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Sneyd Papers

**Calendar of correspondence to
Walter Sneyd
from the Hon. Robert Curzon**

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For the purposes of this calendar the punctuation in the original letters, except for quotations, has been modernized and paragraphs have been ignored. (Detailed consideration of Curzon's punctuation and spelling will be found in an edition of these letters now in preparation). The condition of a number of the letters is poor. Until they have been repaired facsimiles will be produced in the Search Room. The originals will, however, be demonstrated on request. The dating of some of the letters should be regarded as tentative.

I.H.C.F.

ERRATUM

Letter 254, dated by Curzon 17 Jan., 1856, should have been dated by him 17 Jan., 1857. It is not part of the incomplete letter 268, dated by Curzon 17 Jan., 1857, but should have been placed next to it.

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CORRESPONDENCE

To Walter (later the Rev. Walter) Sneyd (d.1888) from the Hon. Robert Curzon (later 14th Baron Zouche, d.1873).

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | 24 Brook St.
Monday,
21 Mar.
[1831] | [The Hon.] R[obert] Curzon to [Walter] Sneyd [Esq.,] at 'Cheveralls[,] Market Street[,] Harts[.,]' [<u>recte</u> Cheverells, Markyate, Herts.].

Did Sneyd know what he was liable to, writing with green ink? Was glad Sneyd was coming to Town, though he ought to have been there a week before, to meet Drummond. What horrible weather it was. [Concludes the letter mainly in rhyming couplets. MS. imperfect]. |
| 2. | [Petworth.
5 Oct.
1831] | The same to the same, in the same place.
[Letter mainly in rhyming couplets, concluding with questions in mock blank verse, thus: 'What do you think of
'Henry Glynne. M.P.
'And the new Dean of Ch. Ch.
'And the unhappy Poles
'And Cornelius Nepos
'And Doctor Eady...', etc.]. |
| 3. | [London.
8 Oct.
1831] | The same to the same, in the same place.
Was afraid he could not go to Sneyd yet. Was there only for a day or two. Had got some more old books. |

4. London.
24 Oct.
1831
- The same to the same, [in the same place].
- 'This is to give notice that I Robert Curzon, do hereby make known unto you, by these presents; that I do intend to bring the infliction of my presence upon you, at Cheverells, on Thursday the 27. day of October One thousand eight hundred and thirty one,....'.
5. [? 1831 or
1832]
- The same to the same.
- [First page written in mock rustic capitals, backwards]. What should the writer say? Expected to be slain for the good of the country, that day, as there was to be a reform mob at the House of Commons, to prevent anyone from going to the House who would not vote that that parliament should be perpetual, so supposed they were to have another Rump Parliament, which would be very appropriate. When was Sneyd coming to Town? Everything was going to happen that day in the Commons, 'they are to vote the King, a nuisance and to make this parliament perpetual that it may watch over the good of the people[:] if that is all it does, I thank [sic, i.e. think] we shall have a sinecure as the sead [sic] people are not at present very good...'. Had Sneyd any good books? Supposed he was quite a divine by that time, but was afraid it would be all to no purpose, as the reformers intended to eschew parsons in future. [Concludes with sketches].
6. [1831
or later]
- The same to the same.
- The writer calculated that Sneyd would be at Kings Bromley the following day, at Guy's Cliffe [? - MS. imperfect], at Cheverells on Wednesday, and with the writer on Thursday or Friday. He would get board and lodging cheap, but no good dinners if he did not come before that time. They would dirty their white gloves together in the old bookshops. Had been 'Ruralising' at Parham. Was sorry to say that his Valturius, 'de re Militari', had quarrelled with his 'Golden Legende', which was very disagreeable as he should be obliged to put them on separate shelves, 'and would you believe it! I found that [hor]rid little duodecimo "[C]ontes de Cholieres" lying with the Estrif de Vertu...', hoped nothing would come of it. Sneyd would be glad to hear that the Thames still ran through London and had not yet been set on fire by Lord Grey. Was Sneyd ever at St Petersburg? [Continues a mock conversation on this theme. MS. imperfect].
7. Brook St.
[? early
1832]
- The same to the same.
- Had been to Paris, and come back, and been very much pleased, delighted and amused by all the various things he had seen. London was all cholera and fog, the writer was in it, and Leader was ill and so was the writer. Expostulates with Sneyd for his not having written. Was coming to see him, and Leader was going to see him too. [MS. imperfect].

8. [London.
c.6 Feb.
1832]
- The same to the same, at Guy's Cliffe, Warwick.
- [118 lines of rhyming couplets, incorporating a conversation between a letter from Curzon to Sneyd and a letter from Sneyd to Curzon, on a coach, en route for their respective destinations:
- 'I[']ve often thought our letters must make fun,
'Among the other letters, as they run
'Backwards, and forwards, as they ride, or sail,
'Packed, in the Packet, or the Royal Mail;
'Thus to another letter yours might say,
'Well-? Mr Curzon - how - are - you today?
'Sir pretty well I thank you, but how came
'You Sir to call me by my proper name[?]
'- Oh Si[r] I know that writing very well,
'And if [I] did not, any fool can tell
'Your name; your name and residence, I see
'You are a Frank Sir, - February three,
'Gad-! so I am, I had forgot indeed,
'Sir may I ask your name?l - I[']m Mr. Sneyd,...'.
1. Curzon uses here a combination of semi-colon and interrogation mark, which is impossible to reproduce with a typewriter. MS. imperfect].
9. 15 [? Mar.]
1832
- The same to the same.
- Instructs Sneyd to prepare for his visit, '...and don[']t forget the Fowle and above all things the bread sauce,...'. [MS. imperfect].
10. [London.
19 Mar.
1832]
- The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.
- Could not come, 'by Gar it won[']t do[:] I have a meeting of the new Political Club to attend and some other things to do...'. [Sketch. MS. imperfect].
11. 'Smoking room'.
20 Mar. 'l nox'.
[? 1832]
- The same to the same.
- [First two pages illustrated with sketches of military figures]. The king was having 'one hossipher', one corporal and one private done in that style, in each of his regiments, for the National Gallery. There was taste. May be the writer had been bored at not having been able to see Sneyd, but it would not have done. If the reform ended that week he purposed resting his weary limbs at Sneyd's house on his way to Hagley. What did Sneyd think of it, about Tuesday? Would write again.
12. [London.
c. 21 Mar.
1832]
- The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.
- Had heard from de Bure, who had sent him a list of his books on vellum, 'very dear and rather seedy,...'. De Bure had desired to be remembered to Sneyd. The writer would show him the list when they met.

13. [London.
c. 29 Mar.
1832]
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- 'Man is grass, and cannot do the things which he thinketh good, unless he findeth it possible so to do, I suppose you understand, but if you do not, why then I['l] tell you, you see that I can not come & see you at all,...'. Was to leave Town on Monday and was to be taken to Hagley by de Tabley. Should come back in a few weeks, when he hoped to see him again. Gives a list of 7 books purchased. [Sketches].
14. [Rugeley.
c. 26 Apr.
1832]
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- 'Here beginleth a most excellent and G[oo]dlie Homilie or Serment upon or touchingel ye stynkinne sinne of Lecherie...'. [Two sides of mock sermon on this and other sins]. Had just received Sneyd's epistle. Should like to come and see him at Cheverells very much. Had heard again from de Bure, 'Vot as gott an Jarry vitch his so pratty as vas never to be ad bi gar...'.
[1. The ascending stroke of the 'h' crossed, as for a 't'. MS. imperfect].
15. 'King[']s Bench.'¹
14 May,
1832
- The same to the same.
- [Mock offer of the premiership. Letter signed 'J.Cobbet'.
1. ? Mock address. MS. imperfect].
16. [? May or
early June,
1832]
- The same to the same.
- [Letter begins with picture letters forming the word 'VY', i.e. 'Why', continuing] 'I did write, don[']t you come, for to go, for to say, that I ain[']t a most exemplary correspondent; because if you do, I'l[l] just tell them that you're another, that[']s what I'l[l] do, them[']s my sentiments, & whoever says any thing else, or has any other opinion upon any other subject whatsoever - why he's, an individual....'.
17. [? May or
early June,
1832]
- The same to the same.
- 'Vi ha[']n[']t you come to Lunnon you Krittur? It is all up with us or as some people express themselves it is all Dicky[,] the Peers dare not vote against the Bill for fear that the ministers will make 100 new Lords, & so spite the H of Peers[,] times is come to a pretty pass - when a man mayn[']t wallop his own jack ass - & Times is now much wusser still - When the Lords mayn[']t vote against the Bill -'. Mordaunt was in Town and had asked the writer to dine with him on the following Wednesday, and had also asked Sneyd, wherefore the writer expected Sneyd to come, and help him to eat Sir John's dinner. [Sketches. MS. imperfect].

18. [London.
c. 10 July,
1832]
- The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.
- As Sneyd had asked him to send him word what he ought to get to take with him to foreign parts, he would tell him what he could not easily get abroad, so then he might choose for himself what he would take. 'In Germany[,] particularly the South[,] you will have great difficulty in getting good Oysters, so perhaps a barrel or so would be a good thing to have,...', etc. [Adds a list of articles]. They would have to go by Ostend, and the writer would take places for the 21st. They would set off from Brook Street at half past ten on Saturday morning, the packet started at 12 from the Tower. Had made very successful enquiries about their journey in the Tyrol, by which they should see Splugen and everything worth seeing. [MS. imperfect].
19. 'Library[,] House
of Commons' [.]
¼ to 1.'
12 July,
[1832]
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- Had just got a direction to a servant, who seemed to be a Frenchman, M. Le Vieux by name, but knew nothing about him. Ossory had got the direction, so if Sneyd cared to make any enquiries he had better send the writer word and he would see him. Thought it would be better to take a man abroad, 'for he would then be probably less of a rascal, and more unsophisticated besides having to take him over the Hoshun.' He would be very likely to get a quiet sort of man at Cologne. Was there anything the writer could get [in London]? Had introduced himself to Mr Bankes and was going to take a lesson in the manners of the Egyptians the following day. Had learned a good deal touching Switzerland and the Tyrol. Ossory had set off for Sicily that evening. 'I am Legislating on the Russian loan - amazing sport - fun I may say...'. [Sketch].
20. [London.
15, 16 July,
1832]
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- Had caught him. He would just do for a domestic for Sneyd. He was not much bigger than Sneyd and not so old, and his name was Hallen Moritz, a German, who spoke English, German, French and Italian, and only asked £6 a month and would very likely take less per year. Why did Sneyd not write to him? When was he coming to London and should the writer get him his passport? They must not stay longer than necessary in Belgium as the cholera was amusing itself there. [Sketches. MS. imperfect].
21. 1832¹
- The same to the same.
- Was coming to Cheverells on Saturday, and so was Leader, and de Tabley, and W.Leicester.
- [1. Day of the month given in pictorial form.
Sketches].
22. [? 1832]
- The same to the same.
- Those sons of Belial, the lawyers, were conspired together to make delays and to put off de Tabley's

marriage. That being the case the writer should not be able to go to Ireland to see it done, and what was more the writer's family were going to Blithfield on Monday and he should have to go with them. Sneyd, having nothing to do, had much better go to Blithfield. The writer should be in Town about the 6th May, when he should like to see his [blank] face again. Had just had a letter from de Bure, who was much horrified with the cholera, but hoped to get off that time as it was on the decline at Paris. Had Sneyd any more books? News of friends, including 'Mr. S...d and Miss. B....'. Had he read Mrs Trollope's 'America', it was very good. Mr Parker had something the matter with him, which made him uneasy in his chair. How was Leader? The writer had heard from Hope, who was cynical as usual and did not seem to be well. What was Sneyd going to do in the future, how did the divinity get on? Supposed his people were at Cheverells. Hopes they are well and enquires after 'the green Poney.' [Sketches. MS. imperfect].

23. Cairo.
21 Sept.
1833

The same to the same, at 24 Upper Brook St.,
[re-directed several times].

'My dear little Parson[,] for I suppose that now you may be called Reverend, and are to be seen walking gravely with a shovel hat and a square bottomed coat after the fashion of those who aspire to a fat living or a Bishopric in the church of England[.]' Was just come from the house of the Patriarch of Mount Sinai, with whom he had smoked a pipe and enquired tenderly after his Greek MSS., 'but the good priest appeared not to be very far gone in the learning, for he produced a tumble down edition of Diodorus Siculus printed by Stephens, by way of an antient M.S. and I could not make him understand what I wanted at all[,] notwithstanding that I had two interpreters who could not either of them read Greek.' Was alive, though melting away. When the hot wind blew even the birds sat drooping in the ruins, gasping for a mouthful of fresh air. Had had some horses lent him by the Pasha, with magnificent saddles and bridles. Was himself clothed in a long petticoat of striped silk, with a shawl round his waist and a pair of drawers of most prodigious length underneath. Had another dress of black cloth, which looked so hot he had never had the courage to wear it, though the evil time approached when he should be harnessed to a sword. The Nile was not much of a river, not wider than the Thames and even more muddy, and had not risen that year so much as usual, which was a great calamity. Describes the birds to be seen on the Nile. The first view of the pyramids was very striking. Had not been up to them yet, for the sun had too much power in the middle of the day. The weather was cooling every day, a sign that the Nile was rising, so he hoped to be able to move about a little more, and begin his voyage into Upper Egypt. Describes Cairo. When he went out he had two grooms, who hit everybody without mercy with their sticks, to make way. When he made a

ride it was quite a little procession. Whenever Palmer went out, his horse had a silver gilt saddle, like the writer's, and two slaves to run by his side. Describes a visit to a great man. Prays Sneyd tell Charles Bagot that Damascus blades were to be got much better in England than there. The fine ones never reached England, though they might possibly be found at Constantinople. It was the same with horses. Had hardly seen any antiquities. Had Sneyd any more old books, and could he tell him whether his box of curiosities had arrived safe from Rome? Had heard from de Tabley in Naples, but was rather disappointed at not hearing anything from Cholmondely. Hoped he should have a line from Sneyd. A letter was about 2 months getting there, supposing it arrived at all. Was very much pleased with Palmer, who was a very good-natured, kind-hearted fellow, but who was very much out of his element there, in a country where the Leicestershire hounds were never talked about and where there was no such thing as a coach. It was a subject of wonder to the writer how it was possible for anybody of education to care about nothing but dogs and horses, as it happened the writer had never lived with anybody of that taste before. Had been very much shocked to hear the account of Mr Bankes, hoped it was not true. How did the ministers get on? Egypt was more in his line than any other place he had been in. Did not the less look forward to his return to England, where Dr Sneyd D.D. might talk over old times with his old friend R. Curzon. Adds a postscript, that Palmer sent his best remembrances and wished to know how he had made his mustacios grow so finely. Had just heard from England that Sneyd had arrived safely home with the big box and all the wonders of his collection. Prays him tell Charles Bagot he was very much obliged for the sword he had given him, and hoped he would be lucky enough to find him one in return. Was going to Nubia the next day but one. [Sketches. MS. imperfect].

24. Cairo.
Mar.
1834¹

The same to the same, in the same place.

If the writer ever rode a camel or a dromedary again might he be [blank]. Had torn all his clothes, spoiled his gun, rubbed several holes in his posteriors, and the sun had taken all the skin off his face, during his pilgrimage to Mount Sinai. Describes his journey and visit to St Catherine's monastery, and the library. Had got the old superior into his own room and offered him no end of piastres for some of the books, but a certain Englishman ['Mr Bankes' interlined - ? by Curzon] had taken several of them away about 15 years before, and had only given the monastery a telescope in exchange, in consequence of which the late superior had been degraded to the level of a common monk, and that was a trifle to what they would do if the superior were to sell any of them, at any price. The writer had offered him half a dozen of liqueur, 'Liqueur said he, ah where is it, so I gave it him upon the spot, this is excellent said the superior, yes and nobody will know any thing about it said I, but there is

a catalogue and you can[']t have any books at all, and so the old rogue drank the good Rosolio and I did not get a book after all...'. There was no 'chance of getting anything out of a Greek, so he had trotted sulkily home to Cairo. Nothing that he undertook seemed to succeed. Had got no antiquities of any consequence and was sore all over with a sort of boil which attacked people in Egypt, and prevented his sleeping, sitting [? or - MS. imperfect] doing anything else. [Adds a second part to the letter]. Was going across the desert again in a few days to Jer[? - MS. imperfect], where he hoped to be at Easter, if with his usual luck he [did not] arrive the day after the ceremonies were over. Palmer was an excellent companion and was always happy to go anywhere. He did not care for antiquities, however. He had not gone to Mt. Sinai and the writer had been delighted to see him again at Cairo, 'in a pair of crimson boots reaching up to his knees with a prodigious pair of brass spurs, engines hitherto unknown among the Arabs[,] who use the sharp edge of the stirrup for the same purpose...'. Was afraid he would think everything very shabby when he got home again, there he was a prince, and at home he was not so independent as one of his own servants in Egypt, if it were not for the love of home and his father and friends, that was by far a better country than England for those who liked to have their own way. There had been a man impaled there, that day, the writer did not know what for, and a railway was to be made from Cairo to Suez, 'a work of great importance to the trade of India'. Had received Sneyd's letter that day. How would it be if he were to write him another, to Constantinople? Wished he were going to dine with him at Gooche's parsonage, 'mind you don[']t forget the shovel At. And stick a nosegay under Bean's ear when you come to fetch me in the Gig.'

[1. Date of the second part of the letter].

25.

[The Aegean Sea.
20 Sept.
1834]¹

The same to the same, in the same place, [re-directed to the Rev. W. Sneyd, at 'Bagginton' recte Baginton] Parsonage, Coventry].

[First page written in mock rustic capitals, with initial sketch]. Acknowledges the receipt of Sneyd's letter. His letter had been travelling ever since November and ten months had elapsed since he had written it. Continues with a mock sermon and comments upon Sneyd having become a parson. The writer was on the Aegean Sea, full of nasty, ugly, barren rocks inhabited by a sort of animals called Greeks, 'the men are beautiful and the women as is usual in the Levant more ugly than monkeys, notwithstanding Lord Byron and all other poets have said to the contrary,...'. Sneyd had heard of St John and ought to know, since he was a parson, where he had written the Apocalypse, well he had been there. The island [Patmos] contained MSS. of unknown age and value, heaps of them, and nobody in

those parts knew or cared anything about them. Had been saying to himself that here at last he would be satiated, and would bring home tomes which should be the envy and wonder of all such as delighted in books, when, alas, they would not let them land on the shore for fear of plague, 'which they said we might[,] could[,] would or should have got on board, so with a heavy heart I went into the ship again, and set sail for the place where St John wrote the Gospel,...'. There were now no books or anything else worth seeing, excepting a most beautiful old mosque made of white marble, carved like Milan cathedral. The splendid temple of Diana was no longer to be seen, and as for Alexander the Coppersmith, nobody had known anything about him, 'so I have no doubt that he has removed to another place, as I also was glad to do, and set out again in the good ship for Schio, this was, before it was destroyed by the Turks a perfect Paradise, and even now is one of the prettiest places I ever saw'. Had ridden for nearly 2 hours and had seen a very pretty girl, and had set sail again, and was at the time of writing somewhere near Smyrna. The plague had been there but was over, though still raging at Constantinople. Why had Sneyd not told him where that library was in Italy, that he might go and look at it? Prays him write to him at Venice to tell him where it was. Had got an old book, a MS. of the Gospels on vellum, in Greek, and Palmer had stolen a little tome of the same kind from the writer, 'which he intends to throw at your feet, (or head) when ever you may meet him again.' [Adds a note under the heading 'Smyrna', confirming about the plague being very bad at Constantinople, so he did not know where to go. Heard that Bagot Episcopides was there, at Vourla. Lord Ingestre had been there, but was gone to Alexandria. Smyrna was famous for pretty women, but they did some odd things, they wore European gowns with Turkish trousers, asked you into their bedrooms without meaning anything wrong, '& I was astonished at seeing a lady pull up her petticoats to alter the strings of her trousers round her waist on [illegible].' The gentlemen never ate figs, and danced at balls with cigars in their mouths. Was returning to the detestable tight breeches and bandages of his use, it being like the butterfly becoming again a chrysalis, instead of the other way.

[1. Date the letter was received in London].

26.

Hagley.
[31 Dec.]
1834

The same to the same, in the same place.

Had been delighted to see his letter on his arrival in London, and the picture therein, and was still more glad to find that there were hopes of seeing him on Monday. Had passed through Coventry that morning, in his way to Hagley, but had not seen the 'Friar[']s entry' that Sneyd remembered of old. Perhaps he had been there and could tell him all about that remarkable spot when they met again, 'my dear little parson how glad I shall be to see you again...'.
.

27. [? 1834 or
1835] The same to the same, in the same place.
 Could not come [to Baginton] till Saturday,
 but would come early. [Sketches. MS. imperfect].
28. [? Hagley].
 3 Jan.
 1835 The same to the same, in the same place.
 Hoped Sneyd would not be alarmed at the intelligence
 he was about to communicate. He would hardly believe
 it, but he had looked into his coat pocket, 'and
 Alas not a single roasted happle could I find, not
 even half a one...'. [Continues on same theme. MS.
 imperfect].
29. Hagley.
 9, 12 Mar.
 [1835 or
 later] The same to the same, at Ash Parlour, Denton.
 How should the writer be revenged? Would travel
 to the nethermost parts of the earth to send him
 brickbats in double letters, by the post. For the
 meantime he would conceal his intentions and put on
 a semblance of having forgiven him. Had been to see
 the Bishop of Lichfield, who had gotten a tome since
 the writer had been there, it called itself
 'L[']Histoire de Rome' and was full of illuminations
 of knights in complete armour running themselves
 through the bowels with long swords. The good old
 man was in famous spirits, though dreadfully infirm.
 He had some Etruscan armour, which the writer
 coveted, and a bushel of old jewels that had been
 dug up in Italy. There were divers people there [at
 Hagley], many Cottons and Lord and Lady Dartmouth,
 'what a charming person she is, & very handsome too.'
 Frederick Cotton was a famous fellow. Wished he had
 had him abroad, 'here I am in a deadly stew, & feel
 humble so that I can not get on with him as I should,
 if I was standing on my own legs.' What an odd thing
 it was that circumstances could alter one so much,
 thought he should not know himself in the glass
 again if he were to return suddenly to Egypt.
 Cholmondeley was to come there on the 18th, and the
 writer was to go to Sandwell on Friday, so he should
 take the opportunity to see 'Brumonagem'. His father
 and mother were to go to Elford the following day
 but he should not be able to accompany them. Feared
 he should not see Lord Bagot before he left the
 country.
30. Hagley.
 20 Mar.
 [1835 or
 later] The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.
 [Begins with transcriptions of 2 documents of the
 time of Henry VIII]. Had bought them the other day,
 'considerable curious a[']n[']t it [']tickler when
 it speaks of one[']s ancestor.' Thanks Sneyd for his
 Greek, 'only no scholard can[']t read it tho['] I
 shouldn[']t wonder if there was summatt in it...'. Mr
 Parker was there and the de Tableys were coming the
 following day, [? for - MS. imperfect] which he was
 very sorry, as he was always so shy and stupid
 there that he calculated they would hate him. Was
 going to see Gooch, Palmer, and so on, and then a
 gentleman of the name of 'Znet' or 'Snyt' or

or 'Snowd' or 'Sneyd', who lived in Hertfordshire, they said he was a curious fellow for a sort of old books called MSS for short, perhaps Sneyd knew what that meant. Comments upon the affair of Jim Moore and his wife. Suspected that there was something to be told which was not known to the public. London was to be very gay that year. [MS. imperfect].

31. Hagley.
24 Mar.
1835

The same to the same, at Baginton [re-directed to the Rev. John Sneyd at Elford, Lichfield].

Had Sneyd heard any more about those precious tomes that were to come in 2 ships from Italy, because the writer wanted to come and look at them? Hoped to visit him after Easter. Had had a capital letter from Mr Parker, 'all about sundry good dishes which were given him by Mr Gregory at his splendid new house in Nottinghamshire'. Mr Gregory wanted Sneyd to write him a letter 'as touching the old house in Lincolnshire[,] of which I cannot read the name.' Palmer had had ague, had he sent Sneyd the old book, the writer had given him Sneyd's direction? Reflects on his condition and dreams to himself all day 'of the glorious things I have seen and hope to see some day or other & think how nice it must have been in the 15th century to wear a murrey coloured gown...', etc. When he came and stayed with Sneyd they would go back a century or two. [MS. imperfect].

32. 'Keddlestone
[recte Kedleston].
April 3. or 5
(or so)',
1835

The same to the same.

Was staying in a place which would please Sneyd so much 'by reason of the exceeding great old fashioned glory thereof'. Describes Kedleston, the house was magnificent, the pictures very fine, some of which, of the exploits of Louis XIV, had made him laugh. There were some pictures of the writer's ancestors, which were the ne plus ultra of (?) 1720 [figure altered], his great-grandfather in a wig like a waterfall, and his wife 'as a nymph in a hoop and the young Lord stark naked presenting a prodigious nosegay to his Father...'. The best thing of all was the old butler, who was as great a man as any of the family, 'when the mob from Derby came to attack the house, he made a grand speech to the tenants who were assembled to defend it, but when the news arrived that the mob were on the road he disappeared[;] every body thought he had hid himself or run away and were wondering what was become of him, when he made his appearance in the great hall in a complete suit of antient uniform, which he had found in some old box, and said he would die at his post for the defence of the place and the honour of the Family.' He was very testy, however, and had a way of winking his eye, which had puzzled the writer at first, 'for I thought he was aware of a joke that every body else did not observe, so I laughed out of kindness to him when he winked his eye twice again very hard, so I felt like an ass for having laughed, and found he only did it for a reason he had & that there was no joke implied at all.' Lord Scarsdale was a nice little old gentleman

and said civil things slowly, so when you answered it was like acting in a play. All the rest of the Curzons spoke English, French, Italian or Dutch, ad libitum, and everything went on like one of the little courts in Germany, 'so that it is great sport to me for a short time.' The library was just what he had expected, 'Baskervilles without end. Folio Editions of English books so big that no one could read them, except one of my ancestors in damask coats who probably sat bolt upright and spouted Pope['s] Homer out of a tome a yard long, & then shut it up with a bang, to show every body how they could read epic poems, as I have only written all this as a sort of safety valve to let out some of the condensed pomp...'. The time was approaching when he was coming to 'ruralise' with him. Supposed he had heard of his brother's having a daughter, so that the writer was an uncle. They were obliged to put a new roof to Parham, but his father was still determined not to make any more sitting-rooms, so that the house would not be any better in an agreeable point of view. Had heard nothing of his big box from Malta. Wished he had seen him at Elford.

33. Hagley.
21 Apr.
1835

The same to the same, at Baginton [re-directed to Guy's Cliffe, Warwick].

[Begins in Greek]. What should he say in English? Was to go to Stoke the following day, for his mother had not been well enough to start that day. It was a [blank] of a bore going there at all, for he should have to jingle 60 or 70 miles in a yellow post shay for no reason at all, barring the civility of renewing his acquaintance with sundry cousins who lived there. Prays Sneyd hold Palmer tight, for he wanted to see him hugely. How lucky it was they were not rats and mice for they should be caught to a certainty if they baited the trap with a good codex 'just left open a little, to show an illumination or an uncial letter.' Hoped Mr Bromley would not be gone away, for he wanted to see his original drawings. [Sketch].

34. Brook St.
20 May,
1835

The same to the same, at Baginton, Coventry.

The writer's father desired the writer to tell him that they should avail themselves of his offer to spend a day at Baginton on their way to Hagley, on Saturday, if convenient to him. There was a splendid specimen of fog in London that day. The writer was dead bored and wished himself back in the desert, or anywhere else where he could not see any delightfully agreeable people. Had dined at Lambeth the other day, which had been more in his line. Had been collating some of his manuscripts. Comments on the difference between texts in St John. It was capital sport for a bookworm. Had made great friends with the big old book of the Gospels, who was very glad to be read, but the little superannuated tome from which he had quoted was as testy and pragmatical as any old gentleman in England.

Mr Lewis had not sent home any books, or (?) Williment either, but if they sent anything by Saturday he would bring it down with him. There were no gaities going on, which must be a disappointment to Palmer, who lived close by at 100, Park Street. Asks his love to 'Puff'.

35. 'Hagley & Lichfield'. The same to the same, in the same place.
Wednesday,
[27] May,
1835

The writer's father and he had gone to the election at Lichfield the day before, and had been among the first that had polled. There had been no disturbance while they had been there, but the writer heard there had been riots at Walsall and Wolverhampton. At the close of the poll it had stood thus: [gives a table of results for five divisions for each candidate, total for Sir Francis Goodricke, 1,584, total for Sir George Anson, 1,387, majority for Sir Francis Goodricke, 198]. 'They say that we have a great majority of votes at Walsall but they were prevented from coming up to the poll by the mob & Blacguards[,] who are of course on the other side, but even as it is we may fairly hope that we have gained the Election...'. They had passed Charles Bagot near Coleshill, in a pea jacket, on the top of a coach, not looking parsonic at all. The country looked very pretty and they were to have no end of peaches, but numbers of little boys would have pains in their bellies that year. Asks to be remembered to Sneyd's brother, who would tell him all about the election. Was very seedy. Would write him a long letter in uncial Greek.

36. 24, Upper Brook St.
5 June,
1835

The same to the same.

The people in London talked of nothing but politics, of which he would see better accounts in the newspapers than he could give. Had been reading old books and talking of the same to all as were willing to hear any news thereof. Had unrolled one of his papyri by steaming it and laying it out on a long board, to the infinite wonder of Mrs Crabbe and others, but it had fallen into a hundred pieces. Complains about having to involve himself in balls and parties. On looking at the papyrus again his mind had been relieved by the discovery that other hands had been the cause of its state of ruin, it being made up of small pieces by the Arabs. [Letter incomplete?].

37. [London.
c. 6 June,
1835]

The same to the same, at Baginton, Coventry.

Was going to Parham for a day or two on Monday, to see what was going on. Had seen Sir Stephen the other day, who looked exactly as he had done before, and talked of old churches in a solemn voice. Phillimore had given up his place at the India Board and was reading law. [MS. imperfect].

38. London.
15 June,
1835

The same to the same, in the same place.

What a horrid, long, ugly epistle Sneyd had sent him

the other day. Thought there would be a good joke at the end of it and had waded patiently all through, 'but divil a joke was there at all, so like Commodore Rogers I was disappointed,...'. Felt more solitary in that huge town than the pelican in the wilderness. Had been to the British Museum. When should Sneyd be able to come to Parham? Everything at home was so melancholy that he hardly knew how to bear it, and wished himself back in Egypt. Had [? dined - MS. imperfect] with Miss Wynne the day before. Miss Shipley was to be married and was going to Jerusalem. Expected she would be caught by some of the Arabs and sold as a Circassian to some old Turk. If the writer were Captain Rowley he should think twice before he took a pretty young wife [? among - MS. imperfect] the Mohammedans. Had seen F. Gooch the other day, who was determined to turn Sneyd out of the parsonage on the very day his time was up, so he would be able to come to Town early in July. Should be glad to see Dundas again. The writer's brother was there for a few days, but the writer hardly saw him. Sometimes thought seriously of writing a book, as touching the various libraries abroad. There was a new panorama of Thebes, which gave a good notion of the immense size of the ruined buildings. [MS. imperfect].

39. Brook St.
10 July,
1835

The same to the same, at Keele Hall, Staffs.

Condoles with him on the death of John Sneyd. Heard that Capt. Charles was to have a good legacy. Supposed he had not heard who was to have the living. Congratulates him on having passed his examination, and himself on the hopes Sneyd gave him of meeting him in Town on the 17th or thereabouts. Hoped they should manage to stay at Parham together for a little while. De Tabley had been there [at Brook St.] for a week. Mr Parker and he had gone away that morning. Considers a rumour concerning Prince George of Cambridge. There was no end of a review going on, they were firing in the most bloody-minded manner in the park. The papyri had sold for enormous prices. Had seen Lady Susan Percy the other day, but did not know where she lived. The pretty Miss Brook was to be married to Lord Cole, a great match. Had been at a prodigious ball the day before, at the Colosseum, where he had seen Mrs Beaumont, who had looked so pretty he had thought of nothing else ever since. [MS. imperfect].

40. Hagley.
3 Oct.
1835

The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.

Had been to Scotland. Found the people of that country very religious. The Scotch form, or deformity, of worship was the most seedy he had ever seen, and they had played the deuce with all the fine old churches at Edinburgh, one of the finest towns he had ever seen. Describes his visit. Sneyd would like to see Abbotsford, cram full of curiosities. Had a boundless admiration for Scott. Now knew the people on the borders better than he

did those of Staffordshire, 'where I always feel as if I had a kettle tied to my tail,...'. They made capital things to eat in Scotland, and he had heard some good songs, which he had been shouting to himself all day, till he got within sight of Lichfield cathedral. Durham was the finest thing that ever was seen, it beat York in a canter, and of the books there he would treat in another epistle. [MS. imperfect].

41. Hagley.
20 Oct.
1835

The same to the same, at 14, King Street, St James['] St., London.

Invites Sneyd to come to Hagley as soon as he gets the letter, and they would go to Tabley together, in the mail coach, or the female coach if he liked it better. Proposed going on Saturday, if Sneyd would go with him, and to Sir Stephen's on the 2nd November, and also to Cholmondeley's, if asked. They were going to act 'The Rivals' at Tabley, which he thought was 'a D....d bore', a play at a country house should be a pretty little thing like a French play or a bit of an opera, full of fun, music and dresses, and so on.

42. Vale Royal.
Thursday,
26 Nov.
[? 1835]¹

The same to the same.

It would never do, Sneyd must not leave Blithfield for a week at least and Keele would keep, and Mrs Baskerville would have more time to make his house warm and snug. Could not go to Blithfield till Tuesday, because he was spending 2 days with 'the jovial Crewe', so Sneyd could 'stay, sit, sleep and rub your western side with the most approved ointment,...'. De Tabley had gone back to Paris, and was at Genoa by that time, more or less. Was going to eat as much turtle as possible at Liverpool the following day, for luncheon on his way to Crewe. Hoped and trusted to find Sneyd at Blithfield and begs to be commended 'to my Lord, & Miss Bagot & Sir Charles...'.
[1. 26th November fell on a Thursday in 1835. MS. imperfect].

43. Hagley.
14 Dec.
1835

The same to the same, at 24, Upper Brook St.

May be it was the writer that was sold at not being with him and the tomes in Brook Street. Was very glad Sneyd was not going to sell many of them. Prays him bring a big box full down to Hagley. Hoped Sneyd had made the writer's peace with his sisters. Hoped he might go to Cheversells some day in future, to have a good pore over the MSS. Instructs Sneyd to open any parcel as big as a Greek MS. and bring it to Hagley, to 'jaw' Lewis for not having bound his books, to bring a set of prints of figures of negroes, not to touch a tin box of papyri if he looked at his MSS., because they were too fragile, to bring a set of prints of the new illustrations of the Bible, and to give a message to Palmer. Adds a postscript with further instructions. [MS. imperfect].

44. Hagley.
24 Feb.
1836
- The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.
- Had not much to say because he had not been doing much lately, 'so that I am half asleep & dead stupid you perceive,...'. Had been to see Charles Bagot made into a parson. Should have liked to have seen Sir Thomas Phillipps, as Sneyd had. Prays him make him a picture of him. Did not like his own looks at all, and thought Sneyd only did when he had his episcopal stick and galoshes. Why had Sneyd not rushed at Sir T. Phillipps and shake him by the hand, 'and with tears in your eyes tell him how glad you was of the opportunity of rendering homage [sic] to the great autocrat of forgotten literature,...'. Adds a postscript, instructing Sneyd to send him the extract from the MS. of Job, and he would see what could be done with it. Sneyd would have heard how Cholmondeley was ill, and W. Leicester very ill, and all the dons at Oxford had been horridly sold by Dr Hampden's appointment, and that the Bishop of Durham was dead. [MS. imperfect].
45. Guy[']s Cliff[e].
30 Mar.
1836
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- Would come to him on Thursday the 7th of April. Could not write any more because all the people would make him talk. Sneyd should write to Palmer's, where the writer was going incontinently.
46. 24, Upper Brook St.
13 May,
1836
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- Had been much pleased with the sentences passed upon his MSS. by Sir Frederick Madden. Cites dates given by the latter to his MSS. Was glad Sneyd had liked Windsor. Sneyd would have to go again and see the library. Had he made out whether the Caxton on vellum was there or in London, because he would go in procession to see it? Was going to Parham for a few days on Tuesday, Cholmondeley and Capt. Charles were going with him. What sort of a face had that Miss Fenwick? Did she really know anything about the matter, or had she only imbibed some of the atmosphere of Sir Thomas Phillipps' neighbourhood. Hoped the latter was not really ruined.
47. Upper Brook St.
9 Aug.
1836
- The same to the same, at 84, West Street, Brighton.
- Five tumblers of water a day certainly ought to kill any parson in his majesty's dominions. Thought 7 ought to be enough to settle the archbishop himself. If he were to come to Parham they would give him a bed under the pump, and 5 chamber pots to himself, for less would not do. He had better come to Parham before September. [MS. imperfect].
48. Parham.
28 Aug.
1836
- The same to the same, in the same place.
- It rained, which put the writer in mind of water, and that of Sneyd. Had nothing to write about. Describes his room. Was terribly lonely, as his father and mother never talked of anything but his

brother's marriage, or some disagreeable concerns or other, till he was sometimes almost ready to hang himself. Therefore he looked forward to Sneyd's visit on the 7th. [MS. imperfect].

49. Tabley.
Aug.
1836

The same to the same.

Sneyd was, the writer was afraid, very uncharitably disposed towards him for not having written [for] so long telling him about the antiquities he had seen in his travels in South Wales. Sneyd never had seen such things as Dr Meyrick had got, 'it is really horrid to see caskets and figures of ivory of the 9th & 12th century standing in a row as if they were nothing at all & dishes of Byzantine workmanship enameled with coats of arms, such dypticks, and Pax[']s, as would make you tumble head over heels to look at them, & all this in addition to the most curious collection of Armour in England.' Had been much delighted with the poor old city of Winchester. The reason he was writing was to ask about a shadowy idea of de Tabley's, who had said that Sneyd was going to exchange his stall at Wolstanton for a pleasant little rectory in Hertfordshire, which the writer was very glad to hear of. De Tabley had said he was going to Parham, so the writer calculated that Sneyd would stay there till he was a dean at least. Was coming to Town on Wednesday or Thursday. How was old Thorpe?

50. [Parham.
c. 2 Sept.
1836]

The same to the same, at 84, West Street, Brighton.

Invites him to Parham, to shoot. Was going to have a 'scavo' with the parson of Wiggonholt, who did suppose that there was a Roman villa or a station for soldiers near there. [MS. imperfect].

51. [London].
26 Oct.
1836

The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.

Was in London inhaling fog and mist. Had been to Portsmouth, 'not only to see the Blue posts and the dock yard but also to accompany Elliot on board his ship, he is now fairly off after waiting for the wind & Lord Elphinstone[,]' who neither of them could make up their minds to be in the way for the last fortnight,...'. Sneyd might imagine the splendour of the ship when he told him it cost £56,000, though only 300 tons burthen. Had caught Sneyd's catalogue and would take great care of it. The other day the writer's box of curiosities from Geneva had turned up, whereat he had been much pleased, and at last the frames for his papyri were finished, and the parson of Pulborough had given him sundry old Roman and British pots. Had also got a pig made of lead, with a Roman emperor's name on it, by which he guessed he liked bacon. Had been to see the Bishop of Oxford, who had told him Sneyd had not gone to Hamilton's, so Sneyd had not had a grub in the Bodleian yet, he supposed. Old Thorpe was not well, and Sir T. Phillipps had bought all the tomes the writer had wanted to get from him, 'sic tamsit gloria mundi'. Was going north and then

would come and see him and look at the new buildings. Count de Salis was dead, and Sir W. Knighton, he would have heard, no doubt, all about it. [Concludes with mock advertisement].

52. Parham.
23 Nov.
1836

The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.

It would be some time before he should be able to leave that place, as his mother has been unwell, and though now better, she did not think she should be able to move very soon. Considers possibilities for their meeting. Had been in a terrible fidget at Sneyd's last letter, about the reliquary in the shop near Rodds, for it sounded like the jewel of his heart. 'I should certainly have sold all I possessed if it came up to [the] picture I have drawn of it in my imagination, only I am affraid [sic] I should have been sold myself, when my Father looked at it through his eye glass, & said ha, nts, very ugly, what did you give for that hideous old trunk.' Had been given a little wooden box, the poor box in a church near Chichester, as the receiver general of all useless old absurdities, for he accepted everything on principle, for fear somebody should give him something worth having by mistake, an event much to be looked forward to. They had been much affected by the death of Mr Dugdale, who had been a kind friend to the writer. Had nothing to tell him. As the male part of the family lived each in their own rooms and the females slept 16 hours per diem there was not much going on. They had stuck up poles with flags, to mark out a railway, which was to pass through the parsonage at Wiggonholt, and they had notice of another, to pass through Hagley.

53. Parham.
30 Nov.
1836

The same to the same, in the same place.

'What a bore, however it can not be helped I suppose, & I must defer my visit to Cheverels [sic] till some other day...'. They had had an incontinent hard wind, which had blown down 105 of the greatest elms and so on in the park, on Monday, 'an irreparable loss for there were no finer trees in England, some of them were 100 feet high,...'.

54. [Merton College].
Oxford.
17 Dec.
1836

The same to the same, at Baginton, Coventry, [re-directed to the Rev. Archer Clive's, at Solihull, Birmingham].

Which was the most crafty, the postmaster or the writer? Sneyd would be enabled to solve that question by having to pay for the letter as a single or double one. Some people's geese were swans, but Sneyd's sparrows were ostriches. How Sneyd had humbugged him about the great chest in London. It was no more Byzantine than Sneyd, but 15th century, or end of the 14th, and made of wood, not brass, in short not half so curious as he had expected, or the front of the old chest at Vale Royal. Had just got the font of St Peter's church. Had bought it and no end of monuments that morning, for Parham. The font was

a very quaint old thing, well known to antiquarians. Had come there on Wednesday, '& Hamilton has made me as snug as a bug in a rug, at Merton...'. Had seen all the wonders there, and at the Bodleian, where they had some fine things. Had he heard of the find at Tabley? The Mirror of the World, 1480. Longed to see it. On Monday he was going to Sir T. Phillipps. Should then go to Worcester and on to Hagley, where he hoped Sneyd would come soon. Had been much pleased with his visit. [MS. imperfect].

55. 21 Feb.
[? 1837]

The same to the same.

Sneyd probably knew by that time that the ministers were beat by 10, which was the reason of the seedy appearance of all such as were sitting there in the Conservative Club. Had opened his big box of old MSS. Then he had gone to Messrs. Payne and Foss and had been received with exceeding great glory by Foss and with a kind of bland condescension on the part of Payne. Had asked him [sic] to come and see him, which he had accordingly, and had offered the writer a splendid copy of the Biblia Pauperum 'for the most seedy MS[.,] but I wanted to have the famous Monte Santo de Dio into the bargain', so the bargain was not yet concluded. Had seen two books, not rolls, of uncial Coptic MSS. on papyrus, worth about £1,000, which the British Museum had bought. [MS. imperfect].

56. London.
17 Apr.
1837

The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.

Was sorry to hear that the living near Oxford would not do, but thought he had heard of another which, if Sneyd set about it, would fit him like a glove. The name of the place was Buckden, near Broadway, 2 miles from Sir T. Phillipps. The parsonage was very early. The curate was a relation of Sir Thomas, and wished to exchange, and Sir T. Phillipps had said as much as that if Sneyd could manage it with the curate he would present him to the living. If Sneyd were to go to Middle Hill he would be very well received. The value was about £300 a year. Had come to London the day before. It was more abominable than usual. [MS. imperfect].

57. 12 May,
1837

The same to the same.

In pursuance of Sneyd's kind offer, he had looked over Payne and Foss's shop and had got half a dozen books which he should always look upon with greater pleasure from the remembrance of his goodness in making him a present of them. They were all MSS., and for fear of any mistake in the bill, the writer sent him a list of their numbers and names. Was going to send two or three of them to be covered with gold plates and carvings in ivory, of which Garrard would send him the account. Had ordered some furniture for his own room at Parham. Wished, as Sneyd had given him the books, that he would give him a cabinet to put them in. Prays remembrance to Lord Bagot and Miss Bagot. Did not know when he should see Blithfield again. Leader, Sneyd saw, was turned

out, which was very fortunate for the country.

58. 14 May,
1837

The same to the same.

Had written him an absurd epistle the other day about books, which had been all nonsense, so was writing to him again to tell him how much he appreciated his kind feelings towards him, and how sorry he was to go and leave him and all his other good friends behind. Was still bent on starting at the end of that month and was going right away for Constantinople by sea, always supposing he did not stop by the way at Gibraltar, Malta or any other place. Supposed he should be back in the spring, but not before, as he knew by experience what a failure it was to come back from a warm climate in winter. Was to go in a very independent way. Was in some hopes of a solemn missive from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Patriarch of the Greek Church, 'asking him to let me into the monasteries, & to let me look over the old books in an authoritative manner,...'.

59. 24, Upper Brook St.
29 May,
1837

The same to the same.

Dared say Sneyd was in a horrid rage because he had not written to him, but he had been so busy that a hive of bees was not to be compared to him just then. Thought he could not take the £50 to buy Greek MSS. for Sneyd. If Sneyd would like him to buy Arabic MSS. for him he would do so. Would undertake any commission for him in Italy, and prays word of all the places that old books were to be found in Lombardy. Mr [blank] 'the Long Parson of Wiggonholt' was gone away, the present incumbent was very seedy, and the writer's father would offer Sneyd the living. Wished Sneyd would write to him about it. Was to go the following day to Portsmouth and from there by sea to Falmouth, where he should find the Malta packet. Hoped, after the voyage, that he might have the chance of living peaceably for the rest of his days. Was glad to hear by Lady Harriet that he was improved by his 'Jephsonian physicking'. Should be glad if Eleanor Bagot got well, and fat. Captain Charles said he would come and meet the writer somewhere in November. The Archbishop of Canterbury had given him a solemn epistle to the Patriarch of the Greek Church. [MS. imperfect].

60. British Embassy,
Constantinople.
23 Aug. - 7 Sept.
1837

The same to the same.

First of all he must ask him about his health, which there, in the neighbourhood of plague and pestilence, he felt to be of more consequence even than the momentous affairs which would form the remainder of his letter. Was just returned from Mt. Athos, where he had gone in search of a tome, and had to congratulate himself on his escape from all the pirates, bandits, plague and storms of that inaccessible neighbourhood. Had visited all the 20 monasteries and had thoroughly ransacked every

library on the peninsula, and from the differences he had found between the account given by Dr Carlyle many years before, and what he had seen himself, he had reason to think he was the only person, certainly the only Englishman, who ever really knew what those far famed libraries contained. Instead of 13,000 MSS. which he had expected to find, there were a little more than 3,000, and with exceptions there were no books left of extraordinary value. Nothing could exceed the beauty of the country in the peninsula of Mt. Athos. Of his success with the MSS. Sneyd would judge from the catalogue he enclosed. Remembered once talking about a famous book in the handwriting of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus [sic]. Had seen the book, the finest MS. he had ever seen not in uncials, except, perhaps, the Bishop of Lichfield's testament, and the writer had acquired it. Had also acquired 2 of the 24 copies of the Apocalypse, and an ancient cross. Had got all his books out of 4 monasteries, the rest had been under oath not to sell anything. The day before he had left Mt. Athos, 24 pirates had been taken by the soldiers of the Pasha of Salonica, lying in wait for the writer. The books had cost him altogether about £45 and he took their value to be £1,000. His journeys had been expensive and he had spent £200 since leaving England. [Letter continued, 26 Aug.]. Had been to Pera to see MSS. Had Sneyd heard anything of Capt. Charles, whether he still intended to meet the writer in Egypt? How did the parson of Wiggonholt get on, was he better or worse? Did Sneyd know whether Thorpe had got Sir Harry Mainwaring's library? Had he kept the Caxtons for the writer? Should be very much obliged if Sneyd would get 2 copies made of the list of MSS., without the prices, and send one to Mr Forshall and the other to Sir Thomas Phillipps, with the enclosed notes. If Sneyd were to go to Parham, the writer wished he would look at his books, and get them dusted and aired a little. Adds a postscript, dated 1st Sept., that the day before he had caught a tome in the Abyssinian language, which proved to be the book of Enoch. Adds a second postscript, dated 7th Sept., that the post was going the following day, so he had to conclude. [MS. imperfect].

61. 'Nile.between
Fouah & Cairo'.
[Letter completed
20 Dec. ? 1837].

The same to the same.

It had given him great pleasure to receive a letter from him at Malta, and was glad he had got his catalogue of MSS. safe. Hoped the treasures it described would arrive safely. Were they not tomes? Assured him that 2 or 3 of them must exceed even his ideas of a goodly folio, it had been no joke going to Mt. Athos. Had been to Patmos. Describes some of his finds. Had been shown a leaf of a papyrus in the Hieratic character, which they had said was part of the original MS. of the Revelations, in St John's handwriting. It had for years been adored by pilgrims, but on his explaining that it was 1,000 years older, they had let him take it away. Had been

to Malta, where he had been a fortnight in quarantine, and had then come to Alexandria, where he had seen, but could not get, a book, a folio on papyrus in uncial Greek, treating of astrology and magic, dedicated to King Psammetichus, who had sat on the throne in Egypt in 664 B.C. Had got several other MSS., one of which was Cufic, perhaps 8th or 9th century. The following morning he was to start for Thebes. Describes his barge, the party including Dr Bowring and his son, Mr Galloway and Arbuthnot and Selim Bey, in 4 boats.

62. Thebes.
Jan. - 9 Feb.
Near Siout.
15 Feb.
Cairo.
1 Mar.
1838

The same to the same.

Found himself writing to him again on the eternal subject of old tomes. Had told him, he thought, of the Cufic MS. on vellum which he had got at Cairo. After that he had been to the cataracts of the Nile and had re-visited the sacred island of Philee. Had a fine 'Dahabieh' to himself, lent by Basilius Bey, the head of the Copts. In company had been two other boats, one of the Pasha, with Selim Bey, Dr Bowring the radical, and his son, and the other with Mr Galloway and General Arbuthnot. They were departed in different directions and the writer was alone in his glory at Thebes, where he intended to stay 2 or 3 weeks longer. Had procured some things 'in our line', including fragments of stone and pottery with writings on them, Hieratic, Demotic, Greek and Coptic. Describes the objects, with a reference to Dr Loeve, 'a wise man who left Thebes yesterday,...'. Left Thebes on 9th February, his fourth visit to the place. General Arbuthnot and the writer had explored Abydos, where Osiris was anciently believed to be entombed, and where the Arabs had brought the writer other antiquities, including 5 pieces of wood, like labels, with inscriptions on them in ancient Greek. Had been reading an old letter of Sneyd's, to put him in mind of pleasant things in England, and to keep the small hope alive of living happily there some day. If he did not find Sneyd established somewhere in a house of his own, with or without a wife, next June, when he hoped to be in England, he should call him a maniac in more things than old books. 'I would rather go & preach sermons to the makers of pottery in Staffordshire at your horrible parsonage there, than live on year after year doing nothing at all.' Concludes the letter from Cairo, at the Coptic monastery.

63. [Letter completed
Alexandria.
3 Apr.
1838]

The same to the same, at Cheverells, Herts.,
[re-directed to 6, South Street, Park Lane].

Had never received a letter from Sneyd for he did not know how long, but had got some more old books and could not refrain from sending him an account. Had told him of the tablets and papryi, and so on, and the present legend was to treat of MSS. he had collected in Egypt, the list whereof Sneyd would find on the next page. Describes an expedition to the Coptic monasteries on the Natron lakes, and the volumes he had brought away. Concludes the letter

from Alexandria, 3rd April. Had just had a letter from home, which said there were some cases arrived in London for him, if these should contain the Greek MSS. Sneyd should go and look at them and have them wiped clean, and put by somewhere carefully in Brook St., where no damp could get at them. Was to go to Candia to look for more books, and then to Venice, where he hoped to find letters from Sneyd. Was to send 2 cases of things from Alexandria to Liverpool, there being no ship to London. Hoped to be home by the beginning of June.

With (i), list of MSS. collected by the writer, Arabic, Persian, Coptic, Syriac and Abyssinian.

64. Venice.
15 July,
1838

The same to the same, at 24, Upper Brook St.

Could not say that he had anything particular to say. Describes his route from Vienna to Venice, with Henry MacVicar, an American, on which journey they had seen little to interest anyone, the old towns of Udine, Congeliano and Treviso being less curious than the writer had expected. Venice remained as beautiful and as sorrowful as ever. Describes the decaying palaces. Books were not to be got, the little old priest was retired into a Franciscan monastery, and the old libraries the writer had rummaged contained only the most ghastly rubbish. Sneyd might remember San Quirico, the dealer in curiosities, the writer had ruined himself clean at his shop, and had bought some old shields and armour for the hall at Parham. Describes these and other antiquities he has acquired, including two reliquaries [sketch of one]. Had almost enough works of the Dark Ages to furnish the sacristy of a Norman church. Sneyd had given him great pleasure in telling him of the arrival of the box of MSS. from Constantinople. Hoped the other two boxes of prettier things arrived also. Had to be in London by 1st September. Sneyd must come to Parham in October, by which time he hoped the books would be arranged. After that the writer would go and see Sneyd's new house, for he must have got one by that time. [MS. imperfect].

65. Parham.
19 Sept.
1838

The same to the same, in the same place.

Had arrived the day before, via Dieppe and Rouen. Had read Sneyd's letter to his mother and was delighted he should meet him again so soon. Was going to London on Monday and then they would come back together. Heard that the papyri, Coptic and Egyptian MSS. were also arrived. Requests Sneyd to look at them superficially and tell him how they were, and about himself. [MS. imperfect].

66. Brook St.
8 Nov.
1838

The same to the same, at Denton House, Cuddesdon, Oxon.

Was going to write him that day even if he had not received Sneyd's missive, but was sorry to say he

had no idea when he should be able 'to insconce [sic] myself in your hospitable smuggery.' Had been something seedy of late and did not like to leave his doctor. Cholmondeley was better and hoped soon to be able to leave London. Mr Cureton had discovered an apocryphal book in the middle of an Arabic MS., that the writer knew nothing of, and was translating it. [MS. imperfect].

67. London.
10 Nov.
1838

The same to the same, in the same place.

Thanks him for his letter. Had just seen the doctor and he had said he thought the writer might leave Town in about a week, when the writer hoped to see Sneyd in the 'Aedes Dentoniana'. Prays him not to come to London for he was as stupid as a dozen owls, 'yea even a baker's dozen,' and he had the society of Phillimore and Cholmondeley, and at night the agreeable pastime of counting the hours as they were knocked off on the chapel bells. Compares them unfavourably with the chimes of Oxford. Longed to be among them again and to rummage in the Bodleian. How could one get possession of anything belonging to All Souls? Wanted some fly leaves in a MS. they had, did Sneyd think they would take a 'fipunnote' for them, or a grand binding for the dirty old book they belonged to, or a ream of 'whitey brown' for the new W.C.'s which the writer heard they had made, or any other sweetmeat? Should be charmed to see Ed. Bagot on Wednesday. Adds a postscript, that de Tabley was settled in a newly built palace at Genoa. Poor Harris had been spitting blood, and had gone to Peaux for his health. Will Leicester flourished in Canada. [MS. imperfect].

68. London.
16 Nov.
1838

The same to the same, in the same place.

Was afraid he could not join Cholmondeley and come to Sneyd on Monday, by reason of the writer's seediness, but if he were not worse he would make his appearance on Tuesday. Had not been out for 10 days, so did not know much about what was going on. Palmer, Sneyd would know, had got a son. Had seen Ed. Bagot, who certainly did not look like a native of the British Isles and seemed highly desirous of returning to some warmer climate. [Postscript added by Cholmondeley, that he had been prevailed on to defer his visit for a day, to take care of Curzon on the road].

69. [? c. 1838
or later]

The same to the same.

How were his taters getting on? 'I hope you are now settling down into a regular good sort of a chap, as knows what a pig ought to be, but as you unfortunately are a parson, I should recommend you not to wear your white cords too full, or to button your knees quite in front as yet. Have you got a little hole bored through your front tooth, to spit through, if not get it done quietly somewhere else,' etc. [Sketch].

70. 24, Upper Brook St.
14 Jan.
1839
- The same to 'The rather Revd[.] W[.] Sneyd Esq[.],
Denton Hall'.
- But Sneyd had never told him which leg the cat rubbed against, '& really my dear Sneyd it is very foolish of you to leave out a circumstance which might be of vast importance to any one who was particularly anxious to gain information on that peculiar point, you know I might be asked the question any day,...'. [Continues the letter in the same mood. MS. imperfect].
71. Hagley.
19 Feb.
1839
- The same to the same.
- Heard he had been at Leamington, 'physicking yourself according to Jekkson, how is that, was it the fowl?...'. As for himself, he was still seedy and supposed he should not be quite strong till the warm weather. Everybody was ill about there. Lord Bagot and Mrs Elford were in bed at Elford, they said, 'I think it sounds odd but however.' Francis Paget had written a very good book, just the sort he should have expected from him, they might see people doing penance yet, wondered what the Bishop would say if one were to go and stand in the church door during service, in a nightshirt and candle for one's sins. Had seen Sir Stephen in Town, he had been very well and full of churches with long Italian names, which he had pronounced most perseveringly. Had got the reliquary from Paris at last, not badly mended. Longed to show it to him, with the other strange things at Parham. It was desperate cold that day.
72. Parham.
14 Apr.
[? 1839]
- The same to the same.
- [48 lines of rhyming couplets, asking Sneyd for Lady Harriet Bagot's recipe for sauce].
73. [London.
c. 22 June,
1839]
- The same to the same, at Longbridge Deverill, Wilts.
- Sneyd must have been a very curious subject of contemplation to the spectators, when he related his sorrowful adventures 'in the garments of Charles Thynne'. Hoped he had got safe out of them, for if he had gone too far into his trousers and lost his way, the consequences might have been alarming. Dared say Longleat was a very fine thing, and the prospect from the windows beautiful and extensive, though in both those respects it could not be compared to the view the writer had before him, which resembled a rather large sheet of white paper sprinkled with brown sugar, terminated only by brown buildings, through one window of which he had a view of a brown horse's bottom, in the distance, to the left of a beauteous damsel clothed in brown, washing a whitish pair of stockings. There was a thundering black cat sitting under a blacker tree, looking at a nearly black sparrow, perched on a twig as black as ebony. Amplifies his description. Should tear himself from all those pleasures on Wednesday or Thursday and hope to find some strawberries at Parham. Had no news to tell

him. Lady Westminster's ball had been very glorious, and the company at the Queen's ditto had not been very select, poor Lady Flora Hastings was said to be dying, not of any disease but of shame and wounded feelings: 'if she does die it will be a very serious affair. There are endless silly cabals & quarrels among the [w]omen. Lady Ingestre & the Duchess of Montrose are s[aid] t[o] have hissed the Q[ueen] at Ascot, & were not asked [to] the ball in conse[quenc]e, so they went to the Palace & made a row & a scene, and were received graciously by her Majesty at the Drawing room afterwards.' The court ought not to have taken notice of such silly nonsense, if all the ladies had hissed what would that have mattered? One did not like to hear that the Crown could be affected by such small things. Feared the glory was departed from them. Prays Sneyd thank Lord and Lady Thynne for their invitation, but he had to leave Parham for Wales, and feared he should go abroad again in the autumn. Was going to send for Thorpe's man to pack his books. [MS. imperfect].

74. Glanllyn.
'Direct Wynstay
Ruabbon' [recte
Wynnstay Ruabon].
12 Aug.
[? 1839]

The same to the same.

Perhaps he did not know that he had been shooting grouse at 'Glanllyn[,] which the uninitiated call Glanthlin', but when he said 'shooting' he begged him to observe that he meant 'shooting at' and not 'shooting'. Describes the results. Desires Sneyd to write, to tell him whether he could see him, hear him, feed him and lodge him, and say pleasant things to Mrs Baskerville about him, about the 1st September. How would it be if Sneyd were to meet him in Wales, somewhere near Harlech or Caernarvon?

75. Parham.
12 Oct.
1839

The same to the same, at Denton Hall, Wheatley, [Cuddesdon, Oxon.].

Had just received his letter. Sneyd was a good fellow and the writer was sorry he had bored him with his remarks. They should be most happy to receive him at Parham, 'I am delighted to think of your coming for really the solitariness of my existance [sic] is unindureable [sic],...'. Hoped Sneyd might come in for a new arrival of MSS., a big box was expected daily at the Custom House, and a M. de Menna had written to him from 'Thayer's Inn' that somebody at Malta had given him a roll of MSS. for the writer, which he would deliver to Mrs Crabbe. Wondered what it could be, or where it had come from. Was living in his room at present, but could not walk about yet. Sneyd had better put himself on the extreme summit of the Bognor coach, which started from the Golden Cross at 9 a.m. and brought one to Pulborough by 3, and they would send for him. Had written him a long epithalamium on his approaching marriage the day before, which he had put into the fire by that time he dared say.

Suspected there was nothing in it, from his not having heard it before. Hoped they should hear of such an event some of those days. [MS. imperfect].

76.

Parham.
6 Nov.
1839

The same to the same, in the same place.

As Sneyd was good enough to take so much interest in his affairs, the writer was going to bore him with a talk about one of the writer's greatest enemies, 'that is y'cleped myself.' Had had a palaver with his father, which had ended in nothing, the writer's father being sorry that the writer did not take to country affairs, yet being unable to see that his way of life and his not staying at Parham in the winter were the reason of the writer not doing so. His father could not understand that he was in his 30th and not his 13th year. He was such a good, kind-hearted man that the writer could not find it in his heart to tell him that his eccentricities and want of firmness, when anything of consequence had to be done, or let alone, had been the cause of the writer's brother's marriage and the writer's unhappiness. In the meantime he should give up all thoughts of getting on in England and was going to pass the winter at Naples, with de Tabley, and should probably go somewhere else the year after, and so on ad infinitum. Was to set out about the 20th, more or less, so he should not see him again till after Easter. Was there anything he could do for Sneyd out there? Thought of going by Paris and Genoa. Since writing the above he had received Sneyd's letter, which offered a great contrast to the one he was writing Sneyd, who seemed to be uncommonly snug. The greenhouse would be a great addition to the luxuries of Denton. Hoped to see the Pope again before he came back, '& shall take care not to offend his barber.' They had had no bonfire the day before, but trusted Sneyd had, for it grieved him to see those old customs discontinued.

77.

24, Upper Brook St.
27 Nov.
1839

The same to the same, in the same place.

That night he was to take his departure to Boulogne, where he hoped to arrive at 2 p.m. the following day. There he was to hire a carriage, which would take him through Paris to Chalons, whence he would simmer to Naples. Had seen the Bishop the other day, during his migration to Canterbury, 'looking as peert as a grub'. Mr (?) Parker was coming to see Sneyd, who had undergone the operation of lithotrity, and was doing pretty well. Would Sneyd tell Count Mortara how much obliged he was for three letters of introduction. [MS. imperfect].

78.

Naples.
2 Mar.
Rome.
8 Apr.
1840

The same to the same, at 24, Upper Brook St.,
[re-directed to Denton, Wheatley, Oxon.].

How was he off for cold, were his teeth chattering and his fingers tingling while he tried to look for the sun through the damp fog and yellow gloom of his demesne at Denton? The days in Naples were warm enough but the evenings were as chilly as the grave.

De Tabley delighted in paying visits and riding on the 'strada nuova', which was nauseous to the writer, who had to go and see the lions by himself, however as there was hardly anything to see he found that neither his mind nor his body were much improved by a residence at Naples. One thing he had seen was the missal of Alexander Farnese, illuminated by Julio Clovio. Describes the MS. volume. Adds a footnote, that he had just found this letter in his writing box, while he thought it had been in England, and had been abusing Sneyd to Sneyd's brother there, at Rome, because he had not answered it. Found all his friends were enraged with him for not writing, though they never thought of doing so themselves. De Tabley had come to Rome with him. They had stayed a day at the great monastery of Monte Casino, 'a superb establishment'. De T. was gone back to Naples and was to meet the writer at Genoa. Everything at Rome looked just as it used to. Mentions various friends who were there. Hoped to be in London by the end of May. Invited Sneyd to 'a good visit' at Parham early in the year. Wished himself there then. If Count Mortara were at Oxford Sneyd could tell him that Prince Cimitile was a famous old fellow, and he was much indebted to him for the introduction. Adds a postscript, that Sneyd's brother was very well and had bought no end of books, that Miss Percy had quite grown up and seemed to be a very nice girl, and enquires whether C. Bagot had got his company yet.

79. Genoa.
12 May,
1840

The same to the same, at 24, Upper Brook St.,
[re-directed to Denton, Wheatley, re-directed to
Cheverells, Herts.].

Verily he had been grieved with the catalogue of troubles which had clouded the pages of Sneyd's letter. Could see him as testy as a hedgehog. Did not know what to think about his difficulties with the house and Perks at Denton, that was a horrible affair, what business had Sneyd's landlord to go and die in that cool sort of way without considering the inconvenience he might put him to? Wished Sneyd were safe at Wiggonholt, or that he could give him a set of rooms at Parham. Had a hankering to get back to England, for which he could not account, and felt almost sorry he had accepted an invitation from de Tabley to go to Bondo for a week or two, where de Tabley would pass the summer, which would keep the writer away till the latter end of June. Had left Rome on the 7th and was to go to Turin on the 13th, Milan on the 17th, Chiavenna on the 25th. Genoa was a glorious city, 'but more stupid than even Naples,...' The day before, the writer had been in a church and had heard a duet between a great organ and a triangle, which had grieved him but pleased the congregation. Discusses the difficulties of travelling without a servant, and the dangers to a young gentleman's education, abroad for the first time. Curiosities were becoming very rare all over Europe, in a few years there would be nothing left, till the great Denton sale replenished the market again.

80. Parham.
Thursday,
[6 Aug.
1840]
- The same to the same, at Denton Hall, Wheatley, Oxon.
- How was he? Why had he left London 3 days before the writer had come there, and when was he coming to Parham? Mrs Crabbe had told the writer that he had had a pain in his posterities, how was that? And somebody else had told him that he had been eating good things at Lord Westminster's, but the writer believed he lied and that it had been Sneyd's brother. Had come to the Custom House on Sunday, having come from Italy in 10 days, leaving the de Tableys in high prosperity. All his curiosities had stuck somewhere, except one or two grim things he had brought with him. Longed to shake Sneyd's venerable fist again. [MS. imperfect].
81. Parham.
12 Aug.
1840
- The same to the same.
- Expresses his concern and sorrow to receive so bad an account of him, and wished he could do anything to make him better. Was going to go to see him and comfort him, 'but they would not let me go, there are people coming here with whom I have not an idea in common, but whom it is considered to be my duty to be bored with, as to bore them in return,...'. Hoped Sneyd was not so bad as his letter would lead one to think. Sneyd would be glad to show his house to his brother, and his sister must be a great comfort to him. Wished he could have had the living of Amberley and lived in the old castle, the parson had died the other day and was gone, the writer hoped, to even a prettier place.
82. Parham.
31 Aug.
1840
- The same to the same.
- 'Souffrir moi, which is being interpreted blow me, an expression, the precise origin[,] import and derivation of which, I never heard explained; if I know when I can come and expand my body with your fine ripe peaches, a[nd] my mind with your sweet converse, O most delectable of Sneyds, blow me as I said before, to the very extreme of tightness if I can tell when I am likely to be able to get away...'. Gives the reasons, (?) Beau was at Parham, the writer was going to stay a few days with Capt. Pechell, the whole family of Sherbornes was coming to Parham and the writer was expected to talk pleasant to them. Did not Sneyd think that if he came and fetched him in about a fortnight, he would be well enough to come back to Parham? Sneyd's account of H.M. the Queen Dowager had been highly interesting and must have been highly gratifying to the country gentlemen of Stowe. They said the present duke had filled the house with handsome things. Was dining with the Bradfords that day, they were very sorry for Sneyd. [MS. imperfect].
83. Parham.
6 Sept.
1840
- The same to the same.
- If it would suit his plans he would come and see him on Wednesday for, he was sorry to think, a very little while. Was to go to London the following day and Sneyd should write to him there if he could not

receive him. Should come by the railway.

84. Travellers' Club.
15 Sept.
[? 1840]

The same to the same.

Had forgotten those curious verses he had copied out of Sneyd's illegible MS., and two astoundingly quaint pictures of knights. Prays Sneyd to send them to Parham, and if he would fill up any of the words he had not been able to make out, he should consider him to be a worthy individual and antiquarian, etc.

85. Parham.
27 Sept.
1840

The same to the same.

Complains of having nothing to write about. It was raining cats and dogs, nothing particular had come to pass, and he was sitting alone in his room looking at the deer and other ravenous beasts in waterproof coats outside. Wished Sneyd was there. Had had a rummage in the old library at Petworth and had found an imperfect Caxton chronicle, 10 or 12 dusty MSS., one Chaucer, fine enough, '& a vol[.] as touching ye Soule, with illuminations representing several illfavoured Souls in peculiar circumstances[,] an English MS[.] from a monastery at Warwick.' The Northumberland household book was not there, but in the possession of the Duke of Northumberland. There was much glory at Petworth, 'great spoil for the enemy, and pleasant things of various descriptions, among which I class the lady of the house, and her daughter also, and the roe bucks in the woods, verily I wish Petworth belonged to me...'. Had heard from de Tabley, who had not met with Canning yet, so he could not fix his plans, consequently the writer had not nailed his. Thought he should go to Paris for a week, presently, but had not settled anything or done anything, 'in fact the Duke & the Pope & Louis Phillipe have not written to me lately, so perhaps we shall not astonish the world hever so much this winter,...'. Enquires after Sneyd's health and invites him to Parham, '& we won[']t take the wasps['] nest till the first rainy night after your arrival,...'. Prays Sneyd commend him to his sister.

86. Parham.
8 Oct.
1840

The same to the same.

How did Sneyd get to Leamington and how was he off for soap now he was there? Should have thought he would have been obliged to wear gloves, to save his fingers from the wear and tear in counting out the pounds. Teases Sneyd about the 'middling victuals' [Dr] Jephson gave him. Why could he not stay at home and ask the writer to dinner, instead of swaggering about at Leamington with a bran new crutch, and paying a pound a minute for the privilege of swilling as much filth as Dr Jephson liked to drench him with. Warrants him, that if he came to Parham he would give him something quite as nasty as any pill he ever chewed, and it would make him as miserable as he was then, and as little better as he would be

when he had been at Leamington a month. Adds a postscript, enquiring who was at Leamington. Was Shirley there? Asks remembrance to Gooch, if he saw him. Hoped he might have a snug roost at Baginton some day. Had seen no end of things at Mr Hawkins's. [MS. imperfect].

87. Parham.
20 Oct.
1840

The same to the same.

Did not know that he had anything exceedingly particular to say, except that he wished Sneyd's western side required no blister. Desires Sneyd to trace the origin of a story concerning certain knights engaged in a battle, about the 10th century. Outlines the story, which formed the subject of a bas relief on the ivory cup he had told Sneyd about. Had sent it to Garrard to have it made decent and proper. Had also got an iron left hand of the 15th century. Had nothing else to tell him in the way of curiosities, except armour, which Sneyd did not care about. Had he heard of Cholmondeley's shield, worth £500, which the latter had bought for £25? Phillimore was at Parham; when he went away the writer would come and see him.

88. Parham.
27 Oct.
1840

The same to the same.

It was with great pain that he heard the news of the calamity which had taken place in the Bishop's family. Hoped Charles and Louis were better. Trusted the fever had not settled on any other of the party. How was Sneyd himself? Expected de Tabley on Thursday and was at that moment alone, as his father and mother had gone to London that morning. Had been a good deal sad about a week before at finding that his mother had been exceedingly annoyed at his staying there even 2 or 3 days by himself: it had then been too late to put de Tabley off, or he would not have taken the liberty of staying there. How different people's notions were. If he could not have lived at his family place he should have thought himself very lucky if his son had done so, and should have given him a pound to keep up the honour of the house. When should Sneyd be back at Denton? Hoped to pay him a visit during the winter for he had decided to go abroad. Wished he could get a place in the Chinese expedition, but the worst of it was that having been brought up to no profession he was not good at anything in particular. Wished Sneyd would come and set up an old book shop with him. Relates a dream in which they had quarrelled on Mt. Athos over two old MSS. Hoped they might never quarrel about anything. [MS. imperfect].

89. Hagley.
17 Dec.
1840

The same to the same.

Was in an agony about Baginton, but was unable to hear anything about it, or whether Gooch would accept of the other living or not, and whether Mr Bromley would offer Baginton to Sneyd or not. If he did he hoped and trusted Sneyd would take it, and make the writer clerk, and find him in wigs and

spectacles in his old age, and allow none but black letter prayer books in the church. Prays Sneyd write a line to Gopsal, where he was going on Saturday. Was to go to Vale Royal on the 4th, rather in bitterness of spirit, for he was not half up to that kind of party, though he should enjoy the tournament if he were not savage and discontented with everything. Had been to Sudbury on Tuesday and had been disappointed with the house, which was nothing at all and not so fine as Ingestre, though the staircase was very handsome, but it was not at all fit for a queen, nor even a grandee of the 2nd class. They said Lord Vernon was entirely done for. Heard that Lord Bagot was coming round famously. Had seen Col. Gooch, who was uncommon 'peert', and his brother, the Captain, 'peerter still'.

90.

Hagley.
Thursday,
7 Jan.
[? 1841]

The same to the same.

Sent him a picture of that astonishing antiquity which he had found on his arrival there that morning. It was of silver, not gilt, excepting St Michael and the devil in the middle, who were gilt. The figures were in alto relief and it was very heavy and grim to a degree. The ostensorium he had told Sneyd of had come with it. [Sketch].

91.

Hagley.
'Thursday evening[,]
March 19. or 18th[,]
1841'

The same to the same

So Sneyd had at length awoken to the fact of the unhealthiness of Denton, had always told him so, it lay so very low. Hoped he might have the good luck to find some other mansion on a gravelly soil, that would give him a bracing appetite. There was an old house, half way between Elford and Lichfield, which cut out Garsington Hall hollow and was among all his old friends and acquaintances. [Remarks in parenthesis how like his father's hand he was writing with the latter's pen. Believed it would write no other]. Considers the house he had in mind. Advises Sneyd not to put lumps of caustic on his bottom, and explains why. Key was a great man in his line, and the writer had the highest respect for his talents, and was at a loss to know which Bagot could have told Sneyd he was the only man in the world to go to. Believed he was the first operating surgeon they had. Recommends German baths and a trip to Baden, but warns him against the society there. Better to go to Rome or Naples. Had been at Elford and had liked Mrs Howard. Considers his feelings for people. Could not ask Sneyd to come abroad with him because he would not like to put a mat round his middle, and shave his head, and paint himself black, to be in fashion at Timbuctoo. What should Sneyd do 'with the fair Basketfull', a divorce was difficult to get, and he could never send away the sepulchral John, who wouldn't go if he told him. Had been to Milford since being at Elford, and had caught two eels with a spear, the butler had caught 27 at least, while Gooch and the writer were perspiring in the criminal court at the assizes at Stafford. Had seen John Phillimore, Robert, that was to say 'Ben', was

getting on very well and had made a pound or two. Had seen Sneyd's brother at Elford, who had been rather seedy. On Sunday Paget had done his best to pull down the church, and they had upset the pinnacles and weathercock in fine style. Paget had said he was going to repair it, but that remained to be seen. Paget was a fine priest but might take several lessons from their great uncle at Merton, with advantage. Should like to see No.99 of the Oxford tracts, 'if it really is Popish, they must have let some booby into their society, for I think his holiness the Pope must heartily condemn Newman, & Pusey, as the greatest opponents to his sway, of any who have arisen in these days.'

[1. The 18 struck through. The 18th March, 1841 was a Thursday].

92.

Hagley.
3 Apr.
1841

The same to the same,

Didn't wonder at his being provoked with Shirley's letter, which was the result of an epistle the writer had sent him, signed 'Roger Unciall', a joke, as touching the name of Shirley, which was carved on on the style nearest to Cuddesdon, on the way to Waterpenny. Did not know why Shirley should have thought Sneyd was implicated, but supposed he was somewhat mystified. Hoped Sneyd's feast had succeeded to his heart's content, and that nobody had seen him kissing Mrs B. afterwards. Wished he could meet him at Baginton, but had to be at Blithfield in Easter week. Looked forward with tribulation to the sacrament there, at Rugeley, it would require some travelling about to find a place so unsuited to his ideas of Easter. Had admired a very beautiful tower to the R. Papish church at Derby. Was going to London, should ask Gooch whether he would receive him for a day or two, but heard he was to go to Oxford. The writer's new trousers were too short, particularly one leg. Had told him how he had been to Ascott, the R.C. college, it was very well done, nearly 200 scholars, 'they manage these things, I think, better than we do, the boys looked happy & cheerful, and did not seem to fear & hate the masters, as they do in most of our schools.' [Sketch].

93.

24, Upper Brook St.
[Letter completed
5 May,
1841]

The same to the same.

Having become thoroughly Londonized he sat himself down to relate all the wonders which had occurred since his residence in that metropolis. Was worn out, perhaps the fresh air of the country and the rides in the green lanes were nearly as pleasant as his life in London. The writer's father had been nearly killed by a cab, he was always having narrow escapes. Cholmondeley had worn out his toes too, they had been buying armour. The writer's brother was going to be a brewer and expected to get £1,000 a year. Was enjoying the prospect of the back yard behind the house and was happy in being able to afford amusement to several laundry maids who looked into his windows all day long, during the intervals between folding up

shirts. Last Sunday the clerk of the parish had taken a rise out of him by making him hold a plate at the door of St Mark's Chapel. The Rev. Gascol G. Hill had sent him a paving stone, purporting to be a part of Mt. Zion. The writer thought he would send Sneyd an egg and get somebody to swear it had been found in a mare's nest. Wished Sneyd would come up to Town. Had bought some painted glass, in the brown, muddy style of the 14th century in France, for the chapel at Parham. Had got it through Willement, through whose warehouse he had had an agreeable rout. [Sketch. MS. imperfect].

94. 24, Upper Brook St.
12 May,
[1841]

The same to the same.

Certainly, it did take up a great deal of time eating sparrowgrass. Did not know how Sneyd had found time in the intervals to have written him such a long letter. Had no doubt his parents would be charmed to give Sneyd some of the London variety of that unpronounceable vegetable on Friday, at 7 p.m. Was sorry to hear that Bushel Hamilton was going to leave Merton. Dared say he would marry one of the many serious spinsters who were in love with him. Expected him to astonish some of the wet canons at Salisbury. That great parson Henry Glynne was to come to Town, the writer was going to walk with him that day. Sir Stephen was very much surprised at their pulling down the old church dedicated to St Benet Fink. The steeple had sold for a pound. Had never got a new topknot for Baginton, but must remember to do so. The writer's father said there was a little room there which would just fit Sneyd, which was much at Sneyd's service. Should have the pleasure of showing him a large assortment of inestimable pieces of old iron when he arrived.

95. London.
[23 May],
1841

The same to the same.

When Sneyd had left Town the writer had forgotten to ask him to pay the enclosed, when he went to 'Oxenford'; would pay him when he came back to London. Desired Sneyd to 'look sharp at the old dogs, ats', and to send him a sketch of them, with their date. Begs Sneyd not to eat too much, or to get drunk. Hussell was going to Constantinople. Had had a visit from him the day before, which would have been more agreeable if it had not cost him £51.6.6. What a good fellow he was, but what a tailor. Was going to take his evening church at St Catherine's, with Cock Hussey, 'with the Zoological to wash down the sermon.'

96. [? London.
c. late May],
1841

The same to the same.

'Equam memento servare mentem rebus in arduis, as the Latin grammar hath it,...' Sneyd had sustained a grievous loss [of his walking stick], but it was a life of trial. Did not know how he was to find a new or old cane to fit the head of the original if Sneyd did not send the head up to Town. Was much obliged to him for paying the tailor, and for the

prospect of the dog, which would not do without a fellow. Cholmondeley, Shirley, Mr Shaw the artist and the writer had been to Parham. Hoped to be going northwards with Shirley about the 10th. Shirley wished to pay Sneyd a visit. The day before, the writer's father and himself had passed the day at Moor Park, a beautiful place which had cost £250,000. Lady Westminster was not well, but was lucky in having so agreeable a place to retire to. That morning he had seen Lord Westminster's diamonds and all the things at Northumberland House. Was going to see Zion the following week. The duke bred his own monkeys there. Had not seen Sneyd's sisters yet, but hoped to catch them the next day. Wished Sneyd would come to Parham at the end of the month, on his way abroad. [MS. imperfect].

97. Parham.
9 Aug.
[1841 or
later]

The same to the same.

Certainly, it was a most rare vessel that Sneyd had sent him a portrait of, from his watery dwelling. Hoped he drank it nine times full of ink a day, for the benefit of his bowels. They got their water gratis at Parham, for it had not ceased raining since Sneyd had left England, in consequence of which they did not look forward to any wheat, or bread, or rents that year. The writer had been for the first time to the Goodwood races. Since then he had done nothing. Cholmondeley had been at Parham, and on 6th September the writer was to be at Wynnstay, where Sir William Watkin Williams blew off in great style. Should then come back again and dawdle until he went abroad. They had received a visit from the jovial Crewe, who was going to Dresden. Poor fellow, he wandered about the world merely from inability to occupy himself agreeably. When did Sneyd think he himself would be back again? Hoped he would come to Parham for a bit, on his way to the north. Advises him not to stop at Cologne 'or you will have to walk, the remainder of your journey, you do not tell me the name of the dealer in curiosities, pray do so in your next,...'. Suggests places for Sneyd to visit. Had hopes of Mr Parker coming to Parham.

98. Parham.
30 Sept.
1841

The same to the same.

Had been waiting he did not know how long to hear what he had been about. Wished Sneyd would come to Parham for a while. De Tabley had left that morning. Had only just returned from Wynnstay, and had got a letter from Palmer, asking him to be godfather to his son, so he had to be off again, which was inconvenient, for he had a cold and no cash and was tired of wandering about. Mr Parker had got a proof of Nash's print of the hall at Parham, not a very successful one, nor were Shaw's prints of the writer's reliquaries very excellent portraits. Sneyd should show him his wonderful curiosities.

99. [? London].
8 Oct.
1841

The same to the same.

What a singular, pleasant thing a pound was. Had been going about all day with Holford, to Garrard's, Stour and Mortimer's, Hertz, Buchannan, Baldock, and so on, and what astounding things they had seen, and what incredible prices they had asked the rich man. It had made the writer sigh when he got home, to think how worthy he had been of all those things and how entirely they were out of his power to possess. What a lot of things Cellini must have made, if you believed the shopkeepers. As touching Sneyd's big box, the writer wished to see it hugely, but could not do so just then. On the other hand, if Sneyd intended coming to Parham at all, then was his time. The writer's parents were to leave at the end of the month, and he should go to the antipodes the month after. Had nothing to show Sneyd that he did not know, except a glass case full of all his little curiosities. Had seen a Buhl table with drawers in it on both sides, for £35. Had had a happy meeting with Ormonde that day, but was sorry the report that he was going to be married was not true. When would it be true in their case?

100. [? London].
27 Oct.¹
1841

The same to the same.

Didn't exactly see by Sneyd's letter when he was coming to the great metropolis. Recommends Monday, as he should be there for 3 or 4 days, previous to his embarkation for the other end of the world, seeing that he had been appointed private secretary to the ambassador at Constantinople. It was not quite settled, because Lord Aberdeen would not give himself the trouble of writing the necessary official letters, but he supposed it would be concluded in a day or two. Feared it was rather infra dig., but he must be glad of any plausible appointment. Wished he could have got to Denton and was sorry Sneyd had been unable to pay him a visit at Parham. Had had a long talk about Sneyd with the Duchess of Hamilton, whom Sneyd should go and see in Scotland the following summer, and admire some of the grim things at Edinburgh and Northumberland. Should have liked to have made a northern tour with Sneyd. De Tabley and Mr Parker were there, and the writer's father and mother were to come up on Saturday for a few days, on their way to Hagley. Had been glad to hear from his father that morning that he had been pleased with his appointment, 'he says he hopes I shall rise to the top of the profession, so do I not, for that would take some time, as well as some luck, & I had rather live in peace as an English gentleman, than hold all the Embassies at once.' Dared say Sneyd was uncommon snug at Denton. Just then they were beginning to sneeze in London and the air 'feels like a half frozen charnel house,...'.

[1. Date altered in pencil (?) by Curzon, to read 'Tuesday[,] Oct[.] 26. 1841'].

101. Trieste.
16-17 Dec.
1841

The same to the same.

The writer's peregrinations by land were for the present finished, 'and now I am to set out again upon the vomit compelling element, for I believe the 45th time.' The Cyclops steamer which he saw out of the window of the Prince Metternich Hotel appeared to be a fine large vessel, and as he never was aboard a war steamer before, the voyage would have something new in it, and he hoped the sickness would not be increased in proportion to the size of the ship. Describes his travels in Austria. Next door to him in the hotel was the Prince Bishop of Salzburg, brother of the notorious adulterer Prince Schwartzenberg, about the writer's age and seemingly a gentlemanlike man. That was just what the writer should like to have been in the old time. Considers what he might have done. Wished he were going to Venice, but feared Sir Stratford Canning would not do so. Perhaps he might have a glimpse of Pola and Spalatro, but no Englishman really cared in his heart to see those things as he did. Had been lucky at Vienna in buying certain articles, including a present for Basileas Bey, a mighty man among the Copts and private secretary to the Pasha, who had lent him a boat. [Letter continued 17th Dec.]. They had put off their departure because the chief engineer of the Cyclops had got drunk and tumbled off the quay with his hands in his pockets. Hoped Sneyd was going on well.

102. Pera.
9 Feb.
1842

The same to the same.

The writer sent him a certain cornet, given by a bride. [The remainder of the letter consists of a description of a Greek wedding attended by the writer, at which he was presented with the cornet, which survives among miscellaneous articles preserved with these archives].

103. British Embassy,
Constantinople.
26 Feb.
1842

The same to the same.

'My loving Gossip[,] Whereas the Tretise which accompanies this note was to have enveloped a certain little cornet of pink sattin which it mentions in its pages, but as I have not a convenient opportunity of sending the foresaid cornet without squashing and thereby spoiling it, I send you the history of it alone[,] trusting the time may come when I may present you with this relic of the days when Miss Timoni flourished in all the bloom of her virginity, but however that may be I won[']t write to you again till you have told me all about yourself and Denton and the wonders of the great Ark which floated over from beyond the seas when I was on the other side of them myself.' Had heard about Sneyd's festivities at Blithfield and prays remembrance to the High Priest. Wished he could show him the Bezestein at Constantinople. Mr Maule, one of his bretheren there, had bought a lordly dish, about 2 feet across, of fine old china, beautifully painted, for about £1-5s.

104.

Pera.
25 Apr.
1842

The same to the same, at 24, Upper Brook St.,
[re-directed to Denton, Wheatley].

It had been with great pleasure that he had received his letter. Was sorry to hear he had been so ill, though he felt some envy at Sneyd's snugness at Denton. Wished he had a house big enough to hold Sneyd and himself during the winter, where they might talk Anglo-Saxon of a dull day and where none of their newfangled people and ideas could possibly get beyond the kitchen and larder, and where they might expect a solemn visit from Shirley, with news of his late most glorious majesty King Charles the martyr. In Constantinople they had the inconvenience without the splendour of the barbaric east. Was more tormented with seeing everything going on wrong, according to his notions, at home, than he was there, shut up in a dark hole in the midst of so glorious a place. Comments upon the people they had there - 'very good in their way, b[u]t so totally out [of] my line that I feel quite alone' - and the population of Constantinople, which was divided into the clever rogues and the good, stupid dupes. Such things as he and Sneyd pursued with such zest were altogether set aside. Had been shown the jewels of the sultan. Had been told of the contents of the old treasury, including a great chair of gold set with precious stones, and Greek MSS., some of which had been burned because their room was wanted. Had been told of a room full of Greek MSS. in the church of St Irene. Had begged the ambassador to write to Riza Pasha, the great chamberlain, for leave to rummage in the treasury and the church, but the ambassador, seeing that the consequences of the discovery, if the books were really precious, would bring equal credit to the person discovering them as the Elgin marbles did for Lord Elgin, or the MSS. in London did for Sir Robert Cotton, wanted to do it himself and would take his own time about it, and the writer was in agony lest somebody else should step in, or somebody who did not understand the matter should look them over and tell the writer coolly that the books were of no value. If he could not examine the MSS. he would write to the Archbishop of Canterbury and everybody else who was supposed to protect old books, to preach a crusade against the Turks. Enquires after de Tabley and Cholmondeley. How the deuce was he to know what sort of a dressing-gown William Bagot had? Sir J. MacNeil, the Persian envoy, was expected, on his way home, perhaps the writer might be able to send Sneyd something by him, as ambassadors paid no duty. [MS. imperfect].

105.

Buyukdere,
[Turkey].
24 Sept.
1842

The same to the same.

Had just read his most welcome letter. How snug he seemed to be at Denton. Sneyd had told him he had made alterations in a manner prescribed, but as the writer was not in the secret, prays him send him a plan and picture. De Tabley had written that Sneyd was to bid for a reliquary. Supposed that when they

were all dead people would consider the departed wonders of Strawberry Hill as naught in comparison with Sneyd's famous residence. Wished he had a little grim old tower somewhere, of his own, where he might put his collection, with a picture in the Van Eyck style of Pater Gualterus le Sneyd with a thundering great ring on his finger pointing at nothing particular in the foreground. As to Constantinople, Sir Stratford Canning had had another audience with the sultan. They were at that moment listening to the cannons firing for the birth of Prince Abdel Hamid. Had sent Sneyd a Persian dressing-gown but doubted whether he would like it, for it was a coat of many colours, not of a parsonic complexion at all. Hoped to pay him a visit in the spring. Where did Mr Orchard Halliwell live, what tomes was he likely to have? Was glad the latter was an antiquarian, as that might prevent the great Phillipps sale from taking place. Lord Prudhoe's marriage must have been, as Sneyd said, a considerable sell for those of the Beverley persuasion, but the great event must have been Shirley's marriage with Miss Lechmore. Was she 'a grim ladye' like Sir Gawaine's bride, or magnificent as Queen Balkis, or sprightly and brilliant like (?) 'Morgam la fay'? When would Sir Stephen take a wife, and when was Sneyd to give rise to reports in the higher circles on that subject? Mr and Mrs Huffel were coming there, had not seen them as he lived 15 miles from Constantinople in the summer, and at the top of 1,500 alleys, all up hill, in the winter.

106. Erzurum.
12 Mar.
1843

The same to the same.

In vain did he answer the 203 letters Sneyd had written him during the last year and a half, by return of post, he could get no answer. De Tabley and Phillimore were the only ones of his friends who ever wrote. As for the Hon. Hugh, he supposed his thoughts were so much occupied with the affairs of the nation that he had not had leisure to think of his absent friends for above a year. 'Erzeroom' [recte Erzurum] was quite different to anything he had seen before, and was more dirty, more tumble-down and more covered with snow and ice than any city he had ever dreamed of, except Spitzbergen or some of the charming cities of the blue noses in the north of Canada. Oriental dresses seemed quite out of place 7,000 feet above the sea. Was just recovering from a fever, which had threatened to carry him off even to a more distant place. Had been very nearly leaving Sneyd and the old books behind, and that without making any will, so in case he should never get back he bequeathed all his MSS. and books printed before 1525 to him, however he hoped it would please God to let him return safely, for none of his family was worthy of Parham and the things in it, and he should like to brush it up and

carry into effect some of his schemes before he died. Could not tell how long he should be there, for they had been oppressed with various calamities. Capt. Williams, the writer's colleague, had been very ill, the Persian plenipotentiary was dying at 'Tabreez' [recte Tabriz], and the writer had had a narrow escape, and the Turkish plenipotentiary was dead. They had therefore to wait. Describes the country. Describes his house, but he was still at the consulate, where he had been for a month, too ill to move. The Franks had been wonderfully kind to him. Felt lonely in that cold and out of the way place, 'even at Constantinople there was no one except Sir Stratford and Lady Canning whom I could feel to be of the same genus as myself,...'. If Sneyd didn't write he would choke him with a papyrus when he got back. [MS. imperfect].

107. Erzurum.
1-11 June,
1843

The same to the same.

Wished Sneyd would write a few more letters to his old friend in that out of the way place. Had just received a letter from him, from Cheverells, which made him wish to be back looking at the quaint old gimcracks at Denton. His letters were a great source of pleasure, 'for I am always in a fright when I receive one from home, my Father cannot help telling me something I do not like to hear, and this place is bad enough, without any dismal thoughts added to it,...'. Describes how his father had misunderstood his feelings about his career. Considers the brown room and the red room at Denton, and the prospect from the upper floor of the house. Describes an interruption, due to the arrival of a Persian selling turquoises glued to the end of little sticks. Turquoises put him in mind of blue eyes, and black eyes, and 'that pretty little Minnie who is going or gone to be married to Dawney'. It made him feel old. Would have put the awful question to her elder sister, Emily, if he had been on the look-out for a pleasant damsel to worship and cherish, that was if his heart had not let him get safely out of the palace of Cuddesdon without committing him to so awful an extent. Looked wistfully at all the young ladies he saw and did not wonder at people who were less cautious and reasoning than Sneyd's old crony being taken short, 'for whereas in the estimation of thy servant woman is mightily inferior to mankind[,] on the other hand a virtuous kind hearted well bred Lady is a superior creature to most men; and, as such, is much to be wished for by those who appreciate kindness, & refinement, & civilization, & find pleasure in the society of those endowed with qualities so rare in the land of Armenia.' The devil of it was that the foresaid ladies were often such bores, because in England you must show equal assiduity for a fool as for the being whose beauty you admired, and whose pure and high-minded sentiments you adored. Was sitting opposite the fire, in a grim old room, with his companion, the Colonel, fast asleep in his chair. Mr Redhouse, their secretary, was gone to fetch his wife from 'Trebizond' [recte

Trabzon], he would be disappointed, for a letter had crossed him on the road, which told the writer she would not be able to come away from Constantinople. They were at a standstill in their negotiations. Had had such a fright that he would 'not be caught again six weeks from England in a political capacity without full powers to do what I think best when I understand the question, in a case which should never have been undertaken if the government was not able to carry it through, and did not think it expedient to do so, after committing themselves in a sort of mock heroic demonstration.' Dreaded being held up to derision for faults which were none of his, and for being instrumental in clenching a war in the east, making England ridiculous and playing the game of Russia. Meditates on his position and wished he had had a better chance. [Letter continued 11 June]. Was still waiting for letters from the ambassador, to tell him what to do. 'Kholl' had been destroyed by an earthquake. Relates a story about the 'Hadjee', the private minister and 'Maire du Palais of Persia'. Had explored a cave, across the plains of Erzurum, and relates its story. News had arrived that the plague had broken out in the villages about the town of 'Moosh', about 36 hours' walk. Had begged that the conferences might be moved to Tabriz or Trabzon, but feared there was so much jealousy between those grandees that whatever one proposed the other would refuse. Begs Sneyd not to tell his people about the plague.

108. Erzurum.
18 June,
1843

The same to the same.

As he had said last week he would write again, to tell him about the plague, he did so. It was not yet got to 'Moush', but was killing the people of 'Diarbekir' and the intermediate villages. Hoped measures would be taken to stop its approach. It had always some difficulty in getting up the mountaneous regions of Erzurum. The negotiations were going on very slowly, and he feared it would be 2 or 3 months before they were concluded. Should be glad to get back to Christendom. [MS. imperfect].

109. Erzurum.
10 Dec.
1843

Copy letter, the same to his parents, copy to (?) the Rev. Walter Sneyd.

Thought they would be glad to see his handwriting every week. Was still going on slowly with his diet and hoped, if it pleased God, to be stronger and better in a few days. Prayed them thank Capt. and Mrs Pechell for their letters. Trusted they were all well. Dr Wolff was arrived. Hoped to receive the sacrament from him. Had Dr Frank's book, but that expedition was given up as far as the writer was concerned. There had been another slight earthquake that morning.

110. Venice.
28 Apr.
1844

The same to the same.

Years ago Sneyd had told him of a great ark, cram full of grim old things which he had not yet seen,

and as the writer had got together 'divers elderly playthings of the same sort', he was writing Sneyd to tell him about them. Lists the pictures he has acquired, and comments upon the difficulties of acquiring genuine ones. Hoped Sneyd would come to Parham in the summer and see his last importation, and he would return the compliment by wondering at his 'Dentonian Cymelia.' Was to leave Venice the following day, 'nothing but worry & dust now to England, and no one to share my troubles & then I feel like a ghost when I get home, an inhabitant of another world, who finds no sympathy in those he lives with, tho['] they may be better people than himself, I feel somewhat uneasy on this account as they say I may die or at least have another attack upon the brain if I am much vexed & bothered,...'. Was going to find some old acquaintances at Verona, Count Menescalchi, and others at Milan.

111. Travellers' [Club].
Tuesday.
June,
[1844 or later]

The same to the same.

Was going to Parham on Saturday, would Sneyd come too, and do his London afterwards? Cholmondeley was to come for the Saturdays and Sundays, 'you are[,] I dare say[,] satiated with the verdure and dicky birds of spring and would not care particularly to go to Parham[,] but the reason why I ask you about it is that I may not lose a week of you out of your London Month.' Was not going to the ball after all, did not make it out about the costume, and his ticket had missed fire besides, 'a great salvation of trouble and perspiration however is gained.' Had heard a famous argument for popery, that St Paul had written an Epistle to the Romans, but none to the Protestants. Hampton Court was a grand old swaggersome place, 'but there were the oddest set of ladies there that ever were seen...'.
[1. 'July 6. I think[,] however it is certainly Wednesday'. 6 July, 1844 fell on Saturday].

112. Parham.
[? 3 or 10]¹ July,
1844

The same to the same.

Describes being back at Parham and the difficulties of living with his parents. The Bromleys and Lord Verulam had been there for Goodwood races; now nobody was there, the writer's brother's children and Mlle. Lestrade, their governess, excepted. Mr and Mrs Ed. were to come on Friday, wished Sneyd were coming. Had seen Dr Fergusson, who had told him he must have rest of body and mind. Rest of body he could have, but not rest of mind. Everybody was so nervous at Parham that the maids all blushed like geraniums if you looked at them, which was making the writer shy, though he had quite got out of the habit. Watch [the dog] was blind and deaf, but followed him like a shadow. The great event was that his closet was being papered, 'for the reception of all the reliquaries[,] you cannot think how well they look all in confusion on my tables[,] it looks like the spoils of Byzantium...'. The place of honour remained vacant for the Byzantine crown, which had an illustrious cushion waiting for it when it arrived.

[1. 'July 6. I think[,] however it is certainly Wednesday'. 6 July, 1844 fell on Saturday].

113. Parham.
26 Aug.
1844

The same to the same.

Mr [Cooper] the parson of Wiggonholt was dangerously ill at Brighton, likely to die. Begs Sneyd to consider taking the living, which the writer's father and mother had promised him years before. It was prettier, there was an increase of £.s.d., 'and what is of much more consequence you have an opportunity of doing your duty in the Parsonic line on easier terms than any Clergyman who has taken orders.' It would be a great thing to the writer if he was at Wiggonholt, if Sneyd were there the writer should take a very serious thought of setting up his tabernacle there with him, for though he would never come to Parham again by himself under the present circumstances, if he lived there with Sneyd they might get on very snug together.

114. Parham.
15 Sept.
1844

The same to the same.

On Wednesday 15th Watch and the writer would be on the look out to receive his reverence and to enquire respecting his health. Enquires after the summer-house and considers the view they should have of any procession going by, particularly the Bishop. Describes his reliquaries, the worst of it was that his room was considered much in the light of a peep-show, 'and people come here and are astounded at the inkstand, which they take to be an antient thing belonging to moyses, or marcus curious dentatus, or some of these sort of folks, and the penwiper being like a little woman, is considered as something very religious, in disguise, the really curious things being passed over by general consent.' Some thundering big pictures had come and had been hung up, as well as no end of armour. The writer's father wanted Sneyd to go and see what sort of a chimney-piece there was at Brazenose, as it had been put up by his father about 100 years before. Adds a postscript, supposing that Sneyd would eschew Wiggonholt. Wished he himself had it.

115. 29 Oct.
1844

The same to the same.

[Letter begins with four lines of verse in praise of 'Denton perks.' Considers the pleasures of roast fowl and baked taters, and relates a story about a missionary]. Was going to Castle Goring on Thursday, and to Arundel afterwards, so should miss Lord Ponsonby. Miss Bradford had told him to tell Sneyd that he could get brown drawing ink at Windsor and Newton's, 8 Rathbone Place. Was very seedy and did not sleep. Adds a postscript, purporting to relate to a tablet in a Washington churchyard which 'has given rise to much discussion among the learned antiquarians of our parish, if you can afford it a place in your valuable magazine I hope some gentleman who is conversant in inscriptions may be able to discypher it.' [Inscription sketched, with lettering arranged to disguise its reading: 'How are you off for soap[?]' MS. imperfect].

116. Tabley.
 25 Nov.
 1844
- The same to the same.
- That being 'Stir up' Sunday, he had eaten no end of furrmety. The Countess de Salis was there, and her son and daughter, and Miss Keate, and Mr Parker, who was lost in himself. What happy people his hosts were. Describes their children. Would not get to Hagley till the second week in the next month, as he was going into Lancashire with de T. Heard that Sneyd would be at Blithfield at Xmas. Hoped he himself was getting on in health. How was Sneyd? How did the pig like his new establishment?
117. Tabley.
 18 Dec.
 1844
- The same to the same.
- Where the dickens did Frederic Bertie live? Prays Sneyd send him the enclosed. How was Sneyd off for black puddings? Three times a day of them was too much, did he not think? When should Sneyd be at Blithfield? The writer hoped to be at Hagley just before Xmas. There was to be a thundering scrimmage at Vale Royal that winter, everybody was to be in tights, they were going to have seven champions of Christendom, dragons were at a premium and rouge at its weight in brass. All that was secret.
118. Hagley.
 4 Jan.
 1845
- The same to the same.
- Had had a difficult letter from Mr Parker, which said that Sneyd would have to come to Tabley before the 24th or not till a fortnight after that, because they were going to Town. The writer was going to Merevale on the 14th and should remain there till the de Tableys came to Hagley, so what was to be done about Keele? Frederic Gooch was to come to (?) Brereton the following week, he heard. Was going to meet him at dinner there on Friday. What a bore Sneyd was for not going to Catton. Did he know whether there was a large party there, because if so the writer should cry off.
119. 16 Jan.
 1845
- The same to the same.
- William Dugdale desired him to say he would be very glad to see Sneyd after Monday 20th. The house was not entirely finished, but barring fog, the place looked very well. Was going to Birmingham. Heard there was to be a mighty scrimmage at (?) Soneleigh the following night. Portman and Gooch were with the writer.
120. Eaton.
 31 Jan.
 1845
- The same to the same.
- What were the odds, the 17th would do for him just as well as the 10th, to go to Keele, and as for the rest they would hold sweet converse thereupon when they met at Hagley. Did not envy Sneyd's brother his trip to Brighton. He would meet a sciatica at every corner and the lumbago on the chain pier. Had been looking at a thundering big ox, a surprising cow, and two race horses. Describes an embarrassing experience with his father.

121. 'Easter Eve',
1845

The same to the same.

Sympathizes with Sneyd for having dry-rot in his floors. What would become of the books, 'even the bibliotheca Sneydiana'? All circumstances considered, he had better sell Denton, give the writer the books, and make a tour till the abbey of Wiggonholt was ready for him. Had caught cold in the church. Was going to Guy's Cliffe on Monday, where they said cold predominated. Heard the archbishop was a friend of Penn Curzon, the writer's uncle, and used to be at Hagley for the holidays from school.

122. London.
Tuesday,
8 Apr.
[? 1845]

The same to the same.

'This comes hopping that if meats you well as it leves me. "see complete letter writer"'. Did the drinking-water render the right hand of man unable to hold a pen, or was the air of Bath unfavourable to the setting down of ideas and sentiments, or had the consciousness of dry-rot at Denton Abbey taken away from him all care for the things of that world? Had been in London a week, considerably bored with a cold, and smoke and solitude, for he could not get about as he could in the days when he had been young. Wished Sneyd were there, 'before the Hegira of my respected parents from the regions of the north,...'. Was going to Finchley for Sunday, to Salvin's, and that day he was to dine with Shirley, to meet his wife for the first time, and Albert Way, the notorious antiquary who had kicked up such a row with the Archaeological Society. 'I have purchased Willement[']s Monumens ineditis for 10[,]000 pounds, and sent it to be bound, and shall I imagine start for Australia when the bill comes,...'. Had been ill at Baginton and Guy's Cliffe and must have bored them. What a beautiful place Guy's Cliffe was.

123. London.
16 Apr.
1845

The same to the same.

Was very glad to hear of Sneyd's brother's kindness, which really came at a most critical moment. Advises Sneyd not to stop up the ventilating holes beneath the floor, which had caused the dry-rot. Wished he could manage a week with him. Describes the changes taking place in the house prior to the arrival of his parents. Had been to Finchley, Mr Salvin's, to meet Mr Parker, who had been to Southampton the day before. De Tabley was to come to Town the 23rd, to consult doctors about 'my Lady'. Cholmondeley was to make a speech that night for the Maynooth grant. Had made acquaintance with Albert Way. Had been pleased to hear the latter, Mr Holmes and Shirley talk of old things so seriously, as if they had been matters of deepest importance. There was no playing at antiquities with them.

124. London.
21 Apr.
1845

The same to the same.

Had not been very well when he had written last, and had had a fever or ague. After that abominable fever at Erzurum he was knocked over with a small matter.

If Sneyd were at Denton, the writer should be very glad to come for a change of air. Supposed he was in the midst of carpenters and saws and hammers all day long. The writer's mother had just come in and had asked Sneyd to come there whenever he liked. Perhaps they could come back together?

125. London.
22 Apr.
1845

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his kind letter. How cozy it all sounded. Unluckily, he could not come on Thursday as he had no hopes of being well enough then. Had been burning and trembling all the previous night. Would write him again. London was horrid, with a climate fit for the condemned. Adds a postscript, that if Sneyd were to come up the next day he might go to Wardour Street in the writer's brougham, and if he could, the writer might go back with him to Denton.

126. London.
26 Apr.
1845

The same to the same.

It had been a sad job about the tree, but it was not the farmers of Oxfordshire only, who were rapacious, ill-conditioned lubbers, for all other farmers were equally disagreeable screws, with the fewest possible exceptions, their own labourers were often much more kind-hearted, well-meaning louts, but farmers, shop-keepers and people of the middle class were the worst. The good old times were better. Had Sneyd seen the ceremonies on May Day at Magdalen Tower? It was the following Thursday. Would be with him on Monday and hoped to get better every day he stayed with him. De Tabley had gone home that morning. Lady Georgiana Curzon's marriage with Lord Worcester was declared, and it would be a great match if the duke had not such a talent for getting rid of his cash. Supposed the Queen's ball had been ever so fine.

127. [ante]¹
26 May,
1845]

The same to the same.

[Last four pages only]. ...believed that paper would come out in the next Quarterly Review. Then Mr Nethercliffe was to get the writer finished 50 copies of each of 6 plates of illuminations and facsimiles, in about a month, and about as many more when the writer could get up some MSS. from Parham, 'so that perhaps I really shall print 50 copies of a book, about my own books & a history of my adventures in their pursuit.' Lord Eastnor had offered some drawings of some of the monasteries of Mount Athos, the worst of it was the expense of a private book, and if he published too much he would set the French and Russians on the scent of the volumes he described, and they would get them. Was sorry to hear of Sneyd's seediness. Lord Lovaine was going to marry Miss Drummond. 'Cock Hussey came here yesterday, my Father popped in as usual to see who was there. Ditto, when Cholmondeley came the day before.'

[1. Algernon George (Percy), Duke of Northumberland, succeeded 1867, married 26 May, 1845, Louisa,

dau. of Henry Drummond].

128. 'Metropolis'.
31 May,
1845

The same to the same.

Colds and drownings were unpleasant news from the country, but burnings in town were a match for Sneyd's dismal talk. Considers the circumstances of a fire in which two women had been killed. Was going to Hampton Court, and was expecting a visit from Albert Way. The writer's mother said Sneyd was most welcome to his little room whenever he liked, so Thursday was the day. Wanted to go to Parham for a few days. The frenzy about the Queen's ball seemed to be working itself into a climax. Had seen Lady Waterford with 'a peert old gown in her hand,' how beautiful she would be. W. Dugdale was going with the writer, in a tabard and periwig and collar of SS., in the guise of Sir John Dugdale. [Sketch].

129. 24, Upper Brook St.
15 July,
1845

The same to the same.

Did not very distinctly understand what his father had thought about 'Denton Perks'. He had said that if Sneyd had 30 acres more he might turn those roads and that the house at Cuddesdon might be made a very good one, but that Sneyd had wanted a housekeeper's room. [Curzon has here inserted a section of a letter from (?) Sneyd to Curzon, describing his father's visit: '...he didn't care about the things in our line. I show'd him my most astounding rarities, & he did'nt care a hang! but he took an intense interest in the servants' necessaries, the scullery, coal-hole, &c!']. The writer's father had not mentioned the famous ruins of the Abbey, but that it was very well done altogether. The writer had only come from Parham the day before. That day he was to go to Sion, the following day to Montreal, and then back to Parham. Considers operations in progress at Parham, where they were digging no end of holes and filling them in again, and where they had built 'a regular red brick canal bridge with a slanting arch which I would give 10£ to any one to remove out of my sight,...'. [Sketch].

130. Parham.
27 July,
1845

The same to the same.

Had received a letter from Lord Courtenay, who wished to renew his acquaintance with the writer, as Sneyd had already told him, so he had written to tell him about 'Trebizond' [recte Trabzon], and about the shield of Courtenay's ancestor at Parham. If he were enough of an antiquarian to appreciate it, he should want to see it, but the writer did not remember enough of him to know whether he would face his parents. Desires Sneyd to tell him about him. Had been delighted with Penshurst, 'barring the dismal improvements of mylord De Lisle,...'. The hall was magnificent, but Knowle, that was a place. There was a carpet there with the arms of Curzon of Croxhall, Lord Amherst had been surprized that the writer's parents had taken no

interest in it. What a good fellow Hussey was, to have taken so much trouble on the writer's behalf. There were 530 pictures [at Knowle], including a Raphael which might not be a Raphael, and a Perugino, and a portrait of Mary Curzon, which he did not think was of her. She had been governess to the children of Charles I, had been looked up to by Cromwell, and was the only woman on record to have been buried in Westminster Abbey at public expense. Had come to Parham on Wednesday. Lady and Miss Horton were there, 'very nice people; only one cannot be snug here;...'. They had gone to Amberley the day before. Wished he had it to set up his tabernacle in, for he was weary of life under the present circumstances.

131. Parham.
28 Aug.
1845

The same to the same.

Mr Blaydes evidently had 'the bump of collecting' by Sneyd's account. Sneyd should take care he didn't take to gathering butterflies and big stones in his old age, and get a museum like the villa Doria Pamphili. Did he remember the rubbish all mixed up with fine things? How had Sneyd got to Bramshill, he wanted to see it very much? A Mrs Monroe had come to Parham with a Zouche pedigree, which the writer's father had bought, 14 feet long, on vellum, got up by a Mr Zouche Tate, through whom the peerage had descended to the writer's mother. The writer would rather have had some of the manors which every one of the Zouches had been seized of. Might visit Bramshill on his way back from Town. The writer's parents had been at Buckhurst, which seemed to be a nice place. Had been considering how he would live at Parham by himself in the winter, and inclined more to going to Naples with the de Tableys. Last week he had been to Dale Park, Mr Smith's, and had been quite charmed with them. Had met Lady Morley and Mr Moria, who had written 'Hadji Baba' but had not so much fun in him as the writer had hoped. The hills near the Dale were certainly the most beautiful forest scenery he had seen in England. Old Lady Newburgh was coming there that day, for a solemn luncheon. Had been to lunch at Slindon one day. Lady N. had made the butler grind a hand organ for the benefit of the company. On Monday F. Bagot was coming, Mr Hay was coming the same day, supposed Sneyd did not intend coming that way. How was he off for hay and taters? Taters were very poor thereabouts, they said, which was a bad business for the poor. Her Majesty the Queen seemed to be amusing herself very much, what a rush of people there seemed to be after her, and what a famous time for the hotel keepers it must be.

132. Parham.
30 Aug.
1845

The same to the same.

That was a most curious MS. he had found in the ruins of Denton Abbey, it would have made the fortune of Mr Urban. Wished he would come with him to Winchester on the 9th. The bill of fare there was very good, Shirley was one of the officers, and

Sir Stephen, Warburton, and other maniacs in the antiquarian line would be there. Albert Way wrote from Winchester and said the railway was to be cheaper to subscribers. They had had a piping hot day and his window was full of flies. Prays remembrance to Lord and Lady Ponsonby and all Bagots.

133. Parham.
7 Sept.
1845

The same to the same.

Thought Sneyd was about right concerning damp beds and steaming ordinaries, 'and no end of cash to pay for howling discomfort, at the meeting of Ye Oulde Auncient faders Antiquaries, of this londe,...'. Was going up to Town the following day, to see the doctor and to look about. Poor Lord Verulam was dying. The writer's father felt it very much, he was his old friend, except for Mr Estcourt he had no other friend left. The previous Friday he had come into the writer's room and had begun to tell him more of his affairs than he had ever told him before, by which he found he was done for, everything almost going to his mother. Feared he could not come to Denton then, but would write again when he could see his way a little more. The church bell was ringing, it was sweltering hot, and he must get ready for church.

134. Parham.
11 Sept.
1845

The same to the same.

Considers Lord Howe's marriage with Miss Gore, the maid of honour, and that it was hardly fair that he should have 2 wives while the writer had not even one. The other day he had heard that there was a certain damsel who was not evilly disposed towards Sneyd, wouldn't say who or what she was, but if he came there he would tell him more about it. Really Sneyd should not neglect any chance, 'you & I are getting dam['] old, and unlikelier every day, to be run away with by a lovely creature.' The lady in question was only suspected to have said that she thought he would be a charming person to live with. How did the Dentonic peaches prosper, 'ours ain[']t ripe, and have mulligrubious qualities,...'. They made famous jam, as he had told his mother, so there was not to be any, because that would be wicked or extravagant or something else. At Erzurum they had used it up pretty considerable sharp. His Armenian phraseology preceeded from a letter he had had from Mexico, which related how excellent a taste appertained to a New York ham boiled in pulque. Did Sneyd know what pulque was, it was the juice of the agave or big aloe when it was going to flower. A letter from T.L.Parker recounted how the astonishing ceremonies of the inauguration of Arley Chapel had gone off. Describes it in verse.

135. [? ante
28 Sept.
1845]

The same to the same.

[First part of the letter missing]. 'Well that must have been a splendid entertainment...I wish I had been there too,...'. If there hadn't been that great

desert between Sneyd and the railroad, perhaps he might have simmered over from Town. Had seen Sneyd's brother and C. Bagot, and had been to see the doctor, who was gone to Walmer. Higham had given him a pill and a bottle, and a jaw, and had told him to go away and see his friends and distract himself. Was thinking of going to Paris for a bit and then on to Naples for the winter, and back again. Why didn't Sneyd come too? Argues in favour of the suggestion. Douglas Cannings and the Phillimores were all to be at Tabley at the end of the month, and Westminster, Prudhoes and all manner of great folks were to be at Knutsford races on 8th October. Country races always seemed to him a mockery, people in summer clothing, with their teeth chattering, and which horse was to win quietly settled by the artful dodgers and blacklegs beforehand. As for the race ball, that never had been in his line. There was a murrain among the mice there, they died in the wainscot or under the floor and stank 'like pison'. Perhaps they ate the taters and died of that, luckily in Ireland those delicious fruits had prospered very well, and were not sick like the Royal British Tater. How was he off for mice and rats? Hoped they were in good health. Sneyd knew the recipe he had brought from the east about driving them away. Recommends him to try it, it would be capital sport to all but the mouse. Was going to Lady Newburgh's with his parents. [Sketch].

136.

Parham.
28 Sept.
[? 1845]

The same to the same.

Well, he had thought so, however if he had burnt the letter there was no harm done. Was sorry he hadn't any cash and wouldn't come to Naples. The writer went with rather a heavy heart, his friends, whom he should meet there, were so much more rich and prosperous that they were not companions with whom he could swagger about. Did not feel up to an expedition, but wanted 'to sit upon my fundament and crack nuts across the fire in my own room, instead of rampaging about the world like the wandering Jew.' Wished Sneyd lived at Wiggonholt, for the more the writer saw of that neighbourhood the more he liked it, 'it is better than Staffordshire altogether'. Had been again to Lady Newburgh's, it really did one good to see such a set of kind-hearted people, the contrast to dismal Parham was very great. Had come from thence the day before and had gone to a state luncheon at Mrs Huskisson's on his way. That day they had had the sacrament, 'during which my father played so many antics that it has given me a fit of the blue devils.' Poor old Watch was very bad, and the 'Tea Boy' had upset one of the coach horses on which he had been riding in the stable yard, and broken his leg in 2 places. The writer's mother had had a letter from Miss Holbeach, who said that poor Mordaunt had erysipelas and delirium. Should be sorry if anything happened to him, if they touched him with the knife while there was any erysipelas about him he was a dead man. Presumed that English

surgeons were aware of that, it was very well known in warmer climates. The writer's people were to go to West Dean on Wednesday, and the writer was to go on the same day to Southampton, to see Mr Hay. Did not know when he should start abroad, for he wanted to know something of de Tabley's plans, which the latter persisted in not telling him. 'My Aunt has given the famous Pearl necklace to Ld. Howe for his bride, which rather surprizes me I confess,...'. Despaired of getting down to Denton. Had got two pictures stuck up at Parham, instead of the enamels, the Giovanni Bellini and Ghiotto, which looked very well on each side of the MS. bookcase. Wished he could think he should ever live there to look at them. What an astounding fine thing a fortune was. Had finished making a catalogue of his old writings (100) and oriental MSS. (160).

137. Hotel Bristol,
Place Vendome.
6 Dec.
1845

The same to the same.

Wished he could have a talk with Sneyd, for he could make him laugh. Wished Sneyd would come over the water, and they would go about together and see the world. Had seen no one that he knew, except the Draxes and Lord Templeton's head. Wished himself in Italy for he dreaded the journey. The weather had been very fine, and the nursery maids had been sitting under the trees in the gardens of the Tuilleries the day before, as if it had been summer. 'Objets Bisantins' were rarer and more valuable than ever. M.Capet '(behind the Bourse)' had no more reliquaries, but there was a Gothic crown in the Rue de la Paix, dated 1549. Alas, £. s. d. were rarer than reliquaries and he was already ruined. Naples was a long way off, 'cash fadeth away, but tribulation remaineth,...'. Sneyd had heard how poor little Francis Peter, de Tabley's son, had died at Dover. Heard that de Tabley had given Mr Parker some cash, 'as if from W[.] Leicester.'

138. Naples.
22 Feb.
1846

The same to the same.

The writer observed that his friends abused him for not writing to them, yet they never thought of writing to him first. Had been in Naples for six weeks nearly and must soon be off, for the Empress of Russia had taken the whole of the hotel for some of her suite, and the writer and the other seedy people living there were turned out into the street. The great event there had been the tournament at Caserta. Was much bored and lonely, for the de Tableys were living in a distant and inaccessible place. Hated the people, they were such beggars and extortioners. Had heard from Palmer, who was at Rome, where the writer thought he should be going about the beginning of March. Heard Charles Bagot was going to be married to Miss Chester, and that Col. Charles was made private secretary to Lord Haddington, 'I suppose he will have nothing to do, or else I wonder at his taking a place of 150£ a year, with the risk of being made to eat dirt by his superior, is there no expectation of his

marriage taking place soon.' Really thought that he and Sneyd must think what they were about, time passed and they became older bachelors every day. Would give anything for a wife, if he had anything to give. How much more lucky common people were, they could marry anybody they liked, 'but we cannot without no end of thought and trouble & botheration.' Looked forward to going to Rome. Had been much struck with the little change among his male acquaintances, 4 or 5 years seemed to have made no difference in them, while the ladies were all grown into old women and were all horribly ugly, except the English. Lady Brabazon was there, her little boy was the most beautiful child he had ever seen. Lord Brabazon had 4 horses of his own, with which he travelled all over Italy. Baillie and Knudson still gave the best of dinners and accommodation in Naples. The Duke de Rivas, 'whom I knew 100 years ago as an exile at Gibraltar, has been prime minister of Spain & is now Ambassador here,' was a very remarkable man, who had written plays when his estates had been confiscated and was writing a history of Masaniello.

139. 20, Piazza di Spagna, The same to the same.
Rome.
26 Mar.
1846

Had received his letter on 24 March, dated 5 January. Had arrived at Rome with de Tabley and Mr Walker his tutor, on 6th March. De Tabley and the writer had gone back to Naples in a week, where he had found many people he knew, including Count Miniscalchi, and Palmer particularly. On the 16th he had got to be 36 years old. Had for many years considered that an unlucky day and had had two letters, from his brother and mother. The latter had grievously tormented him. His father had been ill and had, it seemed, made such a mess of his affairs without confiding in anybody, that that had made him ill. The writer's brother had been to Hagley, and their father, although he did not trust his brother any more than he did him, had told him something which he had told the writer. It seemed his father intended to live at Hagley, let the house in Town, and the farm at Parham. Was glad he was to let the house in Town, but as Parham was the family property, he wished he would live there and give up Hagley. Unluckily, it was only in theory that he cared for his family. The writer was entirely sold and felt that his home had been pulled from under him. Expresses his bitterness at his family's mismanagement of affairs. Had got leave to rummage in the libraries of the Propaganda and the Vatican. Describes what he had seen. Mr Denistoun had bought for 40 scudi a missal illuminated by Pietro Perugino, and Julio Clovio. The writer had got nothing but 2 old Greek helmets at Naples, and was short of cash. Had been taken by Lady Duff Gordon and her two daughters to Grottaferrata, 'and coming back we ran against a little cart which so enraged the driver thereof that he threw stones at our coachman & screamed like a madman with rage[,] at last he got upon the box of our carriage and tore the coachman[']s shirt off his back[:] luckily we

met some soldiers to whom the coachman gave this worthy[,] who was swearing he would murder the coachman aforesaid on the first convenient opportunity.' Relates local news of visitors and sightseeing. Deplores the behaviour of the English in Rome.

140. Turin.
15 May,
1846

The same to the same.

Did not know whether Sneyd had ever been at Turin, but if he had not he should know that a more uninteresting place existed not in Italy. Had been there 3 days and it had done nothing but rain. Twice had he been to the king's armoury, and once to the Egyptian museum, and to a 'horrid bad' play. The pitiless rain was spattering on the tin roofs of the 4 hackney coaches, with their poor old patient horses, which stood with hanging ears before the windows of the inn, 'high do the drabby maids hold up their petticoats as they pick their way across the great desert which is called piazza del castello, holding up huge umberellas, red, & rose coloured, and yellow;...'. The great event was when they relieved the guard and ensconced a new saturated sentry into the damp sentry box from which they plucked forth the old one. An omnibus, too, was an object of astounding interest. At Mr Abercrombie's, '(the minister)', the writer had met young de Salis, eldest son of Count Peter, the head of the family, much looked up to in those regions. He was not the least like Lady de Tabley. Was travelling with Robert Hay. Discusses various acquaintances. Did not know how they were to get across the Alps, the season being too early. There had also been an avalanche of rocks and stones which had blocked the road. Was to go to Berkeley Square and looked forward to a visit at Denton in the summer, and doing a bit of Wardour Street in June. Sometimes thought he might then go to Venice, for thoughts of Hagley with nobody to speak to kept him awake at night.

With (i), original envelope, addressed to 24, Upper Brook St., [re-directed to Denton, Wheatley, Oxon.].

141. Hotel du Rhin,
Place Vendome,
Paris.
14 June,
1846

The same to the same.

Had been charmed to see his letter and to hear that the flowers did spring and burgeon at Denton Abbey. Had been placed in a state of painful curiosity by a purchase made by Sneyd. Was sorry to say he himself had got next to nothing. Hoped to be in Town on Thursday, 'boilers and wind permitting'. Proposed to go to Hagley on the 22nd, back again on the 27th, 'and then do a little London; swagger down Pallmall & so on.' Was glad to be leaving Paris, where he was lonely and it was too hot. Describes his room, 'a perfect specimen of 1810,...'.

142. 50, Berkeley Sq.
15 July,
1846

The same to the same.

Would come to him on Thursday, 21st. Lord Elgin was come back, very fat and aged, and de Tabley was there, very flourishing. [MS. imperfect].

143. Parham.
7 Sept.
1846

The same to the same.

Why did he not send him a picture of the Gothic chandelier? So he had been swaggering about at Four Oaks, and Birmingham, and drinking champagne, when he ought to be sitting in an arm-chair with the writer, 'with a welsh wig on, and a bason of arrowroot for a treat;...'. Mr Parker was there, getting about very stumpily. Had got two ponies and was going to London on Thursday, to see after a little chay, in which to drive Mr Parker about. Had been at Arundel and thought them all very good people. Lord and Lady Arundel were to come to Parham the following Monday, 'which grieves me for my Father[']s eternal botheration always prevents my getting on with any one, I have become nervous & irritable now, from a week only of this regimen which sadly disagrees with my constitution.' Six cases of books and gimcracks had been emptied into his room, without any visible change. Discusses the re-arrangements made. Had lost several drawings. Hoped Sneyd would come to Parham when the family were gone, probably by the end of October. Prays remembrances to Lord and Miss Bagot, and how was he off for turnips, which were getting bad thereabouts, which was more serious even than taters.

144. Parham.
7 Oct.
1846

The same to the same.

What numbers of nice places Sneyd had been at, and what multitudes of surprising things he had seen. Had Lewis Bagot any taste, to make it better, or had he none, to let it alone, or bad taste, to make it 'Worser'? Alton was the most curious place he had ever seen. Then Sneyd had been to Wooton. Wished he had known Sneyd had been going to Guy's Cliffe, because he wanted some brass mountings. Would stay at Parham till his parents went, which he believed was at the end of the month, then he would go to Town for 2 or 3 days, and return and wait for Sneyd. Had got a man and a little open 'pshay' and 2 ponies, by the help of which he wanted to lionize the wonders of the neighbourhood with Sneyd. Reflects on his unhappiness at Parham, and the unhappiness of Mr Parker, who had left early. Had seen de Tabley in Town and had been to the Magic Horn, the story or plot of which drama seemed to have been accidentally left out, 'but it does just as well, as the point of it consists in the peertness of Miss Fairbother, and Mrs Keely, as well as in the multitude of damsels in pink tights.' Johnny, too, had been in great force, he had got a new tutor. Lady de T. would not be in England until March perhaps. Would send Sneyd word as soon as his people departed. Thought he had made a great revolution in his room. Had invented a new sink trap, which answered perfectly. The Pechells were to come to Parham the next day, and then they were to have dinners of neighbours and should have to play at company, to his howling dismay. [Sketch].

145. Parham.
8, 14 Jan.
1847
- The same to the same.
- There he was back again. The first things he had found, barring the bills, had been two invitations, to Dale Park and Arundel, where he was going before the 15th. What did Sneyd think they had asked him to Montreal for? How strange it was 'that people should go on asking other people to go to a public ball, for pleasure, & society, it is very charming for pretty girls, to show their pretty gowns, and pretty feet, & pretty shoulders, and to be flattered & caressed, but what the fun of it can be, to an unfortunate old he man, who is not standing for the bourough, nor for any of the pretty girls aforesaid, I cannot conceive.' There had come that morning such a parcel, 14 or more Siamese and Cambodian MSS., all like Japan screens, and he had caught some Tartar MSS. too. 'Instead of sending this letter I left it in the draw, so perhaps that may in some measure account for your not having received it yet...'. Had been at Dale Park, and the day before had been to Arundell. When he had got there he found the party put off by the news of the sudden death of poor Lord Bernard Howard, who had fallen down dead on 21st December, at Cairo. He had been only 21, an excellent fellow. Finds a letter from Col. Wyndham, asking him to propose Mr Prime as member for the county. What a bore. Comments on the garden. Had been to Albert Way's.
146. Parham.
22, 23 Jan.
1847
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd wanted to know how it had been at Albert Way's, so he would tell him. [Much of the rest of the letter taken up with a description of the visit]. That last week 'Cock' Hussey had been with the writer. What a curious fellow he was. That day the writer had been to Arundel, 'to look at some iron railing, and on coming back I went to the fighting Cocks, where divers tennants were assembled for the rent day, I made them a short oration to the increase of our acquaintance, & one elder who I suppose was drunk, told me an immense deal about the rats which got into the thatch of his barn, in the weald of Sussex; Mr Morton, in jack boots was presiding[:] he looked like one of Cromwell[']s generals in an old picture, but the smell of some peculiar sort of tobacco, which is probably made in England of some other nefarious weed, & sold as genuine; and the savor of punch, & other deleterious compounds stuck to me till dressing time, so that the afternoon has been employed since then by me in smelling the cuff of my sleeve & the tail of my coat, & saying to myself pst - phoo - oo - fff - fff.' Adds a postscript, that he had developed a red spot in his right eye. [Sketch].
147. Parham.
23 Feb.
1847
- The same to the same.
- What would Sneyd take for the seal of Percy Burrell de Wodeland, which the writer had stuck on the outside of the letter, it looked like the great seal of Oliver Cromwell. Had been to Knepp Castle

and had been considerably edified with the farming establishment of Sir C. Burrell. Describes his experiences. Had been on Thursday till Saturday to London, where he had ordered a pair of boots for the sake of Sussex. Had dined with Shirley on Friday, what a good fellow he was, 'he asked if you had been rejected by Miss - because he had heard no more of the matter since the Meriden Archery, where you proposed. ah - nts!.' Had seen the Mexican MSS., they were rubbish. Lady de Tabley had a daughter, a sad disappointment. Mr Parker had been telling everybody that the writer was to stay at Parham till the end of March and was then to go to Hagley for Easter. What a bore he was with his gossip, had made no plans whatever and should be hampered by the gammon he was always writing for want of something else to say. Reflects on his position at Parham, his impatience to carry out improvements, and a history of writing he had been working on. Could not understand how Mabillon and the Benedictine fathers managed to spin out the same subject into 7 or 8 fat quarto volumes. [Sketch. MS. imperfect].

148. Parham.
9 Mar.
[1847]

The same to the same.

Had just had dinner. Sneyd's last letter was locked up in the dispatch box and he had left the key upstairs, so he would try to remember what it had been about. Considers Sneyd's coming to Town, to Shirley's, who had been so good as to say he would take the writer in too, if Sneyd came to his house, but the writer already had a house in Berkeley Square. By some extraordinary coincidence he had spent all his cash, so he could not go away till after the 25th March. Suggests a date for meeting Sneyd in Town after Easter. Sneyd had been mighty snug, he dared say, and Hussey and Knox &c. Had been very snug himself, only lonely. Wanted a wife, or two, and was always thinking of the lovely and accomplished Miss [blank], and the murrain among the pounds. Had written a deal more humbug about ancient libraries and 'bibliographical gammon'. At Knepp Castle he had seen a curious picture of Sir Robert Cotton, with his famous MS. of the Book of Genesis in his hand, of which he sent Sneyd a sketch, with 2 more rude designs for portraits of Pannizzi and himself. Thought that was the style in which Sneyd and he ought to descend to posterity. Old Lady Newburgh was always asking him to luncheon, and he had the greatest regard for her, yet it was a deuce of a way off. The body of poor Lord Bernard Howard had arrived at Arundel on Saturday. An old servant, who had been much attached to him, had desired to sit up and watch the coffin, and died the next day. That might be untrue, as much country news was, hoped it might be so. On Friday last the writer had climbed a tree and when he had got to the top it was hollow, and what should he find but a fine large fox. Had been very civil to him for fear he should take him for a goose, and the fox had scrambled down the inside of the tree and departed in peace. Had been to Amberley, to call on Mr Clarkson, the parson, who had presented

him with a little figure of Sir John de Wantele, not correctly done and consequently unfit to stand with the things on his table, 'which are good works of art, but it must have cost no end of pounds, & I am in dismay at having to accept it,...'. That was what it was to be an antiquarian. Morton was always bringing him some old piece of rubbish. The worst of it was one never really got anything really good. [MS. imperfect].

149. Parham.
19 Mar.
[? 1847]

The same to the same.

The clock was slow, at 7.58, salt fish, Lent, gale of wind, equinox, thin breeches, etc. Was full of troubles, had overdrawn the banker, Thomas the groom was not going to tie up faggots to make a blaze on the writer's fire, and he had found out some practices among the people there which were not very honest, but he didn't know for sure, and the big dog was ill, which was a bore for him but his look out. Then there was the new brougham to pay for. Then he rather thought he was smitten with a lovely damsel, only he wasn't sure, or that she was with him. Then Sneyd's plans didn't suit him. Was asked to Petworth for the 7th and Sneyd would be at the nethermost end of the earth by that time. Wished he would come to Parham for a bit. Sir Stephen Glynne had gone away the day before. 'Yas - he is older than us, so who is affeared. Lord Leicester married at 74 I believe, & had a son, the fact is that we are in the flower of our youth, gay young dogs to swagger down the street anywhere, so as you say, "vogue la galere".' Had received Sneyd's sister Charlotte's book the day before. It was a very entertaining little tome. Should like to go to Keele with Sneyd, and to Blithfield, and do London afterwards.

150. Parham.
21 Mar.
[1847]

The same to the same.

Had got Sneyd's second epistle and sent the present letter in the hopes of its making its appearance on his breakfast table at Cox's Hotel, though why Sneyd set out on his travels so early he could not conceive, the weather would snow and freeze, and Sneyd would wish he was on the hob again at Denton Abbey. If Sneyd's brother were in Town could Sneyd not bring him to Parham? As for Sneyd's plans, they were disgusting, what business had he to go rampaging about the town while the writer was stuck up at Parham like an owl in an ivy bush. Wanted to see that number of Revue Archeologique which had the account of Mount Athos, of which he was writing a description. Thought he had told Sneyd that he had been staying at Castle Goring, Miss Pechell was gone mad, as bad as Sneyd, about pedigrees. Tom would make faggots and had brought in 4, what bores the English servants were. Was rather seedy and bored, and dreaded going to Hagley & Rugeley. What a scrimmage Lola Montes was making in the world.

151.

[? Mar.
or Apr.
1847]

The same to the same.

[First part of the letter missing]. '...oh - I clean forgot about the Revue Archaeologique that you sent me, what a mass of slipslop it is,...'. Imagined the author did not understand English and was too conceited to ask. Should like to see the account of Mount Athos. How much did those numbers cost? Where did one get them? His next job must be to look over his journals of that and other expeditions, and see what later travellers said. As a general rule French travels were good for nothing, 'worse than nothing for they mislead those who take what they say for truth[.] The extreme vanity of the author is usually on the stretch to prove himself a hero of cleverness and research, and all his descriptions are on stilts, which are often so flimsily concealed that another person conversant with the subject discovers the tinsel & exaggerations at once...'. That was a great pity, for there were no better travellers, or more trusty authors, than the French of the ancient regime, before the infernal revolution. A great ark of bronzes and other chattels had come from London and had all melted down into his room, which looked just the same as before. Leader had come one day. [MS. imperfect].

152.

Parham.
'Easter Sunday'.
[4 Apr.
1847]

The same to the same.

Could not come 'a touralizing' with him for various reasons. Should like to have seen Sneyd walking about St James Street with Trelawney. Hoped the latter had had his lady with him, to complete the edification of Sneyd's clerical friends who were looking out the windows of the Oxford and Cambridge Club. Was going on Wednesday to Petworth, perhaps he should go to London the following week. Had employed himself writing an opusculum, which had swelled to vast bulk. When he went to Town he should try and get somebody to read it and see whether it was worth printing, it contained (1) a treatise on writing, (2) a history of curious, out of the way, libraries, (3) a catalogue of his own oriental books and old (?) stories, etc., (4) adventures and history of Mount Athos, (5) ditto, Holy Land, and there should be a (6) and (7) of Albania, and the Coptic monasteries in Egypt and Africa. Wished he knew who would look it over for him and give him £100,000 for it afterwards. Prince Polignac was dead, 'now how can I convey a remembrance to Lady Newburgh that She was to leave Me the shrine of St Beeswax, if that "Lamented nobleman" should not be in condition to receive it. You see it would be a failure if I was not to have it and it went through forgetfulness to somebody who did not care.' Had forgotten to have lamb for dinner. What pomp and vanity the Pope had been at, that day. Had been to the ceremonies of Wiggonholt, 'which were not ever so pompous, nor Parham either.' No more salt fish, it did not agree with him. Wished he were not going to Petworth, it was so much trouble and he could not hunt or do what the others did by reason of his seediness.

153.

Parham.
 'Low Sunday'.
 [? 11 Apr.
 1847]

The same to the same.

'Fog, rain & squelch, nts. Well - you are at Keel ain[']t you? - ah - hope you are snug. However I hope your brother will lick you for going there without me, them[']s my sentiments -'. Had been to Petworth, 40 people in the house, more or less, all magistrates and 'custalorum' and so on, barring the wives, and they had fared sumptuously, and spiflicated all the wicked people that stole ducks and sixpences, and had drunk their own healths in champagne and thought how good and worthy a set of people they were, and had moralized how the others had had their deserts, at the Quarter Sessions, and they had had their desserts too, with strawberries worth more than a duck each, and he had danced to music, and had fallen at the feet of a lovely little damsel who had picked him up, and the wicked people took gentle exercise on the tread mill, or pumped an engine like mad for 25 hours a day, etc. Had had a long talk with the Duke of Richmond, a shrewd, hard-headed man, who said the common people had great confidence in the aristocracy and landed gentry, whom they had been accustomed to see among them, and of whose characters they were shrewd observers, but they rebelled against the decisions of paid magistrates. The moral was that the tranquility of the nation depended upon the country gentlemen who resided among their tenantry. Had received so famous a letter from Johnny that he sent it to Sneyd, but Sneyd must return it. Mr Stace Dickens had asked the writer to go to Coolhurst, his house near Horsham, the following day. He was a man who knew artists and had married Lord Northampton's sister, 'and has fine buttons to his weastcoat, I believe I am to meet so many peers there that the society will be like a bridge,...'. Adds a postscript, that he thought of going to Town on Friday. Alexander Hope, Lady Mildred and Mr Butterfield, who made chalices and 'puseyite gimcracks', were coming to Parham.

154.

Parham.
 14 Apr.
 [? 1847]

The same to the same.

Had been so much edified with his visit to Coolhurst that he had to tell Sneyd about it. Sneyd had never seen anything so 'peert', 'a small[,] new[,] quasi Elizabethan house, rooms about 30 feet long; but there must be a great number of small bedrooms, for we were 14 people in the house, all of the Northampton family, and Alford[,] who married Lady Mary Anne Compton, who draws like the dickens, "hever" so well, and paints, and is very agreeable besides, as all the others were...', but what he wanted to expound was the history of the innumerable pretty things which abounded in every direction. Had often imagined, but never seen before, a set of people of refined taste, making use of their time, and when they did not know something, did not pretend to, a trait he admired the more from the remembrance of how long a discipline he had had with himself before he could

own his stupidity or ignorance. Concluded that Lord Northampton, 'who was the Father of all these, could not be such a fool as some people thought him, altho['] he is president of the Royal Society.' How the writer wished he could live in that way. Should have thought Mr Dickens was not a rich man, but everything was made the most of.

155. 50, Berkeley Sq.
8 May,
[1847
or later]

The same to the same.

'"Oh the merrie month of may", what gammon that is, as if it was not pitch dark, rain at intervals, and the streets like quagmires of black squelch...'. 'Cock' Hussey and he were going to the British Museum for a bit of solemn diversion applicable to the times and season. Had been glad to see Sneyd's fair autograph again, and was so edified with one interesting remark in his letter, that he sent him it back, to ask whether the information was to be considered authentic, before he published it to the world in London. Had been there 10 days. The Hon. Cholmondeley was there. Sneyd wasn't going to be married, was he, because the writer wished he himself was, although nobody had proposed to do him that favour, but time passed, there was no time to be lost, though he did not see how that object was to be accomplished. Had written no end of MS. during Lent, at Parham, and had taken it to Mr Murray, who had said he would publish it at Xmas, 1,000 copies, give the writer half the profits, but wanted 200 pages more. Wanted Sneyd to read some of it and to come to London. Had he seen that the Bank of England was a-bursting, 'why then happy is he that hath no cash, because he will lose nothing in the scrimmage.' Would certainly go and call at Gloucester House on Sneyd's sisters. The writer's Aunt Betty had arrived, fatigued with her journey from Hagley, but no wonder at 78. Had seen Mr Bernal's chattels, 'what proud gimcracks he has got...'. The de Tableys were still kept abroad by the illness of their children, at Aix-la-Chapelle. Had seen Douglas the day before, who had enquired after him, and Shirley had taken to calling the writer Sneyd.

156. Parham.
1 Sept.
1847

The same to the same.

'Here followeth the the [sic] boke of the kroniklis of the house of Ashburnam[,]' which I must beg you to send me back again as it is too much trouble to write it out again.' It was a sumptuous place. Lady Ashburnham was a pretty, girlish woman, and her sister, Lady Bradalbane, was ill and sickly. Lord A. had been very kind, and the writer had never seen in a private library so many old books. Had come in for a great cricket match at Parham, 'when Storrington beat Petworth, a mighty triumph, the number of people, & tents, in the park, looked very pretty.' Felt very lonely. His father and mother would not talk and had no sympathy with him. Wished he had a wife to comfort him, more than ever. One of his Coptic books appeared to be an astounding curiosity, of the 4th century. Poor Morton was very

ill. A man was grinding an organ at the door, 'to the sorrow of the big dog,...'.

157. Parham.
13 Sept.
1847

The same to the same.

According to Sneyd's bill of fare he should be at Guy's Cliffe. Could not join him because he was going to Castle Goring the next day. Wished Sneyd would propose to some young lady for him, 'who would go to Italy or Spain for the winter, I think I shall advertise, "wanted a comely damsel, with good temper, N.B. none who are too fat for a travelling carriage need apply.["]' Wished they had sent him instead of Lord Minto as ambassador to the Pope. Considers how he would have travelled. Relates a story concerning one of the Queen of Spain's ministers, Narvaez. Had seen Bailey and Knudtson in London, 'who were going off in no time to be out of the scrape,...'. Asks remembrances to the Percys.

158. Parham.
2 Oct.
[? 1847
or later]

The same to the same.

Had just received his interesting letter, and certainly never had heard of anybody dying of a stink before, that must have been something like a stench. Considers the subject, with a sketch of a water trap for a drain. Had nothing very particular to tell him, was to go to Petworth the next day, if he was well enough, but his liver was out of order, 'but I certainly cannot stand the daily worry of my own home, it is necessary to me to have a laugh occasionally, & to relieve the mind with chearful or interesting conversation, here it is so much the contrary, that life is really not worth having on these terms; & I get sick, and ill, with present annoyance, and apprehension for the future.' It rained cats and dogs. Thanked God he was not in the Bay of Biscay. Captain Plunket, who had married Miss Dutton, had written a book, wherein he said that it took 5 months to man a ship of war, and that as the French kept many more of their ships manned, we should be at their mercy in case of a sudden quarrel. It sounded frightful. [Sketch].

159. Parham.
12 Oct.
1847

The same to the same.

Sneyd seemed to have been doing all manner of wonderful things. 'Touralising' was a pleasant thing in fine weather. Feared Sneyd had not gone to the advocates' library at Edinburgh, nor had he made a pilgrimage to Abbotsford, or Holy Island, 'as you aughted to have done', nevertheless he had seen a thing or two and Temple Newsham must have been a fine thing. Wished Sneyd had proposed for him to the nicest of the Miss Bosanquets, 'for the French education suits my notions for ladies, tho['] it is detestable for men.' Had been to Castle Goring and Petworth, and was going to see his old schoolfellow, Sir W. Knighton on the 14th. Describes Petworth. Enquires after Robert Hay. Considers the subject of matrimony, his duty and prospects. Hoped Sneyd would come down to Parham before Sneyd

finally shut up for the winter. The writer wished he were going to Italy that afternoon. The writer's brother had been there, 'he is a kind hearted fellow, if he was not so cock sure of everything, & so certain he always knew best, & that every body else was an ass, I think we could get on very well together; he has certainly managed better than I have for he has a comfortable home, & I am in purgatory, before my time.' Was sorry to say his father was very rheumatic, wished he would go, and thought he was nearly as much bored as the writer was, only he did not see so clearly why. Was going to London the following week. Believed de Tabley would be at Mivart's.

160. Parham.
3 Nov.
1847

The same to the same.

'Herewith journeyeth that all absorbing and mellifluous romance, that is y'cleped ye Laye of the Purple Faucon. This singular pleasant tome was compleated 2 or 3 days ago, moreover the bill accompanied it, in the same parcel, with the first copy; which considerably spoiled the joke to me, though it heightened the merits of the book in the eyes of Mr Nicol the printer...'. The writer's parents were to leave on Tuesday for London, where the writer would be during the next week, before returning to Parham.

161. Parham.
6 Nov.
1847

The same to the same.

Had just received his letter and sat down to answer it. Yes, pounds were decidedly a good thing, and the writer had such a respect for them that if a colony of them came and settled in his pocket he would treat them with the greatest distinction. Was perfectly aware, too, that a wife was, as Sneyd said, the only thing to save his life. Had written to Sneyd to Denton, sending him a copy of the immortal work, the history of the perilous adventure of the purple falcon, for which little joke the writer had to pay £22. 11s. 10d. Had he written to Sneyd since he had been to see Sir W.Knighton? Should be in London on Wednesday, returning on Saturday. Wished Sneyd could come up then. The servants were in a frenzy of packing, as his parents were to go to Brook Street on Tuesday. Adds a postscript, about the mistake Sneyd's brother was making, in spending his money outside his house, 'for that is the proper employment, after the rooms are ready inside.'

162. Parham.
'Stirup Sunday',
[21 Nov.]
1847

The same to the same.

'P.P.P.' was a resolute dog, and the writer hoped he would succeed and get 'a misses to his heart's content, tho['] I should think the post office Richmond was a bad cover for such game,...'. The writer had sent the advertisement to his aunt in London. Only wished he was a going to be married to a lovely heiress, on Tuesday next. In the meantime he was very seedy and weak. Sir W.Knighton had been

there, and the writer had been to Castle Goring, where he had met Mr Thellusson, 'who was to have the pounds,' he had seemed a very nice fellow. The writer had the day before eaten so much anchovy and hot toast that he couldn't manage the pudding. They had planted truffles, and the writer had bought an Arab stallion for £25, but did not know what to do with it.

163. Parham.
10 Dec.
1847

The same to the same.

Describes a visit to London to see the doctor, a dinner at the Travellers' Club, a visit 'to the Royal, grand, Imperial Casino;...', visits to various shops in search of prints, and the journey home by railway, with a talkative young woman.

164. Parham.
10 Jan.
1848

The same to the same.

When he had received his letter from Denton Rectory never had anyone been so flabbergasted as the writer, 'for seeing a scythe and a split crow together, on the seal, I thought you had been & gone and married a spread eagle, & told me nothing about it;...'. Had been to Arundel. Heard that Sir Stephen Glynne had got into trouble about his ironworks. How did Sneyd's brother get on? Rich people never were unlucky, so he dared say he would sail through the difficult times, without a check. Was struck by the superiority of those who had cash over those who had none, at Arundel, in the case of Abercorn, who swaggered about in the broad ribbon of the garter, which had been given him because he had so many good things before, whereas because the writer had nothing, he was not allowed to wear the orders he had gained at the risk of his life, cash made all the difference, 'don[']t talk to me about virtue, & talent, & so on, a pound is the thing to get a man on in the world;...'. When he got better he was going to London, on his way to Staffordshire, for he thought it was dutiful to his parents, though they wouldn't speak to him when he got there. Perhaps he should go to Tabley afterwards. Was expecting a big camelia tree that day, from Dorking, 'but he ain[']t come yet'. W. Grey had walked over to luncheon from Dale Park, 9 miles, wished he could do that. Grey had gone back on foot.

165. London.
24 Apr.
1848

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter. Most assuredly he should come to Denton as soon as he could, and hoped that he might be on Monday. Was absolutely overcome by the disgusting atmosphere of London, the absence of any rational conversation also kept one down, for though he might talk to them, there was no interchange of feeling between him and his parents. The latter were in a quandary about the post office at Parham, which somebody wanted to remove. The writer's brother had sent a long letter, full of technical law terms, which looked awfully imposing, but he did not seem to know the rights of the question. De Tabley had come in and it was a pleasure to look at him, truth,

openness and sense walked hand in hand with him. The day before (?) Cureton had written to him, about printing an account of the famous Syrian MSS., and whether the writer had any objection to his leaving out any passages [? relating to - MS. imperfect] the history of their discovery, 'which implied too near an intimacy with his Satanic Majesty' - had no idea what he alluded to, but had told him by all means to cut out all passages to that effect... [Letter incomplete].

166.

Hagley.
27 Apr.
1848

The same to the same.

Had not been to Guy's Cliffe, having had a bad cold. Was anxious to get away from Hagley, where his father's worry became intolerable. Everybody was dying in the town and the bell for a funeral was tolling every day. The de Tableys had come for a day. When did Sneyd go to Town? Was sorry to say that, without increasing his debts, the writer was hardly able to go to London by himself. Frank Cotton and his sister, and Mr Parker were at Hagley, but the writer's father would not allow any of them to speak to each other. That, and the utter mess he had made in his affairs, were really a terrible affliction and he groaned in spirit for a house where he could live in peace. There was the devil to pay at Parham, where Col. Wyndham claimed the manor and all the trees at Wiggonholt. Had made a mistake in the date of the two pateras he had got, they were 1521. They had been talking at Hagley of Lady Hester Stanhope's prophecy that Lamartine would become a great man. Might as well mention that Mirza Tekee, Commander-in-Chief of Persia, had prophesied that the writer should become a great man, the most curious part being that no one except Mirza Tekee had, as yet, discovered those great qualities in him. Would make a bargain with Sneyd, if Sneyd would send him all his MSS. the writer would make him Archbishop of Canterbury when ever he had a convenient opportunity, or a cardinal, it was all the same to him.

167.

Castle Ashby.
8 May,
1848

The same to the same.

'Well Mister, it's here, that I am, as you percieve, and a wonderfull grand old house I'm in as you may wish to see with a grand old Church close by & clever[,] agreeable people to talk to. & the quaintest little pug dog, to divert myself withal...' The day before being Sunday, he had read Coverdale's Bible. That day he was going with Alford to see Mr Magniac's goods and chattels, the following day he would come and tell Sneyd all about it.

168.

[? 2nd half
of July,
1848]

The same to the same.

There was no use the writer's going 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles to pay him a visit of courtesy, seeing that Sneyd and himself and the other gents were all out at the same hour. Would Sneyd come and dine with him there the following day? Had he seen the picture they had made of him in the Illustrated News? Had just been

to the new R.C. church, St George's, it was very well worth seeing.

169. Parham.
17 Oct.
1848

The same to the same.

Enquires after Sneyd, not having the most distant notion of his whereabouts. Had come back that morning from Lady Newburgh's, who at 86 was as brisk as a bee, and had her house full of company, 'the other day she asked two ladies from Bognor to dinner, who made a great sensation among the Romans staying in the house, we all expected two old ladies, when instead, they turned out to be 2 pretty women, the least in the world décolteés, in this style [sketch], and who were not in the least shy, so they had it all their own way, and the gentlemen were charmed and delighted; all but the Priest who took his departure early in the evening, he evidently could not stand the white shoulders and bright eyes of the fair dames, & has had to eat dried peas & bread & water ever since.' Robert Hay had been there, and Evelyn Shirley, who was now at Brighton with his wife and children. Phillimore had also come, some time ago, and had brought Mrs P. Wished Sneyd would come. Did not know what he himself would do for the winter. Was sorry to say he had nothing pleasant to look forward to. Supposed he should go to Staffordshire after a while.

170. Parham.
23 Nov.
1848

The same to the same.

Theoretically the writer was at Arundel Castle, but practically he was at Parham, to pack up his goods, preparatory to going to Town the following day. William Grey was at Arundel, was not he a nice fellow? Would ask him that evening if he could not manage to come to the Abbey for a day or two the following week. Was sorry Sneyd had left Staffordshire before the writer had come there, as Sneyd could have come to Hagley, and they might have done a bit of Keele and Blithfield together. What a sad business for Sir Robert Bromley it was, he had had an operation for the cataract and it had not been successful. Sneyd was powerfully smug, he had no doubt. Suggests he comes to Town. Was he going to stay at Denton or was he going anywhere? He would see that Ibrahim Pasha was dead of the cholera, 'a great event, as the old Pasha is imbecile, and Abbas Pasha nearly as great a booby as Louis Napoleon is said to be.' Complains of the inconvenience of packing up and living on the contents of his portmanteau.

171. Hagley.
20 Dec.
1848

The same to the same.

Could not come and walk about the streets that day because he was engaged to luncheon there, and grouse was cheerful victuals such as his soul loved. Had arrived the day before, horribly depressed and ready to cry. Longed to throw everything at everybody. Wished Sneyd would come there. Why couldn't Sneyd do his Christmas at Blithfield?

172. Hagley.
1 Jan.
1849
- The same to the same.
- Was pretty well off for mince pies, and the new pocket handkerchiefs were uncommonly useful. Sneyd's autographs must be getting on grandly, and his '5 punnotes' getting off in the same proportion. Was going to Merevale for a week, then Gopsal, which he looked forward to with terror for he never could get on there, they were a cut above him altogether. Wished Sneyd would go there when he was there. Asks remembrance to Gooch.
173. Merevale.
14 Jan.
1849
- The same to the same.
- Suppose Sneyd was to come to Hagley the following day or the day after? Hoped to be there the following day and should be going on to Tabley in a week's time, or would Sneyd come after the writer got back, the first week in February? They had had a sad misfortune there, Stratford Dugdale had shot his father and blinded his left eye.
174. Hagley.
15 Jan.
[? 1849]
- The same to the same.
- As the writer could not come to Blithfield, how would it be if Sneyd were to come there on Thursday? They might, perhaps, go some part of the journey together on Saturday, 'if Atherstone is on the Badger line,...'. Prays Sneyd give the enclosed to 'Mylord', and enjoins him not to eat too much.
175. Hagley.
16 Mar.
1849
- The same to the same.
- [Sketch only, winged figure of Time, with forelock, scythe and hour-glass, loads the 39th weight onto Curzon, 16 Mar. being the latter's birthday].
176. Brook St.
July,
[1840's]
- The same to the same.
- Did not know anybody, except Cerberus, who wanted so many hat boxes as Sneyd did, or who delighted 'in so remarkable a variety of corpulent carpet bags[;] however you are fortunate in having bagged all the bags aforesaid, and having got your reliquaries in a row; tomorrow mine are to be packed up to travel in company with a great army of band boxes and hair trunks, and mighty imperials which I consider as the commanding officers of these sort of baggage: down to Parham.' Mr Huffel had been there, as usual, that morning. What a contrast he was to the writer's people, he was as happy as he could be. Sneyd's brother had dined with the writer the day before, and had seemed considerably astonished at the writers boldness in saying that though Cellini was the best known in England, he was not the best artist of his kind. Had bought two bronzes covered with dirt, which had all his peculiarities. Denton on Thursday.

177. 'Thursday.
March 4',
[1st half
of 19th
cent].

The same to the same.

Had got there just after dinner and found the party to consist of Anne Bagot, Mrs and Miss Cotton, and Mr Oldham. Frank Cotton had taken his departure in the morning, to Enville. Wished Cotton could marry Lady Grey and cast anchor somewhere for life. Was sure he would be a pattern of a country squire. Was going to Elford on Saturday, where he should meet every sort of Bagot that had yet been discovered. The Levetts were to come there that day, or the next, which would be cheerful. Lady Fitzgerald was coming there too, whereby he was very much grieved, for he should like to have met her anywhere else, where he might have made acquaintance with her. Was going to Blithfield for Easter, but did not know what that meant. Had seen F. Paget and his house the day before, who talked much about the man who made painted glass at Newcastle. Wished he could order a set of church windows of him and Willement, to see which were best. Found him something of a 'Newmaniac'. [MS. imperfect].

178. Parham.
18 Oct.
[1st half
of 19th
cent.]

The same to the same.

Had received his letter and therefore wrote a reply, hoping it might not be long before they met. Was going to Town on the 30th and should stay about 10 days, and then purposed visiting Denton House. Cholmondeley had been there ever since they had been in Town, except for 2 days, and had left the previous Tuesday, not so well. The writer's father and mother were going to Estcourt at the end of the month, on their way to Hagley, where they were to arrive about the time the writer hoped to be at the Palazzo Sneyd. Thought he had told him the value Sir F. Madden had set on his books. Began to wonder about the various big boxes of his which were sailing about the world. Mrs Crabbe had visited him. Considers the life of a housekeeper.

179. [Monday.
1st half
of 19th
cent.]

The same to the same, at 4a, Mount Street.

What a capital sport it must have been. Hoped Sneyd had brought him a little box, or a whistle with 'Present from Tonbridge' written on it, and a view of the Pantiles, if not he was a [blank]. They should be happy to give him some mutton, not to mention sherry and port.

180. Wanslip.
'Thursday'.
[1st half
of 19th
cent.]

The same to the same, at Denton Hall, Wheatley, Oxon.

Expected to be in the muddy lane at Denton by half past six on the Friday, but he should not wait dinner. Poor Morgan had died. Few men had fallen into the grave with a lighter burden of sins. Had seen the 'codex Leicesterensis' and was much puzzled therewith. Imagined it to have been written in some of the Greek possessions of Venice, not earlier than the end of the 14th century.

181. 'Thursday'.
[1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd would wonder at the multitude of letters he received from him. Wanted him to look up the arms of Robert de Vere, Marquis of Dublin and Earl of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, A.D. 1387. Thought he had his hat, a thing like a ram's head, or a dragon or lizard's head, with horns. It was very rusty, having been dragged out of the river at Radcot Bridge, somewhere near Abingdon.
182. 'Saturday'.
[1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- How would it be if they were to dine at the Smith O'Brien Club on Monday, and ate a piece of a sheep's corpse with daggers?
183. '11.48. AM.'
[1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Was going to take some books to the British Museum at half past two. If that did not suit him, he would call for him at the Ox Club at 4, 'to go to the meeting of wiseacres.'
184. [1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Had got a frank but had nothing particular to put in it. How was Denton? Did it smell of paint? Hoped the fowl had been tender the day before. Would drink a glass of sherry with him on Monday. Sir Stephen had visited the writer and purposed to do as much by Sneyd. Wiggonholt looked very charming, the parson was in uncommon good health, it was so deuced healthy. Another box of MSS. was arrived in London, from Egypt. Was horribly bored all alone, looking at failures he could not mend. Thought he should go to Holland some day. His parents were to come on the 20th, and he was to go to Wales on the 5th or 6th August, 'and to the antipodes about November.' [MS. imperfect].
185. [1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- [Letter begins with six lines of rhyming couplets, beginning:
- 'Whanne in ye merrie moneth of May
Shineth the sonne and joyeous is the day'].
- Had just made up his mind to accept Sneyd's invitation to Cheverells when his mother had proceeded to tell him that she had accepted an invitation for him and themselves to Gorhambury. Believed there was an evil genius who presided over the completion of his wishes at home. Would come over from Gorhambury if he could. [Sketches].
186. [1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- [Note, in the form of a prayer]. Had Sneyd not on a certain shelf a book, Traité de Diplomatie, and how much had it cost, seeing he was offered one for £4. 14s. 6d.

194. 50, Berkeley Sq.
15 May,
[c. mid-19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Why the dickens didn't Sneyd come up to Town, all the quality would be gone away again if he didn't make haste, and tempus was fugiting every day. Had seen de Tabley the day before, he was gone to Margate to fetch Lady de T. and his family, whom he had left at Ostende and was trying to bring up that afternoon to 19, George Street, Hanover Square. The writer was going to Dawley, the Countess de Salis's, then to Littlecot, till perhaps Friday or Thursday, then back again, when he should be ready to do his Wardour Street, with Sneyd's assistance. Should like very much to come to the Abbey later in the year, to write all his opusculum in Sneyd's quiet rooms. The great news thereabouts was that the celebrated 'Cuzzens esqr' had bought 2 enamelled candlesticks, now on view at the premises, No. 50, Berkeley Sq. George Gooch was come to Town.
195. 50, Berkeley Sq.
29 June,
[c. mid-19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Was glad Sneyd was coming to Town and recommended Dick Levett's old lodgings. Was off the following morning, to be back on Tuesday. As for the ball, he wished Sneyd were going as King Cole or Ahazuerus instead of him, and the Duchess had made a mistake and published his name in the list as somebody else. [Sketch].
196. 50, Berkeley Sq.
27 July,
[c. mid-19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- The writer had just seen the Bishop of Bath and Wells. He had told the writer that Sneyd was at Wells, while the writer thought he was at Denton Abbey. How was he, how were his bowels and liver, and all the rest of his interiors? Hoped he would come back to Town and not be testy, and see his friends and go about a bit before he retired to the shades of rural life. Was going on Friday to Hagley, Saturday to Crewe, Monday to Merevale, and Tuesday back to London, bringing his aunt back to Town. Had he told him he had been beguiled by certain ladies to become a king at the Spitalfields Ball, 'only think what a ghastly scrape, there is no fool like an old fool certainly,...'.
197. Parham.
[Mock date,
c. mid-19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- 'We Bob, the son of Robert, to the highly reverend, and much to be respected, the lord Prior of Denton send greeting, may the prosperity of your reverence increase, and may digestion follow upon the biled fowl which your reverence concealed from the eyes of the world, even by devouring the same, may also the taters agree, and may pills and boli be absent from your bowels even at this present time,...'; etc. They were to depart for Babylon on Monday, and thence to Wilton, 'for the wisacres congress, at Sarum on the 24th.'

198. 24, Upper Brook St. The same to the same.
 'Saturday'.
 [c. mid-19th
 cent.] 'Meus Occulus ain[']t there Caxtons & Block books
 & Guttembergs & sitch at Wilton...' Was coming to
 tell Sneyd all about in on Monday, to stay till the
 27th.
199. [c. mid-19th The same to the same.
 cent.] 'N.B. too late on Friday, no post Saturday so I
 send this on Sunday, neck of Venizon today, would
 it be worth your while to have a haunch sent so
 far - hardly I think would it? however, let me
 know.' Adds a query concerning two books.
200. [c. mid-19th The same to the same.
 cent.] When Sneyd was in the humour, he should tell the
 writer of any libraries that he did not know of.
 Did not know what to do about those he had described.
201. [? Parham. The same to the same.
 c. mid-19th
 cent.] 'Well, that[']l do very well; cause I ain[']t going
 up to Town till Monday ye 9th most likely; my
 Parents flit on Friday, not before; I want a day
 here to see what I do want; Sunday is a dies non,
 consekens, Monday I calculate I shall bile up to
 Town...'. What would Sneyd give him to let him off
 and not tell the Bishop what he had said, 'about
 going down with one of your depraved acquaintances
 to proceed to the rape of Bramber, I am ashamed of
 you,...', etc. Should be in Brook Street, and they
 would rampage about together in Town. There,
 everybody was in a state of 'Phrensy', banging the
 doors and screaming, by reason of their approaching
 departure.[Sketch].
202. 'Metropolis'. The same to the same.
 12 Feb.
 1850 As touching Keele, feared it would not suit his plans
 to be going there just then; would rather do so later
 in the year, if Sneyd and his brother were there.
 Would not leave Town until Friday or Saturday, and
 could not start off immediately from Hagley. Hoped
 Sneyd would pay him a visit before Easter, when the
 writer should be off again to Town, 'those whose
 taste inclines them to delight in wind, & rain, &
 mud, will be much pleased with London just now,
 those commodities being in great abundance.' The
 writer's brother and family were to leave Hagley
 that day. His father said he was not going to Parham
 that year, which was a great grief to the writer,
 'indeed my people never take a step which is not
 disadvantageous to my interest, as well as to their
 own; they make a deplorable business of it all-
 together.' Had purchased a tome printed on silk,
 for 5/-, an astounding bargain.
203. Catton. The same to the same.
 1 July,
 1851 The writer's wife had produced an immense, fat,
 he baby, with a long nose and very red face. Emily
 had been taken very ill and they had been most

dreadfully alarmed, however she was that morning very well. Was most humbly grateful to Providence for that, and hoped that his poor little son might have fewer of the troubles of this life than his father. Only hoped Sneyd would some day write him such a letter.

204. Catton.
25 July,
1851

The same to the same.

The good old times had been in the days of their 'Auncient holy Faders', for the writer had not had much of them to his share. Expresses his anxiety for the baby, who would not take his meals, and tormented his mother and drove his 'Pa' to distraction. Lord Scarsdale, de Tabley and William Pechell were to be his godfathers, and Aunt Elizabeth his godmother. Supposed Sneyd was unaccountably snug at the Abbey. How Lady Waldegrave was enjoying herself. And who was Mrs Earle? Was she a duck? When was the wedding to be? Was that curious old shield at Shotover still? Prays Sneyd steal it for Parham. The writer's plans were to go straight to Parham, as soon as his wife could move, and to stay there till he could get a house in London. Hoped the de Tableys would come to Parham, on their arrival in England, and wished Sneyd would come, in August, September or even October. Rawdon Brown of Venice was in England. Had told him Sneyd would show him his Venetian MSS. Did Sneyd know that Monsigneur Molza had killed himself because some of the Vatican MSS. had disappeared. Had had out every one of his treasures the other day, with Mr Payne, except the 'Codex Vaticanus'. Imagined few persons except himself had ever collated it. Was in great dismay about the de Bry which he had had sent from Florence. It would be a horrible loss if it had gone to the fishes. What a sad thing poor Spencer Churchill's death was. Lady Horton had given the writer a wonderful ring. Sneyd could not think what a dreadful business the suckling and nursing of a first child was. His poor wife had been near dying after her confinement. Had not expected anything of the sort, and thought it was all plain sailing after the pains of childbirth. [Sketch. MS. imperfect].

205. Parham.
10 Nov.
1851

The same to the same.

Hoped they would find that the snow had not done so much harm at Keele. Doubted whether a snow-storm was so bad a thing in a place as his father, as it did not lop trees, nor was a hurricane more to be dreaded than Michael Turnor, who, they said there, did a terrible deal of work in a wood. It was not the 'Voyage to the Congo' which was so rare, but the appendix to it. The rarest of all the parts of de Bry was the 'Elenchus' or preface, to the 'Grands Voyages'. Sneyd could not think what difficulties they had had making Parham comfortable. Describes the situation. The writer and his wife lived in the great parlour. Describes the trouble they have with the nurses. Wished Sneyd would come to Brighton and bring his sisters over to Parham. Was Shirley at Brighton? Had purchased a carriage there, which was not quite finished.

206. Parham.
21 Dec.
1851

The same to the same.

A dampish Sunday, rather moist thereabouts, how was he off for mud? Had been to Wilton and Castle Goring, and the Eastnors had come to Parham, and Lady E. had tumbled downstairs and hurt her foot. She had been in very good looks and was a charming person. The great event of the season had been the sudden departure of 'Jeames the first', who had gone to 'sarvice' in a place where his wife was a lady's maid, and left them with 'Jeames the 2d' and nobody else in that great house. Considers the servant situation. With that exception they jogged along very cosily, only with occasional alarms from his father and brother. Fifty black letter books was a goodly quantity of dismal tomes, and that Psalterium must be a great acquisition. Was to remain at Parham for the present. Was Sneyd to be 'at the K^s. Bromley Swarry'? Was in a quandary about ruining himself, getting a house in London, in Stratton Street. Would prefer staying at Parham, if he were let to do a little more as he wished. Was going to church. Adds a postscript, that he had got Sneyd's letter and one from Brown of Venice, in high admiration of his sister's translation of the Venetian report.

207. Parham.
19 Jan.
1852

The same to the same.

Had Sneyd seen Gancia's new catalogue? What a surprising collection of romances and what remunerating prices he asked. Wondered whether he would sell any. Had Sneyd got Cornish Brothers, their catalogue, from Birmingham? It was like one of Thorpe's old catalogues. He had sold most of the best books, but the writer had made a haul. Why was Sneyd not at Wiggonholt, up to his chin in a folio just come down by the coach? Had been in Town for a week, paying bills. What was Sneyd about? All the world was at Brighton, he heard. [MS. imperfect].

208. Parham.
27 Jan.
1852

The same to the same.

Was sorry to see Sneyd's bowels were getting so much out of order and recommended an additional bin of 'bluepill'. Did not Sneyd think it was better to be pleased with the letters he got from his friends, than to begin with a regular page of abuse and temper. If the writer were equally to abuse him their letters would be fit for nothing but making pickles. Was sorry to hear of Ralph's accident. Tumbling downstairs was too violent exercise to be wholesome. Poor Haddy's illness did not make him feel hopeless on her account, for her powers of vitality were quite wonderful. Was going to Castle Goring that day, and perhaps to Brighton the day after, when he might look in at Gancia's. The small ones of the writer's Italian picture gallery had arrived there and had been squeezed into the green room by main force, but he could not get the de Brys from the bookseller. Did not know what his plans were. Was happy at Parham when let alone, only that his fingers itched to be making little improvements. Imagined he should take a

furnished house, in the season, in London. The baby prospered. They had new people at Wiggonholt. Was very glad that Mrs Bagot seemed to be so nice a person. The hounds were to meet there on the 5th. Did not expect any invasion from Louis Napoleon at present. Wished he could have received him when he had wanted to come there to see the armour, 'because I would write now to ask him to let us off when the froggys land at Worthing.'

209. Parham.
27 Feb.
1852

The same to the same.

Did not know where Sneyd might have got to by that time, 'so I send this to the Abbey, for the Abbess to forward, as I suppose she knows where you are likely to be;...'. When he got it he could sit down and write an entertaining epistle, calculated to sooth the writer's mind after the troubles incident to a family man who was moving his household to a distant region. Asks him to direct his letter to Berkeley Square, because he was going on Monday to an hotel in Dover Street. Was to go after a few days to Catton and Hagley. Didn't know what to do about London, his future plans depended much on that. What did Sneyd think about the new ministry? They looked a little better than they did, but on the first blush he had been dismayed at the want of great names and experienced people. Hoped they might do, but as they had not offered him a fat sinecure he could not help feeling a little doubtful.

210. Parham.
24 June,
1852

The same to the same.

The writer perceived that Sneyd had got a new seal. What was it made of and what sort of a handle had it got? Had been suffering from influenza and tic in his face, and had had a huge tooth out. Was still seedy. Now his parents were there. The following day his brother and family arrived. Why had not Sneyd enquired about Mrs Main, as good if not better cook than the Nuneham or Trentham or any other great man cook. 'Another Winken de Worde eh - hooray - my books have overflowed & when my De Bry's come, in 20 vols or so folio, I don[']t know how I shall manage.' The postman was blowing his horn so the writer had to stop. The baby was cutting its teeth.

211. Conway.
25 Sept.
1852

The same to the same.

Was partaking of the innocent recreation of looking out of the window into 'a little scratchy street'. Describes the scene. Hoped to be at Parham on Saturday. Had been charmed with Sneyd's letter from Belgium and hoped the gimcracks arrived safe. [Sketch].

212. Parham.
10 Oct.
[? 1852]

The same to the same.

Had not begun that long and interesting letter Sneyd was enquiring about because he had been travelling about the country. As touching Denton, if Sneyd had not been swaggering down 'the Boulevarts, somewhere in furrin parts', Mrs C. and the writer should very

likely have proposed to partake of viands and pudding with the Abbot. What gimcracks had Sneyd brought over? Had half a mind to run down for a night or two, to peep at the new old things, when Sneyd returned from Guy's Cliffe. Had not been at the Abbey for above 2 years. Was afraid the time was approaching when Sneyd and he would be considered by the virtuosos of those times as a curious old pair of antiquities themselves, but hoped they should not come to be stuffed and preserved as such, like the illustrious Duke of Hamilton. The writer and his wife had been to Scarsdale House, Stonleigh, Crewe, Tabley, Conway and Hawarden. His de Bry, which had been cleaned and rebound, was approaching the bookshelves at Parham. His wife had given him a binding of a book on their wedding day, a sad extravagance. Advises Sneyd to get a wife. They had passed a sad, dreary summer, such as he hoped not to pass again. Wished Sneyd would come and stay with them that autumn, after the writer's parents were gone. 'Mrs Bacon & Lady May are come, so I must go & do pleasant to the visitors, I wonder who Lord May was?'

213. Parham.
21 Oct.
1852

The same to the same.

The writer was convenient to come and see Sneyd at the Abbey on the 29th, to stay till Monday, 1st November, 'if that suits your derangements'. How was Sneyd off for ghosts? Had just been frightened out of his wits by one at Tabley. Had at last got 45 volumes of de Bry, 'stinking like pison of new glue, and paste,...'. Believed they were two fine sets, one German, complete, the other Latin, wanting 3 or 4 bits of impossible rarity. Had now got about 200 rare and rarish printed books. Adds a postscript: 'Black seal for our great Aunt, Miss Wilmot - who didn[']t leave anythink wase luck.'

214. Parham.
20 Nov.
1852

The same to the same.

Now, there was his notion of a brave Belge. [Sketch]. It had been very good of Lady Waldegrave to take Sneyd in, and the writer hoped he had a cheerful prospect of the great funeral, and had not been one of the squashed at the lying in state. The writer's parents were at Kensington. Did not know when they were to go to Hagley. They were in the agony of arrangements, but hoped to be comfortable the following week, if it ever stopped raining, and should be proud to receive him. Prays Sneyd make Lady Waldegrave a respectful bow for him. Where was Ed. Cheney? Wished he would come to Parham. Had he seen what a show Mr Drury's correspondence with the Duke made in the newspapers, all from Shotover. Saw in the 'Literary gazette' that there was a mighty sale of old books in Germany, he forgot where.

215. Parham.
2 Dec.
1852

The same to the same.

They should be happy to see him on Saturday the 11th, on his way between Baring Wall's and Hastings. As for the Caxton, they would discourse about it. The

writer had been offered the same book years before, by a greengrocer, who had wanted £5; just after, the writer had got a more perfect copy for £6.

216. Parham.
6 Feb.
1853

The same to the same.

Congratulated Sneyd in his accession to the glories of a new housekeeper. Hoped Mrs Baskerville would teach her how it was to be. How kind Lady Waldegrave was to Sneyd. Hoped her beautiful complexion still continued, 'pray tell her that she is a duck, with my respectfull compliments on the next opportunity...' Was glad to hear of George Gooche's happy state of affairs and thought the dairy at Blithfield would suit him remarkably, with the advantages of a good house, without cares and weekly bills, not to mention Xmas ditto. (How ashamed the writer had been of the goings on at Parham, while he had been there), such dog's meat dinners, such a seedy failure. They were to go to 73, South Audley Street next day, bag and baggage, for 3 months. Was grieved at losing No. 7 Grafton Street. Lady Horton joined them in house-keeping and was exceedingly kind to the writer, a sad contrast to the other side. Did Sneyd imagine that Mr Alonzo Kirkpatrick O'Toole-Hall, whom they remembered at Holly Bush in 'iis diebus', was now an emperor? Louis Napoleon must have a qualm sometimes, lest he awakened some morning and found it was all a dream. Trusted they should meet in London. Had been pleased with Albert Way's visit, he was an astounding wiseacre, as was Edward Cheney. [MS. imperfect].

217. 73, South Audley St.
[Between 7 Feb. and
7 Apr. 1853]

The same to the same.

Was very glad he was coming. Would he dine there on Friday at 7? If he would lunch at 1.30 the following day, they would see whether they could do anything together.

218. 'Easter Monday.'
[28 Mar.],
1853

The same to the same.

Had not been able to do anything about Sneyd's lodgings, but would tell Mr Sutton, Lady Horton's butler, to look out for him 'near here'. Had got the influenza very bad, and a threatening fistula. The previous Saturday he had picked up 'John Bon and Mast Person', on large vellum, a reprint but probably unique, for eighteen pence. Had just been burnt with caustic and felt as if his tail had been cut off. They were going that day to the Somers's, at Reigate, and the day after, if well enough, to Coolhurst, Mr Dickens, near Horsham. Emily had a sad cough and they hoped a change of air might do them good.

219. Parham.
26 May,
1853

The same to the same.

Was very sorry not to be in the way when Sneyd would be up for the Travellers that evening, and much hoped he might come in. Trusted he had spoken to Baring Wall, 'an influential member'. As the writer did not know that he had any particular enemy he thought

he might succeed, if the company present were in a tolerably good humour. Was glad Sneyd had got the candlesticks, and that they were genuine. Should look very sharp at anything from his friend Mr Horn. Had Sneyd received the enamel plates too? The Cholmondeleys and Albert Way were coming there, and perhaps Messrs Franks and Blaauw (*sic*). Wished Sneyd was coming too. Hoped he hadn't eaten too many good things at Keele.

220. Parham.
7 June,
1853

The same to the same.

It had suddenly struck the writer that he had not written to congratulate Sneyd on his entrance to the Travellers' Club, the best there was for society and gossip. If Sneyd did not want it himself, the writer wished he would look at Quaritch's 'Kip's views', and if it had Audley End, and all other prints that it ought to have, would he tell him to send it to the writer? If Sneyd should run against 'Buck's Castles', would he let him know? Supposed Sneyd was dining out every night and being very bilious every morning in consequence. Emily and the writer were 'pretty seedy' but 'the Babby' was well.

221. Parham.
28 June,
1853

The same to the same.

Mrs C. and the writer were coming up to 'Motheropolis' the following day, so he hoped they should meet. They were to remain 4 or 5 days at Berkeley Square. Had he got any more Caxtons, or block books on vellum?

222. Parham.
10 July,
1853

The same to the same.

Was grieved to hear of all the trouble Sneyd seemed to be in just then. They had been to London and met Sneyd's brother 'at Lady William's cordon blue dinner[,] rare victuals I assure you; & Baring Wall got into trouble, & took the wrong fish by mistake, I was charmed with his ingenuity in slipping his plate away, and catching another fish more to his mind[;] then we had the Queen[']s Ball and soiree matinale at Grosvenor house with all the world & his wife[,] so we did a good deal in three days[,] Lady Waldegrave looking very pretty & clean - I like clean people, don[']t you?' They were going to Scarborough, or to Whitby, or Lord knew where in the north, and should be glad to get away, for it was not pleasant. Had heard all about his Hill's book cover, a ghastly gimcrack. Albert Way had sent for 2 cartloads of antiquities for Chichester, so the writer imagined the museum would be a good one. They were to go there on Tuesday for a week. Hussey and Sir Stephen would be there.

223. Parham.
20 July,
1853

The same to the same.

'(For Hill, read Webb:) you seem to have made a capital arrangement about the book cover, would it fit that old Latin Gospels, it would increase the value of both, if it would.' Had come back from Chichester the day before, pleased with the museum

and the hospitality of the bishop, bored with the dinners and speeches, '& reading stupid twaddling papers; & ashamed of the Duke of Richmond, who accepted the honour of Patron and took no notice of us old fogies, a very undignified dodge for a great man, and a very undiplomatic one, for the estimation if [recte 'of'] 5 or 600 gentlemen, is of more importance, than that of the blacklegs, and tenant farmers round about Goodwood, with whom he is always dining & speechifying.' Was in agony about certain chattels which Albert Way was trying to get for him, and the following day, perhaps, he should know whether he had got them. They had been found in an old house in Chichester, and consisted of an iron or steel javelin of Indian workmanship, a pair of thumbscrews, and a silver mace belonging to a corporation, with the arms of James I or Queen Elizabeth. The writer had made a long speech in praise of gimcracks, on opening the antiquarian meeting, but as there had been no reporters present he had not had a chance of reading it, to see how it sounded. Cock Hussey and Sir Stephen had been there, and Sneyd's things had excited much interest, particularly the book covers. Was glad to hear that Gooch had made so good a match, and wished him every happiness. Now why didn't Sneyd pop the question to Lady Louisa, and then it would be all right, for the writer found no gimcrack to compare to his little 'Babby'. [Sketch].

224. Royal Hotel,
Whitby.
8 Aug.
1853

The same to the same.

They were at Whitby. Was Sneyd ever there? The ruins were magnificent. 'Howbeit a certain man of Belial, a tenant of Col[.] Cholmley, is pulling them down, or at least trying to do so, for fear they should fall upon his cow!! only think that such a thing should be actually going on, in the year 1853, and that any gentleman should allow a barbarian over whom he has any influence, to do so; and the savages have got long ropes to some of the beautiful Early English Arches to pull at. I hope the fall of the grand old church will smash a few of them when it does come down.' As touching York, where did Sneyd get certain coats of a soft, thin sort of woollen stuff, which the writer remembered he used to have? Were there any curiosities or old bookshops at York? Also, when had the Duke asked him to Hamilton, because he had asked the writer, and if they could meet it would be a fine thing. Should like to call in at Abbotsford, if he were going that way. What were the accounts of the couple at Denton? Had been to church twice that day and had heard the same sermon twice, but the artful curate had put a new text to it in the evening. Saturday they had been to Mulgrave, where they had seen about 99 portraits of the most noble Marquess of Normanby, and smelled such a stink at the door of her ladyship's room, that he should never forget it.

225. Catton.
22 Sept.
1853

The same to the same.

They had arrived there quite knocked up with railing,

the day before yesterday, from Temple Newsam. What a grand old house that was, the great gallery 120 by 35 was the largest living room he had seen. Had gone there, not direct, from Abbotsford, a place full of interest to him. They had passed an agreeable week there and Hope had been very kind and friendly. Had got the little 18mo. Stowe's Chronicle, minus the title, at Edinburgh. Was it not very rare? On Monday the writer was to start again, for Hengrave Hall, Bury St Edmunds. Did not think Emily would go as the journey was too long and she was hardly up to it. 'Cock' Hussey's marriage was a great event. It gave the writer more hopes of Sneyd mustering courage to attack 'the fair Lady L....'. Thought he really would have a very good chance. Prays Sneyd tell 'Mylord' that he should much like to present Mrs C. to him, and would try to get over when he returned from Suffolk. If Sneyd was gone to King's Bromley he must come over to Catton. Lady Horton would be charmed to receive him. Sneyd gave a prosperous account of Keele, wished everything relating to Parham was equally so.

226. Parham.
15 Oct.
1853

The same to the same.

Sneyd could not expect a large paper answer to his imperial quarto letter, which he had received the day before, as he had nothing of very astounding interest to write about. Had offered to go to Hamilton, but Douglas had said he could not receive him, his house being full of royalty, but had asked him to come in the winter. Feared it would not suit him to go 10,000 miles to even a worse climate than wherever he might be, only for 2 days or so. It would be great disport to go to Paris during the carnival, to see the 'Bal de l'opera'. Had several new things to show Sneyd. Had been to Mr Falke the other day, who had said there were no curiosities in the market. Could not think where the things went, for the writer only ever heard of 7 or 8 collectors in England. That had been very touching of Margaretta De Barburée, thought 'Mr Snyder' could hardly do less than propose. Poor Hussey had been horridly ill. His marriage was to take place at the end of the following month. Prays Sneyd tell the Bishop of Oxford that for 'mulligrubs' a sovereign remedy was 'Tannin'. Should much like to bring Emily to see the Abbey, which she would appreciate highly, but ladies were not so easily moved as they were. Perhaps they might get down from London some day when the roses were out. They were to remain at Parham until January, the writer hoped.

227. Parham.
8 Nov.
1853

The same to the same.

Had been going to write him for the last week. Forrest sent him word that he had several pieces of Gothic silver, did Sneyd know what they were? Such things being 'rarississimi' he should be afraid to go to his shop for fear of immediate ruin. Had been looking over some of his own letters from Erzurum, several of them were not so stupid as might be

expected, had Sneyd any of his epistles from thence? Wished Sneyd would come and give them a good, steady visit, they would provide him with puddings and whitey brown. Wished he could afford Baring Wall's house. The writer's father had had a sharp attack of bilious illness, at Scarsdale House, but had soon got right again, and that day they were to start for Stoke.

228.

Parham.
14 Nov.
1853

The same to the same.

Should be much obliged for the letters, and Sneyd should have them back again. Was not writing anything for publication, but 'The Misses' made him fill up the hiatuses in certain old letters. Thanks him for the notice of de Bure's library. Would see what could be done. Dared say that fragment was part of his MS. of hours. Was cold and raw and he could not go to Scotland at that time of year, 300 miles, to see even the fine things at Hamilton, even if he were asked, which he was not. Was sorry Hamilton would not take him in 2 or 3 months ago, because he liked Royalties, because the necessary etiquette set him at ease. Sneyd had not answered his question, as to what Gothic silver Forrest had brought over. Hoped he had sold it by that time.

229.

Parham.
25 Nov.
1853

The same to the same.

Had received the packet of letters the previous Saturday, and had deferred acknowledging the same for a reason he had. Howbeit, they were very interesting, some of them, and 'the Misses' had got into a terrible scrape by offering to copy some of them, for one had taken 14 pages 4^{to} already. Sneyd must have some more, he should think.

230.

50, Berkeley Sq.
'Monday[,]
Nov[.] 28',
[? 1853]

The same to the same.

'Well Mister, I mean your Reverence, it is a [blank] long time since I was at the Abbey certainly, Aug[.] 23. 1847 I think it was, so now if you kill the cat on Saturday next, the paws & tail will make giblets for the soup on Monday, on which day I steadfastly purpose simmering down to Oxford on my way to your hospitable roof.' Could not have come then unless he had received a letter that morning from Hagley, saying that they were going to Gopsal, which left him free for a week. If Sneyd was squeezed to death when he went to see Jenny Lind, he could write him a word, and the writer would bring the black shorts for the funeral. Feared his clothes had been infected with democratic principles, for they were uncommon ragged and seedy. Had seen Ed. Cheney that day, who had given him an impression on vellum of a niello, the only one he had ever seen. He had said that Sneyd had not asked him to Denton, so how would it be if he did, Cheney was an amusing, intelligent fellow. His book tormented him grievously, because he hoped to get out of the scrape of having his name put to it, but supposed Murray thought it was too stupid to sell

without, so everybody accused him of being an author, and if the tome was a failure it would be a kettle to his tail 'in saecula, saecularum, - amen.' Job had known what he was about when he said 'Oh that mine enemy would write a book.'

231. Parham.
2 Jan.
1854

The same to the same.

Many happy new years to him. It was a fine thing to be a duke, with no end of £. s. d., tenements, messuages and genuine articles, as Mr G. Robins used to put it. The books and MSS. at Hamilton must be very fine indeed. Could Sneyd send him a little book with a plan of Hamilton Palace? The fragment of d'Heures, which was part of his, had sold for £63. The writer could not have got it, with commission, &c., under £70, so Sneyd should have his half for £140. Was not sure if he would sell it, it was the finest French art he had ever seen. Wished Sneyd had made some sketches of the objects of virtue at Hamilton, they were so rare. Mr Ruskin was a clever, odd sort of fellow. Mrs Ruskin was a duck. Poor Emily Bagot, how very sad. Col. Williams was at Parham and they had had a prodigious 'overhawling' of Turks, Kurds and Persians, heretics and infidels. They had had a grand Xmas tree, 15 feet high. Heard they had had a successful play at Tabley on 30 Dec. [MS. imperfect].

232. Parham.
17 Feb.
1854

The same to the same.

Had been glad to see his letter, having no notion where he was, having received no answer to his letter directed to some awful place in Scotland. Sneyd seemed to have had an agreeable time among dukes and duchesses. The writer had been surrounded with troubles from the acts of various relatives. Besides that he had written a book, about Armenia. Had written it in 11½ days. Should Sneyd be at the Abbey on 4 March the writer and his 'Missis' would come to him on that day, till the Monday, when they thought of going to Sherborne. Had heard from Albert Way that his sister had just married a priest. Was very sorry to hear of Mrs Shirley's accident. The only new gimcrack was a silver penner and inkstand. They had established a British Museum up in the gallery and filled two glass cases with things which had been in the drawers. [Sketch].

233. Catton.
15 Apr.
[? 1854]

The same to the same.

[Page of mock advertisements - 'Portraits in this style only 42 guineas' - and sketches, with note asking Sneyd to write to Hagley, Easter Monday].

234. Hagley.
6 May,
1854

The same to the same.

How was he getting on? They had been at Hagley 3 days and were to return to Catton that afternoon. They had been at Hagley about a fortnight before, and had gone over to Blithfield. Had been much pleased with the church, which he had not seen for

years. Was sorry that Lord Bagot would not receive them just then at Blithfield, as he had said so much about it to Emily. Did not perceive why he declined to have them and was quite sorry to be thrown over. Was to go to Town on Monday, to look out for a hotel. What were Sneyd's plans? Was he going to Town? Was he acquainted with the paper the writer was using, it was made of straw. Adds a postscript, that there was a report that Sir Charles Wolseley was dead. Sincerely hoped it was not true, he was the best of their neighbours round there.

235. Parham.
29 July,
1854

The same to the same.

Emily and the writer had returned there (after 3 weeks at Catton) the previous night. The house was full of nephews and nieces. Edward and Cissy were gone to a Swan hopping, with the Lord Mayor. His present Lordship had passed his youth behind the kitchen door at Hagley. Had seen in the paper that Mrs Walter Sneyd had been one of the circle which had surrounded Lady Waldegrave at Nuneham, a fortnight before. Did think it was very hard Sneyd had not let so old a friend into the secret. Wished he would come to Parham. There was a wonderful addition to the gimcracks in the shape of 2 glass cases full of things, and the writer was looking forward to an ancient Gothic chandelier for 12 candles.

236. Parham.
6 Oct.
1854

The same to the same.

As Sneyd had not answered his last letter from High Cliffe, the writer did not know where he was. Wished Sneyd had come to Parham, on his way, to show him the wonderful Arkana he had secured regardless of expence. Had been suffering from earache. His father had been talking of giving Wiggonholt to Mr Bacon, to hold for George, the writer's nephew, so the writer advised Sneyd thereof. Aunt Elizabeth had given Edward a good sum of money to buy Scarsdale House. What a lucky fellow he was. What a very sad event was poor Ormonde's sudden death, one of the best of the writer's friends. A great event had happened at Amberley, Sir Shafto Adair had been and married Miss Clarkson. He had £10,000 a year and had settled £2,000 on her for life, and she had sent them her card, Lady Adair, Adair House, St James's Square.

237. Parham.
30 Oct.
1854

The same to the same.

Was glad to hear that there was an 'emandation' in Sneyd's trail, and trusted he would recover drinking too much water. Did not feel so much elated about the prospect of [being bequeathed] his MSS. as he ought to, for to judge by Lord Bagot, it took a great many pills to put an end to his race. Poor Fred Horton was dying in London, Emily was with him, and Lady Horton. The writer had been obliged to return to Parham, and did not know whether Emily would join him there or whether he should return to Town. Had

got one or two things in their line. Was glad to hear that Eleanor was better.

238. Parham.
5 Dec.
1854

The same to the same.

Should have thought that Ferrest must have done Mr Burnell out of more than £14,000. How remarkable, these two dying so unexpectedly. Mr Burnell's gimcracks, he had been told, had been valued at £60,000. Should not have imagined they could have been worth a third of that. Wished he could draw his Gothic chandelier, the most important object of its kind that he possessed. Had made two very rare books perfect by the help of Mr Lilly. A great event had occurred in the green room, they had turned out the green and put in red velvet, 'which has a most Splendiferous effect'. Did not know whether he had told him of a helmet covered with ancient crimson velvet, a remarkable addition to the armoury, and of the exchange he had made with the Tower of London. Hoped Sneyd would come over and see them all one day. They trusted to make the passages quite warm in a few days by 'certain ingenious arrangements'.

239. Parham.
8 Dec.
1854

The same to the same.

The briskness of their correspondence was becoming alarming. Should much like to pay Sneyd a visit, howbeit, that must depend on whether the writer went to London. Had got the other epistle about Thorpe, thought it very praiseworthy in him to educate himself and get into orders, '& think you had better send him a 20 punnote to begin with.' The writer did not want Thorpe to undertake a family history for him, and wondered what sort of a sum anything of the kind would cost. Could not imagine how anyone could support himself 'by what he calls literary persuits, for after selling thousands of copies of my inestimable works if I get enough to buy a good gimcrack I think myself very lucky.' Was very glad to hear that Sneyd was so much better. Was deep in a miraculous ingenuity for warming the bedroom passages, which would make all the difference in the comfort of the house, if it succeeded.

240. Parham.
9 Dec.
1854

The same to the same.

The writer was to go to London on Wednesday, so he hoped to go to Sneyd on Thursday, but had to be back in London on Friday, and to Parham on Saturday. Requests arrangements to be met at Abingdon Road. What a sad thing if the Duke of Cambridge had gone out of his mind. Should be glad to go by Oxford, to see his nephew George, at Merton. Was glad Sneyd was so much better.

241. Parham.
11 Dec.
1854

The same to the same.

Had at length got a Bradshaw. Gives details of his arrival at Abingdon Road, where he required to be met with a fly. It was rather a desperate effort to simmer away so far for so short a visit.

242. Parham.
21 Dec.
1854
- The same to the same.
- [Last 4 sides]. 'Now I['l] tell you what it is mister, I'l[l] trouble you to send me £50, at the least, to pay part of my expences, in coming for to go, and see you at that ere Abbey...', etc. Had bought the first edition of Shakespeare. Was the lawful proprietor of the first edition, 2 copies of the second, 2 copies of the third, the fourth, the reprint of the first, the first edition of his poems, 'the celebrated autograph', and a collection of rubbings from his tomb and these of his family. Was very glad to hear that the doctor had mended the hole in Sneyd's western side, and was much obliged for the directions to dealers in objects of virtue abroad. They had all the quality coming there the following week and expected to have the house full.
243. Parham.
23 Jan.
1855
- The same to the same.
- Poor Fred Horton was dead, to the very great affliction of the writer's wife. They could not receive Sneyd on Thursday, they were to leave Parham next day for the funeral at Catton.
244. Hagley.
23 Mar.
1855
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd's letter had been forwarded. They had been in very great distress on account of the illness of the writer's little boy, who had been laid up for a long while. He was better, but the weather would not permit him to go out to recruit his strength, and they were unable to leave Hagley to return to Parham. Had been to London for a few days on business, and had had the distinguished honour of being squashed for 2 hours in various ante rooms belonging to Her Majesty. Had not ventured to go near the (?) Bernal sale, but had received satisfaction from the prices of some things of which he had the fellow pieces. They were to go to Parham as soon as they could, Lady Horton joined them there. Knew the book Sneyd had bought. Boone had offered him a copy for, he thought, £75. [MS. imperfect].
245. Parham.
23 Aug.
1855
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd had been wandering about so much that the writer did not know where to direct to him. Was glad it had agreed so well with him. Nuneham seemed to be in a state of perpetual scrimmage. Prays Sneyd give his love to Lady Morley, she was sure to make any party agreeable. They were going to some watering place by the sea, towards the end of September. Lady Horton said she would join them at Weymouth, if they went there. Had thought of Boulogne, for the sake of bolting off to Paris to see the great exhibition, and the numerous improvements the Emperor had made. Was waiting at Parham for his parents. Was sorry to say they and his brother filled him with terror, spending great sums of money, whereas all that Emily and he did prospered. Little Robin was full of intelligence and fun, he did not know how his ancestors were undermining his prospects.

246. Parham.
15 Sept.
1855

The same to the same.

Sneyd seemed to have been doing a great deal in the dissipation line, taking his pastime in the great houses, where nobody cared whether you were dead or alive, nevertheless fine places were fine things, well worth seeing, though the trouble in the writer's case generally exceeded the amusement. In England, where there was no dignity, a second class place was usually much more agreeable than a first rate one. Though we had plenty of varieties, we had no pomps. Little Robin was asking him all sorts of absurd questions and climbing about him. They had been sadly grieved by the death of poor William Pechell, killed in the trenches before Sevastopol. It was a terrible blow to his parents. Sir George's hopes of founding a family now fell to the ground. Did not know whether it would prevent Emily and himself from going to Paris. They intended to go the following week for 10 days. Boulogne was given up, the last scheme was to go to Eastbourne, 'at the fall of the leaf'. The writer's father and mother were there. Feared his father's affairs went on very ill, but he could do nothing.

247. Parham.
21 Sept.
1855

The same to the same.

Owing to the sad bereavement of the poor Pechells, they could not arrange their plans, so they were going the following day to Paris, where they hoped to arrive on Monday. They were taking no servants and did not know at what hotel they should be taken in. Prays Sneyd come over if he could, before the weather changed. Hoped the trip would do them good, for Emily had a bad cough and the writer was very poorly.

248. Hotel Wagram,
Rue Rivoli,
Paris.
25 Sept.
1855

The same to the same.

There they were, 'au quatrieme', looking out on the roofs of the houses in a noisy back street. They said there were twice as many English there than there had been when the Queen had been there. Paris was wonderfully worth seeing. The Emperor was evidently no small man, the magnificent scale of the improvements round the Tuilleries and the Rue de Rivoli was astounding. The Quai Voltaire was nearly plucked clean. M. de l'Ange was pretty well, but had not a gimcrack worth buying. The Exposition was a remarkable failure when compared to theirs, it looked like a big Oxford Street bazaar, but there were some beautiful things in it, awful draughts of air and bad luncheons too. Had a horrid cold. They thought of staying till the following Tuesday. [They had had] a capital dinner and good hotel at Amiens, '& what a glorious old Cathedral.' There were many new old curiosity shops at Paris, and there were little gold 5 franc pieces, an 'amazing comfort, as one has not to hire a wheelbarrow to carry 10£ now.' Hoped Sneyd was coming.

249. Parham.
11 Oct.
1855

The same to the same.

How many more objets Bizantins had Sneyd got? And

how few pounds had he left? Emily would be much obliged if he would ask for any letters which there might be for them at Lafitte's Bank, next time he went there. They had had an awful passage from Boulogne to Folkestone, 228 passengers on board. Recommended Sneyd to return by Calais and Dover, where there were fewer passengers. His gimcracks had subsided quietly into the ark and it did not seem a bit more full than it was before. Lady Wolseley and Robert Hay were there (Hay had gone). The latter had given the writer his famous Egyptian gold ring, the signet of Thotmes III, the Pharaoh of the Exodus. If Sneyd extended his trip, the writer wished he would send him a rough sketch of any Gothic silver he met with, with details, and where to write about it. Wished he would bring Denton down to Parham. More than 1,800 copper coins had been found in a well near there, mostly of Constantine.

250. Parham.
24 Oct.
1855

The same to the same.

So Sneyd was got back again into his Abbey. Had expected a letter from the grimmest curiosity shop in Belgium and from the Hotel des Antiquaires in Holland. He had been quite right to come over by Calais. They were on the eve of departure, the writer's parents were to go to London the following day and they themselves retired to No. 15, Grand Parade, Eastbourne, on 1 Nov., where they were to remain a month. Had seen about the Shotover sale in the newspaper, and had written to Mr Wilson, to ask him to bid £5 or £6 for the shield. Sneyd was very welcome to out bid him if he liked. Wished he could buy some of Mr Carrand's armour, &c. Had never seen a more choice collection. Had been tormented with earache. Hoped Shotover would fall into good hands. Could not conceive the Bishop liking Cuddesdon better than Shotover.

251. 15, Grand Parade,
Eastbourne.
17 Nov.
1855

The same to the same.

There was certainly nothing very astounding there in the antiquarian line. Things looked, on the contrary, rather unfinished, streets half built, with yawning sepulchres, that looked forward some day to being cellars, ready to engulf the unwary passenger. Nevertheless it was a pretty place for a bathing place. They were to return to Parham at the end of the month. That seemed to be a wonderful gimcrack that Sneyd had got, trusted it was real. Lady Horton was there, and 2 of the writer's nieces, Emily and Blanche. Emily was very pretty, something like Lady Somers. Robin was in tremendous force and called himself the Cub.

252. Parham.
14 Dec.
1855

The same to the same.

Lord Ashburnham had sent to ask the writer's wife and himself to pay him a visit towards 10 Jan., and hoped Sneyd would accompany them, to be introduced to him and his wonderful tomes. After Ashburnham they were to migrate northwards, and then to London, or Paris.

Had heard that day of the arrival of the body of poor W. Pechell, at Spithead, so the second funeral would take place the following day or Monday, at Angmering.

253. Parham.
17 Dec.
1855

The same to the same.

They should probably be going to Ashburnham on 8th January. What did Sneyd think of Miss Gobble's cabinet? [The above note written on the inside of a letter dated 15 Dec., 1855, relating to a cabinet offered for sale to 'the Honble Mr Curzon' by Miss Goble, 52, Montague Street, Worthing].

254. Parham.
17 Jan.
1856

The same to the same.

Sent him two pictures, horridly done, but they would explain the [? sort - MS. imperfect] of things they were intended to represent. Had got some curious cinquecento ornaments besides, [? in] Frankfurt the previous summer, but the 'Misses' had bagged them. If ever Sneyd brought his better half there, he would see a great deal more old rubbish than there had been when he had been years before. Had a very curious collection of papers to be disposed of, and should be glad if Sneyd or any other amateur would take them off his hands. They were called Xmas bills and had the singular property of increasing and swelling in the most unexpected way. Hoped to make acquaintance with Mrs S. some day. She had made a perfect conquest at Hagley. How did he feel now that he was married and [? done] for? Heard he [? bore] it pretty well.

255. [Par]ham.
25 Jan.
1856

The same to the same.

Did Sneyd know the paper was made of straw? It was wonderful stuff for writing on with a steel pen, [? though - MS. imperfect] the writer did not think he spelled [? better] on it than on any [o]ther. They were to go to Brighton on Monday for 10 days. Did not know whether they should be able to go to Tabley [? and ? or] Vale Royal or not, but would let Sneyd know. Comments on the weather. The beautiful lady of [? - MS. imperfect] ...name was as good...had offered their house in London... wanted to go up for a [? few] days, so perhaps Sneyd would send him a cloth of [? gold] dressing-gown to... [? wear when he got there]. Was so dismayed at his father's affairs. Could not get his [? mother] to feel any sympathy [? on] the subject...

256. 64, Marine Parade,
Brighton.
2 Feb.
1856

The same to the same.

Had just written to propose themselves to Tabley on the 12th and Vale Royal on the 16th, so if Sneyd could manage it 'pray meet us.' They were to leave little Robin at Catton. They were in 'a sort of lodgings', Sneyd could take the ground floor if he liked. The landlady cooked and did for them, so they had only a maid and a man with them. Wished he could live in London on that plan. Had heard much of the gardens and avenues at Wrest, had once gone there years before, from Lord Bute's, but the house had not

been transmogrified in those days and the ponds had looked damp and froggy. Emily was better, but not in robust health. Hoped that going about and change might be of service to her. [MS. imperfect].

257. Brighton.
5 Feb.
1856

The same to the same.

The de Tableys were [? not - MS. imperfect] to receive them, so the writer's [? wife's health not] being very robust, they had given up their expedition for the present, it being too far and too expensive to simmer more than 200 miles to Vale Royal and back, for a few days. Was very sorry not to show Emily that curious old place and increase her acquaintance with its owners, but thought it too fatiguing, so they were to go back to Parham the following day. Might run up to Town the same day, for 2 days, to pay bills, in which case he hoped they might meet at the Travellers. Adds a postscript, asking what the Somers's were doing, were they staying in Town?

258. Parham.
28 Mar.
185[6]

The same to the same.

It was so long since he had heard from or of Sneyd that he suspected his last letter must have been written in the days of uncial manuscripts. Had been asked to [? visit - MS. imperfect] Sneyd at Badger, and should have much liked to, howbeit, wives were a heavy travelling commodity, and the writer did not find it easy to get about the world as he used to. Lady Horton had taken a house in which he was to participate, from 12 April to 20 May, No. 7, Grafton Street. Was getting very tired of the dirt and shabbiness of London, and expected to have had quite enough of it by the end of their lease. Reflects on the interest of making improvements at Parham. Francis Paget had sent him a circular, to rebuild schools which Lord Bagot had allowed to tumble down, as Alfred was to be one of the schoolmasters double first classes could be expected from that part of the world. The great Higgins now reigned in the writer's stead as secretary to the Philobiblon. Sneyd had had a narrow escape, and would have been chosen by acclamation if Stirling had not consented to remain another year. Only one secretary was to be changed annually in future. The Duc d'Aumale had got a missal, or book of hours, probably the finest work of French art in existence. He had given £750 for it, but Colnaghi had said he could cut it up for more. Did Sneyd like their Philobiblon volume? What was he going to get at Tong Castle?

259. Homburg,
Frankfurt.
14 July,
1856

The same to the same.

They had been 3 weeks at that place, in a nice new apartment in a new house. There was nothing to see except the smart people in the gardens and the 'Kur Saal', where in magnificent rooms gambling went on every day, Sundays and all. Mr Le Blanc, the chief evil genius of that hell, bagged £35,000 a year. The old schloss, where they had seen the Landgravine,

was a sad contrast, the old Landgrave shy and sorry for himself, lived in the gardener's house. Describes gimcracks he has seen or bought in Frankfurt. The waters [at Homburg] would be of great service to Sneyd, they would suit his case exactly. [Sketch].

260. Schlangenbad.
Nassau.
5 Aug.
1856

The same to the same.

Divers passages in Sneyd's letter had put him on the tenterhooks of expectation as to what was going to happen in Sneyd's case. Congratulated him much on the Duke of Hamilton's very ducal present. Douglas was a generous fellow. Had been the other day to Maintz, where he had seen a great part of Gutenberg's original printing press, with his initials and the date, 1441. It had been found that year in the cellar of his house. Eight pieces of stone for rubbing down the printer's ink had been found with it. A certain Jew in Frankfurt had the most beautiful 'cinque cents' plate, almost worth Douglas's while to run up the Rhine to see and get it, only it was awfully dear. Had got some lovely old silver gilt jewelry from him. There were two churches in the primeval village of Kidrick, which were stunners. Adds a postscript, that he had met Miss Pechell there, and Lady Caroline.

261. 50, Berkeley Sq.
27 Aug.
1856

The same to the same.

It was the sixth anniversary of his marriage. Hoped Sneyd's married life might be as happy as his, and his fortunes more prosperous. They had come over from Calais to Dover the previous Friday, to be in time for the marriage of Henrietta Pechell and Percy Burrell. It had gone off very well the day before, and was a great match for both parties as far as the prospect of future wealth was concerned. The only person of Sneyd's acquaintance whom he had seen in London had been Sneyd's brother, whose munificence was astounding. Wished to know more about Sneyd's affairs, when and where his marriage was to take place. The Burrells were gone to Parham. The writer's parents were to follow them there on Saturday, giving them only 3 days to themselves, they had no feelings. Aunt Elizabeth sent Sneyd her kind regards. The writer was to return to Catton that afternoon. Was Sneyd to take his bride to the Abbey or where?

262. Catton.
29 Sept.
1856

The same to the same.

Nothing that lay in his power should prevent his being present 'at the Halter' on 14th Oct. Where was St Peter's church, Eaton Square? Where should he be the day before the awful ceremony, as he should like to see the last of him before he was married and done for. Was sorry Sneyd's father-in-law had given him that old cup, because he had intended doing so himself, so he must look out for another gimcrack. How magnificent Lady Waldegrave, and Louis Sneyd, had been towards Sneyd. Considers the question of Sneyd's cook, Mrs Dunn, and the possibility of acquiring her. The writer's father's servants were under no control, were very wasteful, and very bad examples to his own. What a good fellow G.Gooch was. Mr

Bromley amused him, he knew a great deal about pictures, but one doubted his knowledge when he sneered at everything that was not his so indiscriminately.

263. Catton.
6 Oct.
1856

The same to the same.

Considers the question of Mrs Dunn, Sneyd's cook, whom he will take. They were to go to Stoke the following day, and the writer to Parham on the 11th. Was glad to hear that Robert Hay would be there, as he dreaded a tete a tete with his parents. Then returned on the 13th for the ceremony. [Sketch].

264. 50, Berkeley Sq.
11 Oct.
1856

The same to the same.

Believed a wedding gift ought to be ornamental and not useful. The latter quality would be perfectly exemplified in the dish he sent him, with his most sincere good wishes. Was on his way to Parham. Was to return on Monday evening. Had just received his letter about Mrs Dunn. Would tell Emily and they would communicate with the said functionary. Hoped she would do very well.

265. Parham.
1 Nov.
1856

The same to the same.

Had been charmed to hear that his honey moon was passing in perfect happiness, which he sincerely hoped might long continue. Sent the letter to Sneyd's sister because he did not know whether he had left Strawberry Hill or not. Begged him to tell Mrs Dunn to write to his wife. Emily and he had given up Tabley, and Eaton, and come to Parham in a hurry, on hearing that his father had had an attack of paralysis. The latter, who was almost as well as ever, had been very glad to see them, but his mother, who was in a sad state of irritation, continued to make their stay disagreeable. The rooms which they had made so nice had all been altered. Adds a postscript, that if Sneyd wrote to him he should be careful to put a visible 'Junior' on the direction.

266. Parham.
9 Dec.
1856

The same to the same.

Was glad to see Sneyd's letter. Would begin by an historical essay on the merits of Mrs Dunn. Considers these. The writer's father had paid for 374lbs of butcher's meat for the last week he had been at Parham, with about 24 servants. That besides game, venison, fish, etc. Mrs Dunn had been taken as cook and housekeeper, but knew nothing about dessert ices, taking care of a large house, &c. She was a good woman, so the writer trusted they should do, only it would be with trouble. Wished he could see him and wonders how he and his wife got on. Hoped he had Lady Horton's glass on Mrs Sneyd's toilette. Sneyd's prospects were far better than his. They were expecting a curious party there at Xmas, Armenians and strange birds, whose coming frightened his wife. Hoped Lady Horton would come to support her fainting powers. The collection of gimcracks had increased mightily. The men of Manchester had applied, but he

did not want to send things which would not be appreciated, to that horrid den of smoke, tyranny and vulgarity.

267. Parham.
5 Jan.
1857

The same to the same.

Returns Sneyd's new year greetings. Sneyd seemed to be making a very agreeable wedding tour. Hoped he might not be laid up with mince-pie fever or a toasted cheese attack. They had had several people staying in the house, and Mrs Dunn had acquitted herself very creditably. Asks to be commended to all at Blithfield, it was about 7 years since he was staying there.

268. Parham.
17 Jan.
1857

The same to the same.

[Half the sheet of writing paper only surviving]. Now there [sketch] Sneyd beheld a most astounding piece of antiquity, "a werry hold at". It was of the 12th century. Lord Warwick had one, Lord Londesborough had an inferior one. This was the only other one known in the country, a very fine specimen... This box [sketch] had been purchased in Leipzig. Lord Ashburnham had another. Describes it in detail... [MS. imperfect].

269. [? Between
27 Feb. and
14 Apr.
1857]¹

The same to the same.

[Postscript]. What a horrible mess their politics were in. The present parliament was almost as bad as the Rump. If Prince Albert was an Englishman he would have a very good chance of becoming dictator. They said the Duchess of Kent had a cancer and was dying, poor woman, and they were to tell the Queen, just before her confinement. Perhaps it was all untrue, hoped it might be so. They were to have 2 railways at last. They had a new parson at Pulborough, £2,000 [sic] a year, the Rev. Singleton, a brother of the archdeacon, they said he had gone into orders to spite Dr Hook of Leeds. Hoped that might also not be true. How was it that Sneyd was not at the Blithfield festivities? How well Hugo Meynell seemed to have done it.

[1. A William Sinclair was instituted to Pulborough 27 Feb. 1857, brother of John Sinclair, Archdeacon of Middlesex. The name Singleton does not appear in the diocesan records. Queen Victoria's youngest child, Beatrice, was born in April 1857].

270. Parham.
8 Mar.
1857

The same to the same.

Believed for once that Sneyd was right and that he did owe him a letter. Had met Sneyd's sister Charlotte at Bedgebury, who had told him that Mrs S. was not quite well, a piece of news which he hoped was of great importance in the history of the Sneyd family. Was sure they had his sincere good wishes, and trusted he might hear something interesting from him on the subject. Had been in London, where he had naturally got a little gimcrack or chattel, of which he sent him a very rough sketch. It was of filigree,

florid Gothic, about 1450. In London he had dined so much that he was rather seedy in consequence. Was very sorry to hear of poor Delamere's eyes. De Tabley seemed to be flourishing. They said Lord Talbot had given up his claims on the Shrewsbury estates. Was that true? Who was the nearest of kin to the late Lord Scarsdale, was it Lady Noel Byron, an important question, £160,000 depending on it? He had said he would remember the writer's father, yet they had produced no will. They were to go to Hagley on the 16th, to attend on his father. Dreaded going there. Had only sent one picture to Manchester, because he did not believe they knew anything about the matter. [Letter continued on sheet of different writing paper, fragment only but text intact]. It was all for the benefit of the hotel keepers, the man of Manchester was a snob, he believed in nothing but cash. [MS. imperfect].

271. Hagley.
23 Mar.
1857

The same to the same.

The picture had been much appreciated, and the hieroglyphical date at the bottom had puzzled the family exceedingly, but Sneyd did not answer his questions, so he trusted that no news was good news. Was living a sad, mournful life at Hagley and grieved to subject his wife to the strange ways of his ancestors. She and Robin had arrived there on Monday. The writer had waited till Thursday, to dine at Grillon's and to go to the new Collector's Club at Marochetti's, who lived so far off that one would hardly ever be able to get there in the London season, but he had been delighted with the superb things which certain collectors had sent there. Had he told him about a little chest of silver, of filigree, of the 15th century? [Sketch].

272. Catton.
29 Apr.
1857

The same to the same.

Did owe him a letter but he had been so out of sorts and so unhappy that he had not been in any heart to write. Everything at Hagley was so wretched that it was too bad and too wrong for him to write about, but he would tell him something when they met. They were not going to London that spring. Sneyd seemed to be very gay. If they could manage it they were going to Vale Royal for a few days the following week, and then back to Hagley. They meditated an expedition to Manchester with Lady Horton, was there any chance of Sneyd's going there in May? Should have liked to have seen Strawberry Hill in its glory. Was sorry to hear of Fred Gooch's baby. Wished Sneyd would make him an exact sketch of the helmet at Warwick Castle. Could Sneyd not make an artful arrangement to go to his sisters in London, that would be better than a lodging? Hoped some day to make the acquaintance of Mrs Sneyd, before he was quite worn out with anxieties. How horridly cold it was. Was going to walk with his little Robin, an inestimable blessing.

273. Parham.
17 July,
1857

The same to the same.

Supposed Sneyd was gone to the Duc d'Aumale's. Was sorry not to have gone too. Dared say Sneyd was very snug in the Abbey, in the midst of his flowers. They never had such fine roses before, and the garden was in great beauty, though most of the roses were over. They had been to Brighton for a change of air, and had returned there the previous Saturday. They had been in many troubles, two servants were unwell, and Mrs Dunn was utterly unfit for her place. When did Sneyd retire to Her Majesty's bench? Had been to London twice lately. What a wonderful enamelled pot Mary Queen of Scots had given to, the writer forgot who.

274. Parham.
30 Sept.
1857

The same to the same.

How did the world wag with Sneyd? They had returned to Parham on Saturday, from various visits. Was delighted to get back again in peace to the quiet shades of the country. The lace room and the cottages were finished at last. Adelaide Pechell had become Adelaide Somerset. Lady Horton was at Parham, and they expected the Moncton Milneses on the 13th. He had received from Frankfurt 12 silver gilt figures of the 13th cent. [Sketch]. Could Sneyd not come over to luncheon some day, to look at them? Perhaps the writer might pay him a visit some day, if Sneyd intended remaining at No.16. Adds a postscript, that some rotten old tapestry of the 15th century, beautifully drawn but the colours faded, was on the road from Midhurst. It had come from the old house at Cowdray.

275. Parham.
28 Nov.
1857

The same to the same.

They were going to leave in about 10 days and had parted with Mrs Dunn. Wrote to ask whether Sneyd knew of a place that would suit her. They were going to Hagley, and Catton, and hoped to make a tour in Cheshire. What were Sneyd's plans? Cardinal Wiseman had been there with a flock of priests, he was a mighty great antiquarian, but wore a fancy dress in the evening, a long red silk cloak, which was infra dig to the writer's mind. Heard that the Duke of Hamilton had lost a great deal by the Glasgow bank, hoped it was not true. The writer's 'misses' sent her love to Mrs WS. Wished autumn had never been invented. What quaint things the Siamese had given to the Queen. Wondered whether she had a great ark to put them in at Windsor.

276. Parham.
20 Mar.
1858

The same to the same.

Had returned to Hagley from Teddesley on Wednesday, and the day before had met George Gooch playing billiards with Mr Sneyd. Gooch had told him that Sneyd was again suffering from boils. Recommends the right bathing place in Germany. Congratulates him on the Warden's legacy, had he bought a wonderful antiquity with it yet? Trusted Sneyd would look with admiration on the strength of his forbearance when

he told him he had not bought a blessed gimcrack that year. Did not know what to do about going to Paris. Had no zeal for London. Felt the loss of poor old Parker. Being theoretically a Tory, the writer had given various hints as to the benefits which would accrue to at least one of that party by giving him one of the numerous little places about court. Was only second cousin to some of the great officers of state, so had no chance till their first cousins were provided. Did not see why he should go on caring for any sort of people who did not care for him. Did not see that one party could govern the country better than another those days, when parliament stood in the way of everything which was not supported by a popular cry. They were going to Merevale on Easter Monday, and then southwards. Hoped the railway would be finished to Parham by the end of that year.

277. 50, Berkeley Sq.
29 Apr.
1858

The same to the same.

Had been going to write for some days. Had heard of a very simple cure for sciatica. Gives the details, and a remedy for gouty pain. Was sorry to say he could not make any plans. His parents thought of coming to Parham to live there. Feared it would be impossible to live with them. They were to go to Parham that day, where he hoped to remain in peace for a short time, till he knew what his parents were going to do. Thought it not impossible that Emily, Robin and he might be driven abroad altogether.

278. Parham.
17 May,
1858

The same to the same.

Wanted to know about him and the sciatica. Where was he and where had he been. While the writer had been running away from his wife he had met Sneyd's wife running away from her husband, and 'as she did not run away with me, I came back to the dragon at home and have lived in patient subjection ever since...'. They were going to London the following day, to see a dentist and other interesting persons. Supposed Sneyd had not used the remedy he had sent him. Adds a mock prescription. [Sketch. MS. imperfect].

279. Parham.
13 July,
1858

The same to the same.

Sneyd seemed to have made a prosperous trip and the writer envied him his expedition to Dresden. Recommends things to see and gives Sneyd the name of an 'extortioner' at Frankfurt, whom he describes. The Frankfurt Rothschild had a fine collection of gimcracks. The writer had a sad account to give of himself. His father had been obliged to give up Hagley and his parents were coming to Parham in a few days. The writer's brother had got into another scrape and had more in prospect. His mother's want of sympathy and the ruin his father had deliberately brought upon the writer, had worried the latter into a fever, but he was now recovered, though he feared to live with them under such dreadful circumstances. Had been the other day to Up Park, had seldom seen such fine things. Describes what he had seen, there

was hardly one shabby thing in the house. Hoped Mrs Sneyd was well, was sorry his sciatica troubled him. Adds a postscript, that Sneyd would see that Miss Jones Lloyd was to marry Robert Lindsay, Mrs Holford's younger brother. The brother and sister had done pretty well in the way of cash.

280. Parham.
31 Aug.
1858

The same to the same.

Had been very much edified by Sneyd's last letter, containing a history of his 'gimcrackian researches'. Had come immediately to the conclusion that Sneyd or the ark would have an attack of some sort, from repletion, and was sorry to hear it was Sneyd. Did not make out whether he had been beating his wife. With respect to his own affairs he had not much to say that was satisfactory. They got on pretty well with his father, and Robin was the joy of the writer's life, 'poor Emily and I howl in chorus every now and then, for the manoeuvres of Kensington, & the way they bamboozle my mother, & set her against us is very hard to bear, in the midst of ruin & misfortunes which we have not assisted to bring on, even in the remotest way.' They had returned from Up Park on Saturday, Sneyd's better half's letter had followed them. It was one of the finest places he had ever seen. Describes the contents. The park was celebrated for its fine views of Portsmouth and the sea about the Isle of Wight, and the little body herself was still very pretty, and very nice was the dairy maid, and if Sneyd married her after Mrs S. he might have Up Park, as it was entirely in Lady Fetherstone's power. Had seen Stanstead, a large, magnificent, uninteresting place where Albert Way had lived. Was sorry to hear the latter had not been well since his return to England.

281. Parham.
20 Sept.
1858

The same to the same.

As Sneyd was a collector of curiosities he sent him a very rare article, an answer by return of post, to say how glad he was he was better. There really seemed to be a murrain among the antiquaries, Franks had been ill, Messrs. Gunner and Beck, and Albert Way. What was the matter with Lady Abingdon? What was Sneyd going to get a cow for? Wished he and Mrs S. would come to Parham. Had a fine gold bowl, partly silver, which he had brought from the Holy Land, and had picked up a leg for it to stand on, which suited it exactly. [Sketch]. Wanted Sneyd to tell him about Sir T. Phillipps's library, which he heard was to keep company with the stuffed birds, etc., at the Ashmolean. They said it had been Milnes's talking about Cureton's succeeding Buckland as Dean of Westminster, which had prevented his getting the place. Had he heard of Milnes's last adventure? Describes this. Adds a postscript, did Sneyd know the seal, viz. that of his late majesty Thotmes III?

282. 31, Albemarle St.
4 Nov.
1858
- The same to the same.
- Feared he could not come then. Had many troubles on hand. Supposed they should go to Parham on Tuesday, but did so under very disagreeable circumstances. Hoped he might have a peep at the ark some day again, and wished he and Mrs S. would come and see them at Parham if they ever went to Brighton, or any bathing place on the south coast.
283. 31, Albemarle St.
2 Dec.
1858
- The same to the same.
- What a nice old place Melbourne must be, how Sneyd had been rampaging about. Had been anything but quiet himself. About a month before he had been summoned to London, to see his aunt, who had been supposed to be dying, but was much better. Had fallen ill and Lady Horton and Emily had come up to Town to see him. The writer's father had promised to settle Hagley on him, 'saddled with a sum for Edward's fortune'. His mother had said he had behaved very ill to Edward, and that Hagley and everything his father possessed ought to be left to him. The last hitch was that his father refused to make any settlement. They had sent for Robin from Parham and had gone with Lady Horton to Dover, for a fortnight, to the Lord Warden Hotel, and had come up to London the day before. They thought of returning to Parham on Monday. As touching gimcracks, the writer had got one of those common old brass dishes with Adam and Eve on it, but with the date 1417. Describes other acquisitions. Should like to see Sneyd's last acquisitions but feared it was not very likely at present.
284. [Pa.]rham.
23 Dec.
1858
- The same to the same.
- A merry Christmas and a happy new year to Sneyd ' & the Misses'. Thought he had given him back the packet of letters, a long while before. If Sneyd did not find it he would have another rummage for it. Nothing very particular had happened there. Everybody had had a bad cold and all were better. Diphtheria was raging in Brighton. Was Sneyd still at the Abbey? And was there a chance of meeting him at Bedgebury, Alexander Hope's? Had met the de Tableys there 2 years before. The 'Old Hen', the mother of 'Cock' Hussey, was dead. Wondered if that would make a [? difference - MS. imperfect] about Scotney. It was time for the cock to roost there regularly and bring up the cockatr[? ices] properly. Their clergyman, Mr Palmer, was in a bad way, and his curate, Mr Beck, was a mighty antiquarian, and brought a pocketf[ul] of old rings and gimcracks every S[unday]: they were very useful to take [? up] his sermons, which were long.
285. 1858
or later
- The Rev. Walter Sneyd to the Hon. Robert Curzon, returned by the latter to the former.
- Questions (7), put by the Rev. Walter Sneyd, in the form of an examination paper, with answers supplied by the Hon. Robert Curzon, e.g. 'Q. Express

your sentiments with regard to the Culinary hints therein contain'd - & mention the dishes which obtain'd your preference -

A. Owl a la Toadstool is an exquisite Saxon viand, Brother Wydegurth partook freely thereof & he had a miraculous vision or dream, in the night, of the Fiend who sat upon his belly & poked the end of his tail into his left eye. Howbeit he prayed to the holy St. Rhubarbius & was much relieved thereof - '.

286. Bedgebury.
5 Jan.
1859

The same to the same.

Was sadly disappointed to hear from Sneyd's sister that he had been kept away from Bedgebury by a whitlow. Albert Way had had a dreadful thing of the kind, when the writer had been at Wonham. There was to be a great scrimmage at Bedgebury the following day, for 12th day. The writer unluckily had caught cold the day before, on his arrival, and was kept to his room that day. So Sneyd had been the man who had got Willis's 'Tewerdanck', hoped it was a fine copy. The party were off to Bayham Abbey, which he had seen before. The Husseys were still at Hastings. Hoped they would at last live at Scotney and take their place in the county. It was a great nuisance being ill, and hoped Sneyd would soon be right again.

287. Parham.
25 Apr.
1859

The same to the same.

Was sorry to hear what Sneyd had told him, but things were in better train than they were, so Sneyd should take heart and, please God, they should hear some good news some fine day. The writer's poor old aunt had been buried at Penn, by the side of his grandfather. Comments on Penn church, 'a remarkable specimen of an old handsome building which has undergone every kind of mutilation and degradation, at the hands of successive barbarians & Churchwardens, it is quite wonderful how sunk our country is, in matters of dignity & civilization & yet we call ourselves a civilized nation, superior to the Chinese, Turks, &c.....'. Emily and he had brought back influenza colds. The writer's father had come up to Berkeley Square, which the writer was sorry for, and had returned with them, none the worse. Had bought 2 wonderful China objects. Sneyd must come and see them. Did Sneyd remember a talk the writer had had with him, walking up the great Tolt, on Wiggonholt Common?

288. Parham.
'Sunday morning',
Apr.
1859

The same to the same.

Desires Sneyd to write by return of post or sooner, to say what had become of the party in breeches that he had exchanged 'for the prime minister in trousers.' His father wanted a footman, would Sneyd's late footman do? They were to go to London on Tuesday. Sneyd should write to Berkeley Square. What a characteristic death Waterford's had been.

289. 50, Berkeley Sq.
4 May,
1859
- The same to the same.
- Why did Sneyd live such a way off from Wardour St.? Was too busy to travel to his outlandish regions by day and too ill to go out at night, so did not know when or how they were to meet, unless Sneyd were to call the following day. If he had been there that day he would have seen such a Gothic ostensorium, a modern antique. The writer had nearly been taken in, but had escaped.
290. Parham.
26 May,
1859
- The same to the same.
- Had been very seedy for above 6 weeks and the doctors wanted him to go away for a change of air. Would Sneyd take him in on Tuesday next, for 2 nights? Prays Sneyd send him the address of Mr Lys.
291. Parham.
30 May,
1859
- The same to the same.
- Was sorry to hear of his earache. Was sorry to say he could not get to him till Friday, when he would stay till Monday, if that would suit him. Had business in London.
292. Catton.
18 July,
1859
- The same to the same.
- Was truly sorry to hear from Newton Lane that Sneyd had been so unwell since he had seen him at Denton. Hoped he was better. Considers the hot weather. Was going to London on Thursday and should be at the Duc d'Aumale's on Saturday, should he meet Sneyd there? Adds a postscript, that he did not know what had come to the geese, could never meet with a good pen.
293. Catton.
18 Aug.
1859
- The same to the same.
- Hoped the Buxton waters would do him good, the fine fresh air was always renovating. Had come back the day before from Fryston Hall, Moncton Milnes's, and Grimstone, Lord Londesborough's, a wonderful collection of gimcracks. It was a horrid day and the writer was too stupid to write more.
294. Catton.
28 Aug.
1859
- The same to the same.
- Why did not Sneyd write to him and tell him all about Buxton and the wonders of the Peak? He hadn't been and tumbled into a hole had he? They were going to Gopsal the following day, to Merevale on the 3rd, Catton 6th, then Garboldisham, Thetford on the 8th, Cambridge the 13th and London on the 15th Sept. After a few days they were to proceed to Parham. Was sorry to leave Catton. Had been to Derby, Oscott and Erdington, a Roman Catholic church near Birmingham, beautifully fitted up. Envied Catholics their faith. Had Sneyd got any gimcracks in his tour? Adds a postscript, what a charming little place Harry Bagot's was, at Netherseal Hall. Adds a second postscript, that he was taking 'Accacia Charcoal for diversion', a great antiseptic, wondered if it would suit Sneyd.
295. Parham.
27 Sept.
1859
- The same to the same.
- Who was the man Sneyd had told him of, who cleaned and repaired old armour? Had an old shirt and a pair

of stockings to mend, of chain mail. How was Sneyd? Hoped the Buxton waters had washed some of the 'pisin' out of him. Was in treaty for a house in London. How was Mrs S.? Had got several new gimcracks.

296. Parham.
7 Nov.
1859

The same to the same.

It was all very well abusing the writer for not writing, when Sneyd abstained from geese quills so entirely himself; as Sneyd was never in the same place for above a week, how was the writer to know where to direct to so locomotive a party. Was glad Buxton had done him good. Their railway was open to Pulborough. Had been several times in London, about 24, Arlington Street, that he was nibbling at. Describes his latest acquisitions, a suit of chain armour, A.D. 1190, an Aztec MS., and a blotting book, with a coat of arms [sketch] of about 1680. Had been suffering sad pain with earache, but if he were well enough would go to Up Park the following day. When they returned to Parham Lady Horton and Mr Hay were to come, on the 21st. Emily and Robin were well, but passed a forlorn life at Parham.

297. [? post
18 Dec.
1859]¹

The same to the same.

[Last page only]. '...for in other respects it made him sad to return from the intelligent world, to the nonsense and failure at home.' They were to depart for London on Monday, and then to Catton and, the writer imagined, Whitby. Health was everything, or else the writer should have preferred going abroad, the expence was great, of going to an English watering place. As for Lord Holland's shoes, the writer should not like to step into them, as Sneyd said he would, 'seeing they are gouty shoes, and Holland House is a creation of his own, which you or I might do, here, or at Keel, there was mighty little there, except the south front, before he turned his hand to it; tho['] so near London is a wonderfull peculiarity no doubt.' [MS. imperfect].

[1. Henry Edward (Fox) Baron Holland died 18 Dec. 1859].

298. Parham.
'Shortest day.'
[21 Dec.]
1859

The same to the same.

Hadn't got anything to say at all, except that he had got a boil on his nose. Had been in London again. Hoped they should at last get 24, Arlington Street. Also he was the proprietor of two silver gilt dishes of the 12th or 13th cent., (if they were not modern). Robin called his gimcracks his playthings. They were in a bother about a rifle corps, and he looked forward to making a speech at a public meeting on that cheerful subject. Comments on the weather. Sneyd's photograph was not flattering. Looked for one of himself, but could not find it. Adss a postscript, with his wife's and his kind wishes of the season.

299. Parham.
20 Jan.
1860
- The same to the same.
- So poor Lord Londesborough was gone to that bourne from whence no gimcracks returned. What a tragedy it would be to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Mr Garrard and co. Lord Londesborough had been out of health for a long time. Reflects on his death. The writer had become the envied proprietor of Vita Caroli Magni, small folio MS. on vellum, about 1200, and 2 early printed books, but had misgivings about the latter. What would Sneyd give for the lot? How was he off for mud?
300. Parham.
6 Feb.
1860
- The same to the same.
- They should be charmed to see Sneyd on Saturday. They could not send to Pulborough for him as Emily and the writer returned from Arundel that day. Would order a fly to be at Pulborough for him, if they couldn't send for him. The writer's father was not very well. The gimcracks would be delighted to make his acquaintance.
301. 31, Hertford St.
Mayfair.
26 Mar.
1860
- The same to the same.
- Confessed his remissness in writing to thank him for the solemn picture he had sent him on the 16th. The reason he had not written was that he had left Parham on the 15th, his 'Mrs' had met him at 31, Hertford Street on the 16th, from Catton, and ever since they had taken up their residence in Hansom Cabs and been scattering their cash all over the town in furniture for 24, Arlington Street. Describes his progress. Gives Sneyd a cure for sciatica. They had lost several trees at Parham in the storm. Adds a postscript, that the house [he was writing from] had been lent them by Lady Byron.
302. Parham.
10 May,
1860
- The same to the same.
- Had been going to and fro in the earth, to London, about his house. They were living in the slough of despond at Parham, whenever there was a chance of anything going wrong, the wrong took place. They had a rifle corps, which seemed popular among the Storrington men of war. To his great astonishment Emily was going to produce another little Curzon, which prevented her from going to Kedleston for a Christening, at which the writer was to be godfather. Wished she could go, as he had an ancient, old-fashioned respect for the head of his house and should be glad to see these stately rooms, the grandest he had ever seen in England, properly inhabited. The writer's father was grown rather old the last 5 or 6 months. His mother, who used to be all day long lying on the sofa, now ran about incessantly, but there was no sympathy with the writer. Robin didn't care a rap. They were awfully disappointed about their parson, whom he had unluckily engaged as tutor to Robin for a year. Was Sneyd going to London? Had seen Shirley in Town. Albert Way was going abroad. The Duke of Hamilton was going abroad. The Duke of Norfolk was making a mess of Arundel Castle.

303. 24, Arlington St.
5 June,
1860
- The same to the same.
- Had been very seedy and was still rather in the same case. The scrimmage going on in the house almost rivalled the row outside, of carriages, etc., in Piccadilly. The scrimmage inside was very amusing, it was such an excuse for going to all the curiosity shops to look for something useful as well as ornamental. In about a week the house would be fit to be seen, prays Sneyd come and see it. Had found his letter. Did not know that Mr Beck had any authority at the 'Archaeo', but imagined they were only too glad if anybody would do anything. Had Sneyd any new gimcracks? Kedleston was the finest palace that he knew in England, after Blenheim, where there was nothing to compare with the hall and saloon at Kedleston. [Sketch]. The pictures were very fine indeed. They used the dining room and drawing room, called the music room, so the distances were tremendous, 'they should live in the house, and shut up the wing where they do live...' [MS. incomplete].
304. 24, Arlington St.
12 June,
1860
- The same to the same.
- And what the Dickens was the use of Sneyd coming into the vicinity of the metropolis, instead of plunging boldly into the depths thereof. Why could not he take a mansion in Half Moon St.? Or a palace in the inhabited districts of St George's? Or St James? As for the writer ever calling in his best hat at No. 90, Ebury St., it was impossible. In the first place he had never heard of that fashionable locality, in the second place his fortune was limited, and the time and expense of travelling to the far west were incompatible with his means and occupations, etc. However, as Sneyd was certain to pass his door twice at least in every 24 hours, it would be Sneyd's fault if they did not see something of each other.
305. 24, Arlington St.
9 July,
1860
- The same to the same.
- What had Sneyd gone away for, and the writer had not even had one prowl with him. When he came to Town again he should take up his abode a little nearer Wardour St. Emily had been very ill. Hoped she had turned the corner. Sir G. Pechell was dead. He had continually told the writer since his son had died that he considered him as his son, and had made him his heir. Understood he had not left him a shilling.
306. 24, Arlington St.
25 July,
1860
- The same to the same.
- What a precocious babby Sneyd must be to write so soon to say he was coming up to Town. Wished him many happy returns of the 'Auspicious' day and hoped to see him on Friday. Did not know anything about Mr Uzielli's fete champetre. Was in great trouble from one letter from his mother, saying his father was sinking, and two from the servants saying he was not. Did not like to go down and frighten his father unnecessarily by his arrival at Parham.

307. Up Park,
Petersfield.
26 Sept.
1860
- The same to the same.
- Was glad to hear that Buxton had done him good. Had heard from Lady Horton that he was there, and that Lady Williams was also mending. Hoped he might see Keele some day. Dared say it was a very proud edifice, and all the things Sneyd's brother had been collecting would make a great show. Often reflected on his own collections. [At Up Park] he was living in a house that would delight Sneyd. Lady Fetherston was such a dear little woman, a capital hostess. Had ridden about the hills the day before with the Bishop of Oxford, and Knox. What a man to ride with was that high priest. They had galloped about from soon after eleven till a quarter to six, Knox had been knocked up, the writer had had no sleep, and the bishop had not had half enough. He had been off again that morning, to ride home to Lavington, about 16 miles. They were to go to Town on 1 Nov., more or less, and the great event was expected towards the end of the month. Hoped they might meet in the winter. They returned to Parham on Friday. His father had consented to have the hall warmed with hot water.
308. Parham.
15 Oct.
1860
- The same to the same.
- The day before the writer had heard a great piece of news. Was it really true that Mrs W.S. was in the family way? Most sincerely hoped it was a fact. Asks for confirmation.
309. Parham.
16 Nov.
1860
- The same to the same.
- On the previous Sunday his wife had been taken with an attack of headache, ending in convulsions and insensibility. On Tuesday evening she had been prematurely delivered of a little girl. Both were doing as well as could be hoped. Felt as if he had been torn to pieces and badly put together again. In the middle of that, 'we hear, not from my Brother, that his son George, has sold out of the rifles, some manoeuvre that I do not understand, but which undoubtedly is the forerunner of some new distress.' In the settlements made at the writer's marriage, his father had disinherited his daughters, and now that he had a little girl, he felt the more that injury, 'Incomprehensible to the Lawyers as much as to myself.'
310. Parham.
28 Nov.
1860
- The same to the same.
- Was sorry to say he was by no means rid of his anxiety about his poor wife. That day Robin was not well. Lady Horton was a much bolder man [*sic*] than the writer, and said of course women were ill, always were, and had gone back to London the day before, to his sorrow.
311. 24, Arlington St.
22 Dec.
1860
- The same to the same.
- A merry Xmas and a happy new year to Mrs Sneyd and himself. They had got there on Tuesday last, without

any misfortune, and were going on in a middling sort of way. Had had a great shock, which he should not recover in a hurry. All the Edwards were going to Parham as soon as their backs were turned. A great event had happened there, the house being warmed with hot water. Could not say how grieved he was at the sack of the palace at Pekin, they had no doubt destroyed things of inestimable value. How full of trouble the world had been that year. Lord J. Russell had said in his wisdom that all was quite right, and the mob were to choose their sovereign and govern themselves. Supposed they should have Garibaldi or someone else over in Ireland, and all the thieves and outcasts of the plebiscite would elect Louis Napoleon king of England.

312. 24, Arlington St.
15 Feb.
1861

The same to the same.

Lady Horton was much obliged for the pedigree. The Count de Courson said the writer's mother had a right to be Countess, and probably Duchess of Bretagne, in France, the elder branch of Rohan being extinct. Hoped Mrs Sneyd was all right, trusted they would come again. Wished they could take in Mrs S., but they had no room for any servant. Had been to see 'Mr. Benⁿ.' the Monday after Sneyd had left, and had bought a table of ebony Bhul, and had made a great haul besides. How rich Egerton Bagot must have been. Was very glad Dick Levett had got a good slice. Was sorry Robert Phillimore didn't get anything. [Sketch].

313. 24, Arlington St.
23 Apr.
1861

The same to the same.

How was Mrs S.? Wished to know all about 'the event'. They were in very great tribulation, because they were going to Brighton the following day, to take Robin to Mr Lee's school. Trembled with anxiety and dreaded the parting. Acquaints Sneyd with the progress of events 'in the gimcrack line'. Emily begged to send her love to Mrs S. Wished Sneyd would come up and see them for a day or two.

314. 24, Arlington St.
29 Apr.
1861

The same to the same.

They should be happy to see him on Monday 6th. If the son and heir of all the Sneyds made his appearance while he was in Wardour St., the writer was not responsible. Sneyd was not to come if he was not quite sure that all was going on straight forward. They were going to drive with 'his Royal Highness the Lord Mayor' the following Wednesday, in uniform, which he was having to let out in all directions 'to contain the Turtle'. Adds a postscript, that Fred Gooch had dropped in to luncheon, and was to dine there that day. The George Hortons would be in Sneyd's room, to meet him.

315. Parham.
1 June,
1861

The same to the same.

The thirtieth of May was a red letter day and three generations united in their congratulations.

316. Parham.
19 June,
1861
- The same to the same.
- Should hope to be with him on Monday 24th, staying till Thursday, when he proposed going to Oxford for a night for a short visit to Sir Thomas Phillipps, and back to Parham.
317. Parham.
30 July,
1861
- The same to the same.
- It was a long time since the writer had written. Had been very unwell. Their Devonshire tour had been a failure. Emily had been very ill at Ilfracombe. Found in his old age that the incessant annoyance of hearing nothing but unhappy mistakes was too much, and he literally couldn't bear it. Was ashamed and disgusted with his own family. They were to go to London for 2 or 3 days on the 15th, or thereabouts, on their way to Catton. They had gone to Brighton the day before, to bring Robin home from school. The Duc d'Aumale had come over from Worthing one day, with the Gaisfords, and had passed the afternoon looking at books. The writer admired him much. There was an assembly of the French royal family at the dull town of Worthing. They sat down 50 to dinner, 25 of whom were princes or princesses. Was glad to hear of the prosperity of Sneyd and his. Was there any chance of his coming to Catton?
318. Parham.
2 Aug.¹
1861
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for the two portraits. An earache was a very horrid plague, if you had a fine one. Did not know any more than Sneyd about Sir T. Phillipps. Why did not Sneyd tell his brother about young Thorpe, a famous cataloguer of books? Arlington St. was empty just then, but if Sneyd could hold on till Thursday 13th, they should be glad to receive him for a few days. Wished he had gone to Paris instead of Devonshire. £5 a day was a good deal to pay to see nothing. How charming the arrival at a foreign hotel used to be, in the days of their youth. His nephews George and William were there, for Goodwood races. Liked them very much. They had just received a telegraphic message, calling them back to Aldershot, as the Duke of Cambridge was going to review the troops the following morning.
- [1. 2 Aug., 1861, fell on a Friday: Curzon writes on the Saturday, the correct date therefore is presumably 3 Aug.].
319. Crewe.
28 Sept.
1861
- The same to the same.
- What a wonderful event, a long letter from his Reverence without the Irish cathartic of a letter from the writer. So Sneyd had been making a tour of the kitchens of rich men instead of drinking cold water at the Bridge of Allan, 'which you told me was what you was going to do, till one could cross the stream without the help of the bridge, no wonder your liver is affected with high living.' Hoped the ivory diptych and Mrs Sneyd and 'the Babby' would do him good. Heard that Sneyd's brother was in Scotland,

but must get over to see Keele. Was thinking of making a northern tour to Brodick &c. Wished he could have met Sneyd, the de Tableys and Delameres in those northern regions, which would be all new to him. Should be very glad to give him a call after his Scotch expedition, if it were feasible. Adds a postscript, asking for a sketch of the diptych, and enquiring about his brother's marriage to the Duchess of Sutherland.

320. 24, Arlington St.
25 Nov.
1861

The same to the same.

'He, She, and it, are very cold, howbeit we have lit the stove, and moved in onto the staircase, where it stinks a little, and is not very hot.' On the previous Friday Mr Foss had taken the writer to Signor Libri's house. Describes the house and visit. Signor Libri had presented him with the only genuine papyrus he had seen there, which, the writer having about 20 already, he had been sorry to take. Hoped to unroll it when he got to Parham. Had Sneyd ever seen Mr Uzielli's collection, because he had been the proprietor of a great pot, of silver gilt. [Sketch]. Emily had given it to the writer. Mr Foss had enlightened his mind about Elzevirs. Meriel Warren was going to be married to Mr Allen Bathurst.

321. Parham.
3 Jan.
1862

The same to the same.

Many happy new years to Sneyd and his. Might he eat many mince pies and be none the worse afterwards. All the writer's brother's family were there, which made him anxious. Mr Gore seemed to be a nice fellow. Mr Harcourt would be a great loss, as it broke up the hospitality of Nuneham, who would Lady Waldegrave take next? They were to go to London as soon as Robin's holidays were over, when the writer hoped he might get a sight of Sneyd. Thanks him for the pictorial edition of his Xmas letter.

322. 24, Arlington St.
6 Feb.
1862

The same to the same.

'I write one line to stop your mouth, for I have no time to write more at present. Mr Robinson came here to lunch, he says he is going to you tomorrow, he is an agreeable party. We have been ill, & seedy and sorrowful. Matters at Parham get worse & worse. I am glad you & yours are all right.'

323. Muntham Court,
Worthing.
'Friday[,]
Feb[.]
1862'

The same to the same.

They were to return to London on Monday, when he hoped to meet Mrs Sneyd and him. Had he brought the celebrated 'Babby' to Town? Was anxious to pay his respects to her. The Bishop of Oxford was to come there that day. The writer was to give a Philobiblon Breakfast on 1st March, though he had no new old books to show.

324. 24. Arlington St.
8 Mar.
1862

The same to the same.

Had enquired as touching 'the Great Wardrobe'. Found Mr Street had asked only £20 for his, and had

volunteered to take £19 for ready money. It had been even bigger than Sneyd's so Sneyd had better keep it. Those things had not yet become as rare as Caxtons, for they made them in Holland, where labour was cheap and Dutchmen laborious.

325. 24, Arlington St.
3 Apr.
1862

The same to the same.

[Sketch, with caption, 'Lo! a gimcrack']. Describes the same, a silver cup of rich Gothic design, worth £100, if not, worth as much as he had given for it. Hoped Sneyd understood that he had taken a responsible part upon him 'in undertaking to collect the treasures of the university for the forthcoming exhibition at the Kensington Museum.' The writer was chairman of the sub-committee, the working committee of the said Brompton Boilers. Most of the rest were tradesmen, and he perceived that though he might not have the glory, he should certainly have the odium of any failure that was likely to ensue. Exhorts Sneyd to pitch into the colleges and take possession of their treasures, and to let it be known 'that the tarnation universe owe all their knowledge of Oxonian glory, to the celebrated W.S. Abbas.' One of the most curious historical circumstances was to find an historical abbot with a babby. How was that? The writer's babby was gone to Parham, to be out of the way of Robin, who had brought the whooping-cough from school. Emily and the writer were seedy from influenza, and the writer's brother and parents had taken the opportunity to add heavily to his distresses.

326. 24, Arlington St.
'St. Partridge's day.'
[? 1 Sept.]
1862

The same to the same.

Had been worried into an illness and was not well. Should be in London for the present, arranging money matters. Prays Sneyd visit him if he should go up. Was very sorry for Mrs Sneyd, 'what pain she must have been in.' Adds a postscript, that he could catch all the wasps in the parish with hand glasses. Thought he knew how it was done. [Sketch].

327. Penmaenmawr,
Conway.
[post
17 Sept.
1862]

The same to the same.

Sneyd's letter had followed him there, where they were living in a charming cottage. Had been very ill with worry and annoyance. They should have been very happy but the poor little baby had been taken ill and had given them great anxiety. Everything at Parham was in a wretched state. His niece Blanche was ill there. Michael Turnor was there, doing what he could. They should remain there as long as they could, but should be turned out in 2 or 3 weeks. Could give Sneyd a bed if he liked to make a short cut through Wales on his way home from Leamington. Adds a postscript, that Theresa Anson would get about £2,000 a year by the death of Lady Anne Tufnell.

[1. Augusta Theresa, dau. of the Rt. Hon. Henry Tufnell, married 18 Feb. 1851 the Rev. Arthur Henry Anson, son of the Dean of Chester. Lady Anne Primrose, 3rd wife of the Rt. Hon. Henry Tufnell, died 17 Sept. 1862].

328. Hawarden Castle.
13 Nov.
1862

The same to the same.

It was his little baby's birthday. She was 2 years old. They had left her with Theresa Anson, at Chester, and hoped to see the little thing the following day. That led him to ask how the prospects of Sneyd's new 'Babby' were going on. Prays Sneyd let him know immediately when the young gentleman they hoped for made his appearance. They were to go to Chester the following day, on Monday to Catton, and on to London. Felt sorry for the Bishop of Oxford, who must have been greatly disappointed at not being offered either of the archbishoprics. What a wonderful rise for Thompson of Queen's. Perhaps Sneyd would be a cardinal yet. Had got some red socks himself, but they didn't look as if they would ever become stockings. Had been passing 7 weeks at Penmaenmawr, a charming place, but their happiness had been marred by anxiety for little Darea, added to the never ending annoyances of Parham and family failures. Should be glad to be safe at home in London. Sir Stephen was just the same as ever. Delamere was not at all well. Had met the Duc d'Aumale at Vale Royal.

329. Catton.
5 Dec.
1862

The same to the same.

What were they all at at the Abbey? What was the Abbess about? There he was looking in the newspaper and didn't see anything about the population of Oxfordshire that was at all interesting to him. Prays Sneyd write him word. They had come on to Catton 3 weeks before, and had been obliged to give up several visits to Eaton, Tabley &c., because his poor little baby had got whooping-cough. Had been to London the previous week, and Brighton, to see Robin, who they expected the following week for his holidays. The latter was well, thank God.

330. [Catton.
? ante
12 Dec.
1862] 1

The same to the same.

'You horrible old WILLUN why don[']t you answer my letter, ain[']t I sitting cross legged for luck, and waiting for the post to hear the news. Now write before return of post, or dread the vengeance hof, Garribaldi'.

[1. The Rev. Walter Sneyd's second child, Isabel, was born 12 Dec. 1862. The note could equally belong to ? ante 10 Dec. 1863, when his third and fourth children, Ralph and Caroline, twins, were born].

331. Catton.
15 Dec.
1862

The same to the same.

Well, he was sorry really, and disappointed, though little girls were nice things, the writer's little she baby was sitting on his knee, and Sneyd would love his very much, she had certainly made a great mistake in not being a boy. Was just off to Liverpool to see the docks.

332. 24, Arlington St.
13 Jan.
1863
- The same to the same.
- Great was the power of idleness. Had been going to write Sneyd ever since he had had his letter, it had been only Cheney's letter the day before that had badgered him into answering. Was sorry to hear his trail was so much out of order and hoped he had set it right again, and that his brother would see the expediency of helping him towards the enlargement of the Abbey. As for Sneyd selling his gimcracks, the very idea made him feel alarmed. Offers to lend him £500 at 4⁰/_o instead. They were to go to Up Park, Petersfield, on Thursday, returning on Tuesday.
333. 24, Arlington St.
29 Jan.
1863
- The same to the same.
- Had no metropolitan news to tell him. They said that Milnes was to be Lord Pomfret, Lord Lansdowne Duke of Kerry, and Lord Westminster Duke of Ditto. They had been much shocked at the case of Mr Watson, curate of Croxall. Considers his bills. They had been to Up Park and Sir W. Knighton's, and had gone on board the 'Excellent' at Portsmouth, to show Robin how cannons were fired at a mark and to see the mysteries of the great Armstrong guns and cupola ships. What wonderful talent was used for the destruction of mankind. Upon the whole Wardour St. was a preferable situation in a gale of wind to the Bay of Biscay, 'with the mounseers shooting at you at close quarters,...'. Was glad to hear of the wellbeing of Miss Isabel Clara and Mrs Sneyd. [MS. imperfect].
334. 24, Arlington St.
2 Feb.
1863
- The same to the same.
- William Grey begged the writer 'to forward this to you, and you may send him as many fipunnotes as you like, for the diggings at St Clemente, and the Revd. Father Mullooly will be much obliged to him, for your cash, & Grey will be much obliged to you.' Had told Grey he should like some particulars for what they were doing at St Clemente. Sincerely hoped they might not endanger the walls of the present church, the most interesting in existence in an antiquarian point of view. [MS. imperfect].
335. 24, Arlington St.
5 Mar.
1863
- The same to the same.
- Describes the preparations in London for the exhibition of the new Danish princess. They were rather awful to the writer's way of thinking. Why did not Sneyd come up for the ceremony?
336. 24, Arlington St.
21 Mar.
1863
- The same to the same.
- It had not been over civil of the writer not to have answered Sneyd's letter of condolence on his being so much above half a century old. [Sketch]. Had been very seedy, with sleepless nights, which unfitted him for anything the next day. At last he had taken 27 drops of a new medicine used by poor Lord Hatherton, Faulkener's sedative, and it had very nearly settled him altogether. Was sorry he could not take Sneyd in the following week, for George Horton

was to come there. Sneyd would come on Saturday and stay till Thursday 26th, when they were to go to Lord Lovelace, and afterwards to Parham. Everything there was in the usual state of wretchedness. The agent's accounts made out that the writer's father owed him several hundred pounds, though the fact was that he had robbed his father to a large amount.

337. 24, Arlington St.
24 Mar.
1863
- The same to the same.
- Hoped to have a line from him that day. Was obliged to go to Parham on Saturday, 'on not very pleasant business', and could not receive him. Should not be back till after Easter Monday.
338. 24, Arlington St.
24 Apr.
1863
- The same to the same.
- Had been going to write to him for some time, and was glad to see his letter as he did not know where he was. Had no doubt that Keele was beautiful at that, the most charming, time of the year. They were to leave London on 10th May, having let 24, Arlington St. to Mr and Lady Mary Craven for 3 months. They had gone to Lord Lovelace's for Easter, and to Parham on Easter Monday. Had been glad to get away [from Parham]. Outlines the situation. They were to leave the little baby at Parham on the 10th, when Emily and the writer thought of going to Paris. Found he had little zeal and should prefer creeping into a small hole and going to sleep till better times. Wished Sneyd would come to Paris. Hoped the change of air made him strong again. Emily and the writer were very seedy, mostly from want of sleep, in addition to which he had lumbago.
339. Parham.
14 May,
1863
- The same to the same.
- His poor father had departed that life the previous night. He had been insensible for 2 days. Thanked God he had not suffered.
340. 1, Cleveland Row,
London.
26 May,
1863
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for his kind letter. Hagley was left to him, but he was to pay his brother's fortune and a mortgage out of it, amounting to the full value of the estate, so he was disinherited. Fortunately he had got the old pictures and Curzon plate from his father in his lifetime, for money he had advanced. He succeeded to about £1,400 a year, left by his Aunt Elizabeth. Nobody had succeeded in making his mother understand her own position. He could not stay at Parham, and she would say he had deserted her if he went away. Thought he had been more shocked at her conduct than at his father's death. Was sorry to hear Sneyd had got influenza. A change of air and home would do him good. Had his brother done anything for him?
341. Parham.
4 July,
1863
- The same to the same.
- Thanks Sneyd for his kind invitation. They could not accept because they were going to Paris for 2 or 3

weeks. Wished Sneyd would come too. Describes the situation at Parham and relations with his mother. They were to leave for London, leaving the baby at Parham till they returned from Paris, when they were to take her and Robin to Llandudno. If Sneyd knew of anyone who wanted to purchase Hagley, prays him send him one of the enclosed circulars.

342. 78, Montpellier Rd., The same to the same.
Brighton.
6 Aug.
1863
- Had been much obliged for Mrs Sneyd's letter. She said his god-daughter was clever and pretty, so he supposed she must take after her godfather. Describes 'gimcracks' he has acquired, armour, a brass dish or tray, and a tall, narrow book with block prints, representing the worthies of 'Passell', dated 1414. The very few, real old things were valued at such prices that he should be ashamed to give them, but the race of gimcracks was extinct. Mr [blank] at Amiens had some fine things, and fine prices he asked. Adds a postscript, that Hagley was to be sold the following month.
343. 24, Arlington St. The same to the same.
13 Nov.
1863
- Had been waiting to write to him till he had had something to say about about poor old Hagley, but the sale dragged on. A Mr Harrison had offered £34,000 for the house, timber and fixtures. The other lots had sold for about £6,000, making £40,000, out of which he had to pay about £37,000, so he expected to inherit £3,000 besides Ravenhill and perhaps 50 acres of land, instead of Hagley and about £4,000 a year. Was grateful for what was left. The money arising from the sale of sheep and cattle might amount to £2,000 or £3,000 more. They thought of furnishing Ravenhill out of Hagley and living there occasionally. They were to stay in London till the sale was concluded. That day was the birthday of Darea, who was at Catton. Longed to see her and had bought her a baby house at the Soho Bazaar, for her doll's domicile. Had met Lady Verulam there. Had he heard how half Gorhambury had been burnt down? Adds a postscript, that he had been to Eton on Wednesday, to put Robin's name down, and had walked about with de Tabley.
344. Gopsall. The same to the same.
13 Dec.
1863
- It had been only that morning that he had heard of the wonderful event which had taken place at the Abbey the previous Thursday. Congratulates Sneyd on the birth of a son.
345. Catton. The same to the same.
30 Dec.
1863
- Wishes Sneyd many happy new years. How did the young squire get on? And also the little damsel, his sister? Mrs King and Mrs Goring of Wiston, their neighbours in Sussex, had both got twins, so it was a great year for population. What did Sneyd's brother say and do, and what was the baby's name to be? They were going to G. Palmer's on the following Saturday,

till Tuesday, then to Garboldisham, and hoped to be in Arlington St. on the 9th, off and on till Easter. They were due on the 19th at Battle Abbey, and before or after that should offer themselves at Ashburnham. Hoped Sneyd would come up some day.

346. 24, Arlington St.
26 Feb.
1864

The same to the same.

Considers Sneyd 'a jolly old humbug of a country mouse'. Was not at all surprised at the pleasant ways of his godchild, seeing she had the good taste to copy the charming ways of her godfather, who rejoiced to hear how well they were doing. The writer, the town mouse, was situated between the trap of inherited difficulties and the 'Cat-astrophy' likely to come on in the affairs of his mother and brother, and in the meantime he had Sneyd's influenza. On the previous Sunday morning Mrs Carleton had died quite unexpectedly, a great blow to Lady Horton. Mrs Dudley Carleton was also ill. Had been to the Philobiblon. Describes the occasion. Had been to a wonderful feast, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate St., where 40 people more or less had eaten turtle on gold plates. All, except the writer, had been those who had written Smith's dictionary of the Bible. Had had to make a speech and had been horridly grieved at their drinking his health. Had not known who they were, except Layard, Arthur Stanley, Furgusson and 2 or 3 more. There had been 'furious scarlet fever' at Robin's school, which had carried off little Marjoribanks. Had brought Robin home. They were to set up their tabernacle at Ravenhill. Had bought 4 old helmets. They put him in mind of the mighty men that were of old. Writes eight lines of verse in praise of former, valorous days. It was all the fault of Sir Walter Scott, whose writings had turned his head when it had been stronger.

347. 24, Arlington St.
29 Feb.
1864

The same to the same.

Unless Sneyd had any business to transact, the writer thought he had better defer coming, as the writer had forgotten that they were going into the neighbourhood of Rugeley, about the 9th or 10th March, to see about Ravenhill. After that they should be there [in Arlington St.] in peace.

348. 24, Arlington St.
2 Apr.
1864

The same to the same.

Sneyd should write and say when he was coming, as their lodgings were then vacant, though they were often engaged. Emily and he were going to Parham that day, till Monday. They had only come there on Wednesday from Merevale. Robin had gone back to school. Was glad to hear that his large small family had got over the measles so well. Wished they could take in 'the Misses', but they had no room for her maid, besides other small arrangements.

349. 24, Arlington St.
3 May,
1864

The same to the same.

They were coming according to order, howbeit they

could only stay from Saturday till Tuesday, as they were going to a wedding on the 18th. 'I hope my God daughter knows her Catechism (better than I do).'

350. Catton.
8 Aug.
1864

The same to the same.

They had arrived there the previous Wednesday and were to remain until they could get into Ravenhill, which the writer hoped would be in a fortnight. Prays Sneyd let him have the promised photograph. Had long intended to have his own done, but did not know how to set about it. Sneyd should have a set whenever they were ready. Ravenhill promised to be very pretty inside. Had got some very fine Belgian carving for the bannisters of the staircase. The drawing-room was covered with all the smaller Hagley pictures. The Hagley things were too big. Should much like to see Keele while he was there, but did not see how that was to be done. Adds a postscript, asking whether there had been any very remarkable gimcracks in the Warwick museum, any early helmets?

351. Catton.
14 Aug.
1864

The same to the same.

Enquires about arriving at Stoke station. How far was that from Keele? Formerly one had gone from Madeley or Whitmore. How far were those places? Were there flies (they had plenty of wasps there) or had one to write for a fly?

352. Merevale,
Atherstone,
Warwickshire.
8 Oct.
1864

The same to the same.

Gives Sneyd the address of the Rev. Canon Rock. How the latter would enjoy a visit at the Abbey, had he ever been there? They were not at Ravenhill yet, but hoped to get in in a few days. They had been to Penmaenmawr, then the writer had been to Eastnor, and had joined Emily and Robin in London. They had taken Robin to Eton, and had been to see him and had been glad to see him looking well and happy. Emily and the writer had been to Parham, a sad failure. Was sorry to hear of his rheumatism and boils. Did the death of old Mr Wise bring any benefit to Sneyd's sister-in-law? Charles Bagot had taken a tenement and messuage the other side of Rugeley, so he hoped to see something of him. The writer's lawyers could not get Lord Lichfield to pay for his purchase of part of the Hagley property. His lawyers had been raising all sorts of unreasonable claims and putting them to interminable trouble and expense, whereas Mr Harrison's had done nothing of the sort. Adds a postscript, that he had bought a turquoise blue pot.

353. Ravenhill.
26 Nov.
1864

The same to the same.

[Begins with five lines of verse, complaining that Sneyd never wrote to him, and recollecting that Ralph Sneyd had been born at Ravenhill]. Whenever Sneyd came over to Blithfield he must come and have a look at them, for he feared they should hardly be in a condition to receive a guest that winter. Wanted some hints from Sneyd. Describes the house. Longed to show it to him. Sadly grudged the money he

was laying out, which he should have so much preferred laying out at Parham. Had been very unwell with influenza, coming on top of sleepless nights. Wished Charles Bagot was on that side of Rugeley instead of the other. His was a capital house, but was not so romantic to look at. Had been to London with Sneyd's two sisters, they had been 'in great preservation.'

354. Ravenhill.
5 Dec.
1864

The same to the same.

Was sorry for Sneyd's household troubles, servants were a curious race of beings. They had all been laid up with influenza. Heard it had only come into England in 1831, the year cholera had first made its appearance in Europe. They were unable to get rid of the workmen at Ravenhill and were sadly tired of them. When was Sneyd coming that way? Longed to show him what he had done, though he had done it sorely against his will.

355. Catton.
29 Dec.
1864

The same to the same.

Sneyd's letter had followed him there. Wished Sneyd and his family many happy new years. Had been laid up for more than a month with the worst influenza that he had ever experienced. The George Hortons and two Miss Meynells were there, and Sullivan. Always thought it such a pity that 'Missy Meynell should have thrown herself away in the kennel, what a charming wife she would have made,...'. Wondered why those who had too much to do with the horse should become such asses and rogues besides. Wished he would come and see Ravenhill. They were to go to London in about a fortnight. What nice exposures Henry Chetwynd and his wife were making. What a curious taste in Lord Shrewsbury, to sit on the bench, in public, to hear his niece's character defamed. Was sorry to think that the aristocracy had made 2 or 3 exposures that year, 'by no means to their advantage.'

356. 24, Arlington St.
23 Jan.
1865

The same to the same.

Had nothing to say except ditto to his history of colds, rheumatism, etc. They had been all very ill, servants and all, at Ravenhill, most of November and December. Had never suffered so much from influenza. Robin had not been able to go back to Eton, but the writer hoped he would be well enough to go the following day. They were in Town. Had not got much hair on his head, or it would stand up at the appearance of the Xmas bills. Hoped Sneyd's new household would make him more comfortable than the last. Delamere was in Town. Phillimore was delighted with having gained Mrs Chetwynd's cause. Thought it an unfair, unjust cause, 'one being quite as virtuous as the other'. Adds a postscript, that he heard that the expenses of the trial were about £3,000.

357. 24, Arlington St.
5 Mar.
1865
- The same to the same.
- The writer and his wife were, and had been, more or less seedy 'this long time past'. Charles Bagot had been staying there, twice. Wished Sneyd would come up for a few days. Had been dealing much in old iron. Had bid for a helmet the other day, and Pratt had bid against him, out of spite, and had got it for £51. Was afraid that winter was coming back, it was horridly cold. The only news he had was of a report that Lords Andover, Howard, Courtnay, Westmorland and the Duke of Newcastle had busted at last. Courtnay, they said, was in for £60,000. Hoped it was not quite true for the aristocracy's sake.
358. 24, Arlington St.
24 Mar.
1865
- The same to the same.
- Was writing in a snow-storm. They should be charmed to see him on 30th March, and they would go and eat Mr Huth's breakfast and see his Shakespeares and Caxtons. Lady Waldegrave had been enquiring about Sneyd. They were going to the Crystal Palace, 'to see the things plundered from the Chinese Palace. I always thought Elgin did an unjustifiable and horrid crime in that instance'.
359. Parham.
20 Apr.
1865
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for his direction. Was glad the doctor had liked the piece of plate. Had had very beautiful weather at Parham, and was glad to have been there, but it was a melancholy failure. Had been to see Lady Bath on Monday, everything as nice and gentlemanlike, the contrast at Parham was great. They were to go to Montreal on Saturday, and to London on Tuesday 25th.
360. 24, Arlington St.
9 May,
1865
- The same to the same.
- They had returned from Ravenhill the day before. Before that the writer had been at Hamworth Park, 5 miles from Richmond, the residence of Algernon Perkins, the head of Barclay and Perkins's brewery. They said that his share of the beer was about £30,000 a year. Perkins's father had collected books and they really were wonderful to behold. Mr Perkins did not take any interest, but would not sell them. How did Sneyd get on at Eastbourne? Emily and the writer had been nearly drowned by the tide. Warns Sneyd of the dangers.
361. 24, Arlington St.
7 June,
1865
- The same to the same.
- Hoped Sneyd continued to like Eastbourne. They had been at Parham again, and had left little Darea there, though they missed her very much. The day before they had gone to Eton, to the 4th June, which had been kept on the 6th. The view from Windsor Castle had been glorious. Had purchased a crosier head or pastoral staff [sketch], copper gilt and some enamel. Had also got another old helmet, and had written a treatise on those old hats, for the benefit of the Archaeological Institute. When did Sneyd return to London? Adds a postscript, that there had been a very agreeable Philobiblon breakfast at Murray's.

362. Ravenhill.
16 July,
1865
- The same to the same.
- They had arrived there the previous night and should be charmed to see him on Thursday. Howbeit, he would find them in a very raw state. The work people were very provoking, they could get nothing finished.
363. Ravenhill.
31 July,
1865
- The same to the same.
- Had got a tea-pot of old Wedgwood, with the figure of Sneyd's mother on the lid, Sneyd knew the history. Relates the story. If Sneyd had not got a genuine example, the writer should be charmed to send him it. They had been in the greatest distress about poor little Darea, who had been taken with convulsions the previous Wednesday. They were still very anxious.
364. Ravenhill.
4 Aug.
1865
- The same to the same.
- Sent him the tea-pot. It was not a portrait of Mrs Sneyd, but the idea was taken from her. Was grateful for his kind and friendly letter. Poor little Darea had not had any symptom of another attack, but was sadly pulled down. Was sick with anxiety. Hoped Sneyd's large small family would always be well and prosperous. Sneyd should stay to receive the Queen of the Sandwiches, and get a billet doux to add to his royal autographs. Wished he could join him at Buxton. Had he ever seen Dovedale? Hoped the tea-pot would arrive safely. Robin had come home from Eton that afternoon, looking very well.
365. Ravenhill.
16 Aug.
1865
- The same to the same.
- Had just received his letter and was taking the extraordinary step of answering it by return of post. The weather was a bore. Prays his best love to Mrs Madden, never heard tell of her before. Was afraid that Sir Frederick would not step into Pannizi's shoes, as it was reported that Robert Lowe was to succeed him. Did not know that he was fit for it, but as the S.Kensington Museum flourished under Lord Granville and others who neither knew nor cared a bit about any sort of gimcracks, though men of great general talent, he dared say it would do just as well. His little Darea was going on so well that he was going to start for Raby on Saturday. Looked forward with great terror to a great house full of people. Sadly wanted the protection of his wife, who had given up the expedition. Wished Sneyd were going. Durham was a glorious old place, but the Archaeological Society and the public dinner and all that was a fearful job. They had found a fossil dragon at last, at Brooke, in the Isle of Wight, so he supposed it was all true about St George. There was no news of the 'Telegraph' in that day's Times. If she had gone to the bottom he supposed one of her consorts would have come home. It would be a nice chancy thing to buy Atlantic telegraph shares, now that they were down.

366. Ravenhill.
2 Oct.
1865

The same to the same.

It was a long while since he had heard of Sneyd, how was he getting on? Supposed he was safe and sound in his abbey, invigorated by Buxton. Had been to Raby and Bishopsthorpe, and Fryston, and was going to London the following day, and then back to Ravenhill. Emily was not well. Hoped they should get rid of the workmen in a few days. Was building a Norman stair porch at the end of the greenhouse, something like the porch to Cuddesdon church. Desired Sneyd to write.

367. Ravenhill.
2 Nov.
1865

The same to the same.

By that time, he trusted, all the Sneedlings were safely transplanted to the soil of Keele. Found that Ravenhill had for generations been a remarkable place for Sneyds, Sneyd's father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, brother, two old aunts and other relatives had lived there. Had been at Tabley, Liverpool and Manchester, 'with Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands.' His wife was not well and they should not be able to avail themselves of an invitation to Keele at present. There had been much scarlet fever in the back slums of Rugeley, and little Darea was gone to Catton, where they were to follow her on Saturday. Hoped the 'eleven against all England' were well. Adds a postscript, asking what Sneyd's brother thought about politics.

368. Ravenhill.
18 Nov.
1865

The same to the same.

His wife and he had returned there the day before, leaving little Darea at Catton till the scarlet fever had passed away from Brereton. The reason he had not availed himself of an invitation to Keele was that they were engaged to Vale Royal and Ham, which took up to November. Emily was so out of health that she never knew whether she would be able to go anywhere till the day arrived. Should like to see Keele. Had made a most curious addition to his stock of old iron, a Saxon helmet, axe, sword, spear, and a square bell, dug up together in the ruins of an old castle.

369. Ravenhill.
14 Dec.
1865

The same to the same.

Desires Sneyd to give an enclosure 'to the Lord Abbot, or to the Revd. Secretary Gringulphus.' Was very anxious about his poor wife, who was gone again with Lady Horton to Chester to consult Dr Waters. The anxiety they had had, had broken her strength. Expected her and her mother back the next day, as well as Robin from Eton.

370. Ravenhill.
30 Dec.
1865

The same to the same.

Had been much astonished at a history told him by Lady Harriet Bagot, how the celebrated young gentleman at Denton had swallowed his bad post. Desires to be told more about it. Wondered whether Master Ralph would swallow all that he was told

when he grew up. Some of the things the writer had been told were even more difficult to swallow than a bed post. It was horribly cold. Sincerely wished Sneyd many happy returns of the new year. Adds a postscript, that they were to go to London on the following Thursday, to Parham on the Saturday, for 10 days, and then to London till the spring.

371. Parham.
'Saturday[,]'
Jan[.] 12',
1866

The same to the same.

Had received his letter that morning, but as he had not told him how the young squire swallowed the bed post, the account of it seemed difficult to swallow. Was in great sorrow about his poor wife. Her heart was enlarged and that had produced disease of the kidneys. The doctors had said they could often get the better of that dreadful malady. Describes his unhappiness, and could believe that if good people prayed for you God might grant your prayers.

[1. 12 Jan. 1866 fell on a Friday].

372. 24, Arlington St.
1 Feb.
1866

The same to the same.

Wrote a line as Sneyd had desired, though he was not up to much writing. His wife continued much the same. Describes his anxiety. The kindness of Phillimore was really more than he could express. He took the writer out walking.

373. 24, Arlington St.
22 Feb.
1866

The same to the same.

His poor wife lingered on, the doctors had not given up hope but she was in a sad condition. Describes his agony. Asks Sneyd to pray for her.

374. 24, Arlington St.
16 May,
1866

The same to the same.

Hoped his letter would find Mrs Sneyd and him safely housed in the outlandish suburb where he had taken a house or wigwam or whatever the residences of the natives were called in those regions. Why could not he live in London like a Christian? Was still very sad and forlorn.

375. 24, Arlington St.
18 May,
[1866]

The same to the same.

Should be charmed to see him a half past seven.

376. 24, Arlington St.
2 June,
1866

The same to the same.

Was just off to Parham, till Monday. Would he and Mrs Sneyd dine at 24, Arlington St. on Monday? The writer might have no other chance of seeing him, as Lady Horton and he were to go to Garboldisham on Tuesday, for 10 days.

377. Catton.
16 July,
1866

The same to the same.

Was sorry Sneyd was not going to Buxton because Lady Horton talked of going there, in which case the writer would have gone with her for a change.

Hoped he might recover in some degree, in course of time. Robin's holidays began on 3rd August, did not know what to do with him. What with the horrible war and the cholera, he supposed it would not do to go abroad. Had Sneyd been to Eastnor? The entrance and great hall were very imposing, it was not far from Malvern, an immense town, a pretty village when he had been there with Delamere years before. Dared say the Prince of Wales etc. had been much edified with Keele. Wondered if Ralph had had tea-cups for 30? Newton Lane and family were at King's Bromley. Was reading the dreadfully well written description of a war in Le Conscriit. It seemed wonderful in those enlightened days that there should still be such unnecessary horrors as wars. Perhaps if that wretched Lord Russell had listened to the Emperor's proposition they should never have had another.

378. Catton.
24 July,
1866

The same to the same.

Hoped his letter would find him and all the Sneedlings comfortably planted at his mansion at Woodlands. Had once stayed a day at another Woodlands, near Southampton, where he had met a Colonel of the Marines, a mounted officer, the only specimen he had ever seen of the horse marine. Was a day late wishing him many happy returns. Sneyd's neighbours, the Somers's, were going to St Moritz. Sneyd should see the hall at Eastnor. Wished Sneyd would make an excursion to St Donat's Castle, and tell him about it. Sneyd did not care for armour, or Goodrich Court and Castle would repay a visit.

379. Hotel Vouillemont,
15, Rue Boissy d'Anglas,
Paris.
29 Aug.
1866

The same to the same.

Had heard nothing of him since he had gone to Malvern. Robin and the writer and his nephew, George, had come there the previous Thursday and had been seeing the wonders of the place ever since. Describes the changes that had taken place since their youth. Sir Percy and Lady Burrell were also in the hotel, and they dined and went about together. Little Darea was at Parham. Was sorry for the loss of the great gallery of the Louvre. The Emperor was fitting up the Chateau de [blank] entirely as it was, or might have been, in the 15th and 16th centuries. It would be a wonderful lion when it was done.

380. Parham.
10 Sept.
1866

The same to the same.

Had been charmed to receive his amusing letter. Was sorry he had been suffering from a boil in his ear. Thought drinking the waters brought out those sort of things in those subject to them. Robin and he had returned from Paris on Tuesday, after a dreadful passage from Boulogne. Had been seedy since he came to Parham. Perhaps sorrow deeper than the deep sea had something to do with it. The writer's brother, his brother's wife, Mr and Mrs Gore and children were at Parham, and more were coming that week, different sort of people from the writer and Sneyd and his friends, and his mind dwelt terribly on the blessing he had lost. Describes Paris, a new town,

where curiosities were extinct, and if you met with something good the price went by thousands of francs. There must be 'manufactories' of modern antiques, for there was every kind of sham in the shop windows. The rage for antiques seemed to be greater in France than in England, and an immense quantity went to America. There were quantities of Americans at Paris. There were no longer any 'Grisettes', the women were more dowdy and vulgar in their dress than the English, the common women, the ladies outrageously over-dressed. Had never seen Little Malvern church. Should also like to see the Rev. Wilberforce, in his white flannel petticoat. Was Mr Parsons a descendant of the founder of the English College at Douay? Hoped he might come over and see him at the Abbey later in the year. When Robin went back to Eton he wanted to take Darea to the seaside, somewhere near Parham, if he could find a house.

381. Parham.
12 Nov.
1866

The same to the same.

Had been to Folkestone for three weeks. Had liked it better than any of the watering places on the S. coast. John Ashley had been at Folkestone, in a lamentable state of weakening intellect, the writer's old friend Bankhead, and Lord Ebury. You got by rail to Dover in 15 minutes. Had met Lord Granville there, who had asked him to Walmer and introduced him to his new wife. Had been to London, the Bagots had been on the train but he had not got speech of them. Was sorry for Lady Delamere's mishap. Saw by the papers that de Tabley had sold his Lancashire estate for £140,000. Lady Horton had been making a tour of S. Wales, in her 80th year, and was to come there that day from Portsmouth. Should be there, on and off, till before Xmas, when he was to take Robin and Darea to Catton. Mr Beck had been to Lapland. Had given no end of cash the day before for an old rusty helmet, sent from Belgium, 14th cent. Had got between 40 and 50 old hats. Was afraid there was no more chance of his getting to Denton just then than there was of Sneyd coming to Parham, but he lived in hopes.

382. Parham.
19 Dec.
1866

The same to the same.

Had no news to tell him. Had been up to London to fetch Robin. Had a horrible boil under his left ear. They were to go to Catton on Saturday 29th and remain there till 17th January. A curious seal had been found at Amberley, with a hare blowing a horn and riding on a hound. The writer's armour was becoming very valuable. Could Sneyd tell him the exact date of his MS. with drawings of the Apocalypse, which had pictures of peculiar armour, very interesting to him as he had something like them? Supposed he would not sell it? Would give him 2/9d, on a bill payable on the busting of the papacy. Adds a postscript, hoping Mrs Sneyd was going on well. Mr Beck had brought quantities of curious plate from 'Yokmajok'.

383. 24, Arlington St.
31 Jan.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Congratulates Sneyd 'on the safe arrival of another blossom, of the old tree of Sneyd.' Was staying there on and off. Generally went to Parham for Saturday, to see little Darea, and Sunday, returning on Monday to meet Lady Horton, who was attending the death of her eldest son, Sir Robert, who was at Brighton. Mud was pretty cheap in London, liked it better than the horrid cold.
384. 24, Arlington St.
15 Feb.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd had been in the habit of coming to Town about that time. His lodgings were vacant, but would not be after the 25th, so how would it be if he were to make his appearance on the following Monday? A committee, whose names he would see in The Times, had been getting into hot water at the Brompton Boilers. Proposed to break up the committee and state the reasons in the newspapers. Hoped Mrs Sneyd was getting on well. Sir Robert Wilmot was apparently much better. Adds a postscript, commenting on the Chester "liberals" and reform.
385. Parham.
17 Apr.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Was sorry to hear that his 'poor little "other niece"' had been so ill. It had been a bad spring for small children. Robin, Darea and he had come there the day before for the Easter holidays. Felt his sad bereavement terribly. Two or three weeks before he had got his money from 'that incomprehensible animal' Lord Lichfield. What an intolerable disease the love of gimcracks was. Their antiquarian parson, Mr Beck, had gone to Paris, 'a strong measure for a parish priest, to be off for Easter week.'
386. Parham.
24 Apr.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Had been spoiling some paper in endeavouring to draw the wine coolers, but it surpassed his power of perspective. Would try again when he got to London, but it would be better if Sneyd came to Arlington St. and saw them for himself. Wishes to know whether M. Yemeniz had the first psalter, of Mayence, 1457, or the Mazarine Bible, or the Bible of 1462. Some time before, the writer had been to see the old English plate of Mr Lewis Huth. He had some astounding things. Had met Col. Lindsay at dinner at his brother Coutts's, who had a charming house in Cromwell Road. Robin and Darea were, he thanked God, pretty well, but the writer had had a sort of cold for the last six weeks or more. Enquires after Sneyd's children. Wished Sneyd would come over to Paris, and Mrs Sneyd and the writer would eat the dinners and Sneyd should pay the bill.

387. Parham.
30 Apr.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Remonstrates with Sneyd for wondering whether the writer really liked to have him. Robin was to go back to Eton on the 9th, when the spare room would be ready, unless Lady Horton had asked her son George to come at that time, unbeknownst to the writer. It was very hard that the respectable public 'of about 2 millions' was to be bullied 'by the thieves & rogues about 30 thousand in number on the false pretence of a reform bill, which is an utter humbug, being of no use or advantage to any body.' Things seemed to be getting quieter abroad. Should Sneyd go abroad to Paris? Wished someone would take him there in 3 or 4 weeks.
388. 24, Arlington St.
8 May,
1867
- The same to the same.
- Had received his illuminated MS. Feared they should not be ready for him the following day, as Robin was not to go to Eton till late. Desires Sneyd to come the day after. Had seen Sneyd's brother the day before.
389. Catton.
10 July,
1867
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd seemed to be very comfortable and prosperous in his abbey. The writer was to go to London the following day, to receive Robin, who was to see the Eton and Harrow cricket match '(not in my line)' at Lord's. Was glad Sneyd liked the look of his Roxburgh book. Was sorry to hear that the Cravens were ruined. Though he did not know them, he had had great difficulty getting his rent once, so was not surprised. Was sadly low and nervous. The very unsatisfactory state of his mother's and brother's affairs kept him in a constant distress of mind. Comments upon the shooting of the Emperor Maximilian, and events at home. What fun the Pope was having at Rome.
390. Hotel de Famille,
Avenue de l'Alma,
Paris.
8,9 Aug.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Robin and the writer had been doing the great exhibition diligently. It was a wonderful place, and the history of labour, the ancient part of the show, was quite worth Sneyd's coming over to see. Describes some of the exhibits. The Quai Voltaire was no more. Had bought an agnus dei like Sneyd's, in horn and silver gilt. Next door to the hotel was the entrance to the Jardin des Fleurs, 'a sort of Cremone, where they dance all night, and what with the band, and the shouting, & the fireworks, one cannot get to sleep, we went there one night, and I was much disappointed, for except that some of the young ladies kicked up rather high, there was no impropriety at all, and none of that vulgar drinking, & sottish looking people, that you see in England, last night we went to the play, La Biche au bois. In the first act, or two, the ladies had very little on, and in the 3^d. act, nothing at all, which was very cheerful...'. Had been to Versailles the day before, after church. Mrs Mildmay was in the hotel, with two granddaughters. She had had her pockets

picked, with all her memorandums and letters. Hoped the thief would publish them. They were off to the exhibition again.

391. Catton.
10 Aug.
1867

The same to the same.

Sneyd seemed to be living on the fat of the land, with the new cook at Keele. Feared he was not likely to assist at the glories of the dining-room, even if asked, for fate led him the other way. Was to go with Robin and Darea to London on Wednesday, and to Parham on Saturday, and later to Folkestone if he could get a house. Things, as usual, went sadly with him. Had just had to pay £1,000 for his mother, and Turnor wanted more the following month and a great deal more afterwards. If it were not presumptuous, he would almost think that God was trying him. They had had beautiful weather, the garden was teeming with fruit. Had seen Mr and Mrs Lane, who looked much older. They and the two daughters were to dine there on Monday. Phillimore was a Privy Councillor, should not wonder if he were Lord Chancellor some day.

392. Parham.
29 Aug.
1867

The same to the same.

Had come there the previous Saturday. Had been laid up in London for 10 days with a carbuncle on the right temple. Robin had stayed with him, a horrid bore for him. Had sent little Tot to Parham, as the place agreed with her. Mr Beck was going to marry a widow. He had volunteered to go with Robin and the writer to Paris, and they were to go the following week. Should be glad to get away, for his mother and Scarsdale House were quite a terror to him. When they got back they should take a small house at Folkestone, if he could find one. Hoped they were all well.

393. 24, Arlington St.
28 Sept.
1867

The same to the same.

Sent him 'the Boke of Nurture, as also ye Boke of Kervynge...', and hoped it was not quite so stupid and unreadable as many of the Roxburgh books. As the members of that effete society never met, except once a year, at a very expensive dinner, the writer thought the subject of the book was appropriate. Was in London for a few days, looking out for a house at Folkestone. Robin had gone back to Eton and the writer felt very lonely, but was better there than at Parham. Adds a postscript, about putting Robin's name down for Christ Church.

394. 45, Sandgate Rd.,
Folkestone.
4 Nov.
1867

The same to the same.

The day before he had received from Mr Furnivall, who had edited his book 'on Norture', a printed proof of a little treatise 'Ffor to serve a Lord', taken from a copy made by Mr Sneyd forty years before. What was the history of that? Had Sneyd given his copy to Furnivall or was he printing it for him, or for William Bromley? Should like to have a copy. Tot and Ruby and the writer had been there a month, and were to leave for Parham the following day.

395. Parham.
8 Nov.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Was always glad to see one of Sneyd's kind and friendly letters. Considers the value of old friends. It was not so easy for him to repair to Sneyd's venerable abbey. Explains the reasons. His mother was in an uncomfortable state of health. She was passed 80 and did not know how to live. Life there was very different from that at the Abbey.
396. Parham.
18 Dec.
1867
- The same to the same.
- When he had been in London he had enquired twice about Sneyd's sister. Should like to hear how she was getting on. Supposed Mrs Sneyd was back among the Sneydlings by that time, and hoped they were all right. Was going for 2 nights that day to a place near Petworth, called Coats, to see Mr and Mrs Wyndham, and the Duke and Duchess of Cleveland. Dreaded the visit. Hoped the government would take some decisive steps to protect old fogies like himself from Fenian outrages. They could see to read without candles that morning, but lately they had had dismal days, very depressing to people like him.
397. Parham.
26 Dec.
1867
- The same to the same.
- Had seen his poor sister's death in the paper. One liked to receive letters of condolence from an old friend on such occasions, though they could do no good, beyond showing a sympathy, which had something soothing in it. Sneyd had his wife to care for him and that was the greatest blessing he could have.
398. 24, Arlington St.
8 Feb.
1868
- The same to the same.
- When was he coming to London? Supposed his sisters wanted to have him with them, and the writer wanted him to come to him, though of course they had more right to him than the writer. Was going to Parham the following day, till Monday. Had dined at Cheney's the previous night, and met C. Percy, whose trousers were tighter than ever. Dr Rock had consented to dine with the writer that day, on condition that he was served twice with fish. Sent Sneyd the letter, 'which is worthy of being preserved in the annals of the Abbey of Trotcosy.'
- With, (i) letter, 5 Feb., 1868, D.Rock to the Hon. Robert Curzon.
399. 24, Arlington St.
24 Feb.
1868
- The same to the same.
- What was Sneyd about, down there in his abbey, and his sisters waiting for him, and the writer nearly committing himself to the expence of six pennyworth of herrings to ask him to dinner, but luckily had gone to Eaton Sq., and had heard he was still blowing his nose at Denton. London was as nasty as usual. Robin was there and was to go back that afternoon. Had got a charming Italian Gothic candlestick, of gilt metal, at Willson's. When was he coming to see it?

400. 24, Arlington St.
5 Mar.
1868
- The same to the same.
- Had heard of a very imperfect Caxton's Golden Legende. It wanted 60 leaves at the end. Did Sneyd like to sell his, if it was the latter part of the book, or would he like to buy the fragment he had heard of? Had not seen it. They wanted £30 for it.
401. 24, Arlington St.
31 Mar.
1868
- The same to the same.
- Sneyd did not give a very good account of the Abbot of Denton, if he went on in that way the Prior would be looking out for the temporalities. It was a bad outlook for parsons when parliament passed a vote that it was inexpedient to give them any of their own cash. Thought Phillimore's judgment a good one. Did not care for candles, vestments, incense and so on, they were trivialities, and pretty, and that far he liked them, but when you came to doctrines that was quite another thing. Hoped Sneyd would soon be better, he was not so bad as the writer, if that was a consolation. Little Darea was ill, but hoped she was better that day, and he was being subjected to a process of plunder by M. Turnor and his mother. It was hard, after being eased out of £5,000 a year or more by his father, and there seemed to be no end to it.
402. Parham.
22 Apr.
1868
- The same to the same.
- He would perceive that the metropolis could not boast of his presence just then, and that plucky old lady, Lady Horton, was off on a tour while Arlington St. was being painted and cleaned. Was to go up on Tuesday, to take Robin to Eton on the 30th, and should be happy to receive Sneyd on 4th May. On the Saturday following he purposed coming down to Parham to see his mother and Darea. Hoped his sisters liked their new house and had got a good price for the old one. What were Shirley's sentiments about the Irish Church? It was a difficult and dangerous question, as the Welsh Church would go next, and then the English, which would be capital sport for the Pope, the dissenters and the Devil. Wondered whether Her Most Gracious Majesty would consider her coronation oath as piecrust, made to be broken. What a plague the House of Commons was become. Perhaps Guy Fawkes had been right after all. However, their reliquaries, crosses and images would be of great value in their grandsons' days. What with strikes, Fenians, reform and other leagues, there was no security left, no peace for the wicked.
403. 24, Arlington St.
26 May,
1868
- The same to the same.
- Had delayed writing till he had been to see Mr Natali, whom he had unearthed the day before. He had nothing worth looking at. His MS. of Tasso was gone to that Leviathan, Lord Ashburnham, his 3 or 4 little books of hours would have cost £1.10.0 in the days of old Thorpe. Had missed finding Mrs Sneyd or Sneyd's sisters at home, and that day he and Charles Bagot were to go to Ashstead, from whence they were to walk over to see the Derby the following afternoon.

Now that Mr Beal and Mr Potter had shown the mob their power, it was remarkable that those meetings went off so quietly. Hoped Sneyd was well and enjoying the strawberries in the Abbot's privy garden. Had been dining out every day and often met his bishop. Was to go to Parham for Whitsunday, to see his little Tot, but it made him very melancholy.

404. 24, Arlington St.
6 June,
1868

The same to the same.

Was glad he was better and able to enjoy the strawberries. Had been to Parham and West Grinstead, and had come back on Wednesday, when he had recommenced his dining out. Hoped the Council of Cuddesdon had created him a mitred abbot. Was sorry to say he could not take him in on the 11th, as George Horton and his wife returned from abroad on that day. Was so vexed not to have seen Mrs Sneyd when she had been in London.

405. Parham.
17 July,
1868

The same to the same.

Was there for a few days to see his dear Tot, but it was hard lines living there and he was glad to be going to London on Monday, and on Tuesday to Scotney. Hoped Sneyd found Keele cooler than Parham. Was to go to Catton with Robin and Darea at the beginning of the following month. Hoped Sneyd would not have left Keele, where he could visit him before the 6th or 7th August. It was a pity Sneyd had not been at Mr Gibbs's breakfast, the place was wonderful to behold. They said he was richer than Holford and Lord Westminster and Croesus all together, as he was a director of the Bank of England. Wished he would direct the Bank to pay them two or three hundred thousand, 'just to see what we would do with it.'

406. Battle Abbey.
30 July,
1868

The same to the same.

Feared his motions were not likely to be hastened as to his journey to the north, for the weather had been too oppressive to allow of his taking little Darea a long journey. A sad event had happened in the death of his nephew George Curzon's wife, who was only 27. The wretched man Geere had died in a madhouse at Hayward's Heath, he had threatened to murder the writer. Ed. Cheney was there, and a pleasant party. The writer was to go to 'Red Hill' the following day, to meet Robin, and on to Parham with him. They were to go over to Ashburnham that afternoon. Adds a postscript, that he has no black paper.

407. Catton.
27 Aug.
1868

The same to the same.

It was a long time since he had heard of him. There had been a mighty wedding at King's Bromley on Tuesday, attended by Bagots of all sorts and sizes. Robin had been ill with jaundice. The writer's eyes were getting sadly weak, and he had had a bad ear. There was not much chance of meeting him at Keele that year. Wanted to get to the sea. Adds a postscript, that it was the anniversary of his wedding day. [MS. imperfect].

408. Catton.
4 Sept.
1868
- The same to the same.
- The sea that he was going to was at Folkestone, the most bracing as well as the most agreeable place on the south coast. Unfortunately, the British public had found that out since the previous year, and as yet he had not been able to get a house. George Horton knew of a housemaid; Sneyd could write about her to Mrs G. Wilmot-Horton. Was very sorry that Johnny Warren should have set up as a radical M.P., but his father was a follower of Gladstone. Feared Britannia was getting very rich, gouty, shaky and coming near her end, with lots of quack doctors about her. They were to go to London on the 10th.
409. 4, Albion Villas,
Folkestone, and
24, Arlington St.
15 Oct.
1868
- The same to the same.
- They were just off to London, on their way to Parham on Saturday, having enjoyed the sea breezes of the S. coast. Had been to Walmer again, and on his way back through Dover had bought a wonderful Abyssinian MS., a big 4to. on vellum, with 40 large, hideous pictures of the Saviour, King Theodore's Bible. Describes its history and his journey back to the train. Concludes the letter from 24, Arlington St. Had arrived, bag and baggage, in 4 cabs. Adds a postscript, about affairs in Spain.
410. Parham.
28 Oct.
1868
- The same to the same.
- Had answered Mr Nesbett that he should be happy to give him any information in his power. The rest of Sneyd's letter certainly did contain serious news. Trusted his brother was not in any pain. Wished Sneyd's wife was with him [Walter Sneyd]. Sneyd could not suggest it, it might alarm his brother, but somebody might mention that her company would be a comfort to him. Wished he could be of use, sympathy was all he could give him.
411. Parham.
31 Oct.
1868
- The same to the same.
- Was disappointed in not hearing from him that day, but hoped no news was good news. How unfortunate for the Bishop of Oxford that Mr and Mrs Pye should have turned Catholic just at that moment. It might prevent his becoming Archbishop [of York].
412. 24, Arlington St.
2 Dec.
1868
- The same to the same.
- Had not written very lately because he had nothing more to say than that he fully appreciated his anxieties, etc.
413. Parham.
16 Dec.
1868
- The same to the same.
- Supposed there was 'some occult sympathy' between two such old bookworms as Sneyd and him, for their letters had crossed, both expressing a wish for the same thing. What was the present state of affairs? Offers Michael Turnor's services.

414. Parham.
4 Jan.
1869
- The same to the same.
- Wished Sneyd and his many happy new years. Trusted they were all well at the Abbey and that his thumb was better. Had got into a low, desponding state. Little Darea had been very ill and it had put him in agony. Lady Horton was to go to London on the 7th. Had he got any of Lord Hastings's books? Lady Mary Hamilton was going to marry a Prince Hohenzollern, did Sneyd know anything about him? They had had a tremendous storm of wind a rain. Wondered what the Clerk of the Weather was about.
415. Parham.
3 Feb.
1869
- The same to the same.
- Had enquired of George W. Horton and others about Mr Troutbeck, they said he was perfectly honest and did his business at Catton very well. Did not make out whether he understood mining agency. Had forwarded his letter to Lady Horton, who would, the writer thought, give Troutbeck a good character. Her brother-in-law, Mr Carleton, was dead at Brighton. Was just off to Arlington St.
416. 24, Arlington St.
8 Feb.
1869
- The same to the same.
- Had not got anything to say. Vibrated between Arlington St. and Parham. Had the earache. Sneyd's brother had taken a new lease and seemed to be as well as ever, and had written to him about Mr Troutbeck. Miss Carleton was staying at 24, Arlington St. Why did not Sneyd go to Brussels and find the MS., and perhaps the Bishop would make him Dean of Lincoln? Complains about the weather. Was 'nibbling' at a gold pot, the Warwickshire vase. Hoped Mrs W.S. was well. [Sketch].
417. 24, Arlington St.
15 May,
1869
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for the 'pictor'. Had not written because he could not get an answer from Eton, to say how long they would give Robin leave of absence. Hoped to bring him to Denton on Wednesday, 19th, to stay till Saturday. Wanted to take him to Oxford, to show him some of their old haunts 'in the days when I was full of hope and joy.' Trusted Mrs Sneyd did not intend to run away as she always did when he went to the Abbey. Adds a postscript, that he was sorry to say he was no better and did not know whether Sneyd would like to receive such a cripple just then.
418. Clarendon Hotel,
[Oxford].
18 May,
1869
- The same to the same.
- There they were at the ancient Star, now Clarendon. They were to dine at All Souls with Walter Phillimore. Robin's examination was the following day, and the writer had hopes they should be with Sneyd the following afternoon, but that depended on the new rules and regulations. Was shocked and scandalized at the new state of affairs at Christ Church, the dirty tutors dined at the high table and the noblemen at a side table, below them, and the servitors were put on a level with the commoners.

419. 24, Arlington St. The same to the same.
'Wednesday. evening', Robin had got through very well, but it was too late
[19 May, to get to Denton that night, and as there was £30
1869] to be paid to somebody the following day, he should
show him something of Oxford and come over the
following afternoon.
420. 24, Arlington St. The same to the same.
25 May, Wrote as he desired but had nothing much to say.
1869 Lady Horton was expected back that night, with Miss
Carleton. Was to be galvanized at 9 p.m. The
galvanic doctor, 'a rather rough customer', had given
him a fright, saying he ought to have got well long
before and might never recover, moreover he might
lose his sight. Asks his kind regards to Gooch.
Envied Sneyd being at old Baginton, 'the snuggest of
parsonages'. Had not heard how W. Davenport was
getting on.
421. 24, Arlington St. The same to the same.
7 July, Had written to say that he should attend H.R.H.'s
1869 breakfast, but it remained to be seen how he slept
the night before, whether he was able to go. Was
sorry Sneyd had been so seedy. Hoped Mrs Sneyd would
go on all right.
422. Parham. The same to the same.
23 July, Had just heard that Ralph Cheney had departed that
1869 life at Badger. It would be a shock to Edward. Did
Sneyd know what he died of? Enquires after Mrs Sneyd.
They had been roasted at Parham. Robin was to come
home on Friday. Was going to London on Wednesday, to
bring him back there, and to bring down some old
books. Thought Sneyd had said he did not want to
part with the old French Bible? Was in a state of
(he trusted temporary) insanity about Bibles. It was
very forlorn living at Parham, his mother could
neither live nor let live. Tot was a delight to him,
was always in an agony lest something should happen
to her or Robin.
423. 24, Arlington St. The same to the same.
29 July, Sadly feared that the old Bible was not the right
1869 edition. Believed the Emperor Martin printed the
French Bible in 1530, 'so that 1534, must be a
second, or later edition.' But Sneyd had a Brunet,
'look him out, and if he is the first edition, put
him in a box, with care, to be kept dry, and send him
to Parham,...'. Had 11 rare Bibles. The Coverdale had
been bound and cleaned and was worth between £300 and
£400. Desires Sneyd, next time he saw Mr Coxe, to ask
him the dimensions of the Bodleian copy. That must
have been a remarkable gimcrack he had got from
Robinson. Hoped he would get his professorship. Had
bought a very wonderful book, Psalterium, in Gothic
type, 1481. What was the date or printer of his little
Gothic psalter? Hoped Mrs Sneyd would go on all right.
Prays remembrance to her. Wished he could get better.
His eyesight was a dreadful infliction. Robin was to

come there the following day, 'he takes leave of Eton, and we go to Parham in the afternoon.'

424. Parham.
1 Aug.
1869

The same to the same.

Was sorry about the Bible and much obliged to him, but the edition of 1530 was the one he had thought it was, the first edition printed together, the former being, he thought, impossible to get, unless an entire copy turned up, which did not happen to people who did not have £50,000 a year. When Sneyd lived at Keele the writer should not be in the least surprised if he found 6 Caxtons on vellum in an old trunk, or the Biblia Pauperum at a stall in Newcastle for 1/9d, quite perfect. Had brought Robin there on Friday, he was nearly 6 feet high, beating him and Sneyd, however he thought they beat him round the waist. Sincerely hoped Mrs S. would go on prosperously.

425. 24, Arlington St.
24 Aug.
1869

The same to the same.

George Horton was there. They had changed their plans and were to go to Normandy and Bretagne, where he had always wanted to go.

426. Dinan.
5 Sept.
1869

The same to the same.

It was a most curious country, 'and in the matter of Cathedrals, and stinks, more remarkable than any where, where I have been.' The two things that had interested him most were the Bayeux tapestry and Mont St Michel. Sneyd had gone there years before but had never impressed him with any idea of the magnificence of the buildings. Describes an experience at Caen. Was always wanting Sneyd, for though Robin and George were exceedingly kind to an old cripple, they had no enthusiasm for a gimcrack, and Robin was quite sick of churches. Found himself too aged and infirm for this sort of tour. Was weary of bad inns, bad stinks and bad people. They were in an English boarding-house, with some pleasant English people. Dinant was very cheap, and in the most charming country and there were lots of English there. Could hear nothing of his ancestor, the Count de Courson. Should be glad when they were safe back.

427. Parham.
2 Oct.
1869

The same to the same.

Congratulates him that Mrs Sneyd was well again. They had come back about a week ago, had been unwell ever since. What could have induced Sneyd to have gone tumbling about the streets of Oxford in that way? Had bought neither gimcrack nor book, more valued in France than in England. Had been to M. Bouviers at Amiens, but he had added at least one '0' to his prices and counted his francs by thousands. The writer's consolation was that he seemed to have sold nothing for years. Was nibbling at some old Bibles that Mr Fry at Bristol was angling with. Had made up one of 1613 and lived in hopes of perfecting one of 1611. Hoped he should be well enough to go to Sir Thomas Phillipps. Also hoped to pay Sneyd a visit,

with Robin, before the 15th, when he was to go up to Christ Church.

428. Parham.
8 Oct.
1869

The same to the same.

Was just able to sit up that day, having been attacked with the most sudden and furious fever remembered by the oldest inhabitant of the parish. Describes his illness. What it had all been about he could not imagine. That was the second time he had been knocked over that year. Robin was to go to Christ Church on Friday. Hoped to come to Sneyd that evening. Trusted Mrs S. kept well. So Samuel, son of Wilberforce, was to go to Winchester, a charming place, which would not matter to him as he never stayed anywhere a fortnight. Sincerely wished him joy.

429. 24, Arlington St.
22 Oct.
1869

The same to the same.

Had been to many wonderful places and seen many wonderful things, but Thirlestane was one of the most wonderful of all. Describes the house and contents. Had never seen anything so dangerous for fire, 'a candle upset on one of these mountains of paper, and dry wooden boxes, would burn like a volcano, nothing would be left in half an hour.' The collection was not so fine as Lord Ashburnham's. Sir Thomas got up about 3.00 p.m., had no breakfast or lunch, dined at 6, drank lemonade without sugar, and no wine, and went to bed at 4 a.m., and never went out of the house. Adds a postscript, that Robinson had entered, with the mazer, 'very curious but not worth such a sum to my mind.' Was starting for Parham.

430. Parham.
13 Nov.
1869

The same to the same.

Did not consider it fair play, Sneyd getting a letter out of him in answer to his, because Sneyd had been 'travelling about, and seeing the wonders of the period, & I have seen nothing to write about.' It was Totty's birthday, she was 9 years old. Had come back that morning from Coates, near Petworth, where Lord Leconfield was living, while Salvin was repairing the great house. Had met Lord and Lady Beauchamp, who had inherited all General Lygon's snuff boxes, above 100, and his Sevres China. Had scandalized Lady Beauchamp by asking about her gimcracks, however, they had asked him to come and see them, near Malvern, which he never should do. Was going to London on Monday, for a few days. Hoped Mrs Sneyd was all right.

431. Parham.
26 Nov.
1869

The same to the same.

Only think of his neglecting to congratulate Sneyd on the purchase of the famous 'Codex Illegibilis'. Describes the Bibles he has acquired. Feared Lord Foley would be a sad loss to Lady Foley and his family, his two sons were very weak and would be troublesome to their mother. Wondered how the Queen

could cut her own throat, or her son's, by making or being ordered to make a regiment of new peers.

432. Parham.
3 Dec.
1869

The same to the same.

Walter Turnor had read the account in the paper of Sneyd's sister's death, and the writer had been going to write to him that day to ask what it had meant, for he hoped it had been a mistake, when that morning his letter had come, and another from Lady Horton. Hoped it would be a bond of union between him and his brother, and that he would 'not meet with any more of those plagues at Keele, which you have had to put up with before.'

433. Catton.
23 Dec.
1869

The same to the same.

How did the Lord Abbot of Denton get on? Heard he had returned to Denton. Charles and Mrs Bagot and their 4 children were there. Theresa Anson and two of her progeny were expected. There was a horrid, damp thaw, the waters were going down after the greatest flood he had ever seen in the valley of the Trent. On passing through London the previous Friday he had gone to see Franks, and there had seen the wooden bowl which Robinson had sent Sneyd. Franks had bought it, so he was a more desperate antiquarian than even Sneyd or the writer. The Duchesse d'Aumale's death had been a sad event, for she had died of grief for the loss of her son. Had bought an Irish MS. the previous week. Had got the first edition of the Bible in Spanish, 1567, with the autograph of the translator, Cassiodoro de Reyna. Could Sneyd rout him out for him?

434. Catton.
3 Jan.
1870

The same to the same.

Sneyd was right for once, the Spanish Bible was printed in 1569, not 1567, but could he tell him a little more about Cassiodoro de Reyna? Wondered what a fragment of a Bible by Caxton would sell for. Expresses his sorrow for Coxe in the loss of his son, 'perhaps the most tremendous of all the frightfull calamities of this unhappy world.' Would write to him, only he did not know him intimately enough to intrude upon his grief. Coxe was one of those very rare people for whom he felt a sympathy and respect. He seemed to the writer to be the exact contrary to Dr Fell. Robin and the writer were to go to Blythe that day, to return on Wednesday. William Dugdale had had his eye cut out, 'a horrible thing even to think of.'

435. Catton.
11 Jan.
1870

The same to the same.

He was a pretty fellow for an abbot, to call the Old Testament the Bible. Considers what would happen to Sneyd if St Ignatius Loyola or St Torquemada lived at Cuddesdon. They were to go, bag and baggage to London, the following Monday, to remain there for the present, for he found that Robin did not want to go to Parham, where the writer's mother could neither

live nor let live. The Dean of Christ Church had been nibbling at his pocket, but unless he would pay the writer's Xmas bills he could not give him any cash, besides, he mistrusted people who could perpetrate such monstrosities as Keble College, New Museum, etc. Wished they would let the poor old cathedral alone.

436. London.
31 Jan.
1870

The same to the same.

There was only half a sheet of paper, but it was too much trouble to go and get a whole one. That catalogue was a stunner! Had not quite recovered it, luckily there was not the Mazarine Bible, and the psalter of 1457. Hoped Sneyd was better. Was very seedy. Asks Sneyd not to ask Robin out to dinner 'during this horrid winter', as his paternal ancestor cared much more for his catching cold than he did himself. Had bought a pot, which had the hall-mark for 1539. [Sketch].

437. 4 Feb.
1870

The same to the same.

How was he off for colds and sore throats and so on? Sir Edward Bisshopp, the last of his most unfortunate race, had died suddenly the week before, of congestion of the lungs coming on a cold, 'an awful warning to the dwellers in our wonderfull climate, so you take care of the Abbot.'

438. 24, Arlington St.
7 Feb.
1870

The same to the same.

The next article was a diptych, of boxwood, carved in relief inside and plain outside. Had never seen another. The books at Sotheby's were very grim, in old rotten bindings, not like the Bishop Butler's in the B. Museum, which were earlier than the Mazarine Bible. Was going to bid for Bartholomaeus de proprietatibus rerum, but dared say he should not get it.

439. 24, Arlington St.
18 Feb.
1870

The same to the same.

The first part only of the Demidoff catalogue was out, it related to pictures only, the price was 17/6d. Two more catalogues were to be published at the same price. Had not got him one but would do so if he liked. The weather was awful, wondered people were alive. His dear little Tot had had a feverish cold. It was a comfort to him that George Horton was there. Couldn't he and Mrs S. make an arrangement with his sister to come to London and stay in her house? Lady Horton had been ill.

440. 24, Arlington St.
7 Mar.
1870

The same to the same.

Had had a bibliomaniac adventure which had given him a qualm. Had gone into a shop, not a bookseller's, and had seen a man reading a black letter book, from which had fluttered a leaf with Caxton's device. 'What is that said I, Caxton's device said he, have you got a Caxton quoth I, oh yes plenty, have you and Wynkin de Wordes I asked, well about 50,...',

etc. If he had had any hair on his head it would have stood on end. The man had told him that not long before he had bought one volume of the Mazarine Bible, unbound, for 3/6d, and soon after, the other volume for, the writer thought he had said, 9/-, a copy wanting one leaf. They had had a long talk, 'but as I was going away, he said he trusted I would on no account, mention who he was. The whole library of 100 thousand volumes, having been offered to a party at New York, if the party did not take it, for the sum asked, he would let me know, but at present there is nothing to be sold...'. It seemed hardly possible that such very astounding rarities should be lying under one's nose.

441. 24, Arlington St.
17 Mar.
1870

The same to the same.

Thanks Sneyd for his kind, sympathetic letter. Wished he could bear up better, but Parham was a bugbear to him. Had got the Bartholomaeus de proprietatibus rerum, and an ancient British shield and helmet, much at Sneyd's service to walk down Regent St. in when he came to Town. Had altered the inscription round his room for a less cynical one. Was to dine with the Bishop of Winchester that day, to meet the Greek Archbishop. Hoped he should get off without a subscription.

442. 24, Arlington St.
1 Apr.
1870

The same to the same.

Was going to Parham the following day, with Robin and Tot, for the Easter holidays, after which he hoped to see him in the metropolis. Robin had come home the day before, having rowed with 2 other men from Oxford to Eton, which he thought capital fun, in the E. wind. There was no accounting for tastes.

443. Parham.
11 Apr.
1870

The same to the same.

Was very glad to hear his brother had given him £100 a year more. Was also glad he was coming to London after Easter. Perhaps later he would come to Arlington St., if their lodging were not engaged. Hoped he had recovered from the codfish and boiled turkey. Considers the issue of Sneyd and Mrs Sneyd having the fish and turkey between them. Lady Horton had been 'rather alarmingly unwell' with bronchitis, but heard she had got over it. As for himself, he felt like an old fly, crawling up a window pane in the autumn of life.

444. Parham.
23 Apr.
1870

The same to the same.

On Easter Monday his mother had had a fall and had never recovered. She lay in great danger. His little Tot was not quite right, the doctor said it was nothing, nevertheless between those two troubles he was in agony. Mrs Edward Curzon was at Parham and was exceedingly kind, and the writer had found a good nurse, so his mother had everything that they could do. Wished he lived near there, he wanted a companion so much. Robin was a good boy, but was too young to

understand what he suffered, and he hoped he never might.

445. Parham.
19 May,
1870

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his kind letter. His mother's last illness had 'brought out some beautiful proofs of the innocence of her heart, and her perfect confidence in the mercy of God...'. Felt the loss of his wife. If it had pleased God they might have hoped to pass the remainder of their days in peace and happiness. Should inherit very little, if anything, and a peerage brought responsibilities which required much more money than remained to him. Complains of the 'great jollification, & plunder to servants, labourers, lawyers, doctors, and other children of the horse leech,...'. Everybody was to have a suit of mourning, the maids were enjoying the delights of shopping and sending to London and Storrington for all sorts of things for which he was to pay, and Gladstone's succession and other duties pressed hard. Sneyd would have a far better inheritance.

446. 24, Arlington St.
1 June,
1870

The same to the same.

Had nothing to tell him, except that he was glad he was enjoying the delights of the garden and that Mrs W.S. and the Sneydlings were well. Was not going to Van der Weyer's breakfast. Was going to West Grinstead the following Saturday, to meet Miss Curzon, with whom he was to go to Parham on Monday, and back again alone. Miss Curzon looked forward with great delight to paying a visit by herself '(and the nurse)' at a country house, and was very important. They wanted rain terribly, but there was a chance for them that day as it was the Derby, and the Clerk of the Weather would hardly give up the fun of drenching a million people in their best clothes. Lord Crewe had asked him to Crewe on the 11th, to hear the Archbishop of York preach in his chapel.

447. Parham.
21 June,
1870

The same to the same.

Was there for Saturdays and Sundays, that week he was to stay till the following day, when he returned to the heat and dirt of the metropolis, hoping to return to Parham on the Saturday. Delamere had been there, Robin had come home the day before, feared his vacation would be dull. It was so hot they could not get out till the evening. Was employed in putting back all the things which his parents had turned out when they had come to Parham in 1858. Old Mrs Francis had touched him by admiring the return of old and better days, though it seemed almost sacrilege to move the shabby rubbish which he had groaned over for so many years. Hoped all was well with Mrs S. and him, would they pay him a visit in August or September? Felt very sad, missed his wife, though his children were a great comfort. The House of Lords tired him. There were lots of roses but hardly any hay. The poor 'sarvents' would have to drink a great deal of beer for want of water. Was Sneyd going to the Oxford Commemoration?

448. 24, Arlington St.
24 June,
1870

The same to the same.

It rained, though Her Most Gracious Majesty condescended to receive 800 or 900 base mortals in a tent at Windsor that day. Was sorry to say he should not be able to receive him on Wednesday, for he hoped to be at Parham. Considered it hard work sitting in the House of Lords till one o'clock in the morning, listening to speeches 'which have a wonderful likeness to a long bad sermon.' Hoped Mrs Sneyd and Sneyd would get to Parham some day. Sneyd had said there was an honest agent at Keele. Would not the latter write to him and keep him informed?

449. Parham.
11 July,
1870

The same to the same.

How did he find his brother and matters at Keele? The weather was horrid, the heat stifling, very unhealthy. Robin was well but the little Tot felt the weather, and so did the writer. Hoped all the small Sneydlings were well, 'and your nice wife'. Was sorry to miss him in London. Supposed he should have to go up again for the education bill. Comments on the same. Desires to know about the new church at Keele. Did he think it would be easily converted into a hall of reason, or temple of Plutus when old-fashioned notions were swept away? [MS. mutilated].

450. Parham.
17 July,
1870

The same to the same.

His letter caused serious thoughts. Hoped Sneyd's poor brother might go off without pain, as Lady de Tabley had. Should like to go to the Strawberry Hill Philobiblon breakfast, but was not going anywhere at present. How long did people keep in on the loss of a parent? Did Sneyd know what the writer's arms were? Did he use the arms of Curzon or Zouche? Comments on the Irish Land Bill and the rumour that Gladstone was going to make new radical peers. London was horrid. Wished Sneyd would come to Parham. What a calamity the war was.

451. 24, Arlington St.
28 July,
1870

The same to the same.

'Well this is great news. I am very glad to hear that your poor Brother departed this life, without pain, for that is what we all must hope for: I did not expect it would be so soon...'. What a good will he had made. Asks Sneyd to do one thing for him, that his first act 'as a millionaire' be to do some good with the first money that he spent. Let his first cheque be to charity. Did not understand the heavy debt. Should be going north towards the middle of October and would give him a call if Sneyd would like to have him. Was to go to Parham the following day.

452. Parham.
8 Aug.
1870

The same to the same.

Why didn't he write and tell him all sorts of things? It was a pleasure to hear of the prosperity of one's oldest friend. What had he done and what was he going to do with poor old Denton Abbey, and all the

gimcracks, which they had 'moused' over for so many years? Of course, Sneyd would throw away or present to the Mechanics' Institute at Newcastle the mere 'reading books' in the library, and fill the shelves with the real article. The writer and the turnips felt better for the rain. It was wonderful news, of the Prussian victory, and the Emperor's illness or weak health. What an atrocious crime he had committed, and then the blasphemous humbug of the foolish old Pope. What wonderful events were looming around them.

453. Parham.
15 Aug.
1870
- The same to the same.
- Was truly grieved to hear of the poor little squire being attacked with scarlatina. [Remainder of the letter taken up with his concern for them, and the need for precautions].
454. Parham.
19 Aug.
1870
- The same to the same.
- No news was good news, he trusted, but still he wanted to hear 'about your little man.'
455. Parham.
22 Aug.
1870
- The same to the same.
- 'Well that is all right, & you may thank God, that the little man is going on so well.' Cautions him about the risk of infection. Takes him to task for turning off his cook, and considers the benefits to be derived from a good dinner. Adds a postscript, that he was very sorry for poor Lewis Bagot.
456. Parham.
22 Sept.
1870
- The same to the same.
- Should be happy to be trustee for his children, 'more particularly as I shall probably be otherwise engaged when my services will be required.' Was in a hurry and would write again.
457. Catton.
7 Oct.
1870
- The same to the same.
- Supposed it was the last letter he should direct to 'poor little smug old Denton'. Was sorry to think he should never see it again. What Sneyd would do with all the Abbey gimcracks he could not imagine, unless he added the Denton Gallery from Keele to Newcastle. Was also in trouble on that score, divers drawers being full of things he didn't know where to put. Poor old Lady Horton was failing. She would be a great loss. Proposed to go to Tabley for a few days after Crewe, and then to Vale Royal, if Delamere was there, but he was in Scotland at present. Robin was to go to Oxford on the 14th. He was about as tall as Sneyd and himself together. Wondered whether Sneyd's heir would be seven feet high.
458. Crewe Hall.
13 Oct.
1870
- The same to the same.
- Would it suit Sneyd to receive him at Keele on 1st Nov.? Sir Stephen Glynne was there, who would like to meet the writer at Keele on the 2nd. What were

Sneyd's sentiments on that subject? There was a tremendous function going on there, 36 in the house and 60 to lunch the day before, with speeches. Hated making a speech almost as much as listening to the agonies of other victims. Curious marriage the Princess Beatrice to the Marquess of Lorn. 'I am sorry that the British Lion, should be so for lorn.' The house was a miracle of ornamental detail. Was to go on Monday to Tabley for 2 or 3 days, returning to Catton.

459. Tabley House,
Knutsford.
18 Oct.
1870

The same to the same.

Lazarus presented his compliments and would not be able to partake of the flesh-pots of Keele for any length of time at present, for he had to return to Catton to look after Lady Horton. The change to such cold, raw weather, was very bad for old or seedy people.

460. Catton.
24 Oct.
1870

The same to the same.

Thought he had made a mistake in offering to go to see him on 1st Nov. Wanted to make his appearance at Keele, if convenient to him, on 31st Oct. Desires Sneyd to tell him his sentiments, and which was the station for Keele.

461. Catton.
28 Oct.
1870

The same to the same.

Thanks him for the vehicle, which he should hope to find at Newcastle station on Monday. Had a servant and 2 boxes.

462. Parham.
28 Nov.
1870

The same to the same.

Was glad Sneyd was going to Crewe. It was a wonder of decoration. They said it had cost £130,000. Sneyd had been there before and knew the gallery, with the view of the garden and the lake. Thought it very risky putting up such an enormous quantity of carved woodwork in a house that had only recovered from a fire 'at so prodigious an expence'. Thought it the richest house in England as to ornament. Supposed C. Bagot had admired Keele. Liked Mrs Bagot very much. Should like to know whether Sneyd got any change out of 'Cock' Hussey, he was full of wisdom, and so was George Gooch as to comfort and gentleman-like arrangements. Who was Miss Margaret Leighton? Was very lonely down at Parham, having no old friends in Sussex, 'but as for gimcracks, their name is legion and I don[']t know where to put any of them.' The whole house wanted brushing up from top to bottom. Was making a small alteration in one of the staircases. Wished Sneyd would bring Keele down there. Adds a postscript, that he had got a silver helmet the other day.

463. [? Parham.
c 17 Dec.
1870]

The same to the same.

[Postcard, 5 lines in Greek, mock inscriptional hand:

Then in reply the man from Parham said to him
Hurrah, hurrah for Portland Place
And there Mr Psilope to trace.
It's not so bad when you're there
And not so far as Belgrave Square].

464. Parham.
27 Dec.
1870

The same to the same.

No one could wish Sneyd a happy new year and many more to come [more] than he did, 'and I think that few people are more likely to get them, than you are.' Supposed that he was in the midst of a tremendous jollification at Tatton. If Mr and Mrs Mitford were there, Sneyd should make friends with them. Prays Sneyd make out particulars about de Tabley's marriage, and what they said about Johnny Warren, 'whose ways are somewhat incomprehensible to his friends'. It was horridly cold there, 2 or 3 of the cabinets were frozen up, and Robin and the writer had to dine out that night in the snow. Wished they would let one alone, on the other hand he had asked 18 neighbours to dine with him, 'what a horrid bore for them'. Heard Sneyd had given a banquet. Hoped the lighting up of the drawing-room was satisfactory, lighting up a large room was a work of art and science. The deer looked very sorry for themselves. Was glad he was not obliged to snuffle his nose under the snow to get at his victuals. The only advantage of rough weather was that one got snipes. Adds a postscript, that Lord Howe's only daughter was to marry 'a "Tubthumper"', they say, that is as I understand, something in the methody line, without a farthing, she has 2[,]000 a year.'

465. Parham.
29 Dec.
1870

The same to the same.

Had forgotten to ask about 14, Portland Place. Was it a corner house, etc.?

466. Parham.
17 Feb.
1871

The same to the same.

First he had had the lumbago, then had come the death of Lady Horton, and he had gone to the funeral in a sudden storm of sleet and snow. Describes the funeral. Lady Horton had left him a silver cup, in which Robin had been Christened, and the great collar given her by the prince or adigar of Ceylon, and about £3,000. Should like to have seen him in all his glory, with his tail spread out like the father of all peacocks. What a failure the opening of parliament must have been. What a wonderful mistake the Americans had made in giving a public reception to the Irish Fenians, 'classing themselves with the scum of the earth.' Sneyd's old papers must be very curious. Hoped one day he would see the writer's British Museum. Was almost sorry he had got a house in Portland Place, that was, at the other end of it. Sneyd would see there was a bill to be brought forward to prevent bankrupt peers sitting in the House of Lords, 'an awful warning, to inveterate old purchasers of gimcracks'.

467. 24, Arlington St.
24 Feb.
1871

The same to the same.

Answered by return of post, as he desired, but couldn't come to Keele just then. Was to go down to Parham the following day, to meet Salvin, the architect. Hoped to pay him a visit that summer. Sneyd's great-grandmother had been a jolly old soul, he dared say. Returned her small account, with thanks. So Sneyd was to be at his sister's on the 9th. Possibly the writer might be in Town while he was there.

468. 24, Arlington St.
16 Mar.
1871

The same to the same.

The day before, at Castle Goring, he had received a letter from Robin, announcing the death of a poor fellow named Geffreys, at Christ Church, of scarlet fever. The doctor had said he ought to go away, so the writer had telegraphed to him to come there, where the writer had joined him and they were in quarantine, a dismal way of passing the writer's birthday. Was sorry not to have seen him and to have gone and looked at his new house, while Sneyd was in London.

469. Parham.
3 Apr.
1871

The same to the same.

Could not get on in his building, as he could not get the stone from London or any answers to his letters to Salvin, who, he supposed, was better employed somewhere else. But they had made a famous dust pulling down the old partitions. They had found some black letter ballads, one about Fair Rosamund, but had thrown them away while the writer had not been there. Hoped they were not Caxtons. How had Bagot got that charming house in St James' Place? Had Sneyd settled when he was coming to London? Was very seedy, it could not have been the sucking pig, what did Sneyd think? Or the sparkling Moselle. Rather believed it was 'pisin'.

470. 24, Arlington St.
30 May,
1871

The same to the same.

Was sorry to say that he would not be able to assist at the banquet on the 9th June. After his guests went away Tot and he were going to Parham, and he was not to return till the 12th, when a field day was expected in the House of Lords about the Alabama. Found that his presence was very necessary at Parham as an architect, for Salvin paid no attention to the voice of his complaint and he was obliged to do everything himself. Had had to pull down 2 or 3 great mistakes already.

471. Parham.
8 June,
1871

The same to the same.

Supposed he would think it adding insult to injury asking him and Mrs S. to dine with him on Wednesday, 14th. He would meet the William Ashleys, and Dascent, whom he ought to know if he did not already. If he would come the writer would assist at the demolition of Sneyd's 'vittles' any day except 29th June and Saturdays and Sundays, when he was wanted at Parham.

472. Parham.
11 June,
1871
- The same to the same.
- It wouldn't do, he was sorry to say. George Horton and Mrs G. were to come to him again on Monday, and Robin too. Robin had been praised by the Dean for good conduct, which was a great happiness to his paternal ancestor. Besides, Sneyd would see from the other side [of the paper] that the writer had a great chance of getting no dinner at all on Monday, 'the old party who got us into the Alabama scrape, is going to make bad, worse, in all probability.'
- [Letter written on the back of a parliamentary whip, requesting Lord Zouche's attendance in the House of Lords on Monday, 12th June, discussion on Lord Russell's motion with regard to the Alabama claims].
473. 24, Arlington St.
13 June,
1871
- The same to the same.
- Was fortunately able, and certainly willing to dine with him on Friday, 16th June. Robin would also have the honour of accepting the 'wittles'.
474. Parham.
24 July,
1871
- The same to the same.
- Dared say he had made a capital speech and no doubt that part of it had a fine effect when he had given back 10 per cent of his rents, but what had he done that for, 'what a bad example to the poorer landlords in the neighbourhood.' Wished he could do it, and build a school or two, that was what he wanted to do very much, but by reason of his poverty he could not. His little Tot had not been well. The doctor had always told him there was nothing dangerous, but the writer had been so distressed it had brought on a fit of the gout. Was hopping about on one leg with a ferocious big toe on the other, which was the greater plague because Delamere and Charles, Mrs and Miss Bagot were there, and the workmen were hammering away in all directions. A pretty scrimmage Gladstone was making, and all the peers were to be up on Monday to defend their lives and liberties, and the Queen signed anything that Gladstone ordered her to sign. Had heard nothing about Mrs Harcourt's affairs yet. Feared he should not be able to do anything.
475. 24, Arlington St.
13 Aug.
1871
- The same to the same.
- Hoped the waters of Buxton would do him good. Thanks him for his generous offer to lend him some cash, without interest, a kind thought and worthy of their ancient friendship. But he hoped he could do without. Was in a wonderful quandary. Lord Clanricarde had given him the refusal of Rackham and Amberley Castle, 'about 20 thousand pounds, at least.' It was a matter of life and death to Parham, i.e. to Robin. The following day he was to go to Eastnor Castle. Robin enjoyed himself at his island of Cumbrae and was going to Ireland, to see Lord Antrim. Tot was bathing at Southsea. Was too hot to write more.

476. Parham.
4 Sept.
1871

The same to the same.

What nasty, unhealthy, puggy weather it was. Was hotter by reason of the fright he was in, about the small account he had sent for, for building, and 'hotterer' on account of Lord Clanricarde's having given him the refusal of the Amberley estate for £16,000, 'about twice as much as his interest is worth', and then he had no means of knowing whether the Ecclesiastical Commissioners would enfranchise the property or not, i.e. whether he was to lose his money in 17 years. What distressed him was his duty towards Robin. Hoped Sneyd and the Sneydlings would be all the better for being watered in that dry weather. The new rooms looked very well so far, he must come and see them when they were finished.

477. Parham.
30 Sept.
1871

The same to the same.

Hoped he had not eaten too much goose the day before 'and was not took worse in the night.' Was sorry to say there was no chance of his travelling into those distant regions where Sneyd resided, at present. Robin had come back from Scotland, Ireland, Alnwick and Ripon, and had won a silver cup for rifle shooting, and made a speech at the dinner for the Volunteers. Warns Sneyd of the consequences of having the army in. Enquires after his family. Sneyd had said that F. Gooch was coming to Parham, but he had heard nothing of him. Was tired of the workmen and wished they were gone. Supposed there was no chance of Sneyd coming down there that winter. Poor William Dugdale was a great loss to the writer. Was happy to think his son was very well disposed to him. Mrs D. had Blythe. Had sent a proposal to Lord Clanricarde.

478. Parham.
1 Nov.
1871

The same to the same.

Was just thinking whether he owed him a letter or whether Sneyd owed him one, when his had arrived, with the history of all his hospitalities. Was also preparing for future guests. The Great Parlour was now a very pretty room, the old drawing-room and library were thrown together and made a room 43 feet long. The dining-room was unfinished, but between 50 and 60 feet long, 24 feet high, and 23 feet wide. Was rather in a fright for fear that Ed. Cheney 'or some other wicked & cynical man, when I tell him I was my own architect, should say, ah, so I thought!' Outside the house he was building a gatehouse. That morning he had got Lord Clanricarde's agreement to sell him the Rackham, Amberley Castle and Waltham Park property for 20 years, a dreadfully precarious affair. A wonderful event had come to pass at Storrington, a Mr Faithfull and 20 pupils had come there. Storrington was looking up. The pupils were grown up young men who had been plucked a few times and had come to be crammed, many of them of good families. Wished Sneyd lived near there.

479. Parham.
20 Dec.
1871

The same to the same.

Wished him 'Many merry Christmasses, and happy new

years, and powers to digest mince pies for ever and ever, amen.' Had nothing particular to tell him. Could not get rid of the workmen. The old drawing-room was shaking down into a very pretty, old-fashioned room, full of pictures. They had been stacking his books in the passages and lumber rooms, so you couldn't find anything. Was glad to see the Prince of Wales was going on so well. Hoped that severe illness would be a lesson to him. Heard there was to be a public subscription to rebuild Warwick Castle, which had not been insured for a farthing. Thanks Sneyd for the photograph. Was there not one of Mrs S.? Sent Sneyd one which had the convenience of looking as well upside down as right side uppermost.

480. Parham.
25 Jan.
1872

The same to the same.

Had had a melifluous account of his visit to Keele from George Horton. The latter had said that Sneyd had been swearing at the writer '(internally)' for not having come to Keele, but if Sneyd took the matter into consideration, there was a great gulf between them, the writer was very busy building and Sneyd was doing nothing, but the writer should like to see his face, at the idea of coming out 200 or 300 miles in the cold. Hoped, nevertheless, he would come there some fine day, to see what he had done with his very small means. Didn't think he had made any great mistakes, but nobody had been there yet whose opinion was worth minding. Wondered who had been the wretched idiots on the committee who had approved of Mr Street's new Law Courts. Had been staying at Lavington with the Bishop of Winchester. A party there had been desperately in love with Mrs S., so Sneyd had better look out. They had had the most tremendous rain, the Wildbrook was a vast lake and made a magnificent view. Had got to go to a ball that night, at Mr Gibson's. All the neighbours had been signing a petition to let off Miss Edmunds, the Brighton prisoner, but he had refused as he thought cold-blooded murderers ought to be hanged.

481. [Post 25 Jan.
1872]

The same to the same.

[Note, explaining who the party had been at Lavington - See S[Rev.WS/Hon.RC]/480 above].

482. Parham.
[14 Feb.]
1872

The same to the same.

The 'Father of Bibliomaniacs' was gone. The last time the writer had seen him he had been going to leave his library to his eldest daughter, he thought, who had a tremendously pretty daughter, Kitty. Had breakfasted at Grillon's Club the previous Saturday, Disraeli and the Archbishop of Canterbury 'were going to the British Museum to elect a new trustee, and to look after Sir Thomas's books, which they won[']t get for nothing, tho['] you or I might have done so.' Had got the book from Leader. Enclosed a letter from him for Sneyd to read and tell the writer whether he had married his countess or not. Should Sneyd be in London for the Thanksgiving? Did not think he himself

should go. Adds a postscript, that he had been at a grand wedding at Somers's, who had been at Parham.

483. Parham.
17 Feb.
1872

The same to the same.

Supplies Sneyd with the name and address of Mr Edward Tibby, 'if he is not gone to Golconda, or somewhere else,...'. Enclosed a valuable autograph from Leader, about which he wanted to hear his sentiments. They had got a fine day by way of a change and Totty was gathering violets, and the writer was going on an expedition to see his neighbour, Lady Bath, 10 miles off, who would be out. They went on building and hammering as before. Hoped Charles Bagot's family were all well again. What mischief were he and Mrs Sneyd doing in London? The writer should be up on the 26th, to see if the Thanksgiving were to be made easy for him, if it were he might go. Adds a postscript, supposing there was no chance of his coming there on the 24th.

484. Parham.
19 Feb.
1872

The same to the same.

If Sneyd could come on Saturday, he would send to Pulborough for him. Should expect the whole of him, i.e. 'the better half, too.' Did not think Mrs S. had ever been to Parham. What gimcracks had Sneyd been getting?

485. 24, Arlington St.
28 Feb.
1872

The same to the same.

Sneyd had showed the wisdom of his generation in getting out of the way of the Thanksgiving. [Describes in detail the service at St Paul's, scenes outside, and a procession he had witnessed from the window of the Arlington St. drawing-room].

486. Parham.
9 Mar.
1872

The same to the same.

Expected to honour the metropolis with his presence on the 8th, 'more or less'. George and Mrs W. Horton were coming to stay with him. Was going up to Town on Tuesday, to the levee, as he saw that the Queen was going to hold one herself for a change. Had asked Delamere to present him and he had not answered his petition. Though a roaring Tory most of his friends were Whigs. What was Sneyd doing in the garden? Was busting with indignation about the English law. Who were the greatest thieves, the claimant who had tried to rob Lady Tichborne and her son, or the lawyers who had really done so? When Sneyd brought his large small family to London he hoped Tot 'and my other niece' might make friends.

487. 24, Arlington St.
13 Mar.
1872

The same to the same.

Thanks him for Leader's letter, which he returned. It was a very satisfactory account. Should like to see his castle, palace and villa. It all sounded so preposterous. Comments on the ink he has been using. Poor old Mr Sneyd, he had been kind to the writer's father. He had passed a tiresome life, except when he

had been playing billiards with George Gooch, to whom the writer desired Sneyd to give his hearty commendations, and to Charles and Mrs Bagot. A most curious occurrence had happened in London that day, the sun had been shining for more than an hour.

488. Parham.
5 Apr.
1872
- The same to the same.
- Did not travel so royally as Sneyd, but hoped to get to Arlington St. on Tuesday, 9th. George and Mrs Horton were to come up the same day. Adds a postscript concerning Beatrice Lane, and the discomforts of attending a London wedding.
489. '11th Brumaire.
Anno 1.'¹
- The same to the same.
- Was much obliged for the portrait of that enlightened patriot Sir George Dilke. Was told it was an excellent likeness. Thought £17. 17. 0. was hardly enough for such a remarkable work of art and begged Sneyd would apply for £100 to Ketch, Bradlaugh, Odgus & Co. Signed 'Hequality Jones'.
- [1. Mock date, after the style of the calendar of the 1st French Republic. The writing-paper's black embossed 'Z' and coronet device has been turned into a cap of liberty and face, with cross-bones].
490. 18 Apr.
[? 1872]
- The same to the same.
- It wouldn't do nohow. Horton and the writer were going to Parham on Saturday, till Monday, to see how things were getting on. Hoped the change of air might do him good. Was very poorly.
491. Parham.
28 May,
1872
- The same to the same.
- Should have great pleasure in dining with him on the 7th, if he was well enough. Had been very unwell and could not get right. Delamere and his brother had been there, and the writer had been in bed all the time. Had forwarded his letter to Horton. Had he seen the Cirencester ghost? Should be glad to see O. Morgan.
492. 24, Arlington St.
11 June,
1872
- The same to the same.
- Had told Mr Edward Tibby to call on Sneyd, and he would tell him all about diamonds. He was one of only about half a dozen diamond merchants, a different breed from jewellers.
493. 24, Arlington St.
'Wednesday night'.
[? 12 June,
1872]
- The same to the same.
- Had made a mistake. Wanted him to dine there on Friday. They had been to the Crystal Palace that day and had come back late. Tot wanted to go again the following day.
494. Parham.
23 July,
1872
- The same to the same.
- Wished him many happy returns. Why did he not get the

Duke of Newcastle's house instead of Lord Granville? Was glad to hear he was in a position to take such an expensive mansion, for he had a great admiration for him in the House of Lords. Only wished they had him on their side. The fete at Cliveden must have been beautiful. Was going to Up Park on Wednesday, till Saturday, 'to go over to the Goodwood races'. Why was Sneyd's smart little governess going away? The Sussex Archaeological Society was to make an invasion of Parham on 8th August. Should be away, as he was too sad and sorry to meet a crowd. There had been a mighty wedding of Raymond Burrell the day before, to Miss Loder. Robin was going to read at Festiniog. Hoped his building would really end some day.

495. Parham.
21 Aug.
1872

The same to the same.

Knutton church? Where was Knutton church? Wished him and Mrs S. joy in being able to effect so good a work. Nothing belonging to that world would give the writer so much pleasure as to build a church. But his delight was architecture, so he feared it would not go for much in the bill hereafter. Had come back the day before from Longleat. Describes some of the treasures.

496. Parham.
27 Aug.
1872

The same to the same.

The other day he had found Leader's card on his table in London, but without any direction - did Sneyd know where he was? Thought Sneyd had made a very good speech at the foundation of his new church.

497. 24, Arlington St.
27 Sept.
1872

The same to the same.

Had received his hospitable invitation to the banquet on the 14th, and wrote to say that if he had not already sent out his invitations, he had better change them for the 15th, because there was a great chance whether any members of parliament would be able to go on the 14th. George Horton and the writer were off to Oxford to see Robin. Adds a postscript, that Sneyd did not divulge the secret of his residence. They thought it was No.55, or had the number been changed?

498. Parham.
19, 21 Nov.
1872

The same to the same.

Was sure there must be some mesmerism or other mystery about it, for his was the third letter he had received just as he had been thinking he had not heard from his correspondent, and was sitting down to write to them. But Sneyd's letter took away his breath. What a state of perpetual motion he had been in, and in that miserable weather too. He himself felt too aged and infirm to go about in the winter. Wished he could get away to Naples, or somewhere where the sun shone. Was very sorry that poor Warburton was losing his eyesight. Arley had been very pretty but not a good house to live in. Should like to see those books, 'I love a folio picture book, and the ivory dyptic that sounds marvellous, did the Count make it, or is it really an ould[,] ancienne holi chattel.' Had written to Shirley,

who was in Ireland, about what relation Anne Margaret Meredith, who had married Viscount Curzon, was to Miss Meredith who had married Lord Ferrers, 'the great hero of the Shirley family, and he could not tell me!!!! I thought he knew the pedigree of every body connected with his family.' Could Sneyd tell him? Tot was very well. Robin was in the act of examination for his degree, which made the writer sadly anxious. Wished Sneyd would pull Keele a little nearer that way, he would push from behind, for it was a great failure their being so far off. A most incredible event had just come to pass, the sun had come out. Adds a postscript, asking who were the William Russells. Had Tabley been furnished and brushed up?

499. Parham.
2 Dec.
1872

The same to the same.

'That dyptich must be a wonderful one, and it is a famous photograph too.' Mr Albert must be very clever, for it was exactly like an old one. Sneyd had a fine collection of ivories. He must get a 'Consular Diptych', Webb had a very beautiful one. What a sad thing had been Harris's death, who would be a great loss to his little butterfly daughter. His son George had just returned from America, where he had been to play in an international game of cricket - it seemed a very wonderful thing to do.

500. Parham.
5 Dec.
1872

The same to the same.

Was sure he would be glad to hear that Robin had taken his degree, 'or rather passed his examination.' Wondered whether they should live to hear the bells ring when the young squire of Keele took his double first in litteris humanioribus. A wonderful, tough book Ld. Crawford had sent him, about Etruscan inscriptions. He said the Etruscans were Germans. Could not say they were not, but could not fancy Mars, Bacchus or Apollo drinking beer and smoking a meerschaum pipe in the Elysian fields, or Venus speaking from her stomach, saying 'donner und blitzen herr Upiter, vir haben ser schlectes vetter [sic], jetzt aaach - '.

501. Parham.
4 Feb.
1873

The same to the same.

Had not answered his prosperous letter of the 25th, because his kind heart would be sorry for what he had to say. Had been to London, to consult a doctor, who had given him to understand that he was in danger of a speedy and horrible death. Phillimore had taken him to Dr Andrew Clarke, who had said there was a thickening or induration of the lower intestine. As his general health was good he might possibly recover. But he suffered so terribly from anxiety and nervousness that he was in a miserable state. Had kept Robin with him, who was a great comfort.

502. Parham.
31 Mar.
1873
- The same to the same.
- Should much like to see him, but was so ill he might hardly be able to speak to him. Had he seen the catalogue of the Perkins library? Should like to have 3 or 4 books out of it, the Mazarine Bible on vellum, the 1462 Bible on vellum, and Mathew's Bible, 1537. Supposed it was the finest collection ever offered for sale. Theresa Anson and Robin were with him.
503. Parham.
25 Apr.
1873
- The same to the same.
- Was sorry to hear of all his ailments. The weather was against him and he must not think of coming down there till it changed. Theresa Anson was to go to London on Tuesday, for a few days, perhaps Sneyd would see her. Mrs George Horton was coming there for a while, but Sneyd would not find anything very gay at Parham, for perhaps the writer might not be able to do more than just shake hands with him. Parting with his children was what he dreaded, and the fear of more pain and suffering. The raw, cold weather was against him. The ~~previous~~ night the frost had killed all the blossoms, so there would be hardly any out of doors fruit. Asks remembrance to Mrs Sneyd. Adds a postscript, that he had written to de Tabley, to ask about poor Frederick Leicester. What a dreadful history about Lord Delaware.
504. Parham.
14 May,
1873
- The same to the same.
- 'Pray come on Saturday. We have a fine[,] cold NE wind for you. I can not write any more today.'
505. Parham.
31 May,
1873
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for the books, one of the prayer books was a very good one and he had had great comfort in reading it. The Moonstone was too small a print for such an old cripple.
506. Parham.
16 June,
1873
- The same to the same.
- Was very much obliged for the beautiful fruit. Totty quite appreciated her share of it. Phillimore and 'my lady' had left that morning.
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