & Bishopthorpe. Desired to know whether Vincent had established at tenant in Buteland.

108. Keele.
2 Feb.
1843

The same to the same.

Some suspicion had before crossed his mind that Vincent had acted with more magnanimity than prudence by assisting the reform of his office, 'leaving the question of remuneration Embarked on the frail bottom of a general understanding, - transferable from Minister to Minister, - ...'. Comments upon Vincent's position as Queen's Remembrancer and a difference of opinion he is having with the Treasury. Vincent's letter, containing a chapter on Tom, had found the writer in close contact with that affianced eccentricity, at Trentham. He was at past 40 just what he had been at 20, and would be at 70. What a wife was to do with him, he could not conceive. Had brought Clare from Trentham for a day or two, 'to see my pocket edition of Chaos (I wd. have given my Ears to have kidnapp'd Tom, but he had no time)...', and returned there that day. Should probably go to Eaton for a day or two the following week, and 'before the month Strikes 16' he believed he had to be in Town, and, who knew, Vincent's heart might be opened to run down to breathe his bracing air. What a fuss and bother London was in. If Vincent read reviews he supposed he had read that disgraceful article of Macaulay's on Mme. d'Arblay?

109. Keele.
'Thursday'.
[Post 10 Feb.
1843]¹

The same to the same.

Returns his papers. Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Vincent's method of treating a fall was certainly original. He could bless his stars he had not sprained his ankle, for the writer's had not half recovered from a like accident the previous June. Had no time for politics. Comments upon 'the nonsense of the Proclamation,' and its effect on the Indian native princes, and other events in India.

[1. See Vincent's letter to Sneyd of this date].

110. Keele.
24 Apr.
[18]43

The same to the same.

Held to nothing more tenaciously than to his visit to Vincent, but as to effecting it on 11th May, it struck

him as the wildest of impossibilities. 'By all means secure the 'Two Tom.s, bound together', (as a Catalogue might describe them) - & then if my shelf remains Vacant, I can come if I find it practicable.' It cost him a regret when any member of the old royal family dropped off, though he could spare 'our Uncle Sussex'¹ as well as any. His "liberalism" put the writer out of patience. Attacks the obituary in The Times. Was bursting into bud rapidly since the rain. Had read mighty little, Macaulay's review of the Puseyites - 'painfully elaborate but very able', Horner's life, the memoir of Romilly. Rejoiced that Vincent had established such good neighbours instead of 'the Vexatious Old Crane' with whom he was threatened. Acquiesced in Vincent's apology for bad taste, 'an essential ingredient in any large Composition.' Exclaims at Vincent's having written three 'mortal sides' on the opera. Was 'in the most benighted State of ignorance about all that relates to that 'divine Science' of music.'

[1. Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, died 21 Apr. 1843].

111. Keele.
1 May,
[18]43

The same to the same.

Did not consider that the terms of their friendship allowed him any more option of refusing the trust Vincent had proposed, if, after weighing the objections to which his nomination was liable, Vincent still persisted in it. Outlines the objections - his age, his ignorance of business. The Treasury note was very miserable. Comments upon the position. Hoped to see him in June. Hoped Lady C.L. would not be wilful about her walk and flower beds. Could not Vincent let Tom [Liddell] upon her, 'to worry her into the right lines?'

With, (i) another version of the first half of the above.

112. Mivart's.
'Thursday'.
[June
1843]

The same to the same.

Had read the papers and could not conceive how 'My Lords' could meet the Ch. Baron's opinion. Thought Vincent had cast his letter in the right form.

113. Keele.
5 July,
[18]43

The same to the same.

Indeed, he had had a weary time of it. Rheumatism had seized on the nerves of his head and he heartily hoped that Vincent might never be so victimized, '(as the modern jargon runs.)' Everybody was calling out for rain, and the ash trees had all got the mange. Was driven into a corner to make room for the painter and whitewasher. Should have to go to London soon, on business connected with Sir C. Bagot's affairs, as he was one of his executors. Had seen the British Gallery. His long expected copy of the Pescatori from Venice was spoiled by the sea water.

114. Keele.
24 July,
[1843]
- The same to the same.
- Heard from Walter [Sneyd] that Vincent was going to visit him at Denton. Complains at Vincent's not having written to tell him what he thought of it. Intended to be in London on Friday or Saturday. Thought he should go to Mivart's. Suggests that they pass a day or two together. Could not screw up courage for Ireland. Did Vincent still cling to his fragment of kitchen garden?
115. Keele.
31 Oct.
[1843]
- The same to the same.
- 'Mic[haelmas] T[erm] 6th' was the mysterious language of the almanac, which the writer held to signify 'that the Scatter'd rays of that Luminous body the Ct. of Exchequer, about this time, converge to a Centre.' From that pregnant hieroglyphic he extracted that Vincent was at Camden Hill. Vincent's letter was 'the best reason'd defence of the Ministerial Course in Ireland that I have met with,' and he had used it to reply to the attack of a Whig correspondent 'who will be highly edified by the sudden development of My intelligence, & perhaps wonder where the Jay picked up his peacock's tail.' Comments upon Peel's position. The City election seemed to him a rebuff of the most disastrous importance. It would pass for victory of the anti-corn law league. 'Rotschild & his Jews turned the Scale - A radical Rotschild is a new idea to me. I thought the House was the Counterpoise to Revolution throughout Europe.'
116. [? Early
Nov., 1843]
- The same to the same.
- [Last part of letter only]. So though they did not visit Wimpole, their betters did, it should seem. 'A Queen & a hurricane in the Same Year must be ruinous... one blesses one's stars for not being in the liable Category.' Had been passing a week at Aldenham. Should be stationary the whole of November. Was scattering his incoherent bits of finery about the house, and had had the faces of his ancestors washed and was hanging them in the passage. Then the tunnel. It was 'the most melancholy ridiculous Extravagant whim of whh. a Gentleman of mature Age and average sense was ever guilty.' Could not send another engraving of Trentham, by reason that he had it not. The Duchess was to be confined, '(a great folly)', at the end of the month.¹
- [1. A reference to the birth of their son Albert, 21 Nov., 1843?]
117. [? Nov.
1843]
- The same to the same.
- [Last part of the letter only]. Now their rulers buckled on their armour and began to be vigorous. It looked as if the present inactivity had been from weakness, not from counsel. If Peel was not the man to save them, they were past salvation. Supposed there was not the least chance of Vincent running down to see him? Had suspended his ancestors above the house. Vincent never saw such a queer disparate as his washed walls and fine frames produced. Desired news of him.

Adds a postscript: 'Think of Howden having asked for the Spanish Embassy - !!!'

118. Hatchford.
'Sunday'.
[? 1843]¹

The same to the same.

Had spoken without book when he settled to dine with him on Tuesday. The arrangement would be inconvenient. Wished Vincent would fix some morning to make a tour of nursery gardens with him.

[1. Endorsed by Vincent].

119. Keele.
'Thursday'
[?] 26th.
[1844]¹

The same to the same.

Where, in the black catalogue of human ills, philosophers placed the office of Sheriff, the writer was not exactly cognizant, ' - probably in the Same Class with Bankruptcy & Mental distraction, to whh. it appears pretty directly to lead - but certes the Victim of the Calamity looks for other Comfort from his intimates than "flouts & dry blows";...'. Complains of his misfortune. As to the particular case Vincent mentioned, an 'Escape' seemed a queer misnomer as applied to the sheriff. It must derive from 'Escapade'. Considers Ireland. Had been in London, because London was the centre of railways. Should be much disappointed if he did not enjoy his annual peep at Vincent's 'Spring-burst', and annual gossip. Expected a return visit.

[1. Endorsed, '20th. Febr. 1844'. The 20th Febr., 1844, fell on a Tuesday, the 26th on a Monday].

120. 'Monday'.
['Spring
of 1844']¹

The same to the same.

Cries him mercy for not having returned his first letter to the Chief Baron. There, too, was Vincent's second letter, which was excellent, and he deserved it, for it was shabby in the head of a court to withhold his protection and assistance from one of its principal officers, where he thought that an injustice was being practised upon him, merely to keep himself out of trouble, but it was a rebuke. Could not write at any length as he had Nesfield there for a very few hours, 'at a great many guineas an hour', and was deeply engaged 'in the management of the very unmanageable ground in front of my house - & I am wilful & like my own way.' Could not leave home before Monday, and then only for a very few days, so he hoped to be with him on that day.

[1. Endorsed by Vincent].

121. ['Spring
1844']¹

The same to the same.

'You will think 'a pair of Sheers' as much my Symbol as that of Atropos - but I shd. Stop at "Sir Robert himself".' Did not exactly see why Vincent should apprise Goulburn of his intention to see the head of the beard with which he was at issue. Should certainly take a legal opinion as to the legality of making a fixed salary 'so very unfix'd.'

[1. Endorsed by Vincent].

122. Keele.
 'Sunday.'
 [? Post
 18 Apr.
 1844]
- The same to the same.
- His paper bore witness of his virtuous intentions. Had brought it two days before from Trentham, expressly to write to Vincent, 'remembering that you wished for a copy of the Vignette-unendorsed.' [Top half of the page torn off - ? bearing letter-head of Trentham]. So Vincent had made a pond and a water-meadow. Comments. Invites him to Keele. Should 'not be in quite such a blaze of rhododendrogenistous-Crimson-&-gold glory as I was last year,' for he had been obliged to cut a great deal of his double flowering gorse. Would rather have Vincent in full summer. Should be glad to read his correspondence with 'the Shabberoons of the Treasury.'
123. Keele.
 'Friday.'
 [? Post
 18 Apr.
 1844]
- The same to the same.
- Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Clare had come and gone, the writer's only event. Was convinced Vincent was creating a miniature Ullswater. Dared say Thornwood was lovely. 'I will see it, if I am alive, in the Merry Month of May.' Was prodigiously backward. Had dreamed 'of a pasture with the walks laid in Color'd & pattern'd tiles - such as might be in a Court of the Alhambra.' [Letter incomplete].
124. Keele.
 'Thursday.'
 [? 9 May,
 1844]¹
- The same to the same.
- Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. It would be impossible for him to leave home till late the following week, but if possible he would do it. Vincent should refuse no engagements and put the writer out of consideration. If he could get to Vincent on Friday 17th or Saturday 18th, he would assuredly do so. Vincent's theory 'of Expedient Anomalies in the System of Indian Govrmt.' did not convince him. Was compelled to confess that his hybrids were a total failure. There had been no drop of rain for a month.
- [1. Vincent has dated the letter to 1844. In that year the only month in which a Friday fell on the 17th was May].
125. Keele.
 15 May,
 [18]44
- The same to the same.
- Could not budge before Monday. Thought Vincent's letter to Pollock excellent. So Walter was with Vincent! Vincent had better call his place 'the Sneydery' at once. 'If you still 'have him roofed', Commend me right heartily to him.'
126. Keele.
 16 May,
 [18]44
- The same to the same.
- Did his bidding, though it was absurd that he should correct Vincent's exercise. Gives his criticisms of a paper prepared by Vincent in the course of his dispute with the Treasury. Had hurt his foot.
127. 'Wedy.'
 [c. June,
 1844]
- The same to the same.
- Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Lord Ellenborough's recall was 'a curious exposure of the Monstrous absurdity of the Scheme by whh. the Indian

Empire is governed. How cd. it ever work at all?'
Comments.

128. Keele.
12 Aug.
[18]44

The same to the same.

Vincent was a pretty fellow to pass by on the other side. Hoped the exercise on the breezy hills might give him health as well as sport. Had had a weary week of assizes. Had, in an unguarded moment, accepted an invitation from Lord and Lady Shrewsbury to meet Cambridges and Mecklenburgs, and, no doubt, any other Royal Highnesses they could lay their hands on, at Alton the following week; thence he thought of going to Guy's Cliffe to meet his elder sister. Vincent's course with the Treasury seemed plain, to give no account of the fees and sue for the salary if they did not pay the amount fixed by the Act. Thought war likely. The rain had given his drooping plants a hope of revival. Had a Scotch bailiff arriving that day, 'I feel with extreme humiliation my utter incapacity to talk to him in the way a Sensible Man wd. talk to such a functionary.'

129. Keele.
24 Oct.
[18]44

The same to the same.

That was all very fine [Vincent's not having visited him]. Supposed it was his correspondence with the Treasury which had taught him that shabby lesson of cheating folks of their due. Would take some room at the hotel in Kensington next time he moved southward. His life had been a blank for so long that he could not fish up an event in his memory. Had taken his sister Harriet into Westmorland. Trentham was still in Scotland, so that his solitude was 'Zimmermannic'. Was in the midst of his evergreen evolutions. Had no future. Clare, he supposed, would visit him soon on his way from Ireland, '(unless your example obtains generally)', and Sir James Graham fêted him with a third assize in the genial month of December. Had read a medley of books. Louis Philippe's visit and hearty reception must have done good, in spite of the 'mauvaise Presse'.

130. Keele.
12 Nov.
[18]44

The same to the same.

Cassius was yoked with a lamb. Only required Vincent to put in a visit at Keele on his earliest summer holiday the following year. Would not have him come at the present time. The interest became painful as the progress of his war with the Treasury approximated to an engagement. Could not see any reasonable doubt of a decision in his favour. Had just read over Macaulay on Chatham. Gives his opinion of Macaulay's writing. Believed his assize was to be in the second week in December. Looked forward to it with extreme dislike.

131. Berkeley Sq.
[25 Dec.
1844]

The same to the same.

Thought Lily Hill, with the wind in that quarter, an odd arrangement. Did not see the possibility of getting to see him. Vincent should try the Travellers'

whenever he passed that way. Had read and quite approved his papers [on Vincent's dispute with the Treasury]. Comments.

132. Brighton.
'Sunday.'
[Feb.
1845]¹

The same to the same.

Had yielded to the solicitations of his hosts to remain there till Monday, when he was to go to Hatchford (Cobham). If Vincent still liked to have him before he crawled back to his shell, he would go to him on Thursday.

[1. Endorsed thus by Vincent].

133. Keele.
23 Apr.
[1845]

The same to the same.

Returned him Mr Hill's note. Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. His lazy hand demurred to enter on the topic of Irish policy. Prays Vincent to read Charles Greville. Adds a postscript, warning him, when he called on his neighbour, to go armed and attended. What was the maniac's name?

134. Keele.
'Tuesday.'
[? Apr.
1845]¹

The same to the same.

As the proverb said of Rome, so of Chancery, every road lead to it, 'or it wd. puzzle an ordinary understanding how a plain question of law shd. be referable to that Tribunal.' Had certainly never known a contest conducted 'in so uncandid & oppressive a Spirit.' Advises Vincent as to what he should do. Comments upon the weather.

[1. Date apparently completed by Vincent. The reading 'Apr.' is uncertain - ? 'Agt.']

135. Keele.
'Friday.'
[Ante 22 May,
1845]¹

The same to the same.

Was fixed beyond all power of motion. Explains his inability to visit Vincent in May. Did not like Vincent's account of himself. Comments upon his dispute with the Treasury. If the office of Registrar for Middlesex had no connection with Exchequer Remembrancer, why did Vincent not give up the Exchequer office?

[1. See Vincent's letter of that date].

136. Keele.
'Friday.'
[23 May,
1845]

The same to the same.

Answered Vincent's by return of post, as he should be enveloped in business. Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. The whole thing put him out of temper. Comments upon Vincent's neighbours. Was plotting 'a Sort of formal orchard.'

137. Keele.
'Thursday.'
[July 1845]¹

The same to the same.

Had been kept there by the illness of his servant, or he should have transferred to Town a fortnight before and asked Vincent to house him. Would dine with Vincent on the Monday and bring a great coat and umbrella, 'in Case you shd. persist in Your wild Scheme of walking in the garden.' Walter had sung its beauties in a lofty strain. The writer's was growing pretty with

increasing years, when did Vincent mean to bear witness of that truth?

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

138. Clarendon Hotel.
'Friday'.
[29 Aug.
1845]

The same to the same.

Could answer some of his queries. 'Never was poor Devil more at Sea - the Sport of Lawyers, whh. are worse than winds - & whose proceedings have much more analogy to a dead Calm.' It would be late in the next month before his business released him. His housekeeper and cook had turned him off and were going to go. On Monday he should run down into Staffordshire, see what it all meant, speed their departure, and return. Expected to see Vincent in the course of the next month. Had visited Tottenham, Broadlands, and Norman Court. Wished Vincent would 'let drop to the Dss. of Gloucester tomorrow that I am obliged to go into Staffordshire on Monday. - I shd. be sorry she thought I neglected the wish she Graciously express'd that I shd. go over to Richard.' Hoped to do so when he returned. Georgiana Harcourt was to marry Col. Malcolm, not a dean, archdeacon, or chaplain. Walter had been charmed with his visit to Vincent. 'I shall Certainly assume the fraternal privilege of remonstrating against the predominant Soliloquies of whh. you Complain, whenever the[y] strike my Ear - that sort of tic falls on my nerves most distressingly.'

139. Keele.
5 Sept.
[18]45

The same to the same.

Nothing so raised the choler of Charles Greville 'as the felicitations of sound-footed friends on his good fortune in having the blessings of gout vouchsafed to him.' Could not altogether deplore Vincent's case, for he adhered to the old faith that gout was a crisis and a vent of 'stomachic' ill humours, which if they did not rage in that extremity would disperse themselves over the system. Had himself trodden into a wasps' nest of domestic troubles. Lord knew what hubbub and confusion there had been in the house during his absence. Having no pleasure in investigations, he had marched out the whole female garrison. His place looked very green. They had been more drenched in that county than anywhere, he believed, and a good deal of damage was done. Fired by Vincent's example, he had gone down to Frognor. Describes his visit. The Trentham head gardener had been desired by the Duchess to go to Camden Hill, to see Vincent's garden. That, the writer thought, ought to gratify his 'Hortipaternal feelings.'

140. Travellers ['Club].
'Tuesday'.
[16 Sept.
1845]¹

The same to the same.

Had returned to Town meaning to go direct to Frognal, but had been treated by a letter from Lady Sydney to prevent that movement, the state of Lady Cadogan (whose death had been expected hourly for the previous week), not allowing her to receive the party she had asked. Had fulfilled

three other engagements, Roehampton (the Granvilles), Hatchford, and Panshanger. A solicitor, an auctioneer and a land agent would have to be his principal society that week. Could break that triple band still. Was dying for a peep at Lily Hill. Suggests Thursday for a visit. Hoped he was recovering the shake he apprehended gout inflicted upon the system. Lady Blantyre had had a daughter.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

141. Clarendon Hl.
'Thursday'.
[18 Sept.
1845]

The same to the same.

Why the writer was not in a fly between Slough and Lily Hill at that moment, he would tell Vincent. He was in Town to sell some property 'in Rent'. His lawyer had made him give up all his engagements that week, (sparing one at Roehampton). Was in some measure consoled by Vincent's letter, because he had recovered his verve. Must dress and go forth to talk Lydd and Romney to his customer. Lady Cadogan was dead. Lord (?) Rutford had the garter. Lord Lonsdale refused it. Hudson had bought Lawnsboro' from the Duke of Devonshire for £374,000.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

142. Keele.
16 Nov.
[18]45

The same to the same.

The syncope had lasted quite long enough, so unless Vincent took a deeper interest than the writer supposed in the case of Newall v. Webster, he should cleanse his full bosom on a sheet of Exchequer paper for the writer's benefit. That day three weeks the writer had stood at Vincent's gate, before returning to the Clarendon Hotel. Wished to know how he was. Had had George Harcourt at Keele, and young (?) Karolzi, and the Charles Percys said they were coming, so did Lady Charlotte Greville. Was in a state of utter astonishment at his own unwonted hospitalities. Had never witnessed a more awful paroxysm of weather. Had been shocked to hear of poor Lady Holland. Mr Grenville too, 'Ultimus Romanorum', was breaking fast. One should make friends of the young. Adds a postscript, enjoining Vincent to read François Mignet's Antonio Perez, and two essays on Italian poetry and romance by [? William Hickling] Prescott.

143. Bowood.
2 Jan.
1846

The same to the same.

Thanks him for the two letters he had written. Considers the political situation. Agreed with a great deal that Vincent said. Was to go to Town the following day. 'We have Macaulay here en petit Comité - He empties out his memory & we all sit & listen.' The writer was 'rather Souffrant'.

144. Keele.
20 Jan.
[18]46

The same to the same.

His conscience made a coward of him when he thought of the large debt he owed and the small instalment he had paid. The time had been when his pen would have leaped from the inkstand to discuss the matter of his letters, 'but the strange hocus-pocus & Mystification of the

last month have fairly disgusted me with politics & public Men; - & the result is an indifference whh. Surprises me but may perhaps lengthen my life.' Considers certain aspects of the repeal of the Corn Laws. Had passed two or three 'dim Sloppy days' in London, after Bowood. Was going to read Lord Campbell's [Lives of the] Chancellors. Had read a novel he heard talked of, The Falcon Family, which had not amused him. Supposed Hilary Term had transferred him to Thornwood. Perceived that Lily Hill was more and more the child of favour. Was sorry for that, for he had made Thornwood, 'by general Consent, the prettiest thing of its inches that can be seen.'

145. Keele.
10 Feb.
[18]46

The same to the same.

Had resumed his "'Ancient Solitary reign'". What had become of Vincent? In vain the writer had looked for him in street or club the previous week, 'bursting to talk Corn & Consistency' with him. Vincent had published and disappeared. Comments upon a pamphlet written by Vincent on the Corn Laws.

146. Keele.
'Friday'.
[Post 11 Feb.
1846]1

The same to the same.

When a secret had been confided to him it never escaped through his medium. Neither Charles Greville nor anyone else could have drawn from the writer the least gleam of light to aid their conjectures on the authorship of the pamphlet. Why Vincent should persist in his incognito he did not clearly apprehend. Advises him to reveal himself as the author. Comments upon the pamphlet. How it might be with his water colour landscapes was a different affair. Meant to go to Blithfield, but after the 24th did not discern any event likely to move him from his chimney corner. His muse had been so long cataleptic that she could not even give him doggerel for doggerel. Wished they could have done the British Institution exhibition together.

[1. See Vincent's letter of that date].

147. 'Monday'.
[Ante 17 Feb.
1846]1

The same to the same.

'Lord! Lord! What a Green horn I am! - "Vincent's pamphlet - Vincent's pamphlet" - echoes through half the letters I receive, while I am 'con un palmo di Naso' gravely Counselling you to draw the Cork from a Vessel as leaky as the Danaid Tub.' Could no longer affect such insulated ignorance. Had nothing to say, only having his pen in his hand he must protest against a paragraph in Vincent's last letter, in which he recognized John Russell's 'right' to attack P[eel].

[1. See Vincent's letter of that date].

148. Trentham.
20 Feb.
[1846]1

The same to the same.

Throwing stones was a good speculation - 'at least my last Shy told - for your letters are a great enjoyment to me.' Could not manage Ravensworth, the 'why' was a long history. Had been at Trentham for the last few

days. The D[uke], though quite deaf, was in better health. They were only en route for London. The writer was to go to Blithfield, and could receive Vincent on the 26th or afterwards. Considers the question of the Corn Laws. Vincent's notion of Smith v. Ferrers 'being a typical figment' had amused him much. '(What a singular Case - & what fantastic tricks young Ladies, under Certain influences, play!)'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

149. Keele.
23 Feb.
[1846]¹

The same to the same.

Was just returned from Blithfield. Asks Vincent not to come before Saturday, as the Bishop and the Charles Thynnes were coming to Keele for two days and would 'absorb Every decent lodging room in this Extensive Mansion.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent?]

150. Keele.
'Wednesday.'
[25 Feb.
1846]¹

The same to the same.

Should expect him Saturday. Considers the possibility of going to Ravensworth. It was 'a gore faced Victory' that smiled on them from India. Reflects upon the nature of the [Sikh] wars. Had unbounded faith in Hardinge. Was staggered and waited anxiously for explanations.

[1. Date partly completed by Vincent].

151. 'Thursday'.
[? 26 Feb.
1846]¹

The same to the same.

Wished Vincent to carry out a commission - to collect a watch for him that was being repaired.

[1. Date partly completed by Vincent].

152. Keele.
'Monday.'
[Mar.
1846]¹

The same to the same.

Their letters had crossed. Was glad Vincent was domesticated 'instead of tossing about at Single Anchor;...'. Comments upon the inefficiency of 'the Waters'. Thought Vincent's observations quite just on Guy's Cliffe and Stoneleigh. Comments upon the situation of the Poles.

[1. Date partly completed by Vincent].

153. [Keele].
'Monday'.
[Mar. 1846]¹

The same to the same, [at Leamington].

Had forwarded two letters and a newspaper, directed to the P.O. at Leamington. Recommends Vincent to send for his children and establish himself for a reasonable time. Vincent's line of argument with Jephson struck him as 'more original than judicious - It is Certainly new for a patient to endeavour to impress upon his Doctor that health is of second rate importance.' The 'Jovial [Lord Crewe]' had taken his departure. A swarm of small troubles, 'such as Eat into the heart of a resident Landowner' had come upon him.

[1. Date partly completed by Vincent].

154. Keele.
'Friday.'
[27 Mar.
1846]
- The same to the same.
- Was so seriously out of humour with him for not letting him know how he got on under Jephson. Was he writing a pamphlet on 'Liver & Leamington'. Walter had been at Keele ' - And - no - not another word till you have made atonement.'
155. Keele.
2 Apr.
[18]46
- The same to the same.
- Comments upon the successful outcome of the Sikh wars. They would ponder it at Washington and Paris. It reassured one, 'that in Spite of gin & Cotton & Chartism & Political Oeconomy & Poor Law gruel the great heart of England still beats, & that the Sinews of that arm which Struck down Napoleon's throne are not unnerved. The tone of Hardinge's Proclamation is admirable...'. Charles Percy had thought that Vincent had looked decidedly better. Had great hopes 'that this Cunning Man will Set you up.' Walter had passed a week with the writer. The Sutherlands were to come to Trentham for Easter, 'whh. will make a little break in my monotonous life.' It did nothing but rain.
156. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[Post 4 Apr.
1846]1
- The same to the same.
- Sympathizes with Vincent on the death of his sister, Mrs Callander. Had had intelligence of the event from the Duchess of Sutherland, to whom her daughter had written from Scotland. Writes of her 'remarkable beauty.'
- [1. See Vincent's letter of that date].
157. Keele.
1 May,
[18]46
- The same to the same.
- Had been idling away his time at Trentham, 'when... a Railway treason, brought tardily to light, Sent me up to town on the wings of the Express train...'. Had remained until the previous day. Had heard Vincent's 'little women' had had the chicken-pox, and then that they had not. Hoped they were recovered. Heard that Vincent grumbled and scolded at Jephson but that his improved appearance outweighed his censures. Could not even find an hour for a water colour exhibition. Landseer had told him the Royal Academy Exhibition was to be remarkably good. Had stimulated Clare to ask a question in the Lords about the intended position of the Wellington statue, to prevent it being put cross ways over the arch in Piccadilly.
158. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[Ante 3 May,
1846]1
- The same to the same.
- Had Jephson prohibited pen and ink as well as peas and strawberries? If not, it was more than time the writer received another bulletin. Had he transplanted Thornwood to Leamington, or should he? As for the writer, he had passed his Lent 'as ascetically & antisocially as the Sternest Romanist could wish.' Had set eyes on no human face except his gardener's, bailiff's or woodman's, since Vincent had withdrawn the light of his. Had read The Times and Lord Campbell's

Chancellors, rode and strolled, and had been pulling about the flower beds in front of the house. Nobody wrote a word of news. Would nobody put the poor Duke of Newcastle's inkstand out of his way? He would beat his namesake Duchess hollow in the annals of authorship.

[1. See Vincent's letter of that date].

159. Keele.
15 May,
[18]46

The same to the same.

Wished him joy of being on his own hearthstone. Should be much disappointed if he had not benefitted by the drugs and discipline. Hoped to pass a few days with him at Thornwood. Was chained to Keele by men of business for the whole of that month and then hoped to escape to see his sisters and Vincent. Was putting on his spring clothing, '& folding my green draperies over my Shoulders with good effect - but this very fine weather with it's harsh ungenial glitter affects me (individually) more disagreeably than any Variety of our Changeful Climate.' Had been to Liverpool, to see Skirving's garden, 'a queer place'. Loathed the town.

160. Keele.
25 May,
[1846]¹

The same to the same.

Agrees to dine with Vincent at Thornwood on the 5th. Hoped they might catch a fine day for Lily Hill. Had a gardener, a stone-mason and a garrulous Scotch bailiff all waiting for him.

[1. Date completed by Vincent?]

161. Keele.
26 June,
[18]46

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter was full of verve and 'Stirs pleasantly the Stagnant Surface of my understanding.' There was no doubt about it, 'Peel, for his own Sake, ought to go out - & to be driven out... Voluntary resignation, or Expulsion or any other question, would not leave him in as good position.' Comments further on Peel's position. It had rained genially and copiously.

162. Keele.
10 July,
[18]46

The same to the same.

Comments upon the political situation. Had been the previous week to Worsley and Lady Charlotte Greville was to come to him the following day, and Lord Bagot and one of his sons on Monday. Towards the end of the month he should probably appear at the Travellers'. It had rained for several days.

163. Keele.
19 July,
[1846]¹

The same to the same.

Vincent would be justified in expecting a great deal of valuable architectural criticism from the writer's long delay in returning his 'brouillon' of a plan, but this letter would disperse his dreams. Had had guests to entertain and then had had a cold. Hoped to be in Town in the middle of the following week. Comments upon Vincent's plan. He would quite spoil his drawing room 'by insisting upon So opening it into

the flower-house.' Suggests an alternative arrangement. The man he had talked about was named Deason and lived in Keppel Street. He had made one or two drawings for the writer, from ideas he had sent him. Whether he was 'deep in the difficult Art of internal arrangement', the writer did not know.

[1. Date completed, with a query, by Vincent].

164. 'Wedny.'
[? 22 July,
1846]

The same to the same.

Was to disembark at the Clarendon the following day. Should like to go with Vincent to Deason. Advises Vincent not to sacrifice the essential comfort of his house to the vision of scenic effect as he stood with his back to the fire. Was afraid Tom was easily dazzled and was hardly a safe guide.

165. Keele.
2 Oct.
[1846]

The same to the same.

[Begins with an interrogation mark]. That was, in fact, all he had to say. Had to account for September. It had been consumed in receiving various members of his family, and in two migrations - to Ossington '(Evelyn Denison's, in Notts)', and another to Aldenham '(the Granvilles', in Salop.)' Describes these visits. The writer's uncle bishop, Lady Harriet, a son and daughter, had left him the previous day, Lady Morley had been due that day, and Duncannon and (?) Hy. Greville the following day, but the two former had thrown him over, so he had released the latter. On Monday he was to go to Worsley, to meet the Duchess of Gloucester, and should gad about till November, Castle Howard and Studley being his furthest points. If Vincent was at Thornwood he would have witnessed 'the progress through the Streets of the Colossus of the Arch'. Heard the statue was really fine. How said Vincent? Heard the accounts from Ireland were appalling. Comments upon Palmerston's problems with the Montpensier marriage and the seizure of California. It was unlucky for Palmerston, who had a pacific reputation to establish, to meet with such stumbling blocks on his threshold. Desired ample details of whatever may have passed between Vincent and the Treasury.

166. Keele.
22 Oct.
[1846]

The same to the same.

Vincent's papers, which he returned, gave him great satisfaction. Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Had passed some days at Worsley with the Duchess of Gloucester. Stanleys, Arundells and Wiltons had been the staple of the party. Had gone to Blithfield, for the opening of Leigh church, which was almost magnificent. After that he had gone to the Wiltons at Heaton - '(Stanleys Again - not agreeable to my mind - He is vulgar - I am sorry to say it of a Man of his genius, but it is so - She mawkish, with a good deal of pretension under affected humility)...'. Meant to go to Castle Howard. Advised Vincent to sit as quietly as he could under Lord Hervey's indelible fame. 'There is no possible reversal of such an Attainder, however unjust it may have been.' Mr

Smythe's excuse for not marrying Lady Dolly was original - viz. that he had been ravished - Lady Dolly's temperament rendered that highly probable - but Mr S. was not so young or innocent as not to know what he was about.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

167. Castle Howard.
2 Nov.
[1846]¹

The same to the same.

Returned him the Chief Baron's letter and relied on his keeping him informed. Had been there a week in, with the exception of Will. Cowper and himself, a large family party - 'Howards without end - Sutherlands - S[?] - & Ly Cawdor.' The following day he was to go to Bishopthorpe, Friday to Worsley, Monday home. Lord C. was in a better state than he had expected to find him. Morpeth, he regretted to say, was absent for the cabinets. Exeter Hall and Eton College were grafted upon Castle Howard, but it was a Castle Howard open to all mankind, ' & he wd. Cut the park into allotments tomorrow if he thought it wd. really benefit the Condition of his fellow men.' Vincent's social morality in re Smythe somewhat startled him. Comments upon the Spanish match and Lord Palmerston's part in it. Miss Cavendish was the new Maid of Honour, a small piece of court news 'whh. I owe to the accident of having a Mistress of the Robes in the house.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

168. Keele.
'Thursday.'
[Post 25 Nov.
1846]¹

The same to the same.

Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Most heartily lamented for the Lascelleses. Thanked God he heard that day that Claude was going on well, but he did not know the extent of the injuries. Vincent's programme of a juvenile fête, 'with a diversion to Mask the clearing away the Dinner table - wd. have moved the Envy of Albinia Css. of Buckinghamshire, had haply that festive Dowager still lived.'

[1. See Vincent's letter of that date].

169. Keele.
21 Dec.
[1846]¹

The same to the same.

Vincent's note had found him there. Had escaped 'from the great Pest House' on Thursday and had been a good deal the worse for his journey. The News of Mr [Thomas] Grenville's death had followed upon his heels. Had borne him great reverence and great affection. 'He leaves his library to the Museum - whh. has never recd. such a bequest. - I wonder what Penny-a-liner (his Composition is preposterously overcharged at that rate) was guilty of the bad, bald, inaccurate, ill-written Article on Mr. G. in the Times. It is wonderful that a paper so ably Conducted in the political departments shd. be so wretchedly served in nearly all others. Upon matters of literature Art & Taste it is universally pitiable, but it's mortuary notices are perhaps the most signal of it's failures.' The writer's geography stopped short of 'Mosquitia'.

Prays Vincent not to attempt to palliate Lord Maidstone, the trial was conclusive. Ferguson had said he had never known London so unhealthy, the weekly statistics of mortality fully bore him out.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

170.

Keele.
30 Dec.
[18]46

The same to the same.

Having nothing else to do had been the sole but invincible obstacle to his writing. Defends his solitary way of life. Was glad, on the whole, that Mr Grenville had left his library to the Museum. Felt about Stowe very much as Vincent did about 'the Bloomsbury depot.' Comments upon Fouché's memoirs, which were as much Fouché's as the writer's or Vincent's. Had been at Paris when the compiler had been tried for fraud at the suit of Fouché's family, and had lost in heavy damages. Remembered hearing Talleyrand and Lord Stuart, when the first volume of Louis XVIII's memoirs had come out, pronounce that they were authentic, 'yet now their Supposititious [sic] Character is so Entirely admitted that no one pretends to dispute it. - Charles X was deceived by the 1st. Vol. of Mme. du Barri.' Heard that Macaulay was about to appear, so they might "hope in God for high words, how low soever the matter." Considered him the most unfit man for a historian (Croker excepted) 'in the whole Literary world,...'. Lord Campbell's two new volumes were, to his mind, very inferior to the former.

171.

Keele.
24 Jan.
[18]47

The same to the same.

Trusted the letter would find Vincent by his own fireside. His letter had found him in London, whence he had returned on Thursday. The snow was only beginning to disappear. His history ran thus. About the time Vincent had moved to Wimpole the writer had moved to Wrest, where he had passed a few days with all the world and its wife. Had yielded to the solicitations of the Granvilles to go up to Town, 'just to see the roy begin.' Was well again but got no strength. The Irish question was beyond his grasp. Considers the same. Vincent astonished him by saying that in regard to the Spanish marriage, he had thought Guizot had had the best of it. Wished to hear of Vincent's dispute with the Treasury.

172.

Keele.
10 Feb.
[18]47

The same to the same.

Returned him the papers, with vexation and disappointment. Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Had been idling away his time at Trentham. Rumours reached his chimney-corner of G. Bentick's carrying his Irish scheme, and the resignation of the ministers. Had been reading a book about the Marquesas Islands. Vincent's account of himself was better but not quite satisfactory.

173. Keele.
9 Mar.
[18]47
- The same to the same.
- Comments upon Vincent's dispute with the Treasury. Was meaning to go up to Clare's. Did not think he could encounter three volumes about Lord Sidmouth. He was inevitably classed among the mediocrities. Had been persuaded to read one volume - 'Chambermaid's-twaddle'. Had read The Emigrant and had closed it with shame and humiliation.
174. Keele.
15 Mar.
[18]47
- The same to the same.
- Had Vincent a sufficient acquaintance with Brougham to ask him for his opinion of his case? Vincent had not answered his enquiry whether he would be at Camden Hill the following week? Should not have a flower that year, his gardener's head foreman, who had been trained at Woburn and Shrubland, had been obliged to leave him. Considers improvements in the garden.
175. Keele.
'Friday.'
[Ante 20 Mar.
1847]1
- The same to the same.
- Rejoiced to hear that they should meet on Monday. Lord Ashburton would be an excellent medium of communication with Brougham.
- [1. See Vincent's letter of that date].
176. Keele.
'Thursday.'
[1 Apr.
1847]1
- The same to the same.
- Was just returned. Wanted Vincent to mention to Augustus Liddell a man called Farrell, as a candidate for the place in the Duchess of Gloucester's household. He had been Groom of the Chambers to Lady Jersey.
- [1. Date completed by Vincent].
177. Keele.
8 Apr.
[18]47
- The same to the same.
- Had nothing to say. Believed Lord Brougham would be disposed to lend him a helping hand. Lord Ashburton ought to ask Vincent and Brougham to meet at dinner. Comments upon the case of Lord Banbury [temp. Chas.I]. Walter was to come to the writer on Saturday, spring had come a day or so before.
178. Keele.
'Friday.'
[30] Apr.
[18]47
- The same to the same.
- Returned him the Chief Baron. 'It is impossible to be more friendly in his manner of not befriending you.' Was disappointed in Brougham. Could not express how angry and mortified he was by the abortive issue of Vincent's efforts to obtain less than justice. Was unable to visit him and heartily regretted it.
- With, (i) letter, 25 Apr. 1847, [Sir Jonathan] Fred[erick] Pollock to H.W.Vincent.
(ii) copy letter, H.W.Vincent to the latter.
179. 'Thursday.'
[May, 1847]1
- The same to the same.
- Was much amazed to be the one of the party who failed.

Had no option. Had to leave Town on the Monday and protests he had not a 'worky-day mornng.' to spare without inconvenience.' Sunday was his sole resource. Would drive down to him then

[1. Endorsed 'March 1847' in error, by Vincent. See Vincent's letter of 27 Apr. 1847].

180. Keele.
'Sunday'.
9 [May,
18]47¹

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter had found him at Guy's Cliffe, where he had gone to pick up his sister and bring her back to Keele. It had been a great disappointment to the writer to abandon his visit to Vincent. Was more uncertain than ever about his movements. His Trentham neighbours had been dispersed the very morning after their arrival by the miscarriage of Lady Blantyre¹ at Castle Howard, which had taken the Duchess off at an hour's notice to nurse her, and she was obliged to be in Town again on Thursday, to go with the Queen to The Amateur. 'Lord, Lord! how these great folks do hug their Chains! To Chuse to Submit to this "absolute must" when it entails all sorts of inconvenience & trouble!' They had showers at last. Dared say Vincent was like a peacock with its tail spread, at Camden Hill. The writer's garden was still an embryo, but in a year or two he meant it to be pretty. Wished he knew how Vincent had got on with Brougham. Considers the book about the Marquesas, 'a Charming fiction', but Vincent talked as if he had gravely swallowed it as fact. Imagined '"Hermann Melvil"' to be a *nom de guerre*.

[1. Evelyn, 2nd daughter of the 2nd Duke of Sutherland, died 24 Nov. 1869].

181. 11 May,
[1847]¹

The same to the same.

Wrote in a hurry. Lord Brougham at least spoke out 'without Shuffle or Equivocation'. Hoped his note would shame the Chief Baron into a plain expression, in writing, of an opinion he had often spoken. Comments upon the situation. Could suggest no channel to Lord John Russell, unless Vincent knew Auckland well enough. 'Clarendon is hardly to be trusted, out of Sight.'

[1. Date added by Vincent].

182. Keele.
'Sunday'.
[May,
1847]¹

The same to the same.

Comments upon the situation in Vincent's dispute with the Treasury.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

183. Keele.
'Sunday'.
[May or June,
1847]¹

The same to the same.

Comments upon the situation in Vincent's dispute with the Treasury.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

184. Keele.
13 June,
[18]47¹

The same to the same.

Could not weigh anchor so soon as the 18th nor take his place in his musical constellation. Describes his feeling for music. Might ask Vincent for a bed the following week. Comments upon Jenny Lind. Thought his position vis à vis the Treasury was much improved and fortified since the two opinions were extracted. Had only one regret for the removal of the very bad statue on the arch, that he was told it annoyed the Duke.

[1. Date completed by Vincent?]

185. Keele.
'Monday'
[June,
1847]¹

The same to the same.

Excuses himself for being unable to be with Vincent. On Wednesday 30th he should go direct to the Clarendon and he hoped they should meet. Had there ever been such a sour, soaking summer? Rejoiced that Vincent's musical soirée had succeeded. Should regret not having witnessed the fête at Stafford House, if anything ever repaid him for putting on his uniform, for all his correspondents sang in the same tune as Vincent. After he had reproached Vincent for disparaging Jenny Lind, Harry Greville had disposed of the question: "She is a nice little German Singer, just above Mediocrity."

[1. Date added by Vincent].

186. Keele.
'Tuesday.'
[June,
1847]¹

The same to the same.

If Vincent was good for so long at Thornwood Lodge, he would visit him. His lot was cast in the gloomy chambers of the Clarendon. Should be glad enough soon to sniff his last rose of summer (he was at his first), 'instead of that indescribable Compound of Kitchen, Water Closet & Moreen Curtains whh. with a thousand other Whiffs, miscellaneous & anonymous, assail the nerves in an English Hotel.'

[1. Date added by Vincent].

187. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[June,
1847]¹

The same to the same.

On the previous Wednesday the writer, 'on the wings of an impromptu,...flew up to town & was here again by luncheon time on Friday. No margin left - when one cuts one's cloth to that fashion - for one's friends or their gardens & conservatories...', though he had heard a great deal about the beauty of Vincent's, the efflorescence of that year exceeded all recollections. Had not seen the exhibition. Had not heard Jenny Lind. Had not known it was Ascot Week. Had a message for him from the Duchess of Sutherland, inviting him to visit her [at Windsor] and to meet the Queen. 'This is too much glory for a Country mouse like me - but it may be all in your line of business.' Prays Vincent to write to him. Clare and Lady Isabella were with him, on their way to Ireland. 'He, naturally, low - & she, as naturally, nervous for the prospect of what awaits them in that sorely smitten land.' Had just unpacked four and twenty miniature orange trees

from Paris. Invites Vincent to run down and see him.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

188. Denton.
5 Aug.
[18]47

The same to the same.

Vincent was 'a loose random sort of Chap...'. Had thought he was going to suggest himself to the 'Abbot of Denton'. Should he be at Thornwood the following week, and would it suit his book to receive the writer? Had come to Denton from Nuneham. Walter was in excellent case. Robert Curzon (junior) was expected. Was to go to Canterbury on Saturday.

189. Canterbury.
'Sunday.'
[8 Aug.
1847]

The same to the same.

Vincent was not to pass it off so. The treaty distinctly ran that Vincent was to have announced himself at Denton in the previous week, after the Tuesday, unless Sneyd had written from Nuneham. On Thursday the writer would present himself at Thornwood. They were playing the deuce in the writer's county and he was 'lying perda till the row is over.'

190. Denton.
23 Aug.
[18]47

The same to the same.

Describes his visit to Shrubland. Thought it 'one of the most enjoyable & Enviably places I ever beheld.' Had made great friends with the gardener. Lady M[iddleton] was the directing genius. 'Sir Wm. (Confidentially) admitted to me that the originating taste was his - but a remark or two that he dropped leads me to doubt.' Socially, the occasion had been 'pas grand chose'. Describes some of the guests.

191. Travellers[' Club].
'Post time.'
[27 Aug.
1847]¹

The same to the same.

Was forced to give up Lily. Was exceedingly sorry. They should meet on Wednesday, at Norman Court. God knew what deity had come down in a cloud and saved Lady Ailesbury 'from being publicly posted as a defaulter on the Stock Exchange yesterday - The Brokers had given up her name on thursday night - but it is somehow or other arranged.' Every detail respecting the Praslin murder exceeded the last in horror. The state of Paris was formidable. Had been to the theatre, to that one was reduced on 27 August.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

192. 'Monday'.
[Autumn
1847]¹

The same to the same.

Was to go to Panshanger the following day, returning Thursday or Friday. Could not Vincent call at the Clarendon, or meet him at the Travellers', '& then do some pictures.' They dissolved on the 23rd, the writer should be dissolved long before.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

193. Keele.
 31 Oct.
 [18]47
- The same to the same.
- Had not seen his death in the newspaper and if his own had been announced it was premature. Had been either at Keele or Trentham. Walter was to come to Keele the following day, and the writer had had the Bishop of Lichfield with him, 'who is agreeable.' Was cutting down nearly all the trees he ever planted, which, he was assured, was necessary for the welfare of the remnant, and was going to read St Roche, 'a novel in 3 Vols. whh. I request you to read too - at least to order at yr. Circulating library - if you subscribe to one - inasmuch as it is translated by my Eldest Sister & Isabel Percy from the German.' Morier had lent his name as editor. Upon the '"Monetary Crisis"' his sentiments should be discreetly veiled.
194. 'Sunday Night.'
 [Nov., 1847]¹
- The same to the same.
- Was at the Clarendon (20, Albemarle St.), and had somehow or other to get a sight of Vincent. How were they to meet?
- [1. Date added by Vincent].
195. Keele.
 11 Nov.
 [18]47
- The same to the same.
- Some game had been despatched to Vincent's address that morning. As the writer's keeper was the worst shot in England it savoured that any should have been found and killed on the estate. Was in the same scrape as Vincent about his conservatory, by the dilatoriness of the person employed. Walter had left him, the writer had been obliged to decline Edward Cheney. Meant to visit his sisters, incident to their change of residence. Had promised himself at Woburn and Althorpe before the end of the month. Hoped to see Vincent. Had read St Roche, the part of the translators seemed to have been very creditably performed.
196. [Keele].
 'Friday'.
 [31 Dec.
 1847]¹
- The same to the same.
- Exhorts Vincent to write. His own history was nearly comprised in a single word, 'Influenza'. It had gone but he was still very sensible that it had passed his way. Was there [at Keele] in a grim, white world. Was expecting his sister Lizzy that day. Harriet and Charlotte were to join her in ten days or a fortnight. How much poetry or philosophy Vincent's friend Lamartine might extract from the above facts, the writer did not know. Hated snow. Had liked Ellesmere's letter on the defence of the country, partly, he supposed, because he agreed with him, and partly because 'there was a sort of Sydney Smithical Sportiveness of Style blended with strong sound reasoning whh. made it read trippingly & yet withal Satisfactorily.'
- [1. Date completed by Vincent?]
197. Keele.
 6 Feb.
 [18]48
- The same to the same.
- '"January 6th." is the date that flames on the forehead of the letter now open before me!' Had

nothing to plead that Vincent could not anticipate. Should first observe on its last paragraph, which had announced the close of his correspondence with the Treasury. Should be curious to see the last letters and whether the subject were really at an end. Did not accept the position that Vincent should 'submit to pecuniary responsibility for persons of whom you have not the Selection!' Suggests Vincent gets someone to name it in parliament. Ellesmere's letter, at all events, had been useful. The writer's principal agent, Peake, had died, and the writer was at sea with his own affairs and feared he might find a good deal of confusion.

198. 'Monday.'
[? Feb.
1848]

The same to the same.

Thanks Vincent for his letter. Had given three cheers and sung 'Rule Britannia' as soon as he had read it, but had discovered 'Some Shadows dark & broad' in it. To trace them to their source would be to write an essay on the revolution which had been working its way in the country for the previous half century. Did not think their social and political condition was one of great security, but did think that the calm bearing with which the bulk of the people regarded the convulsions of their neighbours was most encouraging. The hurly burly was only beginning. In Paris the mob were lords of all. The greater the havoc the more wholesome and impressive the moral. Was once more in the slough of despond, i.e. of entangled affairs. Words could hardly convey how much he disliked it and how unpleasant it was to be miserably poor. Might be in Town in a fortnight.

199. Keele.
22 Feb.
[18]48

The same to the same.

Vincent heaped coals of fire on his head. His letter had been like half an hour of his talk, and had come 'with double zest upon the anxious & fatiguing labours of a week devoted to the Augean Stable of my affairs'. The death of his principal agent had been the reason for the apparent brutality of his not having written, when he had known Vincent had been aux prises with the 'Dragon of Influenza.' Rejoiced that he had slain him. Was nervous and bilious, the result of his examination of affairs, and of the prospect of trouble and, peradventure, some embarrassment. The writer's sisters, Walter and a son of the writer's uncle, Bishop [Bagot], were with him. The government seemed to be sinking under the multiplied proofs of its incapacity. Comments. A crisis would, in future, always end in an advance of the democratic power. Dizzy's speech had read very well. The 'Manchester Cock' was 'but a barn door fowl at last'. Agreed with Vincent as to the matter of Palmerston's despatches. Thought the Tory outcry absurd. For days he had not looked into a newspaper, and had lost the whole dramatic tale of Lola Montes and her old, imbecile king. Vincent must have heard at Sir J. Walsh's whether the wretched marriage of Lord Stamford had been prevented. Was really anxious to know. Wished also to know what had befallen The Times. Thought he had lately perceived a

remarkable decline and fall.

200. Keele.
2 Mar.
[18]48
- The same to the same.
[The letter echoes Vincent's comments on the revolution in France in his letter of 29 Feb.].
201. Keele.
12 Mar.
1848
- The same to the same.
[Further comment upon the revolution in France, with a brief comment upon the Chartists].
202. 'Trentham,
Friday.'
[? Mar.
1848]
- The same to the same.
Had not forgotten his engagement but feared the garlands of May would be tarnished ere he could fulfil it. Explains that he possessed in the Potteries 'an Extensive Colliery,' which had never produced him anything. The agent who managed it had satisfied him with reasons instead of rents, 'till lately roused by the whispers whh. reached my ears I investigated & lo! - a debt of 12000£ contracted in my name at the Banker's (for whh., owing to the discretion allowed, I am liable & must pay.) - & upon the face of the accts., Value to the amount of Something more than double that Sum irrecoverably lost.' Comments. Believed the Reform Bill rendered the long duration of any ministry impossible. It was quite manifest that the country was weary of that one. Comments.
203. Keele.
21 Apr.
1848
- The same to the same.
Returned Vincent's enclosure, with comments. Had been at Trentham when he had received it, where it had been much applauded. Had not the courage nor collected thought 'to plunge into the ocean of foreign politics.' Agreed with Vincent that war was '"in the next degree".' Had not been in Devonshire House since it had been decorated. Did not think much of the Duke's own taste in internal decoration. When one said one thought well of Crace's, one meant for a professional decorator, which was 'a most Capacious qualification.' Was meaning to go to Trentham the following day to meet Clare and bring him back to Keele. When he went, the writer should return to his business affairs and then go to London and visit Thornwood. Nesfield had just driven away, he was always flattering [about Keele]. Adds a postscript, enjoining Vincent not to repeat a word of his strictures on Devonshire House to his neighbours.
- With, (i) 'The reply proper for Queen Elizabeth to the Irish Repeal Address.'
(ii) 'The Reply proper for Queen Victoria to the Irish Repeal Address.'
(iii) newspaper clipping of the Address.
204. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[? 23 July,
1848]¹
- The same to the same.
Vincent's silence was 'growing into that qualified by Pope as "Coeval with Eternity".' Should like to know how he was, what he was doing, and where he was going.

Had himself been almost entirely at Keele, '& almost entirely occupied in efforts to Extricate myself from the labyrinth of difficulties in whh. I am entangled.' Clare had been there, and the writer's sister Lizzy was there until the following day. His roses had been fabulous. Saw a possibility of being obliged to run up to Town that week, could he stay with Vincent? The summer had left him the middle of the previous week.

[1. Date partly completed by Vincent].

205. Keele.
'Tuesday'.
[? 25 July,
1848]¹

The same to the same.

The deed was not ready for signature that week, so the writer feared his visit to Thornwood Lodge would have to be adjourned sine die. Was sorely beset on every side by agents discarded, agents appointed, and agents coming to be looked at. Knew St Clare was lovely, the prettiest thing by far on that side of the island. Wished he could be with Vincent at Shrubland the following week. Sir W. would explain to Vincent a great scheme of waterfall suggested by Barry. Thought it was a mistake. Thought, with Vincent that 'the Irish Bobadils' would sneak into their holes, but heartily wished they might boldly take the field 'under the banner of his Munster Majesty.' Nothing could ever be done with Ireland till she had felt that England had the power and the will to keep her to her allegiance. 'Insurrection quelled with a strong hand there wd. react very wholesomely, too, on the Scatter'd Elements of disorder here.'

[1. Date partly completed by Vincent].

206. 'Thursday'.
[27 July,
1848]¹

The same to the same.

If Tom had vacated the premises, Vincent should consider it a possibility that the writer might occupy it on Saturday and Sunday nights. It depended upon the pleasure of 'Messrs. Screw, Filch, & Grindstone.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

207. Keele.
'Friday'.
[28 July,
1848]¹

The same to the same.

It was 'No' that day and positively for the last time. Was told it [the deed] would be ready by the middle of the following week. Had not been duped by the scoundrel stock-jobber, but had set down the tale of successful insurrection and disaffected troops (which had got abroad in those parts via Liverpool, the day before), as an impudent lie, such as it turned out to be. 'The Electric telegraph ought not to listen to every gossip, methinks.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

208. '2d. Edit -
Sunday'.
[? July,
1848]¹

The same to the same.

Had written the enclosed on Friday, too late for the post, ' - & yesterday there was none. - This mornng. brings your letters & no time to write another as the Sunday post (so Shaftesbury & the New Lights rule it) goes out prematurely.'² The writer therefore sent the

ancient MS. which anticipated Vincent's question about his plans. Should be grievously disappointed if they should be incompatible with Vincent's. The latter had told him that the middle of September would suit him.

[1. Date tentative.

2. Reference to the Ten Hours Bill, which became law in 1847?]

209. Trentham.
1 Aug.
[18]48

The same to the same.

Vincent would find him in Town, whether he left the eastern counties on Saturday or lingered until Tuesday, and they would see Marochetti's studio 'without the Alloy of T.L.'s out-of-tune flourish of trumpets', and any other sights Vincent pleased, and, peradventure, run down to the Abbot of Denton for a day or two. Was at Trentham to help the Duchess entertain the Belhavens and Lady Ruthven, who were on their road to Scotland. Hoped it did not rain as abundantly at Shrubland as it did at Trentham. Prays Vincent tell his host and hostess that he hoped they would let him visit them for a day or two in the course of the summer. The K. of Munster did not seem to make much of the royal game of war. Asks Vincent to tell Charles Percy that he did not write because he had nothing to say, and to exhort him to return to London.

210. 'Thursday[,]
Shrubland.'
[17 Aug.
1848]¹

The same to the same.

As he had passed through Town on the previous Tuesday, in his transit from Nuneham to Shrubland, the waiter of the Travellers' had delivered Vincent's note of the 9th, on which day he had been at Denton, thence he had moved with Walter to Nuneham. The following day he was to return to the Clarendon and might remain in London for a week. Hoped they might see something more of each other than they did during the writer's last momentary perch in the great rookery. They had had two fine days at Shrubland. Their dramatis personae [included] the Duchess of Grafton, Emily H[?] dy, Mr and Mrs Aylmer, Malcolms, the Duchess of Sutherland, a young Mr Browne. Would talk it all over with Vincent as soon as he would let him, writing was impossible.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

211. Keele.
14 Nov.
[18]48

The same to the same.

Had to thank him for his two most agreeable letters. Had not stirred from home. Had contracted certain autumnal engagements, '& some amongst them as they were to meet Royalties (Chatsworth & Heaton, to wit) ought I believe to have been kept - but they were indiscriminately thrown over that I might, as St. Simon hath it, "travailler avec mes Ministres". Describes what is taking place. All cost time and anxiety, thought and labour. Things were settling into a right course, but they were not settled. He was poor and he might be rich. 'The full measure of the Contrast between the Esse & the Potuisse - & the

incredible audacity whh. long sufferance had given to fraud, may some day serve us for an hour's Chat.' Vincent had never introduced him to Mr Hervey before. His sketch did so perfectly. Had seen the first rough notion of Marochetti's 'relievo' of Vincent's girls and had liked it, except for an extended arm. Was delighted to hear he had made a good likeness and died to see it. Charlotte Barrington's bust should be transcendent, but what did he think of Tom's 'Exchequer Schemings?' Had grown hot as he had read. Agreed with Vincent that the Ecological Institution was the best street building which had been erected in London. Comments upon Bridgewater House. 'As to the destruction of the Colonnade, one has not patience to talk of it.' Walter had not confided his marriage when he had been at Keele the other day. As he had been on his road for Scotland, the writer presumed his future sister-in-law came from beyond the Tweed. Vincent had made no allusion to the scandal in his neighbourhood - 'the Esclandre & sudden reconciliation at Holld. House.' A Mr George Hopwood was waiting to speak to him.

212. Trentham.
21 Jan.
[18]491

The same to the same.

Had been there for the previous fortnight, an unheard of length of visit for him to any place, and before that he had been in Shropshire, with the Granvilles, but was still within reach 'of that "Staff of Agents Aides-de-Camp" who have been for the last year (may I never see Such another!) my necessary Companions,....'. The screws were not all fixed, and some had proved loose on which he had relied. Was going home the following day to receive Clare and his sister, who were to come to him on their way from Ireland, and should probably return with them to Trentham at the end of the week. 'We want our polar Star - Her My. having been graciously minded to order off the D[uche]ss [of Sutherland] to Windsor at a very short notice & there She detains her knowing that she has left a house full of guests.' Should denounce it 'as an utter want of that Consideration whh. the Kings & Queens of our day had for their subjects, even when they were their Servants, if I was not more & more persuaded that the Victims of these Acts of despotism delight in them. The Slaves all hug their Chains - The Dss. of Sd. amongst the number!!!' Was sorry to hear he had been so suffering. Comments upon Lily Hill, and the appointment of Francis Baring [as First Lord of the Admiralty]. The Indian victory was a sad affair. Bonaparte would have made Edwards a marshal, '& there wd. have been no Such blundering.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

213. Keele.
15 Mar.
[18]49

The same to the same.

What rival robbed him of the fruits of Vincent's Exchequer leisure? For the writer, the history of 1849 was a virgin page. 'Excepting one or two very brief Escapades, I have been here - or at Trentham... & generally, when at home, alone.' Had had a visit from Marochetti, who had accompanied him for a night to Trentham. Was beginning Macaulay over again. Comments. Anticipated political troubles in June.

214. Keele.
13 Apr.
[18]49

The same to the same.

Where had Vincent been Eastering? At Lily? Heard of plans to be executed on that pet retreat, and Vincent left him to the chance of rumour for such intelligence! Shame on him! Desired to see the interior plan. So Croker had prevailed. There was too much of truth [in his review] to be pooh-pooh'd. Who had written the Italian article in the last Quarterly? To read Cobden's speeches one should suppose him to be a shallow, conceited fellow, was he so, or was he only adapting himself to his audience? Clare and Lady Isabella had done their Easter there. The latter feeble and suffering. Proposed to pitch his tent in Lowndes Square on one of the early days of May.

215. Trentham.
13 Jan.
[18]50

The same to the same.

Rumour for once spoke the truth, sentence of chronic gout had been passed upon him. His sprained wrist had been but an outbreak of that long latent vice in his blood. The weather was severely trying. Agreed with Vincent about the Protectionists being mighty silly people. Had written the other day a supposed letter, in parody of Peel's letter, from Cobden to his 2 tenants, but it had gone into the fire. A much better squib would not be appreciated in those matter of fact days. Many subjects came to the tip of his pen, but his hand ached and there they would have to congeal. If Vincent had any generosity he would write, his inability to answer notwithstanding.

216. Keele.
'Friday'.
[Feb.
1850]1

The same to the same.

It never rained but it poured, their pens plied like battledores! Nothing could be more amiable, more tempting than Vincent's proposal, and if the writer's appearance in London were more than momentary, he should never resist it. The open weather there, which had enabled him to get on a horse, had done more for him than poppy or mandragora. Comments upon his treatment. Nothing was left to him of the Quarterly article on Rome but the recollection of his impression. Bright, he was told, might have been bought. He was far more solid and more dangerous than Cobden, who was riding his hobby horse to death.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

217. Keele.
22 Feb.
[1850]1

The same to the same.

Rejoiced to hear of the convalescence of his invalids. Curzon was to come to Keele the following day, 'a very pleasant fellow - Shrewd quaint & travell'd - Exceedingly good Company.' Invites Vincent to join them. Agreed with most of his review of the Frogmal 'Dram[atis] Per[sonae].' Respected and admired Ashley but intercourse was anything but agreeable. Mrs W. Cowper was the oldest young woman he ever saw. The Tollemaches had, all of them, 'très grand air.' Poor Hat Vyner was 'fubrified [sic] into a Cook maid - whh. is hard upon the daughter of Such good-looking people.'

Should Vincent be at Thornwood about the 8th or 9th March?

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

218. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[Feb.
1850?]

The same to the same.

Found he could not leave home just then, so Vincent should take no heed of his speculation of a possible escape. His visit must be later in the year, 'when you are all glorious without & wrought about with divers Colors - & when the days are long enough for an Excursion to Lily.' Walter and Curzon had left. Warns Vincent about being careful not to expose his invalids to cold air, for their complexions. 'I have known in several instances that the Skin never recovers too sudden an Exposure after measles. (Take Lady Errol as one.)' Comments upon the Irish Reform Bill, and the Great Exhibition. 'The -51 Exhibition will be a failure.'

[1. Date added by Vincent. The letter was written after 25 Feb.].

219. 9 Eaton Sq.
'Friday.'
[16 Aug.
1850]

The same to the same.

Was heartily sorry to hear so poor an account of him, and vexed he could not run down to him that morning as he had proposed, but in half an hour he was off to Nuneham. Expected to be in Town again on Wednesday, for a couple of nights, and then to sink into home, where he hoped Vincent meant to exhibit himself and his young ladies. Vincent must certainly have overheard him give his opinion of Mrs Butler's reading, for it had been absolutely in the same words that he had passed judgment. Never had there been such Siamese sympathy. Twelfth Night was what he had heard.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

220. Eaton Sq.
'Wedy.'
[Aug.
1850?]

The same to the same.

It was tantalizing to be talking to each other round a corner in that fashion, but there was no remedy. Was to go home on Friday morning, and had 'more work in the interval than my Brougham-horse can help me to Execute.' Vincent's promise to come to Keele consoled him. Had left Walter the day before and gone down to Richmond, to suggest his bicon[ue] to the Duchess of Gloucester, in lieu of the station at Crewe, but found another arrangement made - Rugby was to be the gite. Was meaning to go to hear Mrs (?) R. read King John that night. It was hardly fair on her for the memory of her aunt's transcendent reading of that play was still fresh in his memory.

221. Keele.
6 Sept.
1850

The same to the same.

His letter, and one from Marochetti to the same purpose, had found him at Trentham. Had written immediately to Ellesmere and to Lord Lansdowne. The Duchess of Sutherland had already written to the Duke, but according to Vincent's chronology, all those démarches were too late. Why had not M[arochetti] bestirred

himself sooner [about a statue of Robert Peel]. Trentham was closed till Xmas. On or after the 21st the writer would be free to receive Vincent and his daughters. It was premature autumn. Should have liked to exhibit himself in his summer attire to S[usan] and H[arriet]. Was not fond of his own pictures. Never saw one that was not a very disagreeable looking man, but regretted not to figure in Vincent's interior, if only to show his claim to the place. Lami was, to his mind, a very clever artist. Miss Fanny's King John was a long chapter and would have to be treated orally. On the matter of Louis Philippe he agreed with Vincent, that when they wrote his history they would be bound to tell the truth, but the truth was like the street, with a shady and a sunny side. 'The general unfriendly tone of the English press has deeply wounded his surviving family.'

222. Keele.
4 (?) - 6) Nov.
1850

The same to the same.

The writer's faith in Vincent's promise 'to write soon', even when he had made it, would not have moved a mole hill - 'but this is too bad!' Now that Vincent was once more shut up in the Court of Exchequer, perhaps he had a chance. Had been in Town for 48 hours, it had poured a deluge, and except for his sisters, and Ferguson, he had scarcely set eyes on a soul. Comments upon [Thomas] Moore's life of Byron. It was ill done. How stood Marochetti's affairs at Manchester? The weather was mild. The writer's gout kept him from getting better. Sends his love to Vincent's 'young Ladies'.

223. Keele.
27 Nov.
[1850]¹

The same to the same.

Vincent could not keep off the Cardinal. The manifesto [of Cardinal Wiseman's] appeared to the writer to have been prodigiously overrated. Comments, and disagrees with Vincent. Never read Carlyle. Was there an English translation? Sir Roderick had not shaken his faith in California. As the diggings became more methodized '& the wild Crew of hungry Immigrants more Civilized & legalized, the produce imported into the United States, Engld. & France, enormously increases. It is true I am bias'd towards that creed by a debt of £150,000, whh. wd. be sensibly relieved by a Considerable depreciation of gold.' Vincent had beautiful weather for his shooting, as the writer had for his planting. Was better than he had been. On Saturday he meant to go to Crewe for a day or two, 'whh. bores me to extinction - but I have said No so often that my Conscience has interfered.' It seemed that they were by no means clear of the war yet. Was anxious to know what part Palmerston had been playing in all that German mess.

[1. Date completed by Vincent?]

224. 'Tuesday'.
[2nd half
of Nov.
1850?]

The same to the same.

Was very glad his trial of Lily had been so successful. Chimneys with draughts and doors without them were

essentials to comfort. Gout willing, the writer hoped to bask in Vincent's bay window in the following year. Agreed with him 'that it is a most impudent w---'s trick of the Scarlet Lady of Babylon to Cut & Carve this Realm of Engld. after such a fashion. It is moreover Exceedingly foolish - The Conversions & Coquettings with Popery of the last 10 years are, I suspect, Confined to the Upper Class - The Protestantism of the great bulk of the Country is as inflammable as ever &, under the bellows of the Press, will blaze out again, as in the Olden time.' Palmerston's appointment of Shiel to the Florence Mission - 'sur les entrefaites' - indicated either a very rash defiance or a wonderful want of tact in the appreciation of public opinion. Heard that Harvey Vane was to succeed Eddisbury as Under Secretary to the said P., and that E. was to go to the Mint. So much for the report of the committee. Was much gratified to hear that S. and H. had really liked their visit, '& still more of their kind disposition towards Myself.'

225.

Keele.
5 Feb.
[18]51

The same to the same.

Had received his letter at Badger, whither he had gone to pass a couple of days with the brothers Cheney. The death of poor Dalmeny and the hopeless state of Mr Callander (which he had been aware of through the D. of Argyll) had truly stayed his hand. Macaulay, or Vincent's friend Lamartine, could hardly extract a romance out of the writer's own history. Had passed the previous month at Trentham, with the exception of a day in London, spent among bankers, lawyers '& such engenance', so that it had been almost dark when he had got to the 'glazed Babel' and had found it closed. Its exterior had agreeably disappointed him. 'I expected it to be redeem'd from the disgust whh. waits upon deformity only by overpowering Size - (whh. like all else that overpowers partakes of the Sublime) - but, not so - There is enough of Symmetry & proportion to relieve the Sense of Oppression & altogether to exempt it from the Charge of Ugliness - Had the Elliptical roof in the Centre been repeated transversely, as Barry wish'd, it wd. have had Considerable beauty. Such at least were my twilight Speculations.' Had bought Evangeline and done his best, but could elicit neither rythm, harmony 'nor even regular Cadence'. Had soon given in. Lord Holland's book was disgraceful. The D. of Sutherland had declared he would put it into the fire if he found it in any room in the house. Carlisle, too, had forbidden it at Castle Howard. The opening of parliament bored him almost as much as if he had the misfortune to belong to it. Had heard the Queen had been very coldly received by the crowd? [Vincent has interlined 'Not true']. Had liked his visit to Badger. Desires Vincent to let him know if he had further communication with Granville about the 'Glass Palace'. Thought the decoration had been decided and even commenced.

226. Keele.
16 Mar.
[18]51

The same to the same.

Had often thought he was going to write to him and wondered he did not. Now, he wondered he did, for he had a wearing, disabling malady upon him. He was better but some way off well. Did not quite fall in with the tone of Vincent's political comments. Gives his own view of the political situation. Had liked Vincent's charitable review of Belfast's book. God forbid that he should read it, but was glad the feelings and sentiments were creditable. Had Copperfield and Pendennis to fall back upon. The former he had just read with interest. Adds a postscript, 'Mille Cose to S. & H.' Clare had left him on Thursday. He was in constant pain and progress under such circumstances was impossible.

227. Keele.
'Thursday'.
[20 Mar.
1851]1

The same to the same.

Vincent's charge of "'pungent epigrams'" had made him laugh. Continues his argument that [Lord] Stanley had made a stride in the opinion of the country. He was looked up to as a 'Safe Minister'. Considers the issue of Protectionism and taxation. Had liked Copperfield. But what had come to Thackeray? Was delighted in Vanity Fair, and did not think it would be possible to wade through two volumes of Pendennis. Was still in his invalid course of reading, but was better.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

228. Trentham.
25 Apr.
[1851]

The same to the same.

Supposed if he had materially differed from the views put forth in Vincent's last letter respecting the Stanley party, or taxation, he should have answered it sooner, but thought he remembered that he had generally acquiesced. Howbeit, he had lately somewhat altered his opinion 'as to the time being not yet come for a Stanley Govern't.' The fiercely democratic tone of The Times was an alarming symptom. Meant to go up to Town, to Clare's, on the 2nd or 3rd. There was a great house full at Trentham, Edward Howard and his bride elect, 'the Postulant', among them. They had all been shocked at the death of the Ellesmeres' youngest son - 'a Sailor on the S. American Station - 'killed by the accidental discharge of a gun' is all that has been heard - without further detail.' Supposed Vincent was at Lily. Thought that the relapse of Vincent's neighbour had an ugly appearance.

229. Keele.
'Friday'.
[Apr.
1851?]1

The same to the same.

Prays news of his neighbour, William Lascelles. Was most heartily sorry to hear of it, for he had a great regard and liking for him.

[1. Dated by Vincent 'Spring of 1851'].

230. 'Tuesday Night
that is $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7'.
['London - Some time
Early in 1851']¹
- The same to the same.
- Ever since he had seen him, with the exception of the last two days, he had been a prisoner with a cold and gouty constitution. The following morning he was to return home, having scarcely seen any of his friends, been nowhere, and as far as amusement went, done no more than if he had remained in his own chimney corner. Had never felt so thirsty a longing to escape from London before. Was going to dine out and was no more fit for it than he was to act King Lear.
- [1. Endorsed thus by Vincent].
231. Keele.
29 May,
[18]51
- The same to the same.
- Had waited to be better before he had written, 'but the "better" don't Come.' Complains of a cough. Describes Keele, which was 'looking very pretty.' Some small jobs that he was doing had been delayed by a strike of the masons. 'Query, shall I live to finish my picture?' Thought Vincent's case of 'Providential Averages' was got up rather in the style of the Board of Trade statistics or the Treasury figures. The coincidence of supply with demand in the London market was explicable without a Deus ex Machina.
232. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[15 June,
1851]¹
- The same to the same.
- Vincent was right not to talk about health, neither would he than to say that his was pretty well restored. Meant to be in Town (Lowndes Square) on Tuesday. His book had lately been Mirabeau's Correspondence entre le comte de Mirabeau et le comte de la Marck..., and he had been sorry to finish it. Had known the old Comte de la Marck, who had been in England about 1824-5 and had lived very much with (old) Charles and Lady Charlotte Greville. Had no doubt of the justice of his critique on Thackeray. Compares him with Dickens. What trash Sir (?) Bulver's Devonshire House play was. If they got a snatch of summer, he would run down to Lily with him.
- [1. Date completed by Vincent].
233. 'Saturday,
5th' [July,
1851]¹
- The same to the same.
- It had vexed him not to get down to him. Was to escort Clare to Brighton the following day. Prays that after that they might see something more of each other.
- [1. Date completed by Vincent].
234. [London].
'Sunday'.
[c. July,
1851]¹
- The same to the same.
- On Tuesday his whole morning would be occupied with agents and lawyers, 'in re W. Bagot's Marriage² Settlements - & I dine with Carlisle. - Thursday I leave town for good...'. Calculated on Vincent visiting him, '(your young Ladies have Engaged themselves) before the month of August is burnt out.'

Believed he should be full till the 15th, after that the sooner they came the more likely they were to find some lingering roses.

[1. Superscribed by Vincent 'Probably 1851'].

2. William, Lord Bagot was married 13 Aug. 1851].

235. Keele.
27 Oct.
[18]51

The same to the same.

In half an hour he was going to Worsley, to see the inmates before they migrated. Had been glad to see his handwriting again. Had no doubt of his sympathy in his heavy affliction.¹ Had thought himself prepared for it. It was still distressing to him to write about it. Thought Vincent had given up Scotland and had been surprised to hear of his long tour of visits. Had done nothing lately in the locomotive line, except a week at Panshanger, a few days at Euston, and a few days in London, 'to take my leave of the great glass house.' How all the writer's Cassandran bodings of the mischief of the prize medals was verified. Had had the Middletons there the previous week, and Henry Cheney had come over to meet them. It was terrible to be in a neighbourhood so without resource. 'If poor dear Crewe were available to be sent for, when wanted - but he is worse than an Empty Chair.' Had gloomy weather. Had been making a havoc among his Portugal laurels. Adds a postscript, desiring Vincent to let him benefit 'by the Horae Otiosiores of the Excheqr. Court.'

[1. Death of the Earl of Clare, 18 Aug. 1851].

236. Keele.
17 Nov.
[1851]¹

The same to the same.

Had really not the heart to write, to tell his disastrous tale. On the night of the 3rd of that month there had fallen in those latitudes the heaviest snow remembered for years. 'As it almost broke in upon Summer, - so fine had the previous weather been, - it found the Oaks in full foliage - & my twenty years' labour have been thrown away! The havoc & desolation is beyond what you can figure to yourself.' Describes the damage.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

237. Keele.
'Wednesday.'
[19 Nov.
1851]¹

The same to the same.

Would Vincent receive him on Friday? The proposal was somewhat abrupt, but it was indispensable that he should meet a co-trustee of poor Clare's will and Lady Isabella's solicitor. They would talk over the wreck of his place. How Lady Holland would triumph if she were alive, 'who always told me I was throwing away my life & my money!'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

238. Keele.
8 Dec.
[1851]¹

The same to the same.

The moral Vincent deduced from those periodical massacres and barricadings, in as far as it affected

them, the writer quite concurred in. They afforded the only effectual antidote to the pestilent venom of their platform demagogues. But from Vincent's discussion of the cause of that last explosion, the writer thought the moral element had been altogether omitted. Explains his view of the situation. Was late for Capesthorne and had no time to read over what he had written.

239. Keele.
21 Jan.
[18]52

The same to the same.

'At last! - & thanks to my feat of gymnastics.' Yes - he had stumbled down a perpendicular stone staircase into a cellar. It was all guaranteed to come right, but the interim was wearisome. Had returned home that day, having tarried at Blithfield and Trentham in his way from Woburn. Rejoiced to find that Vincent did not abet the medieval enormities of the French President. Had sent for Disraeli's book. How on earth could a man fill a volume with G. Bentick's life? It had been passed at Newmarket. Was curious to read his chapter on the Jews. His deep feelings and convictions on that subject were in strange contrast to his want of all other rooted sentiments.

240. Keele.
26 Feb.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Had thought Vincent's silence had passed all permission, but grieved that it had so valid an excuse. Had observed that Vincent rallied very quickly after illness, an observation he trusted he was in the act of verifying. What on earth could possess him to think of passing March in Scotland? Considers at length the political situation. Was sorry his views were not more cheerful.

241. Keele.
5 Mar.
[18]52

The same to the same.

It was high post time and he only wrote because he recollected that there was no post the following day. Heartily rejoiced to hear he was convalescent. Had been tormented to death with a rheumatic pain in his head. Howbeit, he was meaning to go up to Town at the end of the following week, to pass a week with Henry Cheney, and the writer would have the opportunity of seeing him. Politics were too wide a field to enter 'under the waving finger of that opposite Clock'. Thought Vincent quite right about the addition to the army in preference to the militia. Expected a reprieve of government for the session, a dissolution before harvest, and either no majority or an insufficient one to maintain them in the next parliament. Heard Lord Radnor had found out that the title of a bill could not be altered when leave to bring it in had been given - 'So the Speaker ought to have risen between Pam's Cup & lip!'

242. Keele.
'Friday.'
[26 Mar.
1852]¹

The same to the same.

Must be very short, 'for though I start like a 'figged' post-horse, my joint is so Swollen that my hand knocks up as early in the Stage as my Selected Simile.' Thanks Vincent for his letters, 'in type & in M.S.' The former

was excellent sense given in excellent spirit. Had no doubt Lord Derby acquiesced in every word of it. Hoped the very general resolution of the agricultural constituencies to renounce an impossibility and confide in his discretion would encourage him to state before the dissolution that 'Protection' was not inscribed on his banner. A not unsensible letter in the previous day's Times, signed 'Vigil', gave him the right clue. Hoped Vincent's recrudescence of gout might have cleared his system. For his own part, he began to feel infirmities for the first time, '& the Vista open'd is not Exhilarating.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

243. Keele.
4 Apr.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Pharaoh's heart had been harden'd again and the plague of March had returned with fierce fangs to aggravate his discomfort. Vincent had desired him to give an opinion of the style of his pamphlet. Gives his criticisms. Agreed in all his political propositions. Comments upon political issues. Desired Vincent to report progress of his health. Had no intention of cutting his moorings till the Grosvenor marriage.

244. 9 Apr.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Vincent took his (?) pert criticisms in good part. Was glad to hear he was on horseback again. The writer, too, had been swathed like a mummy and trotted out for an hour or two, but the North Easter had beaten him. Vincent might well be amazed at the voting clause in the Militia Bill, and when he had surmised that Walpole had suggested it 'de son Chef', he had been nearer the truth than he had thought. Such ill-timed fooling put one out of patience. Comments upon [the Earl of] Malmesbury's speech, and the death of Schwartzburg. Had known the latter very well once, when he had been a smart attaché in London, and had never dreamed that he was foredoomed to restore the tottering fabric of the Austrian Empire. Believed his death to be a happy deliverance to his country. Bucl had been sent for [as his successor]. The issue of the French drama was more than ever impenetrable. The President had been an intimate friend of Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, and in 1839 had given him his Idées Napoléoniennes, in which Sir E. L. had written an estimation of his character, [quoted]. Sir Thos. Sebright, from whom the writer had it, had copied it from the book. Granville was with the writer, ill he was sorry to say.

245. Keele.
23 Apr.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Vincent's last letter had been but a sorry report of himself. Hoped to find him in better condition the following week, when he was to bless the 'promessi Sposi'. It would be as much as he could manage to make Camden Hill, but it should be done. Was at that moment suffering from an excess, his gardener having sent to his breakfast table a plate of strawberries

that might have won the Chiswick prize. Complains of the drought. Vincent believed in the advance of a real spirit of liberty in Europe? So did the writer, some years before. Doubted it now. The dominant passion was gain and extended commerce, to which order and security at any price were indispensable.

246. Keele.
13 May,
[18]52

The same to the same.

How had it fared with him since their 'High Goutinesses' had met 'Arcades ambo - in that unwonted locality?' Was he making any way? Was himself imbibing lemon juice and iodide of potassium and preparing his mind for Bath. It rained! The other night he had lain awake and there had come into his mind the Celestial Emperor's speech to Lord Macartney 'as versified by Canning', and Lord Wellesley's two Sapphic lines of translation, which the writer had continued. Sends Vincent the result. Was afraid the ministers were losing ground.

247. Keele.
15 May,
[18]52

The same to the same.

Admits to an error pointed out by Vincent in his Sapphic stanzas. The two lines had been Wellesley's, not Lord Grenville's. Describes the latter's character. Had been admitted to Lord Grenville's circle in his latter years and had drunk of the well of knowledge. Heard that Lord Derby was laid up and that his fits were very serious. They agreed about his mistaken course.

248. 28 May,
[18]52

The same to the same.

'Quaerere don't Convey the meaning. It is to go home not to get home.' No word could be more purely classical than 'tangere', in the last sense of arriving at. Quotes examples. As the writer could not plead guilty of not knowing the gender of (?) 'Sedes' it had been a queer slip of the pen if he had written 'patrics'. Was meaning to be in Town (35 Lowndes Square) on Tuesday night, so trusted they should meet. Was shocked by his post that morning, which had brought him the death of J. Talbot.

249. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[30 May,
1852] 1

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter made him laugh ' - for it is transparent that you think you have Scratched the thin Skin of one of the 'Irritable Genus' - & with the utmost Delicacy you lay a piece of Sticking plaister upon the place.' The Musae Keelenses would bear rougher handling before they cried out. The summer, if they were to have one that year, should give the writer a day at Lily. Had nothing to say. No drop of rain, the writer's rhododendrons 'outblazing prisms & rainbows & general illuminations, notwithstanding.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

250.

1 Upper Church St., The same to the same.

Brock St.,

Bath.

'Wedny.'

[30 June,

1852]¹

[The Bath address] was the direction he would trouble Vincent to put on the letter he was about to write. It represented a good clean house, with fairly sized rooms and a view over the country. Was in the full swing of the waters, from which, since they did not disagree with him, he inferred future benefit. Circuses, parades and crescents produced no single face that he was conscious of having seen before. His sole acquaintance was his doctor, Dr Watson. Should rejoice in the arrival of Charles Greville. There was a literary lion domiciled there, whom he had the means of knowing if he saw fit - W.J. Lander - 'but his wrong-headed ill-condition'd Character more than Counteracts the attraction of his undoubted genius - & hitherto I have not Sought him.' What was insupportable was the weather. Had never succeeded in getting half a mile out of town, 'whh. I daily attempt on the back of a pony not quite so big as my Newfoundland Dog...'.
[1. Date completed by Vincent].

251.

Bath.

5 July,

1852

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter was a relief to him. 'The total failure of the Syringe whh. it's predecessor recorded made me apprehend some deeper mischief than, happily, exists.' That sudden burst of 'glowing Summer' breathed its influence upon him, and would 'make your Nuptial festivities on thursday highly enjoyable.' It made the writer homesick. However, he saw light in the distance. On Tuesday 13th he meant to go to his uncle bishop at Wells, and on the 10th to Lily Hill. Must have expressed himself very ill to justify Vincent's impression that he taxed W.J. Lander with being a braggart. Had meant that he bragged and twaddled about the pictures he collected, 'after the invariable fashion of that Class, - perhaps of every Class, - of Collectors.' Charles Greville was to go to Croxteth, when his immersions were at an end. They were meaning to go over 'to See the Miles place & pictures some day this week.' Had been to Claverton and had been greatly disappointed. 'I saw no indication of a pre-siding taste & much that I thought very positively bad. - (I went before I read. your letter, or I might have been more prepared.)' Did not subscribe to Vincent's 'Coldly extorted admission of the beauties of Bath & it's environs (much as I wish myself elsewhere). - I exceedingly admire the Town - & I think the Country 'fair & pleasant,' rich viant & habitable. The distressing glare of the White roads is my only quarrel with it.' Adds a postscript, that he could not entirely subscribe to his panegyric on Mrs Beecher.

252.

Bath.

'Saty.'

[July,

1852]¹

The same to the same.

Must 'positively have a "Fashionable Intelligence" Article [on the wedding of Vincent's daughter]'. They had elected two dirty radicals 'for this degenerate City yesterday;...'. The fate of the ministry seemed

to be already decided. Was to go to Wells on Tuesday. If Vincent were to be at Lily Hill on the 12th, the writer did not see how it would advantage either him or the writer if the latter made his visit later. A well aired bed was the only particular in which he was fussy.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

253. Keele.
9 Aug.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Wanted some news of Lily. It had left a charming picture on the retina of his mind's eye. When he had driven from Vincent's door, he had wot not of the lovely drive that had awaited him. The postboy had lost his way and had taken him, he believed, through all George IV's drives. Denton Abbey, Nuneham and Blithfield had intercepted his homeward course. Keele was in tolerably good looks. A week of Italian summer had been followed by another of perpetual thunderstorms. No garden could stand it. Mme. de Flahault and Georgine were with him, and the following week the Newton Lanes were coming. After that he should start for Dunrobin. Did not mean to linger at all the places where Scotch hospitality might propose it. Had almost left off reading The Times, so he scarcely knew what was happening.

254. Keele.
24 Aug.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Prayed him, for charity, to eat some of his grapes. Had ventured to embark a box upon the railway, to his address. Was to start 'for the Land of Cales' on the Saturday and hoped to make Dunrobin on Wednesday. How such highly civilized people could live at such a barbarous extremity of the earth! The writer's garden was in great beauty. 'The weather has what is Called 'taken up' - in a dim sulky sort of fashion, - after the Mischief is done to the harvest & Cannot be undone.' Had tenants on the improved farms whose wheat crops would have yielded 40 bushels to the acre, which mildew had reduced to 20. Heard it was worse on the Continent. Experience proved that a bad season was a general, not a local calamity. Was it true that Sir James Graham had again broken off his son's marriage by refusing to make any settlement? Comments. Adds a postscript - what a mess the ministers had made of the fishery affair.

255. Dunrobin Castle.
5 Sept.
[1852]

The same to the same.

Describes Dunrobin and the surrounding country. Found there the Argylls, Staffords, Grosvenors, Blantynes, Kildares, Mrs Norton and a son, Robert Grosvenor and a daughter, Lord and Lady Hatherton, and 'Young Gentlemen who deerstalk in fancy drapes, innumerable - besides 14 Children, & as all these are Sumptuously lodged - (Every double room having two dressing rooms & W.C. -) (of these latter Conveniences my Servt. tells me there are 38) you may infer that the house is not small - indeed there is a beautiful apartmt. next door to me uninhabited.' Was bored with sightseeing, the fault was not in the objects but in himself.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

256.

Worsley.
29 Sept.
[1852] 1

The same to the same.

Fell so easily into the ways of the idlest section of the society in every house, that he never found time to write to anybody. But for that evil practice he should have observed Vincent's directions, but he had nothing to communicate. Had stayed the precise fortnight he had originally intended, had retraced his steps exactly by the Great Highland road to Perth, and visited Drummond Castle, Tulliallan and Drumlanrig, and had arrived [at Worsley] two days before. The following day he was to go to Heaton, and he meant to be home on Monday, 'notwithstanding that the Dss. of Cambridge comes in at the door as I slip out at the other'. Wherever he had been 'the one great event' [the death of the Duke of Wellington] had swallowed up all others. Comments. Was out of humour 'with the avidity with whh. the Royal Family Sieze on the Military depouilles. - It is (in my Opinion) most impolitic in P. Albert.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

257.

Keele.
17 Oct.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Vincent's programme ignored the writer altogether, which affronted him, yet he dared not urge him to revise it because the phantom of Bath had risen before him. He had a left hand like an elephant's foot, and if he were wise he would go there directly, but the bore was so gigantic that he could not screw up his courage to encounter it. Had been at home about ten days and had had Pahlen and Henry Greville there. Expected Walter the following day. Wished 'that the Wimpole Speculations may turn out Correct - but I doubt. 'Could perceive nothing in the personnel of the ministry. Comments on the political situation, on Lord Derby, and on 'an addle headed busybody like Ld. Salisbury'. War, too, gathered its clouds. They had had the longest peace in modern history - 37 years - '& God send it may not have so demoralized us, that we are unable to maintain that 'Magni Nomines Umbra' under the Shelter of whh. we have lived so proudly.'

258.

Keele.
'Sunday.'
[? Late Oct.
or early Nov.
1852] 1

The same to the same.

Was meaning to be in Town on Tuesday night. Asks Vincent to look into the Travellers' Club when he passed it. Had done nothing but a few days at Badger since they had communicated. Maidstone, Macaulay and The Times did themselves little credit. The buffooneries of the first were pitiable. The "Splendid exercitation" of the second, at Edinburgh, 'a very Sorry affair indeed', and then 'the Thunderer - why Snug the Joiner Could roar better'.

[1. Dated by Vincent 'Winter of 1852'].

259.

'Thursday.
Travellers.'
[? Ante 18 Nov.
1852] 1

The same to the same.

In case Vincent should not drop in there that afternoon, he wrote to ask whether it would suit him to have the writer at Lily from Saturday till Monday?

Relied upon an uncereemonious no, if the proposal did not square into every angle of convenience.

[1. Dated by Vincent to November 1852].

260.

Keele.
[18 Nov.
1852] 1

The same to the same.

Had come there the day before without accident by flood or field. No so the day he had left Lily. Found no trains had arrived at Windsor from London, ' & as the Act of waiting is particularly antipatico to me, I took to the road & posted through Hounslow as one did 25 years ago.' Wanted a letter from Vincent on the [Duke of Wellington's] funeral, on Tennyson's ode, and on 'Dizzy's astounding plagiarism.' Was it really so? If so it was a stain and a ridicule he would not recover.

[1. Dated by Vincent].

261.

Keele.
25 Nov.
[18]52

The same to the same.

Hoped the letter would find him pruning his wings for Lily and not gout-bound in (?) Cook Street. Was heavily in Vincent's debt. Which of the many theses should he first take up? Considers the debate in parliament. It argued a brave and sanguine spirit to think so hopefully of the destinies of England as Vincent did. Had misgivings, and perceived 'Certain Symptoms of a Moral decline tending to Surrender to the active & noisy minority (for I believe with you that the bulk of the Nation is Sound) that power to effect Revolution whh. a Minority has often Exercised.' Subscribed to all he said of Wordsworth. Was well; but with gouty hands. Adds a postscript, that the 'People at the Great National Solemnity were Sublime - but the Court pitiful. - The salute to Albert (against every rule - If the Emperors of Russia or Austria fall in with a Soldier's funeral no notice whatever is taken of them) is disgraceful to Id. Hardinge - & then the Flag on the Palace - the only flag in Gt. Britain that was not lower'd to half mast height! - It wd. have been low enough but for Him whom it refused to honor.'

262.

1 Dec.
[1852] 1

The same to the same.

Henry Gr[eville]'s mystery seemed intended to invite the inference that the article was by Charles, but the latter could not have written it. Would lay heavy odds on [Henry] Reeve. Comments upon 'Dicky's' verses and the character of Miss Berry. Was just starting for Teddesley, too. Had not waded through the Derby case. Adds a postscript, asking whether Vincent had screwed up his courage 'to the demolition of the Mur Mitoyen at Camden Hill'.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

263.

'Monday.'
[13 Dec.
1852] 1

The same to the same.

[Sends Vincent a rough sketch plan of how he could effect alterations to Thornwood Lodge].

[1. Dated by Vincent to December 1852].

264. Keele.
21 Dec.
[18]52

The same to the same.

'My 'wee bit Notie' had not the pretension to be a letter. It was only to explain the enclosure.' Regretted it had been too late, 'since it wd. have Atchieved Several desirable objects...'. However, he intended to approve and admire without any mental reservations. Much rejoiced to hail him "Imperial Master of the fir-Clad Rus." That knoll was Vincent's France to the Rhine. The curtain had dropped on the Derby interlude. The writer bore the loss of Dizzy's budget with perfect resignation. Comments. How that motley crew of opposition was to shake together with an Aberdeen government was a puzzle. 'The Times thinks Sir W. Molesworth Ld. Wodehouse & Mr. Osborne!!! are the Saving helps in time of trouble. - This is rather Cold Comfort.' Was going to Blithfield that day, for a night or two, and had been again to Teddesley, 'to meet Diplomates'. Adds a postscript, was anything so laughable as the daily tackings of The Times?

265. Keele.
23 Dec.
[18]52

The same to the same.

[The whole letter is taken up with a consideration of the political situation].

266. Keele.
4 Feb.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Had nothing to say for himself. The date of their last intercourse was lost in the night of time. Towards the end of December the writer had left his chimney corner [for] Trentham, Wrest, Woburn, Amptill, and London. Vainly hoped that the Travellers' might bring them into collisicn, thence to Blithfield, then home. Took colchicum and read The Times. Describes his reading. Comments upon the new French Empire, and Cobden's pamphlet. 'When we were governed by the Educated Classes, a man wd. have ceased to be formidable after Such a Silly exhibition - ...'. Prays Vincent report the progress of the works at Camden Hill. Had a vague notion of endeavouring to escape the rancour of the spring at Torquay.

267. Keele.
11 Feb.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Vincent dealt out Gospel measure to the repentant sinner. His letter had been the next best thing 'to one of those free-ranging talks of whh. the Niggard year bestows so few upon us.' It was snowing. So Vincent contemplated a month at Paris. The writer applauded and encouraged it. [Most of the rest of the letter is taken up with a consideration of Lord John Russell's edition of the Memoirs, Journal and Correspondence of Thomas Moore]. Had Vincent got [John Payne] Collier's Notes and Emendations to the Text of Shakespeare's Plays...? If not, he should get it directly.

268. Keele.
3 Mar.
[18]53

The same to the same.

'Il Fiamingo' was not at Trentham, so his gardener informed the writer, but was to return in a day or two, when Vincent's commission would be executed. He would not obtain 'an Artist to do justice to your Conservatory for less than £60'. If 'this Lady's-postscript to the Winter' was protracted, Vincent would be mad to think of Paris. Did not think war so near as not to give him another opportunity of visiting there, but thought £500 more like the cost.

269. Keele.
4 Mar.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Comments upon the business of cutting down trees. 'At this moment I have detected two admirable effects immediately atchievable by Cutting down a dozen hobbadehoy oak trees - well - I cannot do it - I will not do it - & it will not be done.' Saturday's storm had done him fresh havoc. Thought, with Vincent, that the kettle which was boiling on the continent, must sooner or later boil over. 'From the day of blood - the 2d. of Decr. - 51 - I prophesied (& no great proof of Vaticinal Inspiration, neither) that the Great Powers of Europe wd. all unite to abate the Nuisance of a protected Propaganda of Insurrection. They have right & Justice on their Side. If England expects to be received into the Community of Nations, she must observe the Laws by whh. they have Settled to be governed - ...', etc.

270. Keele.
7 Mar.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Had ridden over that morning to Trentham and 'the God of Gardens' had given him audience. Had stated the case. [Fleming] knew of Vincent and his garden, 'whh. he called 'a little Gem!'' Recommended a young man who had gone from Trentham to Sir James Macdonald, 'to whose gardener he has been foreman for some years'. He had learned all there was to learn there and had written to Fleming to help him find 'a place En Chef - or something equivalent'. His name was Cope. The writer had asked whether he excelled in the management of flowers: 'Mr. V. requires that his garden shd. be like the Chiswick gardens on a Shew day.' To which he had replied that he had been going to write to him to come to Trentham, that he might put the conservatory under his charge. Vincent was to write to Sneyd to say if he liked to engage him.

271. Keele.
8 Mar.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Their letters had crossed. Reverts to the question of a gardener.

272. Blithfield.
11 Mar.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Had written to Fleming for Cope's address. Comments upon the Lords' conversation on the subject of refugees, and the possibility of war.

273. Keele.
'Monday.'
[14 Mar.
1853]¹
- The same to the same.
- Enclosed Cope's direction. Repeats what Fleming had to say about Cope working at Lily Hill and Thornwood. Comments upon the weather.
- With, (1) Cope's direction.
- [1. Date completed by Vincent].
274. Keele.
23 May,
[18]53
- The same to the same.
- When he had been in Town he had been asked by several persons to subscribe to a fund destined to purchase Marochetti's Richard I for Palace Yard. Comments, and desires Vincent's opinion on the advisability of subscribing. There had been a very small Whitsun party - Cowpers, Pahlen, Walter, Charles Greville. The latter had been losing lately, '& the Clouds of Newmarket are apt to Convert his glorious Summer into a winter of discontent.' Wished Vincent joy of two more volumes of Tommy Moore. 'It has fairly beat my love of diaries & my tolerance of twaddle - & I have Surrender'd about half way in the 3d. Vol.' Comments upon the weather. If he were rich enough he would buy the Duchess of Bedford's Camden Hill villa, but he had not a sous.
275. Grillion's Hotel,
Charles St.,
Grosvenor Sq. ?
'faugh!'
'Thursday.'
[Ante 29 June,
1853]¹
- The same to the same.
- Vincent's letter found him there, where he hoped no letter would ever find him again. Was taking 'a baby-house of Ly. Cardigan's in South Street for six weeks & I am to get into it tomorrow - No 36.' Had left home on Monday, the drought was unmitigated, but the blaze of colour from the lateness of the season was blinding. Hated London.
- [1. See the direction on Vincent's letter to Sneyd of that date].
276. Keele.
22 Aug.
[18]53
- The same to the same.
- Some grapes were despatched to him that day. Fore-saw no obstacle to being able to receive them in the middle of the following month. Had to be in South Wales, for he had promised Cawdor to go to Stackpole. Had neither gone to see the German actors, nor the camp at Chobham. Rather regretted the first, not the second. Should have liked to have seen the naval reviews. Did not believe that the acceptance of the Vienna proposal had settled the [Eastern] question. Rejoiced in the final decision of the Bridgewater case. Had fine October weather, should prefer summer. Walter was to come on Saturday, so did George Harcourt and Lady Waldegrave, and the following week Henry Cheney. The annexation of Vincent's Moldavia gave him great satisfaction.
277. Badger.
2 Sept.
[18]53
- The same to the same.
- Was good for the whole of that month and for no later. Walter and the writer had come there the

day before. They found Henry and Edward Cheney and a young nephew. The weather was disastrous, continual heavy rain, drowning all hope of harvest. There seemed every probability of European scarcity. 'Amongst the favourite fallacies of the Declainers agst. Corn Laws, none was Sillier than the alleged improbability of the Crop failing Simultaneously in many Countries, as if the general analogies of Climate throughout Europe did not render that Coincidence almost Certain.' Knew High Clere [sic] well, Caernarvon had been a friend of his. The Russians were still in the principalities. In spite of Chobham and Portsmouth and bluster, their inability to go to war was found out. The article of the previous day's Times, on reform, was an unacknowledged reprint of Dizzy's speech.

278. Keele.
'Sunday.'
[Post 9 Sept.
1853]

The same to the same.

Should be most happy to receive him on 24th '& to Spread the wings of my respectable Chaperonage over 'the young Ladies' during Vincent's absence. Baring Wall, Edward Cheney, Henry Greville and Walter were his present guests.

279. Keele.
15 Nov.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Was heavily in his debt. A heavy blow had fallen upon the writer - the death of Baring Wall - 'the attached unvarying friend of forty years', who, excepting Saturdays and Sundays, had written to him every day. Was glad to hear of Susan and Harriet at Dalmeny. Vincent seemed to be passing his term time 'right Sportively.' Stalls at theatres seemed to the writer as visions of his youth. Was confined to his room with a cold. Had given up Stackpole - 'one falls, at my age, Easily into the giving-up line.' His sole locomotive project at present was Bowood. Was much interested and amused by his observations on Kedleston, Wentworth Castle, Hardwick '& the public day at the other Wentworth.' Agreed in his comments. It had always happened to the writer to go to Hardwick from Chatsworth, and the latter appeared comparatively mean on his return. Had no time left to discuss the Czar.

280. Trentham.
5 Dec.
[18]53

The same to the same.

Vincent heaped coals of fire on his head. His letters were a great enjoyment to him. Had come to Trentham a week before, 'to Change air & unmope'. Was to return home the following day, with Walter, who had joined him and was on his way to Hamilton. If the writer could screw up the requisite energy, he would set forth for Panshanger and Bowood. Comments on [Benjamin Robert] Haydon. Comments on the international situation, 'the fog is much too thick to enable one to see a yard before one. If it spreads, - it will be a scramble such as the World has never seen.' Did not understand why, term over, he did not settle himself by his fireside at Lily.

281. Keele.
19 Dec.
[18]53
- The same to the same.
- Vincent was the most generous of correspondents. Had been detained by Edward's illness. They were to go for two nights to Holford, which lay exactly in his way to Bowood. What should Vincent think of meeting him at Beckett? Did not know if the B[?arrington]s were at home. Considers the Eastern question, and Palmerston's retirement. Disgust was the only feeling with which home politics inspired him. Walter was at Hamilton. 'Think of the Duke of that ilk having given £60,000 for Beaufort House!'
282. Bowood.
'Sunday.'
[25 Dec.
1853]
- The same to the same.
- Would go to him on Friday and leave him Monday. Palmerston had consented to continue, but as he withdrew none of his objections to the Reform Bill, nor retracted his resolution to oppose it, the arrangement could only be temporary, 'unless Johnny will concede.' Thought he saw 'some Shades & differences' in their view of the Eastern question. They would discuss it over the fire at Lily.
- [1. Dated by Vincent to December 1853].
283. Trentham.
15 Jan.
[18]54
- The same to the same.
- The writer's winter wanderings had come to an end. Had passed two days at Hatchford when he left Lily Hill, two nights in London, two at Stoke, and the remainder at Wrest and Trentham. At the former, except for Clanwilliams, the writer and two or three men, it had been all family - Cowpers, Vyners, Goderiches '& Countless Children.' At Trentham were Grosvenors, Granvilles, Lady Newburgh, P[?], Landseer, and Henry Cheney. Marochetti had come for a night. Had found more snow in Staffordshire than he had left elsewhere, which affronted him. No news found its way there, the echoes of the full cry against P. Albert were alone heard, much to the annoyance of the Duchess. Had Vincent cleared his house of workmen? Was to go home on Wednesday. Walter was to join him.
284. Keele.
8 Feb.
[18]54
- The same to the same.
- Did not at all like Vincent's account of himself. Wished he would submit himself to the inspection of a new medical eye, advises Bright or Ferguson. Was averagely well himself, except for gout. Considers the Eastern question. 'I think, (with that tedious Peer Ld. Beaumont,) that Ministers Come out better in their blue book than I expected...'. Walter had returned to the Abbey.
285. Keele.
14 Mar.
[18]54
- The same to the same.
- Should be glad to hear Vincent was allowed on horseback. Vincent's favourable view of John Russell's project for a new constitution much moved him to wonder. Comments. Salvin had been and they had had a long sitting or two, and had got things into shape in a way. The plan would give him a good house. Whether

he should be fool enough to embark in it 'reste à voir.'

286. Keele.
'Sunday'.
[Spring of
1854]1

The same to the same.

Was meaning to run up to Town for a few days, on Tuesday, to Henry Cheney's, and on one of them he would 'assuredly brougham down to Camden Hill.' Hoped Vincent was expanding under the gentle rain and gentler breezes of that day. The last week had been trying to invalids but good for the country. The Foreign Office disclosures certainly countenanced Vincent's view, that the Emperor of Russia had meant war from the first. Considers the situation.

[1. Dated by Vincent].

287. Keele.
17 Apr.
[18]54

The same to the same.

Was 'that Agent of Destruction' the spring doing its deadly work at Lily as it was at Keele? The new Quarterly promised well. As Vincent had anticipated, Croker had taken Lord Holland's 'little trashy book between his teeth & shakes the tangle of rigmarole verbiage from the Shabby Sneaking lies whh. they envelop, with very good effect.' His article on the Reform Bill was less effective than it might have been. Had never read a scene more ridiculous than that enacted for the benefit of John Russell at the last sitting of the House of Commons. Comments. The Duke of Portland's wealth seemed to have equalled the larger estimates. Comments upon the unsatisfactoriness of his will. Walter had been 'very really ill', but was getting well. Might go to Hatherton's that week.

288. Keele.
16 May,
[18]54

The same to the same.

Should certainly have been a good deal alarmed had he heard of Vincent's mishap before he received his own account of it. It had certainly been an escape. Presumed the shoulder bone would knit again. Had heard by that morning's post of the death of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, which unfitted him for treating the topics of the day.

289. Keele.
'Wedy.'
[Post 21 Apr.
1854]1

The same to the same.

Comments upon the policy of Austria. An English officer had passed through the Russian army at Bucharest and said he had never seen an army in a higher state of efficiency - 'that it is well clothed, well fed & well hospital'd. (The lies of the English newspapers keep the public in a complete delusion upon these matters.)' Considers the strategy likely to be adopted. Deplored the abuse of their enemy. Was its object to make peace impossible? Had met Grey at Teddesley and 'had a good deal of political talk with him - & did my best to egg him on to a financial onslaught upon Gladstone. If we must have a Catholic Saint for Chancr. of th. Exchr., I would it were (once again) St. Swithin.' Comments upon the weather.

[1. Dated by Vincent to May 1854].

290. Keele.
1 June,
[18]54

The same to the same.

It was time Vincent reported progress. The country was looking so pretty that he foresaw a painful effort when the day came for leaving it. That day must be in about a fortnight. Should merely shake the dust from his feet, in London, and proceed to the city where Bladud discovered the fountains of life [Bath]. Should see Vincent in that transit. His tongue was still parched, 'while you Cockneys, who dwell in Abraham's bosom, are, I hear, saturated with rain!' Was busy carrying his drive through the Spring Pool wood. There was work for years before he could get anything like order into that wilderness. Comments upon the Crimean War.

291. Keele.
13 June,
[18]54

The same to the same.

If the bone had re-united, the days of bondage were numbered, though the number might try his patience. Was to leave his anchor the following day, passing two nights at Blithfield on his way to Audley Square, where Cheney goodnaturedly lodged him during the week. Thence to Bath. Rain had fallen. Comments upon the garden. Perfectly pictured to himself 'Tom exalting, declaiming, & Caracolling in the reflected glories of that great Queen of Carbon - (through all it's varieties, from the diamond to the homely Combustible,) & adding 10,000 a year to her income ever time he names her.' Hoped he should see him. Had no time to entangle himself 'in 'the Churlish Knot of this abhorred War'.

292. 20 Brock St.,
Bath.
15 July,
[18]54

The same to the same.

Cheney and the writer had been edified by his 'Sybaritish letter'. Claret and home were no doubt preferable to lodgings and water, but Vincent seemed to overlook the difference of the relation in which these several combinations stood to gout. Cheney was to abandon the remedial for the originating process that day. The pitying gods, to preserve his jugular vein, had sent Ellesmere there the previous night, and though the writer had no doubt he would be off again in a few days, those days were a respite. Was going to see Pahlen, then the Laboucheres near Bridgewater, then back to Keele, then Shrubland - 'where you & your pleasant &c.s & Hy. Cheney will be. (is it not so?)'. Had he told Vincent he had driven over to see poor Vivian at his absurdly overrated place, Claverton? Had also seen 'the Duke's House' at Bradford-on-Avon, and Farleigh [Hungerford] Castle, 'a not very interesting ruin', but it had afforded some good photographs 'the Country in every direction is so full of beauty that the drive itself is an enjoyment.' The two 'Reviews' had just come in and did not look very tempting.

293.

Bath.
31 July,
[18]54

The same to the same.

Vincent was going 'home' but that failed to indicate his address. Had been in Town but two days, devoted to Pahlen. Had gone thence to a cottage of Labouchere's with views of the Bristol Channel, the Cardiff coast, Clifton and Bristol. Henry Cheney was in Bath, but was to desert him for Vincent on the 5th, and on the 8th they were all to meet at Shrubland. Was glad Vincent had liked his sejour with Walter at the Abbey. Oxford was one of the very few things which one thought more beautiful every time one saw it. Did not think 'flowing' quite an appropriate epithet for the Warden of All Souls.

294.

Bath.
2 [-6] Aug.
[18]54

The same to the same.

Explains how to get to his brother-in-law and sister at Denton, Norfolk. Henry Cheney had been unwell. 'I am afraid his stamina are feeble.' Walter had written to him to say that there was a perfect copy of Piranese, 23 folio volumes, to be sold at Bristol, for 60gns., but the writer's laziness made it against the grain 'to rail over to that foul City to inspect it,...'. It was absurd to buy fine books when for two years or more he should not know where to store them. Had met old Lord Charles Manners in the street that day, the first face he had recognized, but had not been recognized. [? Same letter continued on separate bifolio headed '2d. Edit. Sunday']. The 'no post' of the previous day had saved their letters from crossing. Vincent's 'dripping Pastoralities' had occurred to him on Wednesday. His strictures on Pahlen had made him smile. They were a curious proof how deeply and extensively the prejudice prevailed that every one of the Czar's 70,000,000 subjects was a wheel in a huge machine of statecraft. Had known Pahlen 40 years, 30 in confidential intimacy, and assured him that the 'Constant Correspondence with St Petersburg' was the merest dream. Middleton was curious! He had written to the Percies to ask them on the 8th and had named the writer as one of his party. The writer had never engaged himself to him 'further than by a general promise to visit him, if I found it practicable,...'. Howbeit, it did happen that the 8th would suit the writer well enough, and Henry Cheney had, in a manner, promised to return to Bath so that they might go together. Hoped nothing would prevent Vincent and himself meeting there. Adds a postscript, that he was always sure Lord Spencer would marry again, '& I think he does very well to Marry Yaddy'.¹

[1. Adelaide, daughter of Col. Horace Beauchamp Seymour].

295.

Keele.
12 Oct.
[18]54

The same to the same.

The kind encouragement of the Roseberrys to join their family party, aggravated his regret to renounce his Scottish schemes. Salvin had kept him prisoner for the last three weeks. The writer's experience of the best professional men tended to

prove they would all treat you as ill as you would allow them. The last week of the month the writer had to pass at Blithfield. Prays remembrance to Vincent's hosts. Comments upon the Crimean War and the carrying of the Russian position on the Alma.

296. Keele.
21 Nov.
[18]54

The same to the same.

Comments upon the Crimean War. 'That deadly Suicidal & heroic Charge is my waking Nightmare. In my daily occupations & in the Silence of the Night, it seems to rush past me to it's doom - a spectral vision whh. I cannot exorcise.' Comments upon the bad conduct of the press. Was 'heartily glad to hear that a vulgar attempt to put the battle of the Alma on the Stage has been unequivocally darned.' They had no snow, but rain at last. Had been for a few days to Eaton - 'All that has been done is improvement & the garden is fine - but the taint of the Original Sin is ineffaceable!'

297. Keele.
22 Dec.
[18]54

The same to the same.

Had been on the point of a letter of rebuke a dozen times, speculating on the 'why' of their flagging correspondence. Did not agree with Vincent about Lord Raglan's order to Lucan. Comments upon their 'Correspondent' in the Crimea. Comments upon the government's two mistakes, the naval expedition to the Baltic, and the siege of Sebastapol. Of the Austrian treaty, the writer took much more John Russell's view. Was satisfied it bound Austria to nothing. The foreign enlistment bill had been one of the most bungled affairs ever remembered. Comments adversely on a proposal made by Vincent to hire foreign troops.

298. Keele.
23 Dec.
[18]54

The same to the same.

The inexorable post had so hurried him the day before, that having discharged both barrels at the covey of questions raised about the war, the writer had no time to load again for other game. So the spirit moved him to a P.S. Vincent's account of 'poor Thomas' most heartily concerned him. Was glad Vincent could not see 'the 'abomination of Desolation' whh. this place presents.' As if to point the moral of his folly, his neighbour, Lady Pilkington, who was about the writer's age, had 'Chosen to die on first taking possession of the House she has just built.'¹

[1. ? Mary, daughter of Thomas Swinnerton, wife of Sir Lionel Milborne Swinnerton Pilkington Bart., of Butterton Hall, d. 11 Dec. 1854].

299. Keele.
11 Jan.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Vincent's encouragment of the writer's constructive enterprise was doubly welcome. Explains why. Had so developed 'the Place, that a House, more in Correspondence with it, has become a positive want in my picture.' The Dame Pilkington, who had so

maliciously timed her death to enforce the moral of 'Sic vos non vobis Aedificatis' had been 'the identical conterminous Pandora of old times.' Latterly, the writer had so far forgotten her that he had not been aware that she had ever lived in her new house till he heard she had died there. Perhaps she had only done it to spite him, '& might have furnished Pope with another illustration of the ruling passion.' Comments upon the weather, 'the dull, dim, Still, Stagnant, mild, moping, dozy, dreamy, Creepy-Crawly weather...', and his 'winter grubberies'. Advises Vincent not to rear Cedars in pots. Comments upon the prospects of peace. Doubted their being any nearer to it. Was sorry Vincent would have left Lilly Hill before he moved southwards. Was due the following week at Labouchere, at Stoke [? Bishop, Bristol], and if Vincent was inclined to have him after that, at Camden Hill, he would retrace his steps for the pleasure of a day or two's chat. Imagined government would flounder on, but it was plain 'that the Clumsy Complicated machinery for obstructing the Operations of war must be got rid of - & (I shd. think) the D. of Newcastle. Some day Ld. Panmure will succeed him.' The writer's theory was that the real division of the Cabinet was not Whig and Peelite but young and old, Pam with the old, Aberdeen with the young.

300. Keele.
15 Jan.
[18]55

The same to the same.

The same post had brought Vincent's letter and 'the put-off from Stoke.' (Was afraid Lady Carlisle's case was very serious). Wished to know whether his visit to Camden Hill on the 26th was convenient. Vincent's criticisms upon Salvin's works coincided curiously with his own. Describes their differences. Thought Salvin generally sound, 'his danger being rather that of over-massiveness than the more prevailing one (vide Blore & Burn) of thinness & poverty'. Did not see the Illustrated [London] News and had not therefore feasted his eyes on his venerable visage.

301. 18 Jan.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Their letters were crossing and re-crossing. Could not be with Vincent on the 26th. Who had written the article on the Crimean War in the Quarterly? It was well done. The defence of the government's conduct in Edinburgh was 'one of the most feeble & flimsy attempts to dress up a bad Case I have ever read.' Agreed with Vincent that the allies had no force on a scale for the operation they had undertaken, and that probably Prussia would immediately take possession of her Rhenish provinces, '& the far-sighted English Press will be wild with Joy!!' A darker political horizon he did not recollect.

302. Keele.
24 Jan.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Was delighted to hear of the letter in store for him, and hoped Vincent would direct it to Keele and not to Wrest. Asks for details of the death of Frankland Lewis, 'a very Old friend'.

303.

Keele.
31 Jan.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Did not believe Vincent read John Russell rightly. There was no particle of cowardice in his whole composition and he was 'as boutonné & unconfiding to his fastest adherents as Peel himself was, - or very nearly so.' Remembered 'poor Melbourne telling me once, in speaking of Ly. Holland, "She has Strong Sense & a nice discrimination - She is of great use to John Russell." - How so? - "Why, she knows exactly what will be borne from a public Man in this Country, & he does not."' Had often thought of that observation since. Was Lord Grey to kiss hands in Printing House Square at once, 'or is the antiquated form of Consulting the Q. to be still gone through?' Agreed with what Vincent said about military promotion. Inclined to think that Ellenboro' would be the best war minister, but 'he wd. assume the Dictator in a way that wd. be Sure to Split any Cabinet not Composed of mere Dummies into fragments in the first 6 months.' Had no faith in Pam. Lord Derby was most anxious not to be concerned in the formation of a new ministry. Dizzy, on the contrary, was very hungry. Was sorry Vincent had a cold, 'but what wonder?' His own was nearly gone.

304.

[1 Feb.
1855]¹

The same to the same.

Comments upon their views of Lord John Russell. Had no doubt he saw himself as First Lord of the Treasury. Without that his revenge would be incomplete. Saw by that day's Times that Lord Derby had surrendered his commission into the Queen's hands. Was very glad of it. Wished he thought they were rid of Gladstone, but doubted it. Had read his [the writer's] 'twaddling friend' W.S. Lander's 'dream of Southey'. Sir G. Cockburn's had been too technical for the writer to follow. Complains of the N.E. wind. The writer had walked 15 times up and down the chestnut terrace, which was rather better than 4 miles, regularly at the same hour, like a state prisoner.

[1. Date supplied by Vincent. Sneyd writes 'Thursday' (1 Feb.). Vincent completes this date but points out that the letter must have been written on the following day].

305.

Keele.
8 Feb.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Was again doing penance in a white sheet, 'after a momentary glimpse of the green world beneath.' Had never fancied Niddry Lodge. Entirely believed he should have enrolled himself in the 'Camden Society' [? Camden Hill Society], had he been in the society of the 'rodophilous' Broadhurst, but now he had no option, his establishment was gone, or going. Vincent's neighbours, the Argylls, had his cook, and he must even rough it where he sat, 'live in a Corner & over look my works.' Did not take the Illustrated [London] News but admitted, when he had read their leading article, that he had thought it well done. Daily threatened to leave The Times. It

had become intolerable. The 'labouring Mountain' had produced Lord Panmure. What Vincent stated of the Duke of Cambridge was satisfactory. Trembled for the wasted remnant of their army. 'What can even heroic valour [do] agst. Cold, pestilence, famine & Countless Numbers?'

306.

Keele.
14 Feb.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Could easily believe what he told him of the '"Great Conservative Party"', because he had long ago come to the '(God knows most reluctant) Conclusion that it is composed of the most narrow-minded, short-sighted, wrong-headed aggregate of Individuals in her My.'s dominions.' Had they not just tried the experiment of a single handed government? Lord Derby's action had been irreproachable. Pam seemed to have conducted himself shabbily - 'discouraging those he was Commission'd to Conciliate.' Dizzy was not only an incumbrance but a blot, Malmesbury 'a very weak place.' Was any government possible with such a press? A successful war, he was sure, was not. Comments upon Canrobert's command, John Russell, and Clanricarde. Was sorry for the latter's family. Was sorry Vincent could not give a better account of his health. Was weary of the weather.

307.

Keele.
'Sunday'.
[25 Feb.
1855] 1

The same to the same.

Had waded through 'that Acre of Explanation & find - at my journey's end - no explanation at all.' The three deserters [Gladstone, Sidney Herbert, Sir James Graham] proved abundantly that the committee was 'unconstitutional - inefficient - dangerous & obstructive.' Comments. Hoped P[almerston] would be 'able to patch up Something.' Nothing could be more unfortunate as another attempt to form a purely Conservative government. Believed it would be wise to recruit from the Radical class, on the tame elephant principle. Had been shocked by Ellenboro's speech. John Russell would do no good at home but less mischief abroad. His mission had been most unpopular at Vienna and (the writer heard) had been disliked by Louis Napoleon. The Austrians still hated the English. There was a thaw at last. What could Lady Clanricarde mean by '"not a word of truth in it"?' Comments. It had required all the influence of Canning to lift him out of the mire 30 years before. Canning had ordered Lady Canning 'to break off all Connection with a "Convicted Swindler"', but his messenger had crossed Lady Canning's messenger bearing the tidings that Clanricarde had been accepted, so Canning had made the best of it, given him office, decorated him, etc. The writer knew all that from Lord Granville. Adds a postscript, that he thought Bright's by far the most impressive speech on Friday night. There was a man who might have been won, but it was too late.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

308.

Keele.
7 Mar.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Vincent had asked for his speculations upon the altered state of the world 'Since the startling disappearance of the Gigantic Figure whh. almost over shadowed it [Nicholas I of Russia].'. Comments. Thought an immediate peace impossible. Agreed with Vincent entirely about [Sir Austen Henry] Layard, when he said that the cast of his mind appeared anything but Conservative. Comments upon the wording of the order from Lord Raglan to Lord Lucan, and 'poor Nolan's foolhardy impertinence'. Had known Lucan all his life and never had been more astonished by an appointment. Was there anything like the 'perverse wrongheadedness' of Louis Napoleon in going to the Crimea? Was entirely in the dark as to whether Salvin had any intention that he should build that year or not. Was meditating a visit to Town.

309.

Keele.
16 Mar.
[18]55

The same to the same.

The squib was a good squib. Liked Vincent's addition. Walter had not recorded Vincent's 'perils & Escape...' but it gives me a shiver down my Spine to think of it! Enjoins Vincent to 'subject these treacherous hearths to a Searching Scrutiny - I believe they rest upon beams in the great majority of Houses, - old as well as new - & that we are all on the verge of Conflagration,...'. Rather wondered at Vincent's thinking L[cuis] N[apoleon]'s absence an objection to his going to Paris. Really could not take a serious view of Dr Granville's 'new Science of Pathologico-Diplomacy'. Comments at length. Only wished that if he were to make such a discovery, Sydney Smith might have lived to supply a commentary. Did not think he should budge before Easter. Did not think he had seen any Neapolitan violets. His roses were legion. He bore the loss of his artiste better than he had expected. His epicurism was chiefly in his eye. Had lit upon a matronly cook and housekeeper

310.

Keele.
13 Apr.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Vincent said he must be repatriated the following day, so the writer would despatch his letter to greet his return and express the amazement wherewith he regarded his spirit of juvenile enterprise. Was sorry he did not belong to the writer's Paris Club, was not sure L[cuis] N[apoleon] had not shut it up. Was due at Cheney's on the following Friday. Had taken the irrevocable step for a huge building operation. For Vincent's juvenility in jaunting over to Paris, he might retort that he, Sneyd, was 'much more "gravely out" - for, on the brink of Old Age, I have deliberately set myself a task whh. must entail on me for Some years poverty privation & discomfort of all sorts.' Comments upon the estimates. Had no money and would not 'augment an already burdensome debt - Consequently the whole expenditure must be met by income, & of that, Time must Supply the Shortcomings.' Inaction was impossible, the house was tumbling down. If his health did not fail he should have great interest in it. On public matters

he could only repeat that they should not make peace as they could not take Sebastapol. 'This inextricable mess is the Sheer (& Sure) result of Newspaper governmt.'

311. Keele.
17 May,
[18]55

The same to the same.

Wanted a letter and none came. Was up to his knees 'in broken bricks, lime, laths & rotten window-frames - a chaos of rubbish - & Ruins the most unpicturesque that can be Conceived.' What a foolish motion Ellenboro's had been. Lord Grey would be hooted down by all parties on Monday, 'but if his proposition be that we ought to have Contented ourselves with the original object of the War, - whh. is in fact atchieved, - I entirely agree with him.' Had read Clanricarde's pamphlet and owned he believed it. Comments upon the weather.

312. Keele.
30 May,
[18]55

The same to the same.

Took pretty much Vincent's view of the debate on Dizzy's motion, and unreservedly of the motion itself. Comments. Should like to see the pageant of Henry VIII and sundry exhibitions with Vincent. Could not stir from Keele till the latter middle of the following month, and his object then would be Bath, but he might pass two or three days at Thornwood Lodge before he went there. Comments upon the weather, and his works. Expected the Duchess of Sutherland for one day, en route for Castle Howard, that week.

313. Keele.
19 June,
[18]55

The same to the same.

Was disappointed not to hear from him. Desired to know whether he would like to have him at Thornwood Lodge for a few days the following week. It was very cold and rainy at Keele. His works were still deep in the bowels of the earth. Advises Vincent to read Sydney Smith's memoir, it had greatly amused him. What had happened to The Times, that it had been so ill-written lately?

314. Keele.
22 June,
[18]55

The same to the same.

Accepted the whole programme and would dine on Thursday with Praxiteles, on Friday with Amphytrion, on Saturday with Vincent. Relied on Vincent's tact not to impose him inconveniently on Marochetti (- he referred to the size of his dining-room, not his heart). Though it was but a pale sort of summer, it would cost him an effort to emerge from his ocean of verdure and transfer himself to 20 Brock St., Bath. Was boiling over at the Hango atrocity. Hoped Vincent would have a fine day for Nuneham. Liked Lady Waldegrave for her essential qualities, not for her personal or social attractions.

315. 20 Brock St.,
Bath.
9 July,
[18]55

The same to the same.

Was the patient endurance of dullness a symptom of it? Describes his boredom in Bath, which appeared to be deserted. Charlie Greville had written him from Paris

that he was coming, but the writer was sceptical and had more faith in Cheney. 'If you have any bowels of compassion, write.' Comments upon Mrs Norton's letter to the Queen, on the injustice and absurdity of the laws affecting married women in England. Thought she was entirely in the right, but that she spoiled her argument and her style, as addressed to the Queen, is a perpetual impertinence.' Condemns The Times for its 'playfull account' of a riot in London. Could not think what restrained the mob from a general sack, à la Kertch, and would think them great fools if they did not execute it. Should prefer to live under a form of government which protected his skull and chattels.

316. 20 Brock St.,
Bath.
'Sunday.'
[? July or
Aug. 1855]

The same to the same.

If there were three men in town besides himself they could only be Shadrac, Meshek and Abednego. Complains of the heat and airlessness of Bath. On the 11th he had promised himself at Nuneham and inclined to think he should go thence to Guy's Cliffe. Was Vincent likely to be at Lily Hill about the 20th or 21st August? Or was Becket[t House] on his list? Agreed with Vincent that to set aside a will by Act of Parliament and to re-appropriate the property it disposed of to different purposes and on different conditions, was the most naked form of confiscation known to legislative practice.

317. 20 Brock St.,
Bath.
'Tuesday'.
[? July or
Aug. 1855]

The same to the same.

His agreeable letter deserved a better letter than he could make for it. His social state had improved and he had Charles Greville next door, and Henry Cheney not much more distant. Difference of hours had been compromised. Difference of opinion promoted conversation. Difference of pace was the sole drawback. The writer walked fast, Cheney was more leisurely, 'Charles, from much gout, is snaillike, & I am, perforce, the sufferer.' Had not yet read The Times, full of large type debate ' & another 'Explanation' from Ld. John.' It was always raining and thundering in Bath. Was going to write to his gardener, and desire him to send some grapes to Thornwood Lodge.

318. Keele.
29 Aug.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Had been about to ask for some account of him, having only learned from Walter of his sprain, gout and flight to Camden Hill. His own history, since he had left him, ran thus, Blackheath, Frogna, London, Guy's Cliffe, Blithfield, home. Had been disgusted to find the backwardness of his works. Some of the excuses were fair enough, but he was not the less alarmed by his roofless winter prospects and increase of expense and delay, 'necessitated by the unexpected extent of Demolition. Rotten beams - walls crumbling from Age & ill-joined to others of more recent erection have obliged the builder to pull down much that was intended to remain & thrown an ugly

Suspicion upon the rest. I have Summon'd him & Salvin, peremptorily, to meet here on an Early day next week, when a Council of War will be held, - upon the result of whh. I do not feel perfectly easy.' The place looked pretty enough. Braham, off the stage and 86, was an idea the writer could not realize. He must have been an out and out partizan of the Edinburgh Review who had told Vincent that the article on Sydney Smith was [word omitted] bitter than that in the Quarterly. Would not read Lamartine's 'Turkey' or Tennyson's 'Maud'. Explains his dislike. Expresses regret for the death of Lady Mansfield.

319. Keele.
13 Sept.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Complains of the rain. Early the previous week Salvin and Paton the contractor, had met there, and had stunned him with the proffered alternative of decamping before Xmas 'or extending the term for the New building beyond all Sexaginarian Calculations.' Comments. Comments upon the fall of Sebastapol. Desires to know Vincent's 'locomotive projects' and whether his sick clerk was yet alive, and whether his state was still a fetter to Vincent.

320. 'Friday.'
[Sept.
1855]1

The same to the same.

If he thought it worthwhile to send one of his garden men to meet the train which got to Euston Square at 6.30 p.m., he would find a small box of grapes, small not from stinginess of grapes but that a man might easily convey it on foot, or bus top. The writer's gardener insisted on the difference in freshness and flavour when they were received the day they were sent. [Last sentence struck out in another hand, reads: 'The Sun of the last days has too set out the flowers & I am very pretty'.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

321. Keele.
28 Sept.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Wanted a formal attestation that Lily had produced the sanitary effects expected from it. Comments upon the failure of the British attack on Sebastapol. Walter was gone to Paris. If he could spare himself from Keele, he believed he should go too.

322. Keele.
9 Oct.
[18]55

The same to the same.

In the crossing of their letters it struck him that there was one pressing him to visit Lily, which he had never answered. Was afraid it was out of the question. Had declined going with the Duchess of Sutherland and the Grosvenors to Paris. Had to run up to Town soon, but that was to find a gîte. Had written to Augustus Barrington about the house of Sir Robert Adair, but the latter had died intestate and insolvent, and the former declined to act. Hoped the fresh air of Lily had repaired the ravages of the enemy. Was moving battalions of evergreens to replace those killed in the spring - 'Like Mrs

Partington, I won't be beat!' Had just read in The Globe a sensible, ill-written letter of Mountedg-cumbe. If the war lasted, the writer thought, 'the 'Own Correspondent' Nuisance must be abated, or there will be Serious differences with our Allies.' Criticizes The Times. Heard Wharncliffe was a shade better, but there could be no hope of recovery.

323.

Keele.
2 Nov.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Supposed Vincent to be up from grass and in curial harness for the rest of the month. Had been in London, to seek a refuge. Was to be turned out on 1 December. Had lit upon 18 Berkeley Sq., which he had taken for a year, with a power of a lease. Should run up for a few days at the end of the month to see it set to rights, and return to Trentham. The town had been perfectly empty. Granville, the Duke of Devonshire, and old Lady Sandwich had been his only Amphytrions. Had seen 'the Little Treasure!' - go & see it. A Miss Blanche Fane acts very prettily having modell'd herself upon a French pattern.' Was sorry he had not seen Still Waters Run Deep. His building got on fairly, and the leaves fell fast.

324.

Keele.
6 Nov.
[18]55

The same to the same.

Under the combined momentum of the spirit of controversy, a cold, which kept him in the house, and a drizzling day, his pen leapt to answer Vincent. Knew Ampthill well, 'not only under the Holland dynasty, but under the Parkes,...'. It was the oasis of that ugly county, but had lost half its beauty beneath the utilitarian axe of the Duke of Bedford. A forest character it never had in the writer's memory. Considers Woburn. Disagrees with Vincent's view of the house. The Canalettos were indeed enchanting, unsurpassed in England save by the Queen and Lord Carlisle, but the Van Dycks were the worst he ever saw. Disagrees with Vincent's view of Wrest, and its pleasure grounds by Le Notre. The only thing the writer disliked was the orangery, which Vincent admired. Was sorry to hear of Vincent's official troubles. Thanks him for the offer of a gîte at Camden Hill, but had promised his sisters to go to Eaton Square. Adds a postscript, that destruction overhung Vincent's Scotch Firs, a beetle called (?) Hybergus Piniperda, which was spreading over Ireland and had destroyed the avenue at Guy's Cliffe, and attacked the old firs on the terrace at Keele.

325.

Keele.
27 Nov.
[18]55

The same to the same.

'One more night under the Old Rooftree...'. Was to go the following day to Woburn, thence to his sisters', thence to Tewin Water (Cowpers), and, if Vincent was so disposed, would make an apprentice visit from the 8th to the 10th at Camden Hill. Meant to pass a night or two in Berkeley Sq. before he returned, a visitor, 'into these parts'. Had no time to answer his letter.

326. Woburn.
29 Nov.
[18]55
- The same to the same.
- Comments upon Vincent's difference with Sir Charles Trevelyan. Found at Bedfordshire a quantity of Bedfordshire worthies whom he did not know. Hoped to be with Vincent on the 8th. Vincent had 'left off' the Press too soon. Had just determined to do so, when some unknown had commenced a series of leading articles on the war, far and away the best he had read, inspired by a tone of feeling and a dignity which sufficiently attested that the hand was not Dizzy's. Comments upon the prospect of peace.
327. Tewin Water,
Welwyn.
'Thursday.'
[? 6 Dec.
1855]
- The same to the same.
- Had been in hopes their paths might have crossed in London. Unless he heard to the contrary, he should be with him on Saturday.
- [1. Dated to Dec. 1855 by Vincent].
328. Trentham.
4 Jan.
[18]56
- The same to the same.
- Had been at Trentham a fortnight, was to go the following day to Badger, thence to Savernake, thence to Wrest, and back to Trentham, where he found the tropical climate and Sybarite luxury of the house enervating, and but for his frequent rides to his breezy altitudes, should be utterly unstrung. There had been no guests, save the family and near connexions of the host - Grosvenors, Staffords, Argylls, Granville, Cavendish, Wm. Bagots, Charles Howard. That day they had Waterparks, Henry Fitzroy and 'young Meynell'. As he looked on the broken walls and fallen beams he expected his dreams to be haunted by angry ancestors. An accident to his left eye prevented him from reading. Had read about 100 pages of Macaulay. Vincent's fear of not doing justice to 'Old Rogers' seemed to him quite groundless and had led him to a much higher appreciation of him than he deserved. Gives an outline of Rogers' character. As to politics, he loathed them. Of peace there was not the remotest hope. Comments upon the situation. Were they not all much indebted to that excellent man Palmer of Rugeley 'for supplying a topic of interest for Xmas?'
329. 18 Berkeley Sq.
16 Jan.
[18]56
- The same to the same.
- Was there for a day, but as Vincent had deserted the Travellers' the writer supposed he had no chance of seeing him. Was to return to Trentham the following day and had engagements to Stoke and Frognal before he settled down. Had come from Wrest, 'where I found myself in the midst of a Cloud of young Ladies & young Lords (a "stranded wreck" with light skiffs sweeping round it) - where we had tableaux that eclipsed the Xmas Pantomimes - & where we sat down 38 to dinner - all lodged - & well lodged - in the House. The whole done with great order & great magnificence.' Was their government so Press ridden or so tenacious of place as to

refuse to discuss the Russian propositions? Were they to be plunged into eternal war for an Austrian interest? The writer's hope was in their ally. The Duke of Newcastle's letter, declining the garter, had been civil and amicable. Had been suffering from his left eye. Did not consider Macaulay's 'amusing, rambling, imaginative, discussive volumes' had 'the slightest claim' to be considered as history. Advises Vincent to read Montalembert's Avenir politique de L'Angleterre.

330. Berkeley Sq.
'Thursday'.
[Mar.
1856]¹

The same to the same.

Had returned from Hatchford, where he had passed most of the previous week. Marochetti had told him that Vincent was to go to Lily Hill on the following Monday. Should not be able to get to Camden Hill the following day, so if Vincent was in Town would he look him up? Would he bring back Tolla, which Lady W. Russell wanted to read? Enquires whether any progress had been made in his 'Joute with the Harpies of the Treasury.'

[1. Date added by Vincent].

331. Berkeley Sq.
21 Mar.
[1856]¹

The same to the same.

Was sorry to say he had no chance of getting a visit to Lily Hill out of the following fortnight. Hoped to repay himself in the summer. Did not at all smile at Vincent's Kensington agitation. Hoped he would give the authorities no peace or respite till they retracted their obstructive notice. It was rather hard upon Tolla to call Corinne into court. The latter was 'one of the most magnificent pieces of Eloquence in the french language...'. The story of Tolla was one that walked without stilts upon their daily path. Comments upon the speculation in Paris on peace being proclaimed before the armistice expired. Was to go to Badger on Tuesday. Henry Cheney was in Town. The Treasury calculated that Vincent would give in. Still thought he would beat them.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

332. 'Saturday'.
[12 Apr.
1856]¹

The same to the same.

Had been disgusted to find that his early expedition had cost him Vincent's visit. The Duchess of Sutherland 'takes me down to Cliveden tomorrow to dine & sleep - I return on Monday when I hope we shall not play at buckets in a well as one sometimes does in this unsociable Crowd.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

333. Tulliallan,
Kincardine.
7 Sept.
1856

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter had reached him the day he had left Town. Had come directly to Tulliallan, sleeping at Edinburgh, and there he should remain until Tuesday, when he should betake himself to

Drummond Castle, his northern limit. Should go pretty well straight back, touching at Keir, Dalmeny, Alnwick, perhaps Hawick. Rather regretted Drumlanrig, 'but it makes such a huge halfmoon that I abandon it.' Expected to be in Town by the end of the month. Was to retain his house in Berkeley Sq. until November 1858, when he hoped to have a corner available 'in the new 'Palazzo'.' Their dramatis personae consisted of Shelburnes, Lady Ailesbury, Lady Clarendon, Jim Howard, Norman Macdonald and Lord Lansdown, who was confined to his room by gout but persisted in his purpose of Dunrobin. Comments upon the weather. Had visited Lady Dunmore and had made an excursion with the Cheneys to Dunfermline. Advices from Moscow gave most satisfactory accounts of the Granville embassy. Hoped Vincent had escaped 'the double-barrell'd Bore of the Squire & Parson of Hardwicke Court.' Had drawn much the same moral as Vincent from the Buckingham papers. Was much impressed by Tocqueville.

334. Dalmeny.
21 Sept.
[18]56

The same to the same.

Regretted that Vincent was not there amongst his kindred. The weather was fine, the place in surpassing beauty - 'Sea & wood & shaven turf - Castled steep & mountain outline - distant Sails & sunlit Isles harmonize, into one Splendid scene, the Elements of many landscapes.' Had come there from Keir, a fine place with commanding views, a large, ugly house. The following day he was to go to Alnwick, and on Friday to Drummond Castle, to see Pahlen, who had arrived there the day before the writer had left it. A few days at Drumlanrig and Worsley might intervene before he was back in London, where he had to be before 14th October, the day of Walter's marriage. Had Vincent travelled through the gold and glory of the Russian coronation in The Times?

335. Drumlanrig Castle,
Thornhill, N.B.
3 Oct.
[18]56

The same to the same.

Wrote, not to answer his letter of the 20th, but to say that his servant in Berkeley Sq. wrote word that the house was full of venison, so the writer had directed him to forward some of it to Lily Hill.

336. Berkeley Sq.
13 Oct.
[18]56

The same to the same.

It was another count in the indictment against the disastrous weather that it should have spoiled the venison. Vincent's suggestion of Lily Hill immediately was impracticable, indeed he had to put off Frogmal, and the following week he was due at Middleton, all engagements being dependant on the gout, which had taken possession of his left hand. Walter was to be sacrificed on Tuesday, and honeymooned at Strawberry Hill. The writer's valet had informed him that his only coat, a black one, was not suitable. Adds a postscript, acknowledging

Vincent's letter.

337. Berkeley Sq.
16 Oct.
[18]56

The same to the same.

Vincent's sketch of the 'Harlequin Rhadamanthus' was highly diverting, but 'what wood to make a Judge from!' Comments upon Vincent's dispute with Sir Charles Trevelyan at the Treasury. Execution had been done to Walter. The writer had gone through so much in the way of assemblings and breakfasts and congratulations, that he might almost as well have been married himself. Maidstone's crash was complete and irremediable. Lord Winchelsea had told Charles Bagot that he had sunk half his income to extricate his son (i.e. more than £200,000). Cowley wanted to leave Paris. They had offered him an earldom '(silly enough to a Man who had nothing)', which he had refused. They had now added £2,000 to the salary, as a retaining fee. Comments upon 'Pam's senseless bravado' at Naples.

338. Berkeley Sq.
27 Oct.
[18]56

The same to the same.

Had found his letter on his return to Town from Middleton. Had had no earlier opportunity of restoring 'the Judicial Facetiae'. Had no recollection of writing a criticism on Rogers, but was pleased that it should have been so appreciated. Was going to Frognal, after which they should meet. Comments upon his hand, and lameness from a relapse of his long forgotten sprain. Comments upon 'The Naples Matter'.

339. Frognal,
Footscray.
29 Oct.
[18]56

The same to the same.

Comments upon Vincent's dispute with Sir Charles Trevelyan. Could not go to him on Saturday as he was wanted in London. Had meant to stay at Frognal till then, but the Sydneys were ordered to Windsor, so he agreed to go with Robert Grosvenor to Moor Park. Vincent did not lose much, he was in poor condition. As he kept the great bulk of Vincent's letters, he had no doubt his dicta on Rogers were in his possession, but not accessible, as all his papers were at Keele.

340. Berkeley Sq.
'Wednesday'.
[Nov.
1856]¹

The same to the same.

Was very glad of his note, particularly as he could not venture forth in that weather, which stirred up his gout. Surely Vincent saw his plans [for Keele]? The house would have no pretensions to beauty, it would be 'a good, comfortable, & very solidly built house.' Comments upon a squib containing suggestions for examinations of candidates for the Foreign Office. Some thought Brougham the author.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

341. [Berkeley Sq.]
'Tuesday'.
[Post 24 Nov.
1856]¹

The same to the same.

For the last three days he had gone forth with the fixed intention of cabbing down to Camden Hill, and

every day had been baffled. Wanted to know how Vincent was getting on, though he fully meant to go to him the following day. Ellesmere was much better. Flahault was getting well. Heard of a long article in The Gardener's Chronicle [And Agricultural Gazette, 24 November 1856] highly complimentary to the improvement of his Staffordshire estates, but preferring the old house to the new one.

[1. Dated by Vincent 'Nov[.] or Decr. 1856'].

342. 'Friday.'
[Nov. or Dec.
1856]¹

The same to the same.

Of all the proofs (and they occurred hourly) of the writer's total loss of head and memory, none had vexed him more than forgetting to post the note Vincent had given him. It had instantly been despatched to Ferguson.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

343. Berkeley Sq.
5 Dec.
[1856]¹

The same to the same.

One fell back on the post to bridge even such an interval as lay between Kensington and London. Had had a bilious attack. Enquires after Vincent's health, and whether he got downstairs. Had no news unless it were bad news, for Ellesmere's state grew worse. There was snow at Keele, and works were suspended.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

344. Berkeley Sq.
'Thursday.'
[18 Dec.
1856]¹

The same to the same.

Had hoped to return the Miss Vincents' visit in person that day, but was overcharged with 'besogne'. Was to go the following day to Blithfield, then Badger, then Trentham. A report of Vincent's progress would be gratefully received. Despaired of ever receiving his young ladies. Had heard nothing and seen nobody. One day he had been inveigled into Albert Smith, some comical things well done and stories well told, but some 'very threadbare buffooneries'.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

345. Berkeley Sq.
3 Jan.
[18]57

The same to the same.

The writer's date would surprise Vincent. Had been confined to his room at Badger, had renounced Trentham, and had returned to London and sent for Ferguson. Should not stir till '(what ought to be)' a better season. Desires a line from Vincent's couch or chair.

346. Berkeley Sq.
'Tuesday'.
[6 Jan.
1857]¹

The same to the same.

The Samaritan virtue of Vincent's daughters did not discharge Sneyd's debt. Thanks Vincent for his note and Badger letter. Describes his health, gout, bronchitis, &c. Expresses his appreciation of a visit by Vincent's daughters. He was not going into

a consumption but considered himself better. There was poor Mr Smith Barry who had died 'the very year he had Completed his house - The Gods avert the Omen!' Had dipped into 'Bozzy'. Comments. Hoped never to read another book on Peel, well done or ill done.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

347. Berkeley Sq.
20 Jan.
[1857]¹

The same to the same.

Had had thoughts of 'Dowageing' down to Camden Hill that day, but the day had soon dispersed the thoughts. Begs Vincent to play no more tricks with iodine [on his gout]. Except that he was weak and coughed a little, the writer had nothing amiss with him. Had not read Guizot's life of Peel, but meant to do so, though it had no attractions for him. The first article in the last Edinburgh Review on Prescott's [study of] Philip II had been by Guizot, translated by Reeve. That on Macaulay was 'a slaver of adulation'. Was struck by the cleverness and research of Froude's history of Henry VIII. If their quarrels all over the world were necessities, they were very unfortunate, since the necessities were quite new. Waited to see whether a justification of their violence at Canton could be made out. Persia appeared, on the contrary, a very grave scrape. Salvin wanted an inscription for a panel on the house, which would not admit of more than three words: what did Vincent think of Vetus Hospitium Revocare, a phrase of Cicero's, or would 'Avitum' be better than 'Vetus'?

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

348. Berkeley Sq.
'Friday'.
[? Jan.
1857]

The same to the same.

Could only echo groan for groan. Was a close prisoner, compelled to place himself under Ferguson. Still coughed until he expected his head to split, and was thoroughly unwell. Should, he thought, throw over Panshanger '& other Similar junketacious Engagements - & go strait [sic] home...'.

349. 'Tuesday'.
[? Jan.
1857]

The same to the same.

'My Grippe to your Gout, Greeting.' Was going forth for the first time and dreading it extremely, but the business he had come up for was all undone. Was a good deal better but weak as water and still had a troublesome cough. Desires a line from Vincent, with his bulletin.

350. Berkeley Sq.
10 Feb.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Had thought to answer his note in person the day before he left Camden Hill, but had had a very unusual succession of visitors, who had kept him at home till nearly 4 o'clock - 'too late to encounter the Cold wind.' Desired a line 'to say whether you experience all the Galvanic effects I anticipate.' Was well and dined out where he liked to dine.

351. Berkeley Sq.
17 Feb.
[18]57

The same to the same.

The weather was propitious for Vincent, and the writer hoped he was inhaling health from the Bagshot breezes. Vincent's legs could not be expected to return to their duties otherwise than gradually. Had nothing to tell. [Sir George Cornwall] Lewis seemed 'to have Clear'd away the formidable obstruction that lay upon the path of the Govmt.' There was a story of the Opposition financiers having detected an error of £4,000,000 in his calculations, but it must certainly be another mare's nest, if not altogether a lie. Carington was the writer's authority, so Vincent could weigh the probabilities. Had read Stapleton. Comments. His building was resumed. Did Vincent ever go to the Garrick Club? Was interested in the portraits of the actors.

352. 'Saturday'.
[28 Feb.
1857]¹

The same to the same.

Enjoins Vincent to write and tell him whether fine weather and fine air had brought the effects he hoped 'upon your gout-shatter'd limbs.' Had been laid up with a cold. Had there ever been a series of debates so smashing as those in both Houses on the Chinese affair. Dr Bowring was the very man who would be first class at an "Examination". Bentick and some five and twenty M.P.'s were declaring their independence of the Derby party, because it received the support of Gladstone. Had no faith in Gladstone, but that was a sort of suicidal silliness quite peculiar to the Conservative Party, which made it impossible that their party should ever hold together.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

353. Berkeley Sq.
9 Mar.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Comments upon the political situation. They had sudden cold. Vincent must not be unreasonable or impatient about the recovery of his usual pace. Somebody had asked him to dine that day, but he had entirely forgotten who his expectant host was, and had ordered his dinner at home.

354. Berkeley Sq.
'Thursday.'
[Mar.
1857]¹

The same to the same.

Regretted all the home consequences of the vote of the previous Tuesday. Tribune Cobden had uttered a great truth when he had said 'that these Changes & Agitations never occur without "the People gaining Something" - that is, without our descending another round on the ladder of whh. the foot is in the Slough of American Democracy.' The dissolution could not be till after Easter. Every dissolution augmented the Radical element in parliament, and the writer's prediction was a return of the nucleus of the present ministry 'modified in a radical sense.' As Vincent had taken so singular a view of Derby's speech, perhaps he sneezed upon Gladstone's. The town had rung with it the day before. The writer took no pleasure in recording his triumph.

There was no one he more dreaded to see in power. Could it be merely the badness of the cause which had made the writing of The Times so rubbishy? The Duchess of Kent was dying of cancer. Granville had the garter. The other garter the Duke of Norfolk had refused. Nobody could divine why. Had been satisfied by Vincent's account of himself.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

355. Berkeley Sq.
'Wedny.'
[Mar.
1857]1

The same to the same.

Could hardly believe that he had let so many days slip away since Vincent's return to Camden Hill. Wrote to bind himself to be with him the following day.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

356. Berkeley Sq.
13 Apr.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Didn't Vincent want to know what he thought of his house? Thought it would be a respectable looking mansion - though great allowances must always be made for the Cramped position, which puts us to Sore Straits for the most indispensable Offices.' One fatal error it had avoided was slightness and poverty of detail. 'I am very bold & Massive - & the Main features of the Old building (at least of the Old part of it) being retained, I shall never - to my own eyes - look new, although renewed.' His weather was impropitious - constant rain. Had passed some days at Blithfield, where he had met Talbot, who spoke confidently of being speedily put into possession of the Shrewsbury inheritance. They had managed N. Staffs 'rather creditably', they flattered themselves, 'in the universal Crash of the Conservative Interest.' Had ceased to feel any interest or excitement in public matters, 'further than a Sullen sort of fear of the Consequences of the Next plunge.' Her Majesty seemed to have adjourned her accouchement sine die. Was due at Strawberry Hill on Saturday. If he could manage to go on to Vincent for a day or two, should he be at Lily and mind having him?

357. Berkeley Sq.
12 June,
[18]57

The same to the same.

Was engaged to dinner Saturday and Sunday. Comments upon Vincent's having been to Ascot. Vincent's 'triumphant beauty' had 'bestowed herself rather according to her fancy than to the wishes & expectations of her Parents - at least one of them,' if the writer knew the Liddell mind. Comments upon the speech of Mr Hardy in the Commons, a Derbyite in politics.

358. Berkeley Sq.
20 Aug.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Wished he were at Lily Hill. Returned to Berkeley Sq. the previous day, from a visit to Sebright, in Hertfordshire, and on Monday was meaning to go to the Arundell Bouveries, and thence to Shrubland.

That left him no margin. Parliament was to be up on Tuesday. The Queen had changed her mind and would not prorogue in person. Vincent's account of her ball at Osborne was very interesting. 'One shd. think the Easiest duty of her 'Great Office' was to be Civil & Courteous - but it Seems to be the only one whh. she is incapable of performing.' Enjoins Vincent to be sure to write his impressions of Manchester. He would find himself in the midst of a multitude of fine pictures. If he did not fall in love with 'Nelly O'Brien' he was mistaken. Heard that the Palatinate Hotel was quite as good as the Queen's. It was kept by a man who had been many years steward at the Travellers'. Retracted his recommendation of Alderley. Lived in Bruton St., and saw nobody. That day he had declared off. All his friends were going to The Tempest, which he had never seen. 'To such a point has my aversion to [sic] a theatre grown!!' Had no news, but steps were being taken to establish a weekly mail from India. Lady Lytton's death was a sad tragedy - '12 children!!'

359.

Berkeley Sq.
1 Sept.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Vincent was curious about the new peers. Refers to Macaulay, Robert Grosvenor and Lord Fife. Was not sure about Sir Rd. Malkeley. Harry Vane had been offered and had refused. Charles Cavendish had a promise, but was not to be in that batch, on account of the county seat, which would be lost to the government, Lord Lansdown had neither - '(at present)' - asked for nor been offered a dukedom. Thought Macaulay's peerage preposterous. Property, family and great public service were the fundamental elements of the House of Lords. Lord Derby would tear his Ciceronian drapery into shreds and he would make no fight. Had had a long letter from Walter, after his visit to Keele. He had seemed highly pleased at what he had seen, which was very satisfactory to the writer. Arundell and Fanny Bouverie had been unable to receive him, but the writer had gone to Shrubland. Had London all to himself, for his daily hosts, the Granvilles, were gone that day. Was going to Beckett, then Stoke Edith - Lady Emily Foley's - in Herefordshire, then to Scotland, by way of Jervaux Abbey (Ailesbury's) and Alnwick.

360.

27 Sept.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Vincent's two letters had only reached the writer the day before. As he had been expected indefinitely at Drummond Castle, they had been detained there till something positively had been known of his movements. Was to go there the following day, for a week, after which he meant to propose himself 'to (Tyringham &) Dalmeny.' Vincent must be better at Lily Hill than London, and the writer trusted he was inhaling strength with the fine wholesome air. Should be anxious to learn whether he fixed his volatile judge to a serious and satisfactory

co-operation against the shifty Trevelyanism of the Treasury. Had come there on Tuesday, from Alnwick, out of which scw's ear Salvin was weaving a silk purse. Where he was he found only the Shelburnes, and Lady Dunmore from over the water, and Lavalette '(of Eastern notoriety)', Flahault's nephew. What a terrible fate was poor 'young Clive's - at 21!!!' The ruin of the whole railway property of England must lead to many such catastrophes, the staff reduced to unsafe numbers, the material used when it was no longer fit for service. Could not write of India, it was too anxious to mention.

361.

Wishaw.
14 Oct.
[18]57

The same to the same.

The writer's progress, though easy and not unpleasant, was totally eventless. Had forgotten where he had last written, but thought from 'Tully allan' [recte Tulliallan], after his return from Drummond Castle. Had been since to Gosford (Wemysses) and Tyringhams, from whence he had come to Wishaw the day before. Dalmeny had been unable to receive him. Had come away from Tyringhams with a Mr Napier, a lawyer, and author of a life of Montrose, who had amiably lionized him over Edinburgh. Was to go to Drumlanrig on Friday, and the middle of the following week to Temple Newsam. Walter wrote from Brighton, still suffering from what he termed sciatica. He had talked of visiting Vincent at Lily Hill, if Vincent were well enough to receive him. Did not like the 'if', which looked as if he had not advanced as steadily as he had promised when the writer had last seen him. Was very well, but had gout in both hands.

362.

Temple Newsam.
24 Oct.
[18]57

The same to the same.

Was pleased with Vincent's approval of his renovation 'of the old nest'. Describes the limitations imposed on him. Yearned to be in it. Vincent had done well to see Manchester. It had been great nonsense to make such a gathering [of art treasures] in such a locality. Had come there from Drumlanrig and meant to return to Town on Monday. Was not very well. When in sound condition he should run down to him at Lily Hill. Temple Newsam was a glorious house.

363.

Berkeley Sq.
3 Nov.
[1857]¹

The same to the same.

Had hoped to get down to Lily Hill but it might not be. Was not in very good condition, and 'le Sieur Edward - without whom I am helpless - has leave of absence for a week, to be married.' He was an ass for his pains and 'it is highly inconvenient to my Lord Castlecorner'. Had come back the previous week and had seen nobody but his doctor, till the day before, when he had gone forth to drive with the Willoughbys, who were passing through in their way to Torquay. The Granvilles were to come that day. Comments upon articles in the Quarterly and Edinburgh Review. Comments upon the Indian Mutiny.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

364. Berkeley Sq.
6 Feb.
[1858]1

The same to the same.

Had received his note but not his letter, nor had it been delivered at Woburn Abbey. Had been there [at Berkeley Sq.] a week, but unwell, now he was 'pretty much in My ordinary Condition Again', and should like to see Vincent again. Was delighted that he was 'touching on the Close' of his 'Exchequer duties & Treasury Tracasseries' and that Trevelyan would have to bully at the expense of somebody else.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

365. Keele.
8 Mar.
[? 1858]

The same to the same.

Wanted to hear that Vincent was about again. Was expecting Salvin. Was alarmed at all he heard of Napier. Suspected it to be a claptrap appointment. Was assured he was no seaman and was drunk every night. Expresses his dislike of the family. Did not mean to read or buy the second volume of Lord Holland's memoirs.

366. Berkeley Sq.
9 Aug.
[18]58

The same to the same.

His letter found him still in Berkeley Sq., detained by a cold. On Thursday he hoped and believed he should sleep under his new roof and walk in his own garden. Had turned a deaf ear to Scottish tempters. Was obliged to be in Town again in October, for his lease expired on 1 November. 'St. Clare must have been lovely...'. The returned Cherbourgers dwelt on the French salutes and illuminations as 'Cose Stupende'. The Queen had been chloroformed to prevent sea-sickness. Saw nobody so could tell him nothing.

367. Keele.
18 Aug.
[18]58

The same to the same.

From his programme, Vincent should be at Doveridge. The 'Relicta Domus' once more sheltered the writer. Comments on being back at Keele. Was disappointed that Crewe was not on his list of visits, as he would have ventured that far to meet him. Scotland was out of the question, Ferguson had ordered him a course of Marienbad waters, and he was to begin them the following day, 'but without faith'. Heard that Belhaven was going to build and alter Wishaw.

368. Keele.
22 Sept.
[18]58

The same to the same.

Vincent had cautiously abstained from telling him where he was going, so that the writer knew not how to write to him. Should direct to Dalmeny. Had had a fortnight of very fine weather. The monotony of the writer's life had been varied by a Saturday and Sunday at neighbour Crewe's. Comments upon the improvements made there. Comments upon Temple Newsam. Explains about Oatlands Hotel. Thought Vincent did right to complete Lily [Hill]. His own work made slow but perceptible progress.

Was to go the following month, as soon as Salvin had been, and was a good deal bored by the vague prospect of his homeless winter. Had always heard of Swinton Park as extremely beautiful. Remembered Mrs (?) O. Harcourt's first husband, who had seemed 'an Amiable Man with a good deal of taste - but so crazy that he went Every year to Bristol to be Confined [sic] & cd. never understand why it did not happen.' Talbot had determined to sell Alton Towers, for which, the writer believed, he had to obtain an Act of Parliament. It would be difficult to live in so atrociously bad a house, 'but the Site is beautiful & the place gay & Ingestrie [sic] is envelop'd in gloom.' It would go hard with the writer to sacrifice the one for the other. Adds a postscript, that the Marienbad waters had agreed extremely well with him.

369.

Keele.
3 Oct.
[18]58

The same to the same.

'This time, if you adhere to your programme, a shot at Dalmeny will take effect.' Comments upon Inverary. Was flattered by Vincent's tribute to his 'eye'. Had just surrendered its decision, unwillingly, to Salvin, in the matter of the gate piers to his entrance court. Could not meet Vincent at Crewe. About the 15th or 16th he would leave for Town, give up his house [in Berkeley Sq.] and go to Torquay. Forbids Vincent and his daughters to look at Keele, claiming for himself the pleasure of showing it in its more complete state. If he were indifferent to his opinion he might do as he pleased. Before Vincent hung bells in Lily Hill he should enquire about Professor Wheatstone's house telegraph, which was in full and successful operation at Apsley House or Strathfieldsaye, the writer forgot which. Had unluckily laid all his wires and tubes so the invention came too late for him. Was cutting down more hollies and rhododendrons than would furnish a considerable pleasure ground. If Vincent went to Wishaw, he should write him and tell him what they were going to do there. It was the worst house for a man to have built (except Alton Towers) he had ever come across. Complains of 'the twaddle & trumpery' of The Times, which he had ceased to wade through. 'I shall not Confess these truths when I open a news & reading Room I have just built in my Village,...'. Adds a postscript, that he had heard of Edward Cheney at Venice, which he was to have left the previous Monday on his homeward route.

370.

3 Torwood Mount,
Torquay.
17 Nov.
[18]58

The same to the same.

Though Vincent did not much encourage him, he would fill up a few blank pages of his history, and ask, in return, the last chapter of his. Had reluctantly left the litter and confusion of Keele on the 18th October, passed a week dismantling his lapsed house in Berkeley Sq., and had been in Torquay three weeks. Describes his accommodation. Had taken it for six months, as he dreaded the spring more than

the winter, but the very sound of six months scared him. Describes Torquay. Had found no acquaintance except Billy Cavendish and his wife, and Lady Brownlow. The Willoughbys had never arrived. Took exploring walks, and was very well except for his hands. Had been reading Villemain's Chateaubriand, 'a well written book upon a vainglorious Charlatan', and the memoirs of Count Myot de Melito, which, on the whole, he recommended. Had there ever been anything so queer as Gladstone's appointment?

371. 3 Torwood Mount,
Torquay.
26 Nov.
[18]58

The same to the same.

Vincent should be at Winton, where the writer wished to find him. His two letters had reached the writer in the inverted order of precedence he had anticipated. His itinerary was highly interesting and amusing. Remembered meeting Mr Mercer Henderson at the Flahaults' and being favourably impressed. Comments upon the places Vincent visited and the people he met. Detested Wishaw, Winton he had never seen. Had a petition to make to Susan. Desired her to make a rough sketch of a ceiling at Winton, 'whh. Surpasses all Ceilings that Ever were Ceil'd.' Did not have the notion of imitating it, but had 'a great Curiosity to know what one of the most renowned of them is like.'

372. 3 Torwood Mount,
Torquay.
16 Dec.
[18]58

The same to the same.

Had just written a line to Susan to thank her for having executed his commission. Comments upon the ceilings at Winton and ceilings in general. Of Jacobean plaster work, the Crewe ceilings were the best he had ever seen. Believed he ought to except those at Aston Hall, only he had forgotten them. Was glad Vincent was on the threshold of home, for his report of himself was but indifferent. Comments upon Lord Crewe, against whom the writer was endeavouring to carry a railway. He disliked railways in the abstract, which to a man who lived at Crewe was unlucky. The writer expected to beat him, but Crewe's note showed he bore no malice. Quite agreed with Vincent about the India Proclamation. Thought it an admirable state paper. Deplored the Beaufort business. His life dribbled on. He did nothing worth doing and thought nothing worth thinking. Wished Vincent could recommend him some books.

373. Torquay.
4 Jan.
[18]59

The same to the same.

Vincent implied that he meant to write again soon, but the writer dared say he would not, without a touch of the spur. Rejoiced that Vincent's building was satisfactory. Sydney Smith, 'who delighted in improving his houses, Says in one of his letters - "I hold that, amongst the blessings of life, a good & Commodious residence ranks next after good health & a good Conscience".' The only change in the writer's monotony was that Charles Percy, who was

come to Lord Beverley's, was his walking companion, vice Pahlen, who was gone to the Willoughbys. They had been honoured by the presence of Dizzy, who had come to pay his annual visit to an old Mr and Mrs Williams, who had fallen in love with his speeches. She would probably make him her heir. She was said to be wealthy. Advises Vincent to read the memoir of the Empress Catherine, just published. If he followed the rule he should wish him joy of a New Year, 'but I am not Such a mauvais plaisant - "Joy" quotha!' Death had made a merciless sweep of his scythe at the close of '58. The last victim, Mrs Anson, he was assured, had died from mistaking a medicine bottle and taking laudanum instead of colchicum. Was that so? Prays Vincent for the particulars.

374.

Torquay.
31 Jan.
[18]59

The same to the same.

Was sorry Vincent had so good a reason for his silence, which he was beginning to resent. Vincent seemed to have more patience than the writer 'with the Villainies & Tomfooleries whh. Constitute what are Called 'the Events of the day'.' Refers to 'the Burns flare-up'. Among the 'events' in prospect would appear to be another European war and another Reform Bill - 'We richly deserve the ruin we court.' Comments upon the Quarterly. Mrs Elliot's memoir was highly interesting. Vincent was all at sea about Lord and Lady Charles Bentick. Explains. How brutal was The Times' article on poor [Lord] Ripon, before he was cold in his coffin. Was there ever anything more ridiculous than The Times' 'Dinner Correspondence?' Edward Cheney had been staying a fortnight with Lord Beverley and was just gone (to Badger, via London). Paris was disgusted 'by the inconvenience of Plon Plon - who, the night before he started on his Nuptial Errand, appear's at the Opera with the woman he keeps in his box - & she has Continued to occupy it nightly during his absence.' Adds a postscript, that old Mrs Denison had taken an inopportune moment to die in - 'will it not make some difficulty at the opening of Parlt.?'

375.

Torquay.
9 Feb.
[1859]

The same to the same.

Could not quite say Vincent's bulletin was satisfactory, but had great faith in his 'reactionary powers'. Advises him to go to Lily and get a pony. Comments upon the opening of parliament. The Queen's speech was the best he remembered for many years. Though Lord Derby's language was guarded, it was easy to detect his conviction that war was imminent. Ministers would deserve impeachment if, before the end of the year, they were not masters of the Channel and of the Mediterranean. Was utterly puzzled by Vincent's new born zeal for parliamentary reform. Comments. Had not read Fanny but know all about it. 'It is the fashionable form of French bawdy - (the Sentimental - & infinitely the most immoral) - but that description of book never excited, or amused me - From Rousseau downwards,

they are all so silly & untrue, that I am only bored & provoked. 'Kissing' upon paper is rather Cold & flat. Even a professed Gourme wd. find a Cooking book dull reading.' If Vincent accomplished 'Ch. Ross' he should let him know what he thought of it. The Review was peu de chose. Adds a postscript, that that merry-go-round The Times had turned round on Austria the day before and declared that she would be to blame for war, not France.

376.

Torquay.
25 Feb.
[18]59

The same to the same.

Rejoiced that Vincent was himself again. Was painfully aware that one's self was not the identical self of 20 years before. The absorption of Vincent's villa in the London 'Panplinthinon' deeply grieved him. In two or three generations he believed land in Sutherland would sell by the yard on building leases. 'This place has been quadrupled in the last few years & houses are growing up in all directions & in the most impracticable localities "Where Scarce is footing for the goat" - & Every habitable one is (as I am assured) at this moment tenanted. Of the Season, I may Say with Theod. Hook "Though winter's it's name, it's proceedings are Summery" - there has positively not been a winter's day Since I came here.' Comments upon the government and political events. Public events and prospects were little calculated to counterbalance private calamities. Was quite haunted by the bright, joyous face of Lady Delamere, and was in daily expectation of the last accounts of Lady Harrowby.

377.

Torquay.
3 Mar.
[18]59

The same to the same.

So murder was out at last. Comments upon Disraeli's scheme to extend the franchise. Henry Drummond, as usual, had hit the nail on the head 'when he defined the Cry for Reform to be "the desire of those who have no property, to dispose of that of others".' Was Vincent not amused by the equivocal rigamarole of The Times till it saw which way the wind blew?

378.

Torquay.
[13, 14 or 15] Mar.
[1859]P

The same to the same.

Did not know what there could be in his [i.e. the writer's] 'diatribe' to suggest Vincent's general reasonings about reform. No one was more fully satisfied than the writer that the days of landed ascendancy were past, but every element of wealth was entitled to its share of power, & I do not see why it's voice is to be absolutely stifled, because it principally belongs to a Class whose Superior Education & refinement & traditional influence provoke the envy of the Masses.' Comments upon the international situation. Why did Vincent tell Lady Waldegrave that Torquay agreed neither with his health or spirits? 'I suppose you thought the 'Diatribe' somewhat atrabilious.' Lord Fife was the victim of a joke, made in the previous century.

Trusted the D. of C. would be kept out of court. Such scandals had a very bad effect.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

379. Torquay.
27 Mar.
[18]59

The same to the same.

Considers the political situation at home and abroad. Was reading the D[uke] of Buck[ingham]'s book [? Memoirs of the Court of George IV] too. Comments.

380. Torquay.
10 Apr.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Considers the political situation at home and abroad.
[1. Date completed by Vincent].

381. Torquay.
'Sunday.'
[24 Apr.
1859]1

The same to the same.

Comments upon the outbreak of war between Sardinia and France, and Austria. Comments upon the wintry weather and its effect on the gardens at Keele. The writer had to 'go direct to the Village' at the end of the following month, if Vincent were at Lily Hill he would pass a day or two there.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

382. Torquay.
8 May.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Would not write till he had re-read the Quarterly Review [article by Gladstone, on the war between Sardinia and France, and Austria], of which he perceived they did not take the same view. Comments. Comments upon the proposals to widen the franchise. Was meaning to be in Town at the end of the month. Supposed he should put up at Claridge's. There was a rumour in the town of a hideous accident on the [Saltash] bridge, which the Prince of Wales had opened.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

383. 'Sunday.'
[22 May,
1859]1

The same to the same.

Had only time for three words. Had originally taken his house at Torquay till the end of April, and the additional month was that month of May. The Duchess of Sutherland knew all that by heart, so he did not know how any confusion could have arisen. Meant to be in Town in a week, and to put up at Russell's Hotel, 31 Dover St. Supposed he should pass some four or five weeks in London.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

384. Keele.
15 July,
[18]59

The same to the same.

Quick returns and small profits was the commercial principle of the day, so Vincent must not complain if the writer adopted it. Describes his pleasure at being back at Keele, and the progress made. Their views on foreign affairs were similar. Comments upon the prospect. Heard the Thames was likely to

break up parliament 'long before the grouse exert their annual privilege'. It seemed to the writer extraordinary that a man should remain 'in the Jaws of London who might be at Lily Hill - but however - it is as natural for young ladies to dance as for Old gentlemen to potter about their gardens'.

385. Keele.
'Tuesday'.
[19 July,
18]59]

The same to the same.

'This is only a P.S.' Perceived, on looking over Vincent's last letter, that he had neglected to answer the question he had most particularly asked. The book he had recommended was not on the war 'but on the Popeedom & Papal Governmt.' It was by [Edmond François Valentin] About. It was the fiercest denunciation Vincent could conceive. The notion at Paris was that he had been 'encouraged & even paid' by Louis Napoleon to write it 'as a Sort of feeler how far he might interfere with the Existing state of things at Rome.'

[1. Dated by Vincent to 1859].

386. Keele.
4 Aug.
[18]59]

The same to the same.

Had had twinges of conscience for not having answered his former letter. Comments upon Vincent's letter. Thought Vincent did wisely as well as kindly not to allow the objection of Captain Campbell's small means to outweigh his recommendations. Was in the middle of Stapleton's book and was extremely interested. Comments. Did not think the worse of Lady Jersey 'for being, in the world, much what She was before the loss of her Charming daughter.' She had urged the writer to dine with her as often as he could, '& guessing perhaps that I might be a little Surprised - she added, "You know me - I am easily Excited & I forget everything in the Subject I am discussing & the people who surround me - It is to be alone that is so terrible"'.

387. Keele.
15 Aug.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Had not time to write to him that day, but returned the enclosed. Was very glad Vincent had sent him Captain C[ampbell]'s letter. 'There cd. be no better Certificate of head, or heart. I like every word of it.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

388. Keele.
19 Aug.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Perfectly sympathized in all the feelings he had expressed in his last letter. Comments upon the forthcoming marriage of Vincent's younger daughter, and a clause in Vincent's will. Had screwed up his courage to run into Scotland, but was only to be absent for a fortnight. Had proposed himself to Dalmeny, Tulliallan and Drummond Castle. Was to receive Walter at Keele 'after his Buxton' on the 16th.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

389. Keele.
29 Sept.
[18]59

The same to the same.

It was a sad proof of senility when one pleaded having nothing to say. Had visited Dalmeny, Tulliallan and Drummond in 17 days, and enjoyed himself. Had had Walter and his wife with him. They had gone to brace at Rhyl. Expected Salvin the following day and meant to apply the spur vigorously. Stapleton had better not write letters to The Times - a safe rule for mankind in general. Owned he thought Sir J. Hope had acted very rashly. It was a scrape. So was the other 'Foreign Affair' in which they were engaged.

390. Keele.
22 Oct.
[18]59

The same to the same.

How did Vincent's Lily Hill climate conduct itself? At Keele it had treated him to 5° of frost and a fall of snow which would have done honour to Christmas. If it was an earnest of coming winter the writer would be driven back to Torquay. Had been passing a week at Blithfield, where the Laboucheres had known no politics and Clifden had known no scandal, so he had returned as empty as he had gone. Was lame with gout. His building became chronic, like his disorder. Was rejoiced to hear that Capt. Campbell had obtained his appointment. Vincent's prowess in the chair of an agricultural society brought the writer to shame, for he was president of one which consisted exclusively of his own tenants, with an annual exhibition, prizes and a dinner. The writer never dined, pleading health, and his excuse was becoming true. The good effects to the estate, of the association, were surprising. As to politics, they were so utterly distasteful to him that he had passed over in his newspapers all their comments and read only the facts. 'The impossibility of exciting any feeling in any Class, or any part of the Kingdom, about Reform is really Curious - I believe Johnny's Bill might be safely met by the 'Previous Question'.'

391. Keele.
6 Nov.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Since Vincent's letter the writer had been in a state of painful agony over the condition of Lady Granville, but she was recovering. Had been greatly interested in his description of his gout subduing doctor, Dr Malhado, upon whom he purposed to call when in Town. Had seen the new museum at Oxford and agreed with Vincent. Comments. Had never seen the chapel at Exeter College. If it were not ill-natured, he should be almost sorry that Vincent's kitchen and larder approached completion, for he had been consoling himself with the thought that Keele should be finished 'before the Stoves & meat hooks are fix'd at Lily Hill'. They had had stormy weather. As Vincent was interested in Stapleton and his book, he probably read the review in The Times. 'Surely so much ignorance impertinence & Vulgarity were never before united!'

[1. See Vincent's letter to Sneyd of 26 Oct. 1859].

392. Keele.
1 Dec.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Had Vincent's right hand forgotten its cunning '& Ceased to Distinguish Write from Wrong?' Hoped it had not the excuse of gout to plead. The Architectural Observer announced that the dining-room ceiling at the newly erected mansion of Henry Vincent Esq., near Bagshot, had fallen in. Was there any truth in that? The writer's ceilings and many other matters had been sadly retarded by Salvin's illness. The latter was convalescent, 'though unable to leave his house.' The writer's foot was better. Was sorry to have come to the end of two new volumes of Mme. du Deffand's correspondence (on which there had been an ill-done article in the last Edinburgh Review). Except a Bagot cousin or two, and Sidney Lane, 'no Step profane' had intruded on his solitude for six weeks. Meant to pass Xmas at Trentham.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

393. Keele.
4 Dec.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Vincent might think that the writer's 'Sudden Alacrity in answering letters Somewhat perverse & Capricious.' Admits to having been joking when he had quoted an architectural journal as the authority for Vincent's 'laquearious disaster'. Walter had been his informant. Wished Vincent's joiners and carpenters could have taken a lesson from those employed at Keele. Describes their method of working. Comments upon Vincent's remarks about his '"jealousy"' of the writer's visitors to Keele. Did not believe Vincent would leave his 'Signorine' and his comforts to climb up to the writer's 'one bad Spare room,' for the mere pleasure of inspecting a half developed chaos of planks and plaster. Salvin was convalescent. The writer's neighbours were at Trentham again, so he would be routed out to meet the D'Aumales there. Comments upon topics referred to by Vincent - The Times on Stapleton, Louis Napoleon, the Italians, and the position of England in the Congress. Did not know what his London weather might be, but at Keele it was deadly winter.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

394. Keele.
16 Dec.
[1859]1

The same to the same.

Was not going to take up the gauntlet on the 'Italian Question', as the Newspapers call it.' Comments upon the same, disagreeing with Vincent's view. Rebukes Vincent for reading his comments on the subject 'to a Cabinet Minister's wife & an Enthusiast. - I have no wish to disguise my opinions - but I shd. express myself less Crudely if I were not writing in Confidence.' Had been for the last week at Trentham and had promised to return. The D'Aumales had been there, and the Cheneys, who had left suddenly on receiving news of Holland's illness at Naples. Edward Cheney had offered to go over. They had had 13° of frost every morning. The writer's sole consolation was that his ice house was filled

and his little rooms were thoroughly warm. Adds a postscript on England's position in the Congress.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

395.

Keele.
11 Jan.
[18]60

The same to the same.

The writer had laid himself very fairly open to Vincent's jeering comment 'on my "mode of rejecting gauntlets",...'. Professed himself ignorant of any facts which entitled (all, or any of) the population of Italy to the panegyric Vincent pressed on them. Comments upon the Congress. Subscribed to all his remarks on Macaulay. Comments upon the latter, and upon the newspaper pronouncements. Lived chiefly at Trentham, but found 'it necessary to Come home occasionally to breathe more freely - for there is something in the atmosphere of the House & Place whh., if I am there for long together, relaxes & unnerves me. - Howbeit, I have promised to return tomorrow.' Had been reading over Italie, il y a Cent Ans, by the Président de Brosses, which Vincent was well acquainted with as the best book on Italy. Comments.

396.

Keele.
1 Feb.
[1860]1

The same to the same.

The "'Napoleonic Idea'" began to fructify. Comments upon Louis Napoleon and the Italian question. Was at Keele alone, in very fair health and weather, 'but as wintery as need be'. Had been reading the reviews and had rather enjoyed the spiteful article on [? William Pulteney] Alison. 'His garrulous Slipslop has always Specially provoked me.' Had had a letter that morning from Vincent's late host, Middleton, who talked of great damage to his shrubs. The writer had been better treated. Had refrained from throwing his cold water on Vincent's Italian enthusiasm, but if he could tell him where Omilia was, he should be obliged to him.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

397.

Keele.
16 Feb.
[18]60

The same to the same.

Acknowledges his debt to Vincent for his letters. It would not surprise him that Disraeli should 'head a mutiny in a Camp where Councils of patience & forbearance prevailed, because I consider him as a restless Adventurer, acting on motives merely personal - not on those whh. shd. guide a Statesman & a Patriot. His character & antecedents justify this view - but that Ld. Derby shd. be blind to what is so glaringly obvious to the Commonest Common sense of everybody - that he shd. deliberately plunge into such a gulf & that he shd. find a dozen 'Conservatives' who will consent to follow him, is inexplicable to me...'. Comments upon Gladstone's budget.

398. 17 Feb.
[1860]1

The same to the same.

Comments upon their respective methods of writing, Vincent with his quartos, the writer with his duodecimos. Comments upon the Italian question.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

399. Keele.
27 Feb.
[18]60

The same to the same.

Thought Vincent was more severe than was just on the conduct of the Conservatives [over the budget]. Comments at length. Adds a postscript, that he gathered from newspaper notices that Vincent's neighbour, Walsh, had written an able pamphlet on 'Reform'. If it approached in merit to that which he had published 28 years earlier, it was worth reading, but the writer should not read it. In such conversation as the writer's slight acquaintance with him had given him the opportunity for, he had never detected 'the high qualities of intellect whh. the Author of that first pamphlet must Certainly possess.' When was Vincent's wedding?

400. Keele.
2 Mar.
[1860]1

The same to the same.

Comments upon the budget.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

401. Keele.
23 Mar.
[1860]1

The same to the same.

The last days had been days of sorrow and sadness. Was glad to be alone. Comments upon the possibility of widening the franchise. Comments upon the Italian question.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

402. Keele.
2 May,
[1860]1

The same to the same.

As he had heard of Vincent dining out he concluded he had brought the mutinous forefinger to a sense of its duty. Comments upon his own health. Thought Vincent did well to disport himself and Susan on the continent. Could not see that it signified, how the Reform Bill was got rid of. In what part of its 'Coarse & clumsy Composition' Vincent detected 'the latent germ of a decent bill' he was at a loss to guess. That morning's post had brought a better account of Middleton. Poor old Lady Mansfield was gone at last. Death was merciful where one had survived one's faculties. Some day he hoped to see Lily again. Some day he hoped to have a house to receive him in. Adds a postscript, that as he did not see the Morning Post, he had missed the record of the nuptials. Suspected Vincent meant to stand for Kensington, '& that that is the Element of good you discern in the Rm. bill. I am afraid it will be in the Liberal Interest, too!'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

403. Keele.
4 May,
[1860]1

The same to the same.

Vincent was answered by a sympathetic hand, swollen inflamed, painful. Comments upon Vincent's political

views and the question of parliamentary reform. All foreign policy resolved itself into fear of the Emperor of the French. Should be anxious to hear that Vincent had expelled the enemy from his hand. The writer was still wheezing and coughing. 'I contrive to Crawl out to my North Greenhouse whh. is blinding with Color & intoxicating with fragrance!'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

404.

31 Dover Street.

9 June,
[1860]1

The same to the same.

Vincent's flimsy would not get the change it was worth, though the writer dated from London. Had been there ten days, gout having 'emprison'd me on my arrival.' Ferguson said the writer should be out the following day. The Duke of Argyll had the measles at Cliveden, as well as some of his children, and the Duchess of Sutherland had gone to Edinburgh, 'to nurse her youngest boy in the Same Malady.' Had had a charming letter from '"Mrs. Campbell"' [i.e. Vincent's younger daughter], who had rebuked him for the use of that formal designation and promised to bring her husband to Keele when it was a habitable house. If Vincent continued to keep the gout at bay, his escapade seemed likely to be a perfect success. If Vincent were tempted to repeat it the following year, the writer might go at the same time. Almost the only escape from his room that he had effected had been to Marochetti's - 'Granville having expressed great anxiety that I shd. see & give my opinion of a bust of Ly. G. whh. [?] he is making, with no assistance but a mask taken after death - his own recollections - & hints of friends.' Had found the only good likeness he had ever seen of her. Was satisfied that there lived no other sculptor who could have achieved that feat. If Vincent should see anything in the way of house decoration, in the shape of hangings or marbles, that struck him as being desirable, the writer wished him to mention and describe them. Was there until the end of the month.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

405.

Keele.

9 July,
[18]60

The same to the same.

Vincent seemed to amuse himself very well in a quiet way at Paris. The writer had escaped from 'Old Smokey' a week before, 'after a dismal and unprofitable Séjour,' during the greater part of which he had been confined by illness. Comments upon the delays in finishing Keele, and the disappointing prospects for the garden and game. Vincent's account of the shops was 'exactly Consonant' with what the writer heard from other quarters, viz. that there was nothing there that might not be found in London, and that Paris prices were the highest. Desires Vincent to visit the agents for Aubusson tapestry. The writer required some panels 9'11" x 3'8", 'too narrow for

a picture-subject - so the design must be what in Carving is Called a drop, Composed of garlands of flowers, musical instruments & the queer sort of wares they stick into these trophies.' Would Vincent report? Would have the best, and the colouring, 'though it shd. be gay & brilliant must harmonize with the green & violet I design for the Curtains,...'. Comments upon the sum required to initiate the Chinese War, Gladstone, and other home issues. Did Vincent think of going further afield than Paris?

406. Keele.
19 July,
[1860]¹

The same to the same.

Comments upon political events at home and abroad. Vincent took not the slightest notion of his tapestry, but he expected shortly to hear a great deal about trophies, garlands, flutes, etc. Here was a thunderstorm and he supposed the summer was over.

[1. Date completed (?) by Vincent].

407. Keele.
22 July,
[1860]¹

The same to the same.

Comments upon the question of his tapestry. Comments upon the political opinions expressed by Vincent in his previous letter, about Italy.

[1. Date completed (?) by Vincent].

408. Keele.
30 July,
[18]60

The same to the same.

Comments upon the question of his tapestry. Describes more exactly what he has in mind. Re-encloses the drawing which Vincent has sent him, with alterations marked on it. Two of the writer's sisters were with him. If he left Keele at all he should only run into south Scotland for a few weeks. Could they not meet at Dalmeny? Thought Vincent would find that it did not do to take French tragedy 'quite off the Stilts upon whh. the great Tragic Authors have placed it.' Comments.

With, (i) design for a tapestry panel, similar to the design in the tapestry panels in the dining-room at Keele Hall. Water-colour. Found with this correspondence and placed with this letter.

409. Keele.
9 Aug.
[1860]¹

The same to the same.

Desires Vincent 'to set down the what & whereabout of any Sights you may have seen at Paris - Especially in the line of Art' for the Duchess of Sutherland, who was going over 'to Consult a Parisian oculist'.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

410. Keele.
13 Aug.
[1860]¹

The same to the same.

'The Sketch No. 2. exactly realizes the panel I had in my head.' Should certainly have them made, but found he should require two shorter panels and

probably two more. Was just starting for Trentham with Vincent's Paris notes. The serious illness of Mme. de Flahault, which detained her in Town, threw a doubt on the writer's Scottish journey, but if Vincent would not be at Dalmeny till October, they had no chance of meeting there. Wished Vincent would tell him whether the Roseberrys were there at that moment, or when they were likely to be. Vincent's shrubs interested him particularly and he should be obliged for the name and address of the nurseryman. Vincent's 'little neighbour-Duchess' was, as Vincent said, an eager partizan.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

411.

Keele.
24 Aug.
[1860]1

The same to the same.

A few words before Vincent weighed anchor. The writer's opinion upon economic questions was 'nothing-worth', but his feeling was that Vincent must be right. Had little faith in dogma. 'Modification & Adaptation appear (to my glimmering lights) to be necessary Conditions in human Affairs, - & the theory of Free trade is no exception to the rule.' What did Vincent mean by saying that he prevented him from seeing the house? Explains his situation. His inhospitality had become a very irksome necessity. A paragraph in Vincent's letter curiously vindicated the writer from Vincent's not infrequent jibes on the writer's 'magnificence'. Vincent supposed he should never be lodged in the room with the tapestry panels. Those panels were for one of the best living-rooms. It was clear Vincent would have put them in a bedroom. Could not help him to a bailiff, had just got a new one himself, who looked as if he ought to be at school. Walter had just left him, on his way to Buxton. Had heard that morning from the Duchess of Sutherland from Paris. There had been a sentence which had begun with Vincent's name and which the writer had no doubt conveyed an expression of gratitude for the trouble he had taken, 'but the hieroglyphic precludes more than a Surmise. She had had a terrible passage.' Sends love to Susan and adds a postscript, that he re-enclosed his extract, 'as it is a recorded homage you may wish to preserve.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

412.

Keele.
10 Oct.
1860

The same to the same.

If Vincent had carried out the programme set forth in his previous letter, he should be 'nowabouts' at Dalmeny. Was quite content to be a magnifico on the flattering terms Vincent offered the title, but the writer's circumstances could 'never produce anything to whh. that ambitious adjective wd. not be a ludicrous misapplication.' Took much more credit to himself for the change he had wrought on the face of the surrounding country, than for the house and gardens. Desired notice of his visit to Crews. Vincent's sketches of Drayton, Boughton and Lilford had very much interested him, and as to Brookfield,

he saw it distinctly in his mind's eye. Vincent would learn at Dalmeny that he had not been there, the ceaseless rains and the closing of Tulliallan had deterred him from his usual Scottish jaunt. Had literally not stirred from Keele since he had left London in July. His sisters had visited him, successively, and Walter and his wife were with him at that moment. Wanting Vincent's interest for Garibaldi or General Walker, his disgust with foreign politics had concentrated his attention upon the Road murder. Comments. The late Duke of Hamilton had had nothing at all to do with the building of 'Brodrick' [recte Brodick] Castle. Everybody seemed to agree that the beauty of the scene in which it stood was transcendant. Adds a postscript, that Harry Greville had made him read some of Anthony Trollope's novels. Comments.

413.

Keele.
12 Nov.
[18]60

The same to the same.

So the writer might look to walking through his workshops with Vincent some day before Xmas? Mrs Salvin had died the previous week, on the day before her husband had been due there, 'a Considerable obstacle to my progress'. Vincent seemed to have extracted a good deal of enjoyment from his Scotch excursion. Was glad he had fallen in with Lord Stratford, an old acquaintance of the writer's. Was steeped in dank November mists. Comments further upon the Road murder. 'The amateur Courts of Enquiry are Sadly futile.' Comments upon Lord John Russell's 'black & white despatches'. The Duchess of Sutherland had sent for her Cliveden gardener to Paris, 'to see Certain Special effects & modes of treatment of a parterre whh. were peculiar.' Adds a postscript, that it was right and meet that he should be advised of an important prospective event in the writer's family - 'that Mrs. Walter Sneyd promises to rescue it from it's threatn'd Extinction & to give a Successor to my place making labours.'

414.

Keele.
15 Dec.
[18]60

The same to the same.

That morning's post unpleasantly explained Vincent's silence. 'An illness on the "Altrui Scale" is a real Calamity...'. Not to see Vincent and Susan at Keele was a great disappointment. Doubted the Empress of the French's escapade originated 'entirely in bad health & low Spirits.' Comments. It was known that she had bitterly reproached Louis Napoleon 'for what She Considers his desertion of the Pope...'. By no means exulted in the Flahault embassy. Louis Napoleon had never named an English ambassador without first giving the refusal to Flahault, who had three times refused, but had yielded, to restore confidence and maintain friendly relations. Comments upon Italy. Adds a postscript, that he had passed the previous week at Eastnor, and the present week at Trentham, 'where I return as usual for my Xmas.'

415. Trentham.
31 Dec.
1860

The same to the same.

Heartily hoped the amendment signified in Vincent's last letter had continued. Had been at Trentham 'for the last 10 days in the usual large Xmas gathering - Consisting however (with my own exception) exclusively of near relatives - to wit - Blantyres, Kildares, Grosvenors, Staffords, Carlisle, Harrowby, Granville, St. Germaines, - Children & Tutors innumerable - the Argylls, I am sorry to say, detained by her illness, at Roseneath.' Had been called home to meet Salvin. Comments upon China. St. Germaines interested him 'by his Narrative of our Heir Apparent's travels. He says the long Story of the insults offer'd to him at Richmond, in the United States, was a pure newspaper fiction...'

416. Keele.
24 Jan.
[18]61

The same to the same.

Had been very glad to receive Vincent's letter, and should be [glad] to learn that he was safely housed at Camden Hill. Had himself been confined to his room with a cold. The Duke of Sutherland's illness had been a serious alarm '& is still a grave anxiety'. The paralysis had not been severe, since he had lost the use of no limbs. 'I wot not of "Adolphus" Trollope. Brother 'Antony's novels amuse me extremely. That is more than I can Say of [the] new Quarry. & Edinh. Reviews, - though, for want of more lively Companions, I suppose I shall struggle through them.' Louis Napoleon had no doubt overreached himself. Comments upon the King of Sardinia and the conquest of the two Sicilies. The prospects of the spring, 'including the Bright-inspired budget of Mr Gladstone,' were not, from the writer's point of view, exhilarating.

417. Keele.
11 Mar.
[18]61

The same to the same.

Since the writer's return from Alnwick 'the house of mourning hardby has engrossed me to the neglect of all Correspondence,...'. Begged an account of Vincent's health. The death of the writer's old friend [the Duke of Sutherland] would have brought the writer to Vincent's thoughts. Describes briefly the funeral. The will had been short and clear, the affairs in perfect order - 'not a shilling of debt, or Mortgage - &, (in money & railway Shares,) 800,000£. - Each of the boys has 80,000£ - The Dss. has Cliveden & the lands adjoining, the house in Ha[?] Pl. & a jointure of 10,000 a yr.' Had made a short trip northwards and passed about a week at Alnwick, which was 'emerging One of the finest things in England. In splendour of internal decoration, I have seen nothing out of Italy to Compare to it.'

418. Keele.
18 Mar.
[1861]1

The same to the same.

Should be impatient to hear of Vincent's transfer to Lily Hill. Walter was with the writer 'en garçon - his wife being on a visit to her Father.' Lily Hill was indeed a charmed spot if the last winter had

swept over it [leaving it] unscathed, for the writer had received dismal wailings from Surrey, Kent '& localities whh. rather vaunt their Climate', and the roses of all the nurserymen in Hertfordshire were destroyed. Had escaped better than many of his neighbours, which he attributed to his 'great Elevation'. Had not been aware that 'the world' had been uneasy on acct. of the D. of Sutherland's Circumstances.' Comments. Would not weary him with his old-fashioned politics. 'No doubt the modern Doctrine of "judging each Case by it's own Especial Circumstances" has the immsense Convenience of enabling Statesmen to follow their inclination in all Cases & of emancipating them from the restraints of Law.' Was sorry the wind of that doctrine did not fill his sails - 'it wd. be pleasanter Sailing than against wind & tide.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

419. Keele.
2 Apr.
[1861]

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter had found the writer and Walter tête à tête. Vincent's miraculous climate at Lady H.'s might exempt him from the eternal rains which fell upon their unsown fields. Walter had made the writer 'a long Comfortable visit'. Granville had given the writer three days of his Easter holiday and had gone the previous day, and the writer looked for Sidney Lane the following week. He kept well. If he were physically capable, he would see Lily once again. Imagined the real foundation of the gossips 'who had destined the Sutherland Family to the workhouse was simply the enormous outlay whh. they witness'd in so many directions - (Trentham, Lillieshall, Staffd. H. - Dunrobin, Cliveden -) - "Such expence by the hour seem'd to flow from him" that they Concluded the Spring must be dried up.' Granville had amused the writer 'by his account of Stafford's puzzle at being kindly Condoled with on his poverty. At first he thought it a mauvaise plaisanterie - & rather a vulgar way of complimenting him on his riches, but when he found it was serious, it tickled his fancy & he lent himself to it, Sighing & squeezing the hands of the Condolers - "had always felt sure of them in adversity - but he must get on as he could - & hope for better days" &c. &c.' The writer, too, lamented their political divergence. Did not quite allow the accuracy of Vincent's diagram. Should figure it thus: [diagram, illustrating the relationship between via antiquae, terra incognita, and Utopia].

420. Keele.
25 Apr.
[18]61

The same to the same.

It would puzzle even Gladstone to disguise the deficit in the writer's means for producing a letter, but the date of Vincent's last troubled his conscience. Comments upon Gladstone. Since his last statement, the writer considered him dishonest. Comments upon the Duc d'Aumale's letter. Really did want to see Lily Hill again. Should Vincent be there for Whitsuntide? If so he might manage to go to him.

They were calling out for rain at Keele.

421. Keele.
7 May,
[18]61

The same to the same.

Was afraid the wicked fairy who barred his access to Lily was still predominant. Had no immediate Babylonish intentions, and as Vincent could not have him, he should go to the Tauntons, in Somerset, and Cliveden. The writer's life had no variety, 'except the occasional in-droppings of friends or acquaintances who have a Curiosity to See what I have been about.' His chief companion was his servant Eason's daughter of two years' old, 'with whom I play by the hour & who is now putting my room into "most admired disorder".' Wondered people did not make greater fools of themselves about their children, even than they did. Tried to think as little as possible about politics, which distressed and depressed him. Unfortunately, as Vincent said, the American Civil War concerned them 'too nearly to admit of the full exercise of one's Philosophy - & a Serious diminution of rental warns me from, or punishes me for (as the Case may be) any undue insensibility on the Subject.' Was 'much concerned by young Grenfell's death,' though hardly surprised.

422. 31 Dover Street.
'Saturday.'
[22 June,
1861]

The same to the same.

Found Vincent's note on his return from Cliveden. Was engaged to dine every day till the following Friday, when he was to turn his back on London and go for two days to Walter, and on 1st July he would regain his home. The programme was incompatible with the escapade Vincent proposed. Had Stanhope's Pitt in store for the country.

[1. Date completed (?) by Vincent].

423. Keele.
16 July,
[18]61

The same to the same.

Prays Vincent send him the last bulletin from Brookfield. If all had hitherto gone well with mother and child, he trusted they might be considered as 'hors d'Affaire'. Wished to know about Vincent himself, and the probable time of his march into Scotland. The writer's life had fallen into the old wheel tracks. The weather was desperate. Describes visitors to Keele. Saw a paragraph in The Times announcing John Russell's intention of going to the Upper House. What did that mean? Comments. Was reading Rose's diaries and correspondence 'with interest and amusement.' Adds a postscript: 'Much love to Aunt Susan.'

424. Keele.
27 July,
[18]61

The same to the same.

Thanks Vincent for his report of the Duchess of Argyll. Was 'beyond measure Concerned & annoyed by the Dss. of Sd.'s ill-advised detention at Paris'. Utterly distrusted fashionable French quacks, and she was losing the season for waters which were 'believed to be of Essential Consequence to her health.' It was clear that The Times thought that the

government screws were loosening and that the Liberal was likely to be beaten in the City. Comments upon the illness of Sidney Herbert. There were few the writer liked as well. 'Who wd. have thought, 2 years ago, that his insignificant Elder Brother wd. have Survived him?' Could anything have been more flat and unprofitable than John Russell's farewell speech to the City? Comments. If Vincent was so late in his northward movements, there was little chance of their meeting. Thought with Vincent on the Roberts affair.

425.

Keele.
15, 16 Oct.
[18]61

The same to the same.

Had indeed begun to snarl and growl at Vincent's silence, '& shd. have barked fiercely had I known in what direction.' Supposed Vincent to have been visiting somewhere in the north, and had speculated on his dropping down at Keele from Crewe. But his wrath and visions evaporated under the unpleasant tidings. Of his sympathy and concern he need not assure him. Suggests Brighton, for a more effectual change of air, rather than Vincent's brother's, and recommends the Bedford Hotel. [Letter continued 16 Oct.] His pen had been arrested by the advent of Dicky Milnes and a Col. Crewe, who had remained the whole afternoon. Had been about to narrate his own history. Had been absent for some six weeks, divided between Tulliallan, Drummond Castle, Dalmeny, Alnwick, Temple Newsam and Worsley. His works crept on. The drawing-room ceiling was as good as finished. Summer had broken out there with the falling leaves. Hill had told him that Vincent had written to him. Walter was at 'the Abbey' nursing his baby and rheumatism. Therein, indeed, was sympathy between brothers, for the writer had lately been plagued by rheumatism and passed part of his time playing with a child - née Eason - 'of whom I have become most twaddlingly fond.'

426.

Blithfield.
10 Nov.
[1861]1

The same to the same.

Had been in motion for the last week or he should have thanked Vincent sooner. Had come to Blithfield from Teddesley and was going to Ossington and Worksop, but hoped to be at home again about the 20th or 21st. Comments upon points from Vincent's letter, the latter's health, his critique of Othello, and the American Civil War. If the dissolution of the Austrian Empire were decreed, the writer would consider it the worst calamity that could befall Europe, '& the removal of the only weight that press'd down the lid of that Pandora's box, France.' Vincent's note was certainly remarkable. [Charles Francis] Adams thought the North would subjugate the South, 'not by force of arms - but by Blockade.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

427. Keele.
29 Nov.
[18]61
- The same to the same.
- As their European politics were not quite of the same colour, the writer was eager to give, in his adhesion to all Vincent wrote 'on this incredible American proceeding.' Comments upon the Trent affair. Doubted John Russell being a match for Seward with his pen. Was sorry to hear that he was again ailing. The writer's ceilings were all but finished. 'I think them pretty - I wonder whether you will.'
428. Keele.
9 Dec.
[1861]1
- The same to the same.
- Comments further upon the Trent affair. Comments upon Mme. Piozzi's second marriage.
- [1. Date completed by Vincent].
429. Keele.
9 Jan.
[18]62
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for his letter from Wimpole. Comments upon Othello. Comments upon the pamphlet Vincent had referred to, and the situation of Italy. Had had no winter and had been unusually free from ailments.
430. Keele.
[29] Jan.
[1862]1
- The same to the same.
- 'The Jovial [Lord Crewe] angled for me too this week - & (though I am always Starved to death at Crewe, in Cold weather,) if you had been on his hook, I shd. have bitten - but he baited with Senior, so I easily resisted - for that Voluminous disciple of Boswell, with much of the material that Should make good Conversation, is - to my thinking - Supremely disagreeable.' It was another neighbour of the writer's who had bought Newbold Revel, Wood by name, whose father had been a potter. Newnham Paddox the writer had never seen. Cocombe Abbey he knew well. Comments. Craven had put it into the hands of a son of Nesfield's, who had been educated in Salvin's office and would probably make a mess of it. Was glad Vincent had liked his (Durlacher) glasses. Wanted to see Van de Weyer's house. Comments upon the blockade of the South and the American Civil War.
- [1. Date completed by Vincent].
431. Keele.
20 Mar.
[18]62
- The same to the same.
- Could not say that Vincent's "'Sanitary report'" was rose coloured. Advises him to stay at Lily Hill as long as he could. Liked his Whitsuntide proposition exceedingly and would note it down as a thing to be done. Went on painting, carving and gilding, '& living up a back Staircase in a room whh. has not even a paper on it's walls, as if I had an unlimited future before me!' Like Vincent, he lamented the Federal successes, though like Vincent, he had 'not the faintest goodwill to their Antagonists (except in so far as they are Seceders.)' Heard the most

deplorable account of the state of southern Italy. Comments. Adds a postscript, that Walter 'et toute sa petite boutique' had been due but were all ailing '& not yet in moveable Condition.'

432.

Keele.
9 May,
[1862]¹

The same to the same.

It was high time Vincent gave a sign of life. The writer wrote to apprise him that he proposed on the following Tuesday to transfer himself to 34 Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, a gîte which Walter had engaged for him. There, on and off, he should remain till Whitsunday, on which day he hoped to be roofed at Lily and to remain a week. Thence he would make a few shorter visits, and be back amongst his roses while June still reigned. The beauty of Keele entailed some inconvenience, 'for people flock from all quarters to see the red rhododendrons, which are a perfect Conflagration (I really never Saw a more Splendid sight) & I am headed by beards & Crinolines on every gravel walk.' Comments upon Victor Emanuel's reception. Comments upon the situation in Italy.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

433.

Keele.
7 July,
[1862]¹

The same to the same.

How was he? After their cab collision in Eaton Square the writer had passed some days at Hatchford, and some more at Beechwood, where Sebright had improved neglected natural advantages. A week ago the writer had come home. Comments upon the wet season. A bad harvest opened a prospect one shrank from contemplating. Comments upon the Pasha of Egypt's Order of the Bath, and the likely obstinacy of the Queen, without Prince Albert to guide her. The influence of Princess Alice, if it were withdrawn, would be a great loss. Believed that the more satisfactory relations between the Queen and the Prince of Wales were 'altogether her work.' It had not rained for some hours, a phenomenon which he must not neglect.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

434.

Keele.
16 July,
[1862]¹

The same to the same.

Hoped Vincent's leg was sound again. Had yielded to the incitements of Lady Cowper and was to go to Wrest on Monday 28th. Was Vincent minded to receive him on 2nd August and to retain him into the following week, when he might return or pass a day or two at Holland House? Comments upon the rain. Explains where Beechwood is - 'very near Ashridge.' Sebright was 'a sensible, accomplish'd man, with a considerable knowledge of art. His weakness is the Cygnification of all his geese...'. Adds a postscript, commenting upon the battle of Richmond.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

435.

Keele.
21 July,
[1862]¹

The same to the same.

The writer was charmed that his vision of a 'Joint-Exhibitionizing' seemed likely to be realized. Would fix for Monday 4th instead of Saturday 2nd. They should have no particulars of the Federal disaster for some days, 'but that they are most Serious "Enormous lying" cannot Conceal.' The weather was fine at last.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

436.

Keele.
20 Aug.
[18]62

The same to the same.

Was meaning to leave home on Tuesday, visit cousins in Derbyshire and Yorkshire, and proceed to Tulliallan. Calculated he should hardly be settled till towards the end of September. Should not be available as an inn till Vincent returned from the north. Had had a tedious journey the day he had left Vincent, 'a preceding train having met with a disaster whh. detained mine at least 2 hours.' Was just finishing Mrs French, very pleasant reading it had been. Comments. Charles Percy exaggerated when he said they thought her a bore, but it was quite true that they had been totally indifferent to her.

437.

Keele.
29 Sept.
[18]62

The same to the same.

Could only kiss the rod. Surely the case was not quite so bad as Vincent's letter would make it? Vincent talked of 'a (very recent) day' when the writer had been at Lillieshall, 'as that whh. I had named for going into Scotland. - Why, I have done my Scotland long ago!' Had run down for ten days to Tulliallan and had made no other Scotch visits. Could it be that he had not written since that time? Should certainly be at home towards the end of October. Comments upon the Roseberrys. There was a good deal of truth in what Vincent said of the brothers [Cheney]. Had had Alexander Hope and Lady Mildred at Keele for some days. 'He wd. have Come in for the Pottery seat, but for the exaggerated notion entertained of his high Church Opinions.' Had not read Guizot's last volume, but had dipped into it. Thiers' 20-volume apotheosis of the first Napoleon had reached its termination. Comments.

438.

Keele.
13 Oct.
[18]62

The same to the same.

On the 20th triumphal arches should be erected. It was not worth Vincent's while to rail from Crewe, which was only 10 miles off. Had not heard of his second granddaughter. Supposed her mother had wished for a boy, girls were much prettier things. Comments upon Vincent's northern journey. Where had he picked up Finlay? Did not altogether subscribe to his views in matters ecclesiastical. The religious opinions of a representative were no concern of his constituents, 'who invade it by assuming a right to pass judgment on them.' No man in his sane mind could believe there was any

danger in this Country from the Spread of Popery, nowadays.' Stoke-on-Trent was the last place 'whh. ought to ascribe Popish tendencies to a Man because he puts Colour'd tiles into Churches.' Adds a postscript, that he had started a very bad cold.

439.

Keele.
[Nov.
1862]¹

The same to the same.

Might as well discuss those Warwickshire places while they were fresh in Vincent's memory. It was nearer 40 than 30 years since he had seen either Arbury or Astley Castle, 'but, in my youth, (as both belonged to, & were inhabited by, my near relations) I was often at them, - & I don't believe they have undergone much Change Since.' Comments. Had seen Merevale '(long ago)'. Blare, not Burn, had been responsible for the 'Jacobean Architecture'. Winter had come, and as the writer sat over his fire and his Times, he disapproved of everything he read. Wondered whether Vincent had the curiosity to look at 'the great Brompton Sunset?' Mme. de Flahault wrote that some very pretty things remained and that prices were considerably reduced.

[1. Dated by Vincent].

440.

Keele.
30 Dec.
[18]62

The same to the same.

Sends Vincent seasonal greetings. No events chequered his monotonous but not wholly melancholy existence. Its solitude had been pleasantly disturbed by a visit from Edward Cheney, who had been good company. Henry [Cheney] had been presenting himself as a target at Woolwich or Chatham 'Clothed in Complete Mail'. Had Vincent read the memoir of the P. Consort? Phipps had put it together, but a large portion was by the Queen. What a queer climate they lived in. Had filled his ice-house early in November now it was warmer than it usually was in May. Comments upon the question of battlements. They constituted 'a very legitimate ornament to Gothic Architecture without reference to fortification, or Machiollation.' Explains and sketches. Burnside '(Scipio Americanus)' had been seriously thrashed. He was heartily glad. Did Vincent's building projects ripen?

441.

Keele.
8 Jan.
[18]63

The same to the same.

Vincent would have a beautiful room. The writer held 36 x 24 to be a perfect proportion. Comments upon this and other plans. Had nothing of interest to report of his own doings. 'My conviction that the blue in the Drawing room ceiling unduly predominates obliges me to reduce it's quantity by the insertion of gilt ornaments - & as these must be carved in wood by Rogers, - & as there are 32 blue panels, it Causes a long delay.' The painters were still in the ante-room or breakfast room. Had been trying to turn to account his Italian frames, but had no pictures to put into them. Comments upon Dr Colenso. Gave him credit for no motive but vanity '& that restless itch of Controversy whh. infects all Theologians.' Walter had fallen ill at Badger. Hoped

for a better report the following day. The sex of his baby had cost the writer a sigh.

442.

Keele.
30 Jan.
[1863]1

The same to the same.

[Begins with a verse on the weather]. Why did Vincent not write? Had remained where Vincent had left him, 'the yoke of daily habits, whh. resent interruption, will very soon Confine me to Home as stringently as ever did lettre de Cachet...'. Had promised Harrowby to pass a few days with him before the meeting of parliament, and had put off and put off, '& now I must announce myself for tomorrow, or be written down the most ungracious of Churls!' Felt as if he were going to embark for Cochin China. Was reading various books of De Quincey, which amused and interested him. Dared say Vincent was reading Kinglake's Crimean War? Did not doubt it was clever, 'but the details of that gratuitous Costly & damaging Conflict are irritating & repugnant to me.' Had much rather read about Lily. Adds a postscript, asking for details of Kalmin.

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

443.

Keele.
16 Feb.
[18]63

The same to the same.

Should be glad to hear he had returned to Lily. Comments upon Vincent's plans for the house. Comments upon Bishop Colenso. Comments upon De Quincey. Should certainly read Kinglake. Agreed in all Vincent said of the Crimea. 'One private letter from the D. of W. (had the guardian Spirit still remained to us) wd. have prevented a Single Russian Soldier ever Crossing the Prath.' Adds a postscript, that when Vincent was next at Standish's nursery garden, he should make him show him a machine for moving trees, 'described in the last Gardener's Chronicle'.

444.

Keele.
11 Mar.
[18]63

The same to the same.

Vincent's penultimate letter, the writer should frame and glaze. 'It is a Charming view of Lily - about the best lithographic portrait I have ever seen.' Comments upon the Prince and Princess of Wales's wedding. Was concerned 'to hear of those incipient Symptoms of Royal jealousy whh. one has always apprehended...', mentioned by Vincent. Rejoices in the disappearance of Vincent's gout. If he had driven to Standish's he had forgotten the tree-moving machine. Comments upon the Polish rebellion. 'Why Russia with her immense Army does not overwhelm the revolt is a mystery.'

445.

Keele.
9 Apr.
[18]63

The same to the same.

It was a good, spirited war song, and he should send it to the 'Richmond Dispatch'. Suggests certain alterations to Vincent's 'Confederate Stanzas'. Comments upon Kinglake's Crimean War. Expected the Speaker and Lady Charlotte on Saturday, and Lady Ellesmere on Monday, to be succeeded by Walter and his, for, he hoped, a long visit. Had charming

April weather and saw from his window 'the preparations for the Kalmeas...'. Felt pretty sure he should not adopt the tree-moving machine.

446. Keele.
24 May,
[18]63

The same to the same.

Vincent's letter had anticipated all the enquiries he had been about to make touching his [Vincent's] recent inheritance. Comments. Fortune seemed to be running her wheel along the Bracknell road, for the writer saw she had 'let fall from her Cornucopia I don't know how many lacs of rupees into the lap of yr. neighbour Walsh.' How in the world came Sir J.W. to be the representative of Clive? Was meaning to be in Town at the end of the week. Hoped to visit him at Lily at the end of June.

447. St James Hotel,
Piccadilly.
'Saturday'.
[30 May,
1863]¹

The same to the same.

Was half way between heaven and earth. Absolved all his friends who were not aeronauts from visiting him, but to visit them he must know where they were. Desired a line, if Vincent were at T[hornwood] L[odge] '& not at one of your Country Seats.'

[1. Dated incorrectly by Vincent 31 May 1863].

448. Trentham.
6 Aug.
[18]63

The same to the same.

Had passed the previous month at home, enjoying 'this most unusual Season', until the previous Monday, when he had come to Trentham for the week. Describes the visitors in the house, including a charming Polish Princess and her daughter. Was to return home on Saturday, to receive Salvin, and some day soon Henry Greville. Comments upon the death of the Duke of Hamilton, a heavy blow to Walter. Lord Wilton was trying to marry a Miss Elton Smith, 'who, being rich, young & pretty will probably not hear of him. If he succeeds, it will be a fine bravura finale, at 63, to a Don Juan life!' Granville was to accompany the Queen to Coburg '& stay there a month - Think of the 30 evenings!!! Obscurity has it's Compensations.'

449. Keele.
17 Aug.
[1863]¹

The same to the same.

What could have possessed Vincent to leave Lily in its full season of beauty to live on the Kensington road? Did not at all like Salvin's tower at Windsor. Salvin had been at Keele the previous week and the writer had put him on his defence. Gives Salvin's explanation. Quin's status was 'certainly an audacious trespass upon the fences 'that do hedge... or did hedge - the Social system', but the writer owned he liked him. It was a cold, rainy day. Henry Greville was to come to him the following day, '& Charles later in the week.'

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

450. Drummond Castle.
[Sept.
1863]

The same to the same.

It would ill become the writer to dispute the validity of excuses founded 'upon 'gouty fingers & growing indolence''. Had passed the earlier part of the month at Tulliallan. Was to return there on Friday, and set forth on his homeward journey the following week, stopping at Howick and Baldersby. There was no party at Drummond, but guests included Delane. The garden was in resplendent beauty. Comments upon the harvest, in the north and a large portion of the midlands it was uncut. Vincent would not meet him at The Grove. Invites Vincent to stay at Keele. He was easily accessible from Nottinghamshire via Derby and Stoke. Had meant to say a good deal about 'Jupiter', but there was not much to be said.

[1. Date added by Vincent].

451. Keele.
26 Oct.
[18]63

The same to the same.

The writer's letter was not to provoke, but to prohibit his writing as long as it was an exertion. Susan reported his progress. Was enjoying beautiful weather. Was in the act of moving into his own apartment and was inexpressibly sorry for it, as he should miss the morning sun and 'the wide Cheerful View.' The Flahaults were due there on Friday, and on Monday they were all to go to Beaudesert. Had been toiling through two volumes of Chateaubriand. Comments. The new Quarterly and Edinburgh offered no resource.

452. Keele.
29 Oct.
[18]63

The same to the same.

Could not tell him the satisfaction he received from his letter. Comments upon his recovery. Was still writing in the old room. Supposed time would reconcile him to his promotion. He missed the morning sun, not the sun. Had politely declined to hear Gladstone read an essay on old Wedgwood. 'I was only invited as Lord of the Manor, I fancy. - There is Something Comic in the sudden burst of Enthusiasm for this Pottery Celebrity, after it had lain so quietly dormant for a Century.' Would get Cowden Clerk['s book on Shakespeare], not Romola. Was glad Vincent agreed about Chateaubriand.

453. Keele.
24 Nov.
[18]63

The same to the same.

Heard brilliant accounts of Vincent. His informants were Edward Cheney and Sidney Lane. The Flahaults had passed some days at Keele at the beginning of the month. The writer had passed some at Beaudesert and Trentham, and Charles Greville and the brothers Cheney had been at Keele. The weather was beautiful and his own new apartment was comfortable. Was sorry 'this Pam Scandal' was to come before a court of law. Concluded Mrs O'Kane was a friend of old. 'I cannot believe that a Man, at 80, flies at a woman the first time he sees her!' Comments upon the 'Danish Duchy imbroglio', 'Somewhat of a Storm

in a Slopbasen' which would occasion great difference, and there was a good deal to be said on both sides of the question. Was busy planting. 'Kindest love to my Cousin Susan.' Adds a postscript, that he hoped Vincent had a better account of Campbell.

454. Keele.
23 Dec.
[1863]¹

The same to the same.

Hoped he was inhaling the health-bearing breezes of Lily. Was very well, but Eason, his alter ego, was seriously ill. Had been amused by the fierce passage of arms between Vincent's neighbour [Delane] and Cobden. England could hardly have a worse difficulty than the Danish question. Believed Louis Napoleon had resolved not to go to war without England. Who had recommended Vincent to read Paris en Amérique? A more long-winded, tiresome piece of "pleasantry" he had never waded through. Walter had had a son. Why the latter had been too diffident to come into the world alone, he could not imagine. Adds a postscript, with a comment upon H[enry] L[ane].

[1. Date completed by Vincent].

455. Keele.
15 Jan.
[18]64

The same to the same.

Would not "'bandy Compliments"' with him. How could Vincent trifle with his health 'so madly as to dine out in January?' Kept well, January notwithstanding. If, towards the end of the following month, there should be mild weather, he might go to London for a brief space, and should contrive to see him. Sir G. Grey stood fully acquitted, and a speedy correction of the preposterous law would, it was to be hoped, secure the future punishment of deliberate murder, of which Townley's was about the most atrocious on record. 'I hold Sir G.G. to be utterly unfitted for his post by a morbid Softness & timid shrinking from responsibility -, qualities quite Compatible with his amiable Character & easy pleasant intercourse.' Had no echo for Vincent's elegiac sentence upon Thackeray. 'He had no great Creative power, no dominion over the passions, no depth of thought - not a ray of that 'Mens divini'...' [Letter incomplete].

456. Keele.
28 June,
[18]64

The same to the same.

Expresses pleasure at Vincent's progress. Could not enlighten him on pipers - 'the Kilted nuisance being the only Variety of that Species known to me.' It was not quite summer at Keele. Foreign politics were 'very serious.' Comments upon Denmark. With their lowered position went their moral influence, a heavy loss to the world's prospects. Could not step down from those altitudes to treat of the pony he had just bought or the carpet which was just arrived.

457. Keele.
 22 Oct.
 [1864]

The same to the same.

Vincent's supplement that morning had been warmly welcomed by himself and two sisters. Susan seemed to have performed that painful and perilous duty admirably well. Took no exception to the sex of his new cousin and did not see why Vincent should be in such a hurry for a grandson. His report on his own health was a positive bravado. The writer was sufficiently well too, but was anxious about his sister, Fanny Bouverie.

458. Keele.
 28 Oct.
 [18]64

The same to the same.

It was a good day for answering letters, 'if good for nothing else'. Vincent's reasoning in favour of sitting at home scarcely convinced him, but as he was very well notwithstanding, he bridled the spirit of controversy. Was very sorry Vincent had lost his tenant, and should be sorry if it induced him to retain Bradwell. Two good houses were enough for any man. Was assured that Mrs Bruce would have £3,000 a year. Could hardly figure to himself little Van de Weyer smothered in his millions. Was at Keele with his sisters Charlotte and Lizzy, and did not think he should budge. Trusted that Susan and her bambino thrived. His sister Fanny Bouverie had passed the worst. Vincent did not name "Hatty" as being with him at Lily. Was she? She must not forget that Keele was the half-way house from Scotland.

With, (i) original envelope.

EXTRANEIOUS

459. 57 Great Russell St.
 12 Aug.
 1858

Messrs Bray and Co., to the same.

The conveyance from Vincent to the Lewes & Uckfield Railway was there, ready for execution, would Vincent wish it sent to him? The conveyance of 'The Forrester' had been sent to Mr Darvill, to get it executed by his clients, but the writers had not heard from him since.

[The above letter, a stray from the papers of H.W. Vincent, was evidently returned in error with Ralph Sneyd's letters, after Vincent's death].