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Sneyd Papers

**Calendar of correspondence to
Ralph Sneyd
from Charlotte Augusta Sneyd**

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CORRESPONDENCE

To Ralph Sneyd (d.1870) from Charlotte Augusta Sneyd (d.1882)

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|----|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Wednesday.
[1814 or
later] | C[harlotte] A[ugusta] Sneyd to
R[alph] Sneyd, at Longleat.

While the Duke of Clarence was
talking she would try to write to
him. Mama seemed better and they
intended setting out to-morrow. Last
night Lady Stafford had sent [sic]
Walter her box at Drury Lane, to see
Kean in Richard III. Walter had
accordingly made his party himself,
Eliza and Frederic FitzClarence,
Mrs (?) Hooper, Henry Ashley and
herself. There had been 'a very
Radical audience.' The part of the
Earl of Richmond had been played by
'Morcas Curius Deatatus Junius
Brutus Booth.' Believed that Eliza
[FitzClarence] would marry Lord
Errol, but it was not yet settled.
The Duke of Clarence said that his
guardian, Lord Huntley, had been
very kind about it. It had been very
entertaining watching the influx of
peers into London that day. The |
|----|----------------------------------|---|

queen was to have a guard of honour to go to the House. The writer's head was so confused with all the horrors of packing that she could think of nothing else to tell him.

2. 9 Oct.
[1815]

The same to the same [in Florence].

Had to write a few lines to him to show that she had not forgot his birthday. They had all been drinking his health. Had not got much news, 'as we all go on much as usual, except that naughty Frizzle has got the whooping cough.' Papa had gone last Thursday to London and from thence to Cheltenham. Longed to hear from him how he liked Florence, '& that you are not fallen into the hands of Swindlers, &c.' Wonders whether any of the things would arrive at the Florentine Gallery from the Louvre while he was there. If they did not he would be out of luck to miss them at both places. Wished he would try to sketch while he was in Italy, 'any sort of scratches, to give us an idea of the places you go to.' Could not spin the nothing she had to say any further.

With, postscripts (2), from Elizabeth and Georgiana Sneyd, wishing him joy of his birthday.

3. Monday.
[13 May,
? 1816]

The same to the same, in Paris.

When so many in one house wrote, all their letters could not be very interesting, would not excuse herself writing one more to him, but would excuse him reading it. Longed to have him safe at home again, ten months was so long to have passed without having seen him. News of marriages, including Princess Charlotte's, for which the writer and Georgy had been to the queen's house to see her dressed, and of Lady Charlotte Neville's. Madeline Carnegie was to be married soon, '& then you have to make acquaintance with your cousin, Alfred Bagot.' Hoped he had better weather abroad than they had in England, where it was nearly as cold as it was at Christmas, 'which is not genteel of it, seeing that it is the 13th of May.' They had been lucky about getting to the play, 'having been three times to Covent garden, & once to the opera, within a fortnight. - We are going this morning with Grandmama, Frank, & H[?] & George Gooch to see the Panorama of Waterloo, which they say is very good. - I must go and get ready for it,....'

4. Tuesday,
6 Aug.
[1816]

The same to the same, in Florence.

Would take the advantage of writing him a stupid letter that would cost him nothing. The house had at last quite emptied itself. The party had admired his Shakespeare. 'I suppose you have heard before, of the [dog] prince's death, after a very few days indisposition; it was very sudden as we heard both of his illness & death to-day. What a loss he will be! who shall we find to replace him?' It had been a great disappointment to them to hear that the

^{or}
Dis^{or}Howes were not coming. Had he got on much with his Italian, 'or are the roads too jolting to be able to see in a book?' They wanted to know whether the long story in the newspaper, named 'A Visit to Waterloo' was the description of his visit there. Adds a postscript, 'The poor Prince is just buried. He was carried in state to the rick-yard; the two asses were chief mourners.'

5. [Bath].
Sunday.
[ante June
1821]

The same to the same.

Ought not to write to him again yet, because she thought it degrading oneself to write a second letter before the first had been answered, but begged him to send her a Morning Post after the ball at Carlton House. '(If you sh[oul]d happen to write the article, let it be very detailed).' The family enjoyed a pretty tolerable state of health, Mama was pretty well at present, but as she did not drink the waters it was no thanks to Bath. 'For my part, I only wonder that every body does not die here for want of air, for (as Mrs [?] Modan emphatically observes) "you might as well live at the bottom of y[ou]r wash hand bason, as at Bath"!!!' Lord and Lady Cawdor were there and she heard that Lady Erskine was coming next week. News of other friends. Papa, Harriet and the writer had been to a party at 'L'Abbe Citrous' (Mr Lemon's) & finally agreed that it sh[oul]d be the last trial - we counted when we went in 30 old Ladies, and 5 old gentlemen in the room, w[hi]ch formed the whole assembly. There never was any thing said more true than Quin's observation, that Bath was "the finest place in the world for old Fowls to roost in"! But seriously we are rather more reconciled to the Place since some very pretty gardens just opposite our house have been opened & then the shops are beautiful, & the rides are very pretty.' Lizzy and Walter had been vaccinated on Saturday. The apothecary had hunted up an old mark on the writer's arm, 'w[hi]ch he thought would do.' Further news of friends, including Fauche.

6. Bath.
1 June,
[1821]

[Louisa Sneyd and] the same to the same, at Keele.

[Louisa Sneyd]: Lord Cawdor had died at 2 o'clock that morning. Had heard of Lord Sheffield's death from Mrs Dodson, and from Lady Georgiana Somerset of her sister Lady Charlotte's marriage with Mr Leveson Gower.

[Charlotte Augusta Sneyd]: Mama desired that she should finish her letter, 'but it appears to me that she has said all that is to be said.' Harriet and the writer had been to see Jagger's pictures and had admired Mrs Arbuthnott's extremely. It was at that moment thundering and lightening most furiously. Augustus Legge was there, and Lord William Fitzroy was going to stay another week.

7. 12 Jan.
[1823]

C[harlotte] A[ugusta] S[neyd] to the same, poste restante Rome.

Thought it a very long time since they had had any intercourse, but her life had been so very uniform for the last good while that she had left it to Harriet and those who had more materials for a letter, to write. He might bless the good fates that placed him in Italy that winter, the cold here was more intense that he could imagine, 'the thermometer a few days ago was at 20 at Richmond, w[hi]ch you know is a warmish situation.' News of visitors, including Walter, 'for his Xmas holidays', for whose entertainment they had been acting charades, 'Walter was stuffed, & padded & dressed in a brown curly wig, with a star & garter to represent the King, & really looked so exactly like him & took off his manner so uncommonly well, that I w[oul]d have given a great deal for you to have seen him. Fanny also dressed[,] first as Lady Maryborough, & then as Lady Londonderry, looked & acted her parts to admiration.' He would have heard of Mr Canning's having won the king's heart by making Lord Francis Conyngham under secretary of state. 'L[or]d Alvanley in consequence calls him L[or]d Cunningham & says that Mr Canning has retired to Gloucester Lodge to cultivate a pair of Mustachioes.' Lord Francis Leveson had gone to Spain, not because he is tired of his wife. Was painting very hard, 'do not imagine that I mean to insinuate that the painting is hard, because of course that is soft & mellow to a degree!! but industriously, to finish a large Virgin's head that I am about, before I go to Town.' Had not yet done his picture, 'because I intend it to be a chef d'oeuvre, & none of my productions have yet come under that denomination. - A propos of the fine arts, (you may have discovered that I am become fond of linking my sentences together, w[hi]ch is owing to Mr Wilmot's telling me that my observations always come in by the head & shoulders,) any little piece of music that you w[oul]d bring me from St Peter's, I will promise neither to dance to, nor to laugh if any body Else sh[oul]d be inclined to so so; - but to play it in a most pathetic manner, it being a sort of music that I am very fond of.' The opera had opened, Lord Granville could not afford to have a box that year. Must think this a very 'Londony' letter, but home news was at a standstill. Wished him happiness and health in the new year.

With, postscript, from Walter Sneyd, hoping to receive a letter from him when he was at Totteridge. Did not believe he would go to Westminster 'till after next Christmas. 'Mr Jekyl has published a most capital advertisement stating that he has opened an office in Town for the purpose of furnishing Country Houses with guests after the manner of a Circulating Library - with a catalogue of the people...'

8. [? Audley Square].
26, 27 May,
[1823]

The same to the same, in Paris.

Thanks him for his letter. Had been intending to write him every day for the last six weeks, and as regularly had put it off in the hopes of making her letter more entertaining. Was he aware what heavy complaints were laid against him on the score of writing? Did not mean by themselves but by the rest of his friends, with Charles Percy at the head of them. The latter desired her to say 'that he sh[oul]d Consider himself as the meanest of human creatures if he wrote to you again before you did so to him.' Seriously recommended him to write a circular letter to send all his angry correspondents. Lady Elizabeth Conyngham's marriage with Lord Burford was settled and occasioned no little surprise. 'I believe he is a very good sort of man, but the most ridiculous ever seen & what is still worse he has once been confined for madness - he is very little & mesquin looking, & wears sometimes loose pantaloons with frills at the bottom, & sometimes tight ones buttoned all up his leg with gold buttons; notwithstanding which, he is so shy that he hardly ever ventures to open his lips.' Lord Gower's marriage was to take place at 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening, at Devonshire House. Lord Normanby had appeared at Devonshire House last Friday in a splendid blue waistcoat covered with gold stars. Lady Morley had asked Mr Luttrell whether he had seen the waistcoat, 'to w[hi]ch he answered "Yes, but I thought it would have suited Lord Orrery better..."' A great many changes had taken place in their neighbourhood, the Bathursts had moved to the house opposite the one they had had in Stanhope Street, the FitzClarences were to go to a house in Charles Street, 'just by our stables, & that horrid Sir John & L[ad]y Maria Stanley are to come to their's.' W.Scott's new book (Quentin Durward) had just made it appearance. It was in quite a new style, the scene being laid in France, '& seems as far as I have read very en[terta]ining.' Felt so old she thought she must have slept for about twenty years without being aware of it. Harriet was going to 'Ashted' [? recte Ashstead] for Epsom. 'We, that remain, have (w[i]th the exception of Almack[']s) no gaieties but dinners in view for the ensuing week - viz - at Harrowbys, Granvilles, & Liverpools.' It was said that Lord Henry Thynne was to marry a nice little Lady Charlotte Beatrix, who was just come out, and Lord Ellenborough Miss Isabella Forrester. Thought it unfair that Lord Gower should have £31,000 a year when Lord Francis had only £6,000 when he married. 'Lizzy is learning at a riding school, & enjoys leaping, plunging &c so much that I am horridly afraid she will amuse herself w[i]th teaching Patience to perform feats in that line.'

9. Keele.
 28 Dec.
 [? 1826]
- The same to the same.
- Was sorry for his sake for the tautology he would be obliged to endure in his letters. Offers him the good wishes due at that time of year. 'We are stupid & becolled, & alone (with the great exception of Bess & Haddy, who I hope we shall keep for some time still.)' Agnes Bagot had been dangerously ill. 'My Lord writes word that he never was as well; but is it not too extraordinary, that all the time poor Agnes was so ill that they hardly thought she could recover, he never went near her, enquired after her, or seemed to care the least about it!!' They had been painting very industriously. The Duke of York had gone to spend a fortnight at Belvoir, 'which must be very melancholy for him.' Jack Talbot had passed a splendid examination and astonished all the wise men at Oxford. Walter had been determined to retrieve the credit of the family in the shooting department. Was so glad to hear of Mr Fry's genteel behaviour to him. People were reading a book called 'Granby', 'which is amusing & gossipy, but I think rather commonplace; on dit that a gentleman has written it, but his frequent use of the word gentlemanly rather makes me doubt the fact.' News of friends.
10. Keele.
 Friday.
 [1827 or
 later]
- The same to the same.
- Was in the humour to write to him. Took it for granted that he had arrived safe at the end of his journey, 'never having seen your name in the list of melancholy accidents in the Newspapers.' Everybody had duly departed from Blithfield on Tuesday, Lord Bagot had seemed highly pleased with the general satisfaction his party had given. Lord Spencer had won her heart, 'by writing out before he went away the names of all the people who figure in my Charles 5th's note book, & saying he should hunt over his Library for their marks & autographs & send them to me,...'. Had adjourned with Lady Harriet to Sandon, where they had found only the Grosvenor party and Mr Richard Ryder. The next day they had exchanged Mr Grosvenor for Lord Goderich, the bishop, and Arthur Talbot. Mama had talked over Mr Styche's business with the bishop. Had been disappointed in Lady Harrowby and thought she was in much less good spirits than when they had been at Sandon in the autumn. Walter had just arrived from Oxford, 'looking well, but I am afraid not at all grown.' Harry Bagot had arrived. They had called at Mrs Butt's yesterday, and she had called her eldest son Justin, 'did you ever hear such a name for anybody besides an Emperor & a Martyr!'
11. Blithfield.
 Sunday.
 [10 Jan.
 1830]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Thought she would be out of franks next week. All the people he had left were still there, excepting Betty Curzon, Mr Clerk and Francis. Francis had preached that day 'very well indeed' and the

bishop had done the evening service in lawn sleeves and wig. Lord Bagot had had a letter announcing the death of Adolphus Duncombe. Lizzy and she were to go to Brereton to-morrow, returning on Friday, when Mama was to go in their stead. 'On dit that there certainly has been a quarrel between the King & D. of Wellington, & that the cause thereof was P. Leopold's being King of Greece, to w[hi]ch the K. would not give his consent, - but I hope he will not be so foolish as to quarrel about a thing of w[hi]ch the D. of Wellington must be the best judge! - But, what is a great deal more interesting is poor dear Sir Tho[ma]s Lawrence! Are not you quite in despair at his death? - It is impossible to say how grieved I am to think that one's eyes will be feasted with no more of his pictures! Lady Elizabeth Dickens had heard such a high character of Mary Thornton that she had every chance of the place of housekeeper at Castle Ashby, 'w[hi]ch I am very glad of.' Adds a postscript, that she thought Mama was rather better.

12. Blithfield.
Tuesday.
[23 Feb.
1830]

The same to the same, at Keele.

If one waited for anything to say one never wrote at all, 'so despising that very minor Consideration, I shall write to-night just to see whether it really makes any difference or not!' They were all yet alive, which was as much as one could expect after such a wretched, foggy, damp day. Mama was much the same. Harriet and Fanny had gone to Ingestre. 'I go on painting every day most perseveringly, but I get on very slowly with my picture, there is such a great deal of work in it.' Dick and Harriet had settled none of their plans yet. Wished they would give up that foolish one of having the children in Town. Edward had said they had seen no house that would hold them under £600 or £700 a year, and getting dearer every day. Bodicum was there, 'in full blow - talking Ziph & German indefatigably, & kindly enlightening our minds about the ABp. of Lichfield in the reign of Offa King of the West Saxons & other improving subjects, as well as in the fashionable gossip w[hi]ch Miss Hawkins of Uttoxeter told her out of Mrs Dandridge's letter from London! I wish she w[oul]d enlighten us on the still more interesting subject of w[hi]ch day she goes away!' They were reading a novel called 'Richelieu', which was very entertaining. Concludes with an epigram from John Bull on the conversion of Mr Spencer.

13. Blithfield.
Sunday.
[ante 13 Apr.
1830]

The same to the same.

Thought that on the day of no post and no newspaper a line might be welcome. They were very impatient to have him with them again, and she could not bear to think of him alone in that wretched, melancholy weather. He must remember

that he need never feel solitary other than when he was inclined to be, '& that unless you have a better companion, you are quite sure to find one in any of us[,] who will be but too happy to be able to be of either use or comfort to you at any time; & that, wherever we may be living, our chief interests & pleasures will be about Keel;...' Mama desired her to thank him for his letter. Dick and Harriet were both much better to-day. Lord and Lady Dartmouth were to go to the parsonage on Thursday. Had found a very dear letter from Harry on her arrival there, who said that the sultan had been visiting the English admiral on the (?) Blonde frigate and had been giving splendid presents to everybody. Edward was at Blithfield, 'w I am sorry to say puts me a good deal in mind of a London shopman, at the same time I am moved at him, for I think he feels very much the marked distaste every body shews him, & I think his mauvais ton is the only harm in him.' Heard that Lady Harriet Ashley was to marry Mr Corry, and Lady Emma Bennett Lord Fitzharris.

14. Cheverells.
23 Sept.
[1832]

The same to the same, at Keele.

It was a long time, she thought, since they had had any intercourse, and as it was cowardly to refrain from writing because one had nothing to say, she saw no good reason why they should not discuss the beef of to-day, 'w[hi]ch I dare say will be as entertaining as the mutton of to-morrow!' Mama and she purposed setting out on Friday, 'but we shall be much obliged to you, if you will tell us where we are going, for we cannot find out, w[hi]ch is growing inconvenient.' If the Duchess of Gloucester could not have them at Bagshot they had proposed themselves to Lady Harcourt, 'w[hi]ch I sh[oul]d like considerably the best, as we sh[oul]d lionize at Windsor &c[.], &c[.], w[hi]ch w[oul]d be more agreeable than sitting w[i]th Mrs Currie & the Duke's vulgar gentlemen, w[hi]ch Mrs Stanhope informed me w[oul]d be my fate, though Mama might perhaps sit w[i]th the D[uche]ss of a morning!' Purposed getting to Tytherley on the 1st October. Poor Mrs Ryder was to be buried to-morrow. Lady Clarendon had spent the morning at Cheverells, 'w[hi]ch was very amiable of her, as it is a long way to morning visit (14 miles!)!! The dauphine's gratification at the queen's visit. Had heard from Harriet Williams in Edinburgh, who was just setting off for the Western Highlands and seemed highly pleased with her visit to Chillingham, which she said was quite beautiful, and Alrwick, where, she said, the Duke and Duchess were 'both charming in their own house.' Should have thought that the Duchess and Harriet had been two chemical compounds that could never have assimilated, should not he? However, 'since I hear of Mary Howard & L[ad]y Lyndhurst consorting together in the north, one need [not] be

surprised at anything in that line!!' Miss Fanny Sebright was going to do the honours of Beechwood that day, in Sir John's absence, to Mr Alstone and his son, '(the radical candidate for this county) - if Sir J. supports him, I think he will behave both shabbily & cowardly, for according to his own account, "he is a man who always says & does exactly all the things he ought not to do", & therefore must be unfit to represent the County, (& the placards he sends out are quite atrocious) & Sir Jo. does not profess radicalism, & it is also so unhandsome to L[or]d Grimston, who is particularly gentlemanlike in all his dealings upon the subject, & had completed his canvass long before this man thought of standing.' News of friends. Was dying to see Mrs Trollope's novel.

15. West Tytherley.
12 Oct.
[1832]

The same to the same, at Newby Hall.

Was beginning to think he must be lost, it was such ages since they had heard anything of him, but was unwilling to put an advertisement of 'lost or strayed' into the newspaper without trying all other expedients first. They had arrived there on Wednesday 3rd, finding Fanny well and the place nice and snug. Had paid a pleasant visit at St Leonards, thence to Windsor and Frogmore. 'I had never seen the private apartments since they were finished, & glorify in them - it is quite perfect - all Sir Tho[ma]s Lawrence's pictures were there, ready to be hung up in the Waterloo gallery (w[hi]ch by the way I do not admire) - they were mending the Gibbons' carving, w[hi]ch is all collected in the said gallery, & so beautifully, that I am not quite sure that the new part was not superior to the old. L[or]d Harcourt's monument by Siever, w[hi]ch is just put up in St George's Chapel, is beautiful, to my taste, the best modern statue, I have seen of the kind - I wonder whether he is a new artist, I never heard his name before. - I cannot reconcile myself to the garden in front of the castle, it does strike me as so very much out of character w[it]h the rest - little Italian sort of ornaments stuck about, &c[.], &c[.], - I think a broad terrace w[oul]d have been so much handsomer.' They had seen 'old Birchey', who would be 95 next month and had come running into the garden to meet them, without her bonnet, as if she had been 18. Had proceeded from St Leonard's [Hill] to Bagshot [Park], where they had found the Duchess [of Gloucester] better than expected, the Duke amiable, the weather impropitious. Had dined at Norman Court, where they found Mr Jekyll and his son. Mama and she purposed staying there until the 22nd, '& then paying little visits at Sandhurst & St Leonard's in our way home.' Harriet and Lizzy seemed to be very gay in their absence, last week at Ashridge and this at Gorhambury and perhaps the Grove. News of Lord Bagot, the dissolution of parliament - 'I wish the Members joy of their long canvass!!' - the death of Henry Duncombe, and of

Walter Sneyd, 'in the heart of the Alps'.

16. Cheverells.
18 Jan.
[1833]
17. Cuddesdon Palace.
Thursday.
[ante Nov.
1835]

The same to the same, at Mivarts Hotel, London.
Describes a fete at Hatfield, the guests and the entertainment. 'Yesterday morn[ing] Wilkie & I agreed that it w[oul]d be shameful if there was not a book engraved of it - (not a milliner sort of book as they generally are, but a drawing of each figure separate, a likeness of the person & dress & the groupe at the end of each tableau to shew the effect; - he will not undertake it however, & says he has not time, & wants to make me do it; I wish we c[oul]d persuade him, but if that is impossible, I think I must undertake it, as every body seemed anxious about it, & I do not know of anyone else who was there likely to do so, & it must be by an Eyewitness to give the effect. Wilkie says if I will, he will give me every possible assistance & advice, & was very encouraging in thinking me equal to the job - I am not quite sure whether I can, & sh[oul]d not like to come to shame - what do you think?' Had been lodged in the state dressing-room, and Lady S[alisbury] had had the good nature to come and fetch her every day before dinner, to go in with her, '& it is rather distressing how they press me to come there - I had great difficulty in getting away yesterday, & was only [?] let do so by half promising to return there the end of next week, but I do not know whether I shall achieve it, - I wish Hatfield was not quite so far, for it is a most agreeable house to be in, & I am longing to have time to draw it all.' Harriet wrote that they were all mending at Blithfield.

The same to the same, at 83 Jermyn Street, London.
They had just recollected that they had forgotten to tell him that Mrs Bland '(who was L[ady] Caroline Waldegrave's maid) asked us, when we were in town to beg you give y[ou]r votes at the next election at the Benevolent Institution to Mrs Sarah Hatfield. The election takes place in November. She says she saw y[ou]r name in the list of subscribers - whether you are so or not you know best!' They had had a very prosperous journey to Cuddesdon yesterday. Walter was to follow them that day. 'There are no boys at all here. This is a very snug old house, & the garden really very pretty[,] but oh! what a hideous country it is!' They had had a most pressing invite that morning from Sr G[?] Bertie, to visit them while they were in those parts. Did not know how longer they would stay at Cuddesdon, 'or anything of the Bishop's plans.' Lady Maryborough seemed to have been very near dying of the cholera, 'or something very like it,' but was getting well. Mr Robert Liddell was to marry Miss Emily Wellesley, one of Gerard Wellesley's daughters. Pozzo and the Verulams were to go to Middleton to-morrow, 'how well L[ady] V. & he will suit!!!'

18. Cheverells.
5 Dec.
[1835]

The same to the same, at Capesthorpe.

Harriet would have told him how the writer had written three parts of a long letter to him, before she had left Hatfield, and how she could not finish it, 'having so much writing to do for the Salisburys, & how I was so completely done up the day after I returned home that I could not write at all, & therefore got her to write instead, so I hope you will not have thought me a Beast for not writing sooner,...' [The rest of the letter is taken up with a description of the fire at Hatfield on 28 November, which the writer witnessed, which destroyed the west wing of the house and with it the dowager marchioness. The writer reveals that she wrote the account of the fire that appeared in the Times of 30 November].

19. Hatfield.
8 Nov.
[? 1836]

The same to the same.

Did not think the note she had written in Fanny's letter deserved to be called a letter, and so would write the rest of it then, 'I then I shall expect an answer!' Was sorry to miss any of Harriet Bagot's visit. The Granville Somersets and William Percy had gone away that morning, only Lord Roden, John Joscelyn and herself remaining. 'I found the house here advanced much farther than I had expected - it is very nearly ready for the roof now. - Lord Salisbury talks of it's being all finished by next June, but I can hardly think it possible, when one sees the state of things now! - We all think he is doing it as well as possible - the old wall has been preserved wherever it was possible, & cased within to make it firm, & by using old bricks for the new part & skilfully dove tailing them in, there is no difference at all in colour; & I do not think that anyone will perceive what is new f[ro]m what is old, when it is finished. - He has made some little change in the internal distribution, but as my head is not steady enough to climb ladders & walk upon single planks, I cannot exactly say what they are. - He has got an immense quantity of old oak carving to put up - some f[ro]m an old church at Ghent, w[hi]ch is quite beautiful.' News of friends, including the death of Lady Howe. Was reading Mr James' 'Edward the Black Prince', and had read Lieut. Smyth's 'Excursion up the Amazon'. Had he read the Duke of Wellington's despatches? Had made Lord Salisbury lend them to her, 'for everybody tells me, that one ought to read them if it were only to see the illustration of a perfectly upright honourable character; & it is not necessary to be at all military to understand or be interested in them.'

20. [1st half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Had not seen Lord Rolle since she had written to him, '(though we have duly called)', and therefore had not an opportunity of giving him his message, '& as there does not seem to be an immediate chance of a dissolution I am waiting till chance makes me see him again, as I did not like to give it through Lady Rolle, for fear of your being in any way committed.' Supposed Lord Rolle would not give his interest to any other applicant without enquiring his answer first.
21. Wandsworth Common.
Tuesday,
1 Oct.
[1861]
- The same to the same.
- Had been quietly at Bedgebury till last Friday. Her kind hosts had urged her to stay, and she thought she really was of use in looking after Mildred, and ~~had then waited to~~ see Blanche Balfour. Had slept one night in London and come to Wandsworth on Saturday, where she had found Lady Isabella pretty well. Harriet and Lizzy were to return to London from Worthing that day and they were going to drive up to see them. Had been shocked to read of the death of Harriet Williams. Was glad she had been spared the knowledge of the destruction of Capesthorpe, 'which would have grieved her sorely. What a sad thing it is - really now, between flues, & gas, I think everything will be burnt!' They had driven yesterday to Kew Gardens and the writer never saw anything so beautiful. 'There were many improvements since I was last there, w[hi]ch was in [']56 with the D[uche]ss of Gloucester.'
22. Eaton Square.
Friday,
27 Dec.
[1861]
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him from both of them for his letter and good wishes for the season. They sent their's heartily for 1862 and hoped they might meet rather oftener than they had done that year. Comments upon the weather. He guessed rightly that Lizzy and she were spending a very quiet Christmas, 'but, entre nous, I rather like London best when it is quite empty!' News of friends, and the gloom 'that the poor Prince's death cast over everything, has by no means past away - everybody almost is in deep mourning, & no one seems inclined to be gay. It is quite gratifying to see so much good feeling still existing, in this very callous age! 'The poor people & the shop keepers all seem to feel it as a personal grief, as well as those in a higher class. - Perhaps the P. of Wales is the person to whom he is the greatest loss of all - not only as a nice & good parent, whose advice & example would carry more weight than any other - but as the link between the Queen & him, which I fear will now be wanting!' The break-up of Nuneham would make a great difference to Walter. Their paper said that Mrs Harcourt's death was 'from prostration of the nervous system in consequence of a fall'. She

left 7 children, the eldest not 8 years old. Minnie Donne was gone to Elford to see Lady Harriet, who was much more feeble than she had been. They were wondering whether he would like Lizzy and herself to run down and pay him a visit of a week or 10 days at Easter. They sadly wanted to see him but did not wish to tie him to anything till he could say he would like it. They should not 'take it ill' as the Duchess of Gloucester used to say, if he should rather be alone. Heard that Sir John Pakington was delighted with their house.

23. Wandsworth Common.
24 Sept.
[? 1863]

[C/H. S[RS/HS]/66]
? 1863
[C/H. S[RS/ES]/8]

The same to the same.

Supposed this letter would find him at home again, very glad in the change in the weather. Had left Redgebury with great regret, after her long, pleasant sejour there, on the 16th, had gone to Eaton Square for two nights, and on the 18th had come on to Wandsworth. Had found Lady Isabella very poorly. On Tuesday the writer had been up to London to meet Fanny and Arundell and Lizzy, who had come up from Norfolk at an unearthly hour. Would remain at Wandsworth till the 30th, when they proposed going to Walter. Hoped Harriet would have a still day for crossing. Fanny had seen Lord and Lady Roseberry on Tuesday and had been very much touched by their cheerful resignation. 'Poor L[ad]y Louisa was a little bitter for the moment, but she can only be moved from her Bed to her sofa, & there is no hope of her eventual recovery.' News of other friends and acquaintances, including Mr Herbert of Muckcross's second son, who 'has Eloped w[i]th an American girl of low birth, but respectable (He being in America) which will disgust his family a good deal!' Had seen in the papers that the Confederate States had recalled Mr Mason, 'which I suppose will be a great annoyance to Alex[ander] Hope. I hope it will convince the Northerners of the real neutrality of England.'

24. Chester Square.
12 June,
[? 1868]

The same to the same.

They were beginning to want to know whether he had had a prosperous journey home and had found things flourishing at Keele, notwithstanding the drought and blight. 'We are pining for rain here - but I am afraid we shall not get it - & the drains will smell very badly soon for want of it.' News of the family and friends, including Lady Cecilia Molyneux, just come from Ashridge, Lady (?) Maria and Lord Brownlow, on their way to Ford Castle 'for the marriage', and Lady Harriet, who had not been very well. Was sorry Walter had lost his best cow, Buttercup, 'it is a serious loss with all those children wanting milk.'

25. Chester Square.
Saturday.
[20 June,
1868]

The same to the same.

The chief news she had to tell was that it was actually beginning to rain. News of the family. Lizzy and she had used his tickets on Tuesday, to go to the geranium show at the Horticultural Gardens, 'which was very pretty - & one Geranium, Mde. Le Moine by name, quite lovely - bright rose colour & very double flowers - do tell Hill of it - I never saw anything so pretty.' It was not true that the Duchess of Newcastle had eloped with Hohler the singer, nor that Lord and Lady Holmesdale were separated, 'as the goodnatured world here have been reporting the last few days, quite without foundation I am told. - I hope the Queen will not have a wet day for her Breakfast* in Buckingham Palace gardens on Monday - I sh[oul]d be sorry if her first attempts at receiving the public should be discouraged. People are now dressing themselves so [marginal sketch of figure wearing a bustle] which has a beautiful effect - the large bow & ends tied under that particular part of the person looks most remarkable.' News of friends and relatives.

26 June, 1869

26. Chester Square.
Friday.
[? 2nd half of
1868 or early
1869]

The same to the same.

Wrote to say she was sending his mats in a little parcel to Whitmore station that day. Had returned to Chester Square on Tuesday. Had been much surprised on the day of their return to see Minnie Downe walk in about 5 p.m., just arrived from Yorkshire. She had come to fetch her boy from 'Eaton'. Did not feel comfortable at the account she had got of Lady Harriet. Mr Firth, Seth Smith's agent, had come that morning to receive the ground rent of their house in Eaton Square. Discusses the matter of letting the house in Eaton Square for £400 a year.

27. Chester Square.
Monday.
[? 2nd half of
1868 or early
1869]

The same to the same.

Wrote one line to say that Lizzy and she hoped to be with him on Friday, 17th. They proposed to go by the 11 a.m. train from Euston Square and would be much obliged to Eason if he would order the Keele fly or one at Whitmore to be ready to bring them on from Whitmore. Believed it arrived between 3 and 4. Miller was to come on Wednesday to look them both over, but thought he would be glad to send them out of town now. News of the weather. Had had a letter from Mr Rearden, '(the disloyal House Agent) on Sat[urda]y, to say that a client of his wanted our house in Eaton Sq[ua]re - I have referred him to Holland, & wonder whether any thing will come of it - I dare say not!' Was happy to say that Lady Harriet had begun to think it possible for her to go to Elford.

28. Chester Square.
27 Jan.
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

Had been waiting many days to write, in the hopes of being able to tell him that they had fairly finished making over the house to Sir John

Pakington, but the lawyers and agents were so slow that they had not yet signed the lease, nor had they heard the result of their sale. Hoped he was not the worse for the two or three days of bitter east wind. Lizzy and the writer were just returned from lunching with Mildred Hope, who had come up for that day from Bedgebury, who bore up bravely, but it had been a very sore trial to her, 'poor Catherine was such a particularly nice girl'. Mr Hope could still only walk on flat ground and was carried up and down stairs. Had heard from Charles Bagot yesterday, from Alnwick Castle, where he was left in possession. The Duke and Duchess were in London and had left Charles and all his family at Alnwick. News of other friends.

29. Chester Square.
16 Feb.
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

They had been pleased to receive his letter, allowing them to look on to seeing him in Easter week. The world was all agog that day with the meeting of parliament, 'and now one will be expecting to hear of some atrocity committed by it every day!' Arundell Bouverie was coming to London on Monday for Convocation, and now they had written to urge Fanny to come up with him and be their guest. 'We have got such a glorious spring day to-day - & all the Almond trees in the Squares are in full flower.' Lord Charles Percy had got rid of his lumbago and was coming up to London to pay his Christmas bills. Sir John Pakington was delighted with the house in Eaton Square. Was sorry to hear that Holland had not yet disposed of one of his new houses in (?) Grosvenor Place or (?) Grosvenor Gardens. 'I am afraid they have been made too expensive - for people do not care to pay £4,000 (which is asked for some) for a house in that situation - without a Court or garden.' Poor Lady Arabella Bannerman's death was very sad. Walter and all his family seemed to be flourishing, 'but the floods have been tremendously out - & I hear that there is a good deal of fever at Oxford - from the smell of the mud which they left behind them.'

30. Denton.
21 Apr.
✓ [? 1869]
Ch. S. [RS/Rw. WS]

The same to the same.

Thanked him for his letter, received at Guy's Cliff. They had been very glad to hear that the sudden return to cold weather after the burst of heat had not given him cold. Had given his message to Mr Cheney. He and his nephew, Col. Cure, and Frederick Gooch had come to Guy's Cliff on Monday. Frederick Gooch had bidden her tell him that when he had decided about the Keele organ, if he thought of employing the man he had recommended at Worcester, he was ready to go over to Worcester to discuss it with him. He also recommended getting all the plans, etc. from the bankrupt man who had undertaken it. News

of friends and Walter Sneyd's family at Denton. Miss Pritchard, the governess, was a very pleasing, nice person, and seemed to have such a pleasant, good manner with the children. The 'little one of all promises to have a good memory - for I asked her if she remembered you - & she instantly made the face you used to make to her last summer & said she did!' They thought of staying there till Thursday 29th and then returning to Chester Square. Had also forgotten about his debt to her, the mats and prayer book were £1.3.6. Adds a postscript, that Ernold [sic] Lane had just walked over from Albury, 'Walter is expecting some wiseacres to look at his M.S.S. [sic] from Oxford this afternoon - Mr Robinson - of the [?] Kenington Museum - Mr Cox of the Bodleian & Mr Westwood[,] a professor of Entomology.'

31. Chester Square.
1 May,
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

Wrote to acknowledge the receipt of £1.3.6., which she had found there, from Eason, on her arrival; and to say that they had come there [Chester Square] on Thursday afternoon from Denton. 'We left Walter's Earache getting better, & Henry pretty well - not very strong; but all the children in as high health & beauty as one could wish to see.' The weather since their arrival had been most unpleasant. The Hopes had got the mumps, so they could not venture to their house as it was such a catching thing. Had seen Lady Georgiana Bathurst yesterday, who had been very anxious to ~~hear of him~~, also Lady Isabella, who had been downstairs, 'which is an improvement - but she was not able to see us yesterday.' News of other friends. 'Our next door neighbour Mr Snowden has again let his house to Lady Isabella St John, who is there now, & a much more desirable neighbour than the family of small children who are its natural inhabitants!'

Henry

32. Chester Square.
8 May,
[1869]

The same to the same.

Had to thank him for his letter, received yesterday. Compliments him on the red rhododendrons and the North House at Keele. They had received the geraniums Hill had promised to send. Had not much to tell him, 'there does not seem to be any interesting gossip - & public affairs are too bad to speak of - Mr Gladstone & his rabble crew in the H. of Commons seem [to be] rapidly destroying the constitution, & nobody cares - at least the country takes it very passively!' News of friends. Had just seen George and Frederick Gooch - 'the latter was very full of the organ at Keele, in which he seems to take a lively interest - & seemed to think it would be as well done, as by his original bankrupt man.' They had not yet been to the exhibition, 'but I hear it is not a good one as to the pictures - the rooms are said to be very handsome - (9 in number - so one will never get through half of them!) - & the pictures well hung but the

entrance is most awkward, & the carriages sent to wait in St James's Square - as they must not block up Piccadilly - so I do not see how people can get away!' The Bishop of London, [John] Jackson, was to preach at their church to-morrow - 'not so good a voice as the B[isho]p of Oxford - but far superior in matter.' Had just finished Harriet Thynne's book 'The Adventures of Mrs Hardcastle', and thought it altogether the best she had written.

33. Chester Square.
17 May,
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

Thought he would be expecting a letter by that time, but had not much to tell him beyond a clean bulletin of health. They were anxious to hear he had not been damaged by the bitter east wind. News of friends and relatives. Had seen Lady G. Bathurst a few days ago, who was always very anxious to hear about him, Lady Isabella had not yet been able to see them, but thought of going to the place she had taken at Twickenham. Now that (thanks to him) they had a carriage they looked up the nursery gardens in the neighbourhood, which they enjoyed very much. They expected Eleanor Bagot there on the 26th. Her last account of Beatrice Lane had been decidedly better.

34. Chester Square.
21 July,
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

Had called upon Lady Brownlow yesterday and found her very poorly, suffering much from neuralgia in her head, but ~~she would not give up hope of being able to visit Keele for a few days~~, yet. Hoped he had enjoyed the hot weather. News of friends. They were going to extend the conservatory. 'Mr Grey (the great man for Conservatories[]), who does everything at the Horticultural Gardens & for Veitch, (who recommended him to us,) says that it is a very good place for one, & that it will be very easily done, & as it will be just over the pantry, we can easily warm it, by converting the grate there into a boiler, w[hi]ch will by a hot water apparatus warm both pantry & conservatory, which will greatly benefit the pantry as it will keep the plate closet much dryer than it is now--our servant complaining much of the damp in the pantry.' Further news of friends, including Lady Isabella [? Bathurst]. 'We called yesterday & heard that she had just had a visit f[ro]m Sir Will[ia]m Jenner, who her own doctor had been anxious she should see - & they had decided that no one should be let in to her, as she was to be kept perfectly quiet. - I sh[oul]d like to know Sir Will[ia]m's opinion of her case! - I hope Mr Gladstone will not incite the mob to any violent atrocities, but I believe his fury against the H. of Lords is capable of any length. I believe he wishes to overturn the monarchy, & be himself Dictator.' Further news of friends.

35. Bedgebury Park,
Cranbrook.
10 Aug.
[? 1869]
- The same to the same.
- Lizzy and the writer had come to Bedgebury Park on Thursday and had found a house full of people, Dr Phelps, the Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, his wife, daughter and three sons, Professor Owen, Mr Callow the artist and his wife, Mr Glynn Vivian, and Frank and Gerald Balfour, and, she believed, some Icelanders were coming that day, a Mr and Mrs Magnussen. Professor Owen was a charming old man and read poetry better than anyone she had ever heard. Mr Hope and Lady Mildred were going for a few days to Bicton, Lord Rolle's, but they had insisted on the writer and her sister staying until they returned. Had had a letter that morning from Lady Emma Osborne, to announce her sister Blanche's marriage to a Colonel Morris, a brother of Sir John Morris, whose mother was a sister of Lord Torrington. It was a very poor marriage, but they liked Colonel Morris himself. Had seen Lady Brownlow the day before she had left London and had found her rather better, but still very ailing. Lady Brownlow greatly feared she would not be able to visit Keele. Mr Goschen had bought a place near Bedgebury and was going to build a new home. News of other friends.
36. Guy's Cliff.
26 Mar.
[1870]
- The same to the same.
- He would want to hear news from hence and from Elford [Hall], so would send him some. Had left Lady Harriet better than she had found her, but very feeble. Jesse Allen and the Pagets were very attentive to her. News of guests at Guy's Cliff, including Charles Percy. There had been a letter from Isabel Percy that morning from Torquay, giving a most interesting account of the rescue of a Miss (?) Kinloch from the Normandy. Had heard from Fanny of Lady Louisa Primrose's death. Mr Bass had taken Beaudesert for himself and made over his own place to his eldest son.
37. Chester Square.
13 May,
[1870]
- The same to the same.
- Had to write and thank him for the very pleasant hamper of ferns, etc., which were a great addition to the conservatory. Hoped he was enjoying the very pleasant change in the weather. Had at last been able to put geraniums out on the balcony of the house. Walter and Henry and she were going to the Horticultural Gardens that afternoon, to hear the band, which Walter was very keen about. News of friends. Was afraid Minnie Downe had been very ill, but was getting better. People were much occupied with all the elderly marriages, Lord W. Osborne and Mrs Villiers had kept their intentions very (?) snug and nobody had known it till they had seen it in the papers. Lord Howe's death had been expected for some time. In answer to his question about mourning, she supposed the 7th June would be the right day to leave it off, as it had been
- Henry*

put on that day 6 months. Sir George Osborne (widower of Lady Elizabeth Ker) was to marry the eldest Miss Sitwell - 'another elderly pair' - had heard of no young marriages.

[N.B. The letter is dated Saturday, 13 May, which is an error. The reference to the death of the Hon. Richard William Penn Curzon, Earl Howe, shows it to have been written in 1870, in which year 13 May fell on a Friday. The letter was probably written on Saturday, 14th].

38. Chester Square.
19 May,
[? 1870]

The same to the same.

Must begin her letter to him now, though the flowers were not yet arrived. They were disappointed at his account of himself. Advised him not to walk too much, but to use the pony carriage. News of relatives and friends, including Eleanor Bagot, who was to come there on 1st June. The flowers had arrived, '& anything so lovely I never saw!! They were as fresh as if they were that moment gathered - & you cannot think how sweet they make the room. I feel as if you must have stripped the North House to have sent me such a magnificent supply - but they are thoroughly appreciated!' They had duly gone to Lady Horton's and the exhibition. Did not think there were any very striking pictures, 'but a good many pretty ones.' Lady de la Zouche was to be buried on Saturday. Had been to a private view of the pelargoniums, heaths, clematises, etc., at the Horticultural, which were beautiful. Princess Mary of Teck had been there and had talked to her of the White Lodge and how it brought the Duchess of Gloucester and all her old friends to her mind. She had been looking very handsome.

39. Chester Square.
7 June,
[1870]

The same to the same.

Must keep him au fait of things there. Eleanor Bagot had arrived there last Wednesday. Lady Louisa Legge had dined there yesterday. Had had a visit from George and Lady Louisa Fortescue yesterday. Eleanor and the writer had driven yesterday to the botanic garden in Regent's Park, to see John Waterer's rhododendrons, '& anything so beautiful I never saw! They were arranged with ~~w[i]th~~ those much taste, besides being such a splendid shew of flowers.' They were going to see the other Waterer's show at the Horticultural. Had found a lodging for Arundell Bouverie. News of other friends.

40. Eaton Square.
'Friday,
Nov. 15',
[year
unknown]

The same to the same.

The very bad weather had prevented her being able to get out before yesterday to execute his commission, but had now done it, and a parcel had gone off to-day by the North Western Railway to Whitmore, a very nice carillon box playing three tunes, and the latest editions of 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'Who Killed Cock Robin', and

'Mother Hubbard and her Dog'. Had not much to tell him. Walter was there and returned to Denton to-morrow. He had had a great deal of business to do, '& we feel very anxious that it should be quite secure that he should get into no scrape by acting for Louchy, he being the only other Executor;...' Walter and Lizzy and the writer had dined with Lady Isabella Fitzgibbon yesterday. They were rather uncomfortable just then because the housekeeper's husband was dead at Paris '& she went yesterday to find out all about it; so, as we have no kitchen maid at this moment, we thought we sh[oul]d perhaps have no dinner, however we have stumbled upon a very nice little maid who is come for a few days - & seems likely to do what we want well enough to prevent our being starved, & Mrs Potter hopes to return on Tuesday.' Had a wretched cold. The Robert Curzons had come to town yesterday.

41. Chester Square.
Monday.
[? March - date
unknown]

1869
[C.H. S. RS/RS/WS]

The same to the same.

Wrote one line to tell him that Arundell's little operation had been done with great success that morning. They were in an awkward fix with the kitchen, the boiler having burst two days ago. Hoped he did not go out much in that weather. Her cold obliged her to stay at home altogether, 'which bores me extremely - but the sharp East wind is so pernicious one cannot venture into it.' The Bouveries had exceedingly nice apartments at 11 St James's Place, 'so quiet - & nicely furnished.'

42. 4 Chester Square.
'Saturday[,]
March 27',
[year unknown]

The same to the same.

Wrote a line to say they concluded Wednesday would suit him, and would he ask Eason either to order the Keele Fly, 'or a good One horse Fly from Whitmore, to be at the Whitmore station to meet the 3.31 train from London on that day - March 31st. I always think the hustle of an arrival (however small a one) is unwholesome - so I hope you will let us go quietly up to our rooms & take off our things, & we shall be ready to go to your room, whenever you send for us.' News of relatives and friends, their health and the weather. The new kitchen range was up and promised to be a very good job. They were very pleased with the thought of how soon they should meet.

43. Chester Square.
Saturday.
[May - date
unknown]

The same to the same.

Thought he would like to hear that they had seen Hughie [Downe] and Lady Cecilia [Molyneux]. Had never seen two people looking more intensely happy and well satisfied with each other. 'L[ad]y Cecilia is nervous about how his family may like it - 'because' she said - 'I know I am so much too old for him' - however Hughie decidedly does not mind it, & it is of no consequence to anybody else.' Considers Minnie Downe's attitude to the marriage. News of other friends. Was sorry Lucas

was ill and hoped he would recover. Had seen Lady G[eorgiana] Bathurst yesterday, who was much interested and occupied with the Downe marriage. Hoped Dr Walsh had doctored him well and that he had no return of giddiness. 'We have had a grim yellow dark fog here the last 2 days - more like November than May.'

44. Chester Square.
Thursday.
[Date unknown]

The same to the same.

Felt sure that Sidney or Minnie would have written to tell him, but in case they should not she wrote to tell him that Hughie Downe's marriage with Lady Cecilia Molyneux was settled. Considers this. They had had a tremendous thunderstorm there yesterday. Lewis Bagot had lunched with them on his way to Ashstead.

45. Chester Square.
'Friday[,]
July 8',
[year unknown]

The same to the same.

They had been very glad to receive his letter that morning. Should be very grateful for some grapes, if he could spare them some. The Bouveries were in town and Arundell was wonderfully well. Walter wrote that he was coming to town that night, to go to the D[uke] of (?) Aunali's Philobiblon Breakfast the following morning. They had been to look at Lady C[ecilia] Molyneux's presents and trousseau, had never seen so many presents. They had given her an inkstand and candlesticks of mixed Algerian marble and enamel - 'very pretty we thought - we got them at Barry's.' They were going to have 5 o'clock tea that afternoon. Had never heard of so many marriages as were going on just then. The chief gossip was about Lord Carington's esclandre with the editor 'of the scandalous newspaper the Queen's Messenger', and Lord Courtenay's being obliged to flee the country for forgery, at least such was the report. Further news of friends.

1870
Duke of Arundell's
[C/S[RS/Ron.WS]]

46. Chester Square.
Saturday.
[Date unknown]

The same to the same.

Thought he would be expecting them to send him another bulletin from Denton. The last day or two they had not been so good and Fanny had seemed more anxious, but the writer could not help feeling that his not being so well arose from his medicines having been changed. 'Ever since he left off taking the blue pill at night he has gone back - & I feel that his Liver is so thoroughly out of order that he probably requires a long course of mild mercurial treatment...' News of friends.

47. Chester Square.
Saturday.
[Date unknown]

The same to the same.

Had enquired for Charles Bagot but no one knew anything of him. Concluded he was not in town, but had directed his letter to Rugeley as she felt pretty sure he would be home at Easter. Had been to the Horticultural Garden and seen the secretary about his tickets, who said the tickets had all

been sent to Keele in January. If they turned up at Keele, perhaps he would send them to her? The weather continued 'most delicious'. Supposed the North House was in full beauty. Had seen Gertrude Castlerosse and Lady Lothian, with whom the former was staying. Lady Castlerosse was to go to Ireland on Tuesday, to remain there for good. Knew no news.
