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Sneyd Papers

Calendar of correspondence to Ralph Sneyd from Louisa Sneyd

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CORRESPONDENCE

To Ralph Sneyd (d.1870) from Louisa Sneyd (d.1834)¹

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Sunday,
8 Oct.
[? 1809] | L[ouisa] S[neyd] to [Ralph Sneyd].

As she could not let to-morrow pass without offering her beloved Apee the warmest wishes for many happy returns of the day, she conveyed them one day sooner, that she might at the same time express her feelings on the approaching event of that morning. Enjoins him to follow a religious way of life, and encloses a prayer book. [MS. imperfect]. |
| 2. | Blithfield.
Saturday.
[1811 or
later] | The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter, which was a great relief, especially his improved account of dear Harriet. Sent him the books, which she had said nothing to Lord B. about, but had put a paper in the place saying he had them. News of the family and friends. |

[1. See also under letters to Ralph Sneyd (d.1870) from Charlotte Augusta Sneyd (d.1882), 1821].

3. 15 Jan.
1812
- The same to the same.
- Had enclosed an account book, and a Bible. Advises him on his first setting out alone into the world. [MS. imperfect].
4. Keele.
16 Sept.
[1813 or
later]
- The same to the same.
- Hoped he had found despatches from her at Florence, whether this would find him there she could not guess. They were all well. Mary had been brought to bed of a girl the day before she was to have set out on her way to Saville Row, 'how vexatious that dear Dick & H. sh^d. come in for all the bother & expense such a job entails.' Charles was very anxious to sail before the middle of October, 'he is in high force & more agreeable than ever.' His father and she, with Harriet and Fanny, had been to Capesthorpe that day week and had stayed 'till Tuesday. Further news of social activities, including the ball at Lichfield races, the guests including Lord Bradford and the D[uke] of Bedford from (?) Weston, whom he would probably see in Italy, and Lord Uxbridge. The Prince had deferred his visit to Beaudesert until the second week in October. News of the Pool Park party, William, Edward and Lady H., etc. 'The girls have leave to write to Lanza to come here as soon as he can[,] which delights them.' He [Ralph Sneyd] had missed Ned Davenport at Stuttgart by two days. 'I do not hear when our great Duke & Duchess are to return to the Continent[:] the Big Lady has remained quite firm but has been shamefully treated by the Eldest on the subject & the behaviour of the Nephew who came over was so blackguard [sic] & scandalous towards her they can never meet again...' Supposed that he and "Priscilla" were very intimate by that time. Heard she brought forth in December. No hope of recovery was held out for her much loved Kitty. Adds a postscript asking whether he has a servant, and that 'P[rin]ce ss S[ophia] told me in her last letter that they durst not now[,] that is[,] while the mauvais humeur lasted[,] name the P's uniform to him[,] but Charles tells me the King['s] is of more avail[,] so I hope you will find it so.'
5. Keele.
26 Oct.
[1813
or later]
- The same to the same, in Florence.
- His letter from Florence had come to hand a month later. Discusses the difficulties of corresponding and expresses fears that letters might not be very safe in Lord Bathurst's hands. News of whooping-cough in the family. Melancholy accounts of the Capels, who had lost their money. Report said that Lady Sarah Lennox had run away with General Maitland. Pores over Eustace, picturing the places he was in and wishing herself with him perpetually. Adds a postscript, that he said but little of the Lady Bingham, one of whom, she was told, was beautiful. Comments on

- the death of Humphrey Bagot in battle, in India; and adds further gossip about friends.
6. Monday night.
29 Aug.
~~[1814]~~
? 1815
- The same to the same, in Florence.
- 'Picture us at work in the Draw[ing] room[.],
Post arrived & a very kind letter from L[ady]
Bathurst tell[ing] me they were sending a
person to Florence whom L[or]d B. would detain
till Thurs[da]y morn[ing]'s post to give me a
chance of writ[ing] to you, so all quills are
put in motion as rapidly as possible...' News
of the family. Was so long since she had heard
from Windsor that she was in 'amaze', it
prevented her from knowing more about the P.'s
uniform. Lady Bathurst's letter that night was
very long and affectionate and confidential.
Quotes from the letter.
7. Keele.
11 Mar.
[1815]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Relating the circumstances at her being present
at Cleveland House when Lord Stafford [Lord
Granville Leveson Gower] decided to apply for
the stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds.
8. Cheverells.
Sunday.
[After
June 1815]
- ? July 1832.
c/f letter of
Elizabeth S.
to same.
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Was not certain which was the debtor or
creditor, but was certain she would like to
provoke a letter from him. Lizzy told her he
had given up Scotland, and Fanny told her Mr
Wall had assured her that he had promised to go
to Norman Court that year. The Stanhopes had left
them on Thursday, 'I am in hopes having liked
being here'. On Friday there had been a grand
picnic row at Hemel Hemsted, for the benefit of
the new infirmary. The writer had had a cold and
had not ventured, but had written to Lady
Clarendon, 'the primum Mobile', to take his
[Ralph Sneyd's] sisters under her wing, 'violent
rain came very unopportunately for the sports'.
News of the family and friends, including a visit
from Lady Westminster and Lady Bridgewater, but
the former 'alas[.], never hints at inviting any
of us to More Park[.], which I long to see.' If
it didn't rain, they were going on Tuesday to
luncheon at Westbrooke and to meet the Harrowbys,
who were to go next day to Cirencester. Heard
Lord Norreys was going to marry Miss Pennant,
alias 'the Black Castle'. Local news. Had not
heard from Walter since Brussels.
9. Thursday
night.
[After
June 1815]
- The same to the same.
- Had that moment received a line from Kew, from
P[rince]ss M[ary], saying that the Q[ueen] granted
him permission to wear the Windsor uniform, '&
was extremely kind[;] she desires I will write a
proper letter of thanks which I am about to do.
She says she will speak to the P[rince] about his
as soon as she sees him & I will tell you the
result. I am sadly affraid [sic] you will not

10.

get this before you start, when I write my thanks I shall request them to speak you fair to P[rince]ss Royal in case you take Stutgard in any of y[ou]r travels.'

10.

Keele.
Tuesday,
22 Aug.
[?1815]

The same to the same.

The joy his letter from Brussels had given them all had been very great. Was vexed to find he had not received either of the letters she had written him. Trusts he will have found a letter at Florence, enclosing one from Lord Clare. News of the party at present at Keele. Lewis was grown quite fat and did not seem to think there was a doubt about Charles Percy 'coming in for All Souls'. Charles's going to America had been put off until after Mary's confinement, on account of the fleet being paid off, 'it seems singular the different persons in gov[ernmen]t sh[oul]d communicate so little together, for he rec[eive]d peremptory orders from L[or]d Bathurst to be ready to go last week & when ready was stopped by the Admiralty. It is very hard upon him to have to pay so many people as he now has out of his Utopian Income, for the Embassy salary does not begin till a week before he sails.' News of the family and friends. The Prince was going to Beaudesert. [Three lines inserted here by L. Bagot, with comment by the writer - 'there[,] she has snatched the pen from me']. Was sorry he told her nothing about the Capels.

11.

Keele.
9 Oct.
1815

The same to the same [in Italy].

Expresses her feeling for him on his 22nd birthday. The uncertainty of the post. Thought she had just returned from visiting Charles and Mary, in her lying-in at Dick's, when she had last written. News of visitors and the family. His father had started on horseback for London, where he had business which would detain him for two or three days, when he would return by Cheltenham, 'thinking ten days there will strengthen his stomach for the winter'. Lizzy had whooping-cough, '& of course Walter will have it also & perhaps Georgy'. Had had a letter from Matilda Trefufis, from Deal, from whence she and Lord and Lady Harcourt, and Lady Geo[rgiana] Bathurst were just going to Paris and Brussels. Harriet and the writer were going to write to her to smuggle them a piece of cambric. Supposed he had seen an English newspaper and learned the batch of earls and marquesses: 'Lord Malpas becomes Lord Rocksavage[,] I wish him joy of his name.' The P[rince] was at Beaudesert and "Silly Billy" was to go to Shug[borough Hall] on Tuesday, from Lady Warburton's, with whom he had been ten days, and had refused all other Cheshire visits, 'Davy writes me word, Dick & Har[rie]t were to meet him at Shug[borough Hall]'

him at Shug[boroug]h but I have advised them ag[ain]st it as the P[rince] will know it & hate them for it & he is not worth risking a Canonry for'. Was sorry to read in the paper the death of [John Chetwode] Eustace, whose Tour through Italy she recommended, particularly 'the preliminary discourse[,] especially the latter part of it...it is uncommonly well written.' Regrets he [Ralph Sneyd] was unacquainted with Italian when he left England. Further news of friends.

12. Keele.
7 Nov.
[1815]

The same to the same, poste restante Florence.

Began to grow very anxious for another letter from him. The death of Kitty Chester, her 'first & dearest friend to whom from a child I have been used to impart every thought'. The failure of Percy to get elected, and news of other friends and relatives, including Humphrey Bagot's death in the E. Indies, and Lady Sarah Lennox's marriage to Sir Peregrine. The Duchess of Beaufort and two daughters were at Sandon, 'but none of the others of the Chatsworth party went there'. They had two Austrian archdukes 'viewing all the wonders of England & Scotland & guess they will be in the Pottery this week.' Adds a further sheet, beginning, 'Hurra! Hurra! Your Letter dated Oct. 6 just arrived.'

13. Keele and
Blithfield.
14, 18 Nov.
[? 1815]

The same to the same, in Florence [and Rome].

His letter dated the 7th had been a very great refreshment. Ned Davenport had been there last week and regretted not having seen him at Darmstadt. Had he seen in the papers that Harry Sneyd was made a judge in the Isle of Ceylon? Was going to-morrow to Blithfield, to fetch Harriet home. Heard the Prince had been delighted with his visit to Beaudesert, 'nothing could exceed the perfection with which everything was done at B.D.[,] the Prince killed 7 brace of Pheasants fairly[,] himself was slightly shot by one of his attendants[,] which he bore very well.' Had written Edward Paget a letter she thought he might show him, 'to ask for his uniform for you', and would hear the result to-morrow. The whooping-cough abated fast and Lizzie began to look better. News of visitors. Was so glad he intended to work at the [Italian] language. 'I am now writing in my Night Cap in the yellow dress[in]g room at Blithfield[,] expect[in]g the Clock to strike one & all the House wrapt in Sleep.' Enclosed Col. Bloomfield's letter authorizing him to wear the uniform. Was vexed at not getting more letters from him. 'I find all here prosperous[.] L.D. & all the Legges here, the Pagetts & Lytteltons. I like L[ad]y Sarah very much, & he is quite a quiet Creature now, he has lent me his Memoir to read of his interview with Buonoparte.' Adds a postscript warning him about falling in love

with Miss Rawdon and not travelling any more with her, she was a very great flirt.

Enclosed, letter, Edward Davenport to Ralph Sneyd, with advice on travelling in Italy, the names of his friends, and the names of people to avoid.

14. Christmas Day.
[? 1815]

The same to the same, in Paris.

His last letter grieved her and, ere this, he should have had one on the same subject from her. Expresses her displeasure over Fry's handling of letters of credit in favour of Sneyd. Nothing more had transpired about 'this Bank & probably will not[,] for I have little idea it can ever pay anything, it is very sickening to find the poor people who had been treasuring up these notes for rent & different debts all bereft.' They did not say a word in these parts about Lady Anglesea going to Ireland, '& they are so strict about Ladies there that I sh[oul]d think her situation w[oul]d put a veto upon it as she could not hold a draw[ing] room.' The Greville Howards had been there [? at Keele], in high force, the Cunliffes were in Wales. Further news of friends and relatives.

15. Keele.
17 Jan.
1816

The same to the same, in Florence.

Last night had brought two letters from him. Her suffering at being parted from him 'under your present Circumstances...never did I before guess, with my horrors of the Sea, that I c[oul]d long to cross it instantly...' Urges him to return until he has recovered [? from swellings]. Was frantic at the chance of his being in want of money. Suggests possible travelling companions for him. News of friends and relatives. Charles had not yet gone to America as the wind would not blow from the east. Had had two letters from Charles Percy from Brighton, where he was basking in the sunshine of royalty, '& tells me P[rin]ce P[rin]ce's Mary always questions him about you, they have had a fine[,] long junket from Windsor, from Monday till Wed[nesday] sen'night! poor P[rin]ce's Sophia has lately had a terrible spasm.' There had been 'lots of Church preferment' flying about but she grieved to say Dick had got none of it. Would write about the buttons forthwith.

16. Keele.
28 Jan.
[? 1816]

The same to the same, in Paris.

Thanks him for his letter. Their colds were much better, including his father's, 'I trust as soon as he is fit for the water he will go to Bath as he is thinner than I ever saw him...' Harriet was downstairs again, and Fanny and Lizzie had got rid of their colds. Charlotte had returned from Dick's, Mr Angerstein was at Blithfield, as a common visitor. News of other arrivals and departures, including the arrival at Keele of the Davenports from Madeley. 'Here

we send L[or]d Wellesley to India, L[or]d Granville to Ireland & the D. of Buckingham to Paris, none of which I give the slightest heed to, except L[or]d Wellesley & some people say he has refused India[,] which I don['t] believe either, conceive L[or]d Hastings having got two hund[re]d & fifty thous[an]d pounds by the Deccan business & it is said it will be nothing to him.' Was sorry for his account of L[or]d Granville. Was glad he was introduced to the Duke of Orleans. News of forthcoming marriages.

17. Hagley.
14 Feb.
[? 1816]

The same to the same.

Had, like a fool, kept deferring writing, thinking to receive another letter from him, but the post had not been propitious. The last letter had been to his father, dated 30 Dec. David Murray had sent word he had seen him at Florence, 'but as he bro[ugh]t over dispatches from Sir P. Stewart as well as L[or]d Burghersh[,] I do not know when he saw you'. Had returned to Keele on Monday. Yesterday had been Lord Curzon's birthday¹ 'of 87'. News of friends, 'the P. of S. Cobourg is daily expected & is[,] I fancy[,] certainly to be P[rince]ss C[harlotte]'s Husband, how extraordinary it must seem to be a Capt[ain] with 300li a y[ea]r[,] a 3^d. son[,] which is his present situation[,] to become a sort of K. of England! I wonder what effect it will have upon London this spring'.² News of other matches, and of society. With, note added, beginning 'Think of y[ou]r Mother sparing me this immense space, which is as much as taking so many drops of blood from her heart;...'

- [1. Viscount Curzon of Penn's 87th birthday fell on 2 Feb., 1816.
2. Princess Charlotte married Prince Leopold 2 May, 1816].

18. Keele.
19 Feb.
[? 1816]

The same to the same, in Paris.

Thanks him for his letter. Harriet's had come by the same post & the writer had sent it to her at Elford, where she and Fanny were staying. His father was to go to Bath for three weeks to-morrow. Dick and Lady Harriet were to go to Windsor on the 17th of next month and were to stay till the 13th April. Lord Bagot had asked them to London and they were to go after the Whitsuntide holidays. Lord Bagot was finding Bath agreed with him. As soon as the Eton holidays were over he and his girls and Miss Murray were to go to the Hague. He was to go to Calais and travel through Flanders, returning in May 'to have the gay (horrid) season in London.' Heard that Charles had purchased some beautiful pictures since he had been to the Hague. Family plans and local news.

19. Keele.
 22 Feb.
 [1816]
- The same to the same, poste restante Florence.
- Most welcome indeed was the post last night, which had brought his letter dated 26 January. His not getting their letters was most provoking. Fred Douglas had very kindly written to her yesterday, to tell her that Mr Edwards 'was a young man of very great talents & knowledge of his profession & a great Methodist[,] wh[i]ch he thought must be an inconvenient quality in his present residence'. Would be very anxious to hear who he found likely to make a comfortable travelling companion and enjoined him to move 'very leisurely' and to write by every conveyance. He would be glad to hear Lady Paget had a fine boy, 'she had a dreadful time as it is nearly as big as herself & Sir W. Knighton told Edward he never before evinced such unostentatious fortitude.' Further news of acquaintances and friends. Hoped nothing would prevent young Anne Dod going to London with her [the writer's] mother. '...Lord & L[ad]y Byron are parted, the reason assigned is that he w[oul]d live entirely with Actresses & bro[ugh]t his fav'rite to Sup with L[ad]y B.[:] she is gone with her Child to her Father & Mother & I hear Sir R. Milbanke says she shall never go back to him as he dismiss'd her. Poor Girl[,], she has found too late that principle is a better ingredient for a Husband than poetry...' Brummel and Lord Alvanley had 'fleeced L[or]d [? Wor:r] to the amount of £27,000 & made him sign false Bond & securities as he was fool enough not to read them over, the D. of Beaufort is reckoned to have behaved with wonderful forbearance in not exposing them, but they ought to be shunned in Society & I think this seems to have given people a disgust that will cause them to be so, two worse Swindlers never [w]ere & it is sad that they are made so much of at Oatlands.' Further news of friends. The Staffords were not yet gone from Trentham and Lord Gower was now there, 'having vacated his seat by having taken it without being Sworn in as member for the County, so he is come down to be re'elected & has to pay for a Bill in Parl[iament] to indemnify him for this act, as the penalty is tremendous, how annoyed at himself he must feel.' Had dined on Friday at Etruria, 'where I was not a little amused with the Blue vulgarity of L[ad]y McIntosh & struck with the beauty of Miss Caro[line] Heathcote...'
20. Audley Square.
 7 Apr.
 [1816]
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for his letter of the 14th, which she received a week ago. Had left Keele on Wednesday and arrived on Friday, '& any thing blacker or more wretched than London looks I never saw.' News of friends, Lady Bagot brought to bed of a fine boy, Lady Charlotte Legge to marry George Neville. Was much delighted to find Mrs Pole had had a letter from Lady Burghersh,

who had spoken of him as being well and going to act the play at her house. The day for the royal marriage was still unfixed, but was expected to be next week, 'but to be very private. Prince Leopold had refused being a duke, 'which I give him great credit for[,] as being in the H[ouse] of L[or]ds w[oul]d have caused him innumerable broils & troubles'. Lord Lansdowne had dismissed 19 servants two days ago, 'all that going causes much distress & it is a great pity they cannot pay somehow to gov[ernmen]t when they leave the Kingdom.' Further news of friends.

21. Audley Square.
11 May,
[1816]

The same to the same, in Paris [redirected to London].

His letter to his father, dated the 25th, had rejoiced her heart, to think that in three weeks she might look to having him with her. Had not written of ages, not knowing how to direct to him. Mrs Pole had informed her she had had a letter from Lady Burghersh dated the 17th, 'in which she speaks of you as well & going to act the School for Scandal[,] Macbeth having gone off so well, all which you have told me nothing of, probably apprehending just what is the case, that I sh[oul]d feel as if it was too great an exertion for you.' News of Oatlands and Camelford House, and 'Bogie', who had made a rare bargain for himself: 'the Q. &c[.,] are to remain in London 5 or 6 weeks longer, there is a Drawing room on Thursday & Fanny will be presented at it.' They had a subscription for Almack's, Harriet was in great beauty and looked very distinguished, 'but is acquainted with too few men to get much dancing.' News of forthcoming engagements. 'When the D.R. is over Watt is going to ride into Kent to look after your future Estate in those parts...' On the 20th Lord and Lady Bagot were to give a great dinner to Christen young Alfred. News of friends, arrivals in London, marriages and births. They were all plunged into three weeks mourning for the Empress of Austria, 'wh[i]ch is too bad when we had with much ado got ourselves new rigged in Colours;...' Had requested Mrs Pole to introduce her to the Cadogans as soon as they arrived. Lady De Clifford had made tender enquiries for him.

22. Blithfield.
Thursday.
[1st half
of July,
1816]

The same to the same.

Thanked him with her heart and soul for his letter, 'which was the most Consolatory I could receive'. Lizzie had passed a very good night and seemed to have gained strength from it...' Walter was very jolly at that moment, but from the events of the two preceding days they knew that at half past two o'clock a cold fit would come on. News of other members of the family.

23. Blithfield.
12 o'clock,
Friday.
[? 1st half
of July
1816]
- The same to the same.
- Was on the whole more comfortable than when they had parted. Lizzy, she certainly thought decidedly better that day, and Georgy¹ not worse. Walter was very well and very good. All were well at the Parsonage and Dr Chawnor saw no symptoms of typhus fever in Susan at present. She was over the stables and had a nurse. Bess and Haddy were everything to her and gave themselves up entirely to nursing. Chawnor said the fever had been taken in London, and of course Georgy must have taken it from Lizzy. Desires particulars of them all. W[alter] needed his Latin grammar.
- [1. Georgiana Sneyd, died of typhus at Blithfield, 15 July, 1816].
24. Blithfield.
Wednesday.
[? 1st half
of July,
1816]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Lizzy continued gaining ground visibly every day and Dr Chawnor had increased her meat meals to three in the day. Further details about Lizzy, and Dr Chawnor's views on bread and potatoes. News of other members of the family, and friends.
25. Blithfield.
Saturday night.
[20 July,
1816]
- *Ridware*
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Thanks him for his letter with P[rince]ss Sophia's enclosed. Lizzy had continued improving and Walter [was] well. His father had ridden to [? *] that morning and 'found them well & the House recovered from its flooding, so it is my full intention to take Lizzy there on Monday morn[in]g:...' Alsopp and Chawnor were to be at Blithfield to-morrow, when arrangements had to be made about Susan, who continued recovering. Instructions about their return to Keele.
- With, postscript, by Walter Sneyd, about a mare, meeting the chaise at Trentham, and the death of Georgiana Sneyd.
26. Keele.
Sunday night.
[Aug. 1816]
- The same to the same, poste restante Brussels [redirected 'chez Lord Balgrave[,] London']. His father thought there was every probability of his receiving this letter at Brussels, so she would scribble instantly to say the comfort getting his letter that night had been, and that the Queen had granted him the Windsor uniform 'in the kindest & most gracious manner possible', the moment Princess M. had read her letter. Had written a 'handsome' letter of thanks to H.M. last night, and hoped they would mention him kindly to the Q. of Wirtemberg, in the event of his visiting Stuttgart. Believed his father would go to Lichfield to-morrow, to attend Lord Anglesea on his entree. News of friends. They would pass their life in following him on the maps.

27. Keele.
Sunday,
13 [? Oct.
1816]
- The same to the same.
- Her joy at receiving Frederick Douglas's good natured letter from Ostend had been very great indeed. Thanked God the perils of the water were over until he got to Lake Lucerne. The inclosed had just come from Lord Clare and she was impatient to send it, 'as you wrote to him for letters of introduction.' News of the present state of the family, and arrivals and departures of guests. Wondered 'whether you got my letter to Brussels that I directed to the Post Office Office[,] telling you the Q. granted you the W. Uniform in a very kind manner. I have got no ans[we]r yet about the Prince's, I find the D- of C- is to come with his wife to be married on the 13th, & the P- says go back on the 15th, but the D- told L[ady] Bathurst he w[oul]d live here'. News of friends and acquaintances.
28. Keele.
Friday [/ Saturday].
'Pohh! no post'.
[1816! or later]
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for his letter. All he said about the subject of Sir S.R. was most true. Harriet had informed him of Charlotte having the jaundice. Charles had had a bad fever. Had had a most piercing letter from Charles Percy. News of other friends, including the Gooches. Had had two letters from Princess Sophia, 'which ~~penetrate~~ penetrate me to the quick[,] I fear she is terribly weak, she was much pleased by the Prince tak[ing] the D[uchess] of Gloster over to see her on her birthday.'
29. Dresden.
21 Apr.
1817
- The same to the same, in London.
- Had arrived in this delightful place in health and prosperity. Had written to Mr Sneyd from Brussels, and if she could would give him an account of what they had done since, 'but you know well how difficult it is to write a long letter in the midst of all the bustle of a journey; & sight seeing.' The Prince of Orange had invited them to the Christening of his son, the Duke of Brabant. The Grand Duke Nicolas had left Brussels the day before them for Stuttgart. At Aix-la-Chapelle they had found Lord [?] Herbert 'drinking the warm baths, quite alone, save his Physician, & a German master.' Had been ravished with the first sight of the Rhine; an enchanting inn at Frankfurt, where they had dined with Frederick Lamb, the English minister from Munich; and on through Westphalia. Had not done so much in sketching as she could have ~~wished~~ wished. From Cassel to Weimar, presentation at court and a splendid dinner, 'afterwards the Duchess [of Saxe Weimar] invited us to her soiree - the next morning they sent one of the Royal carriages & six horses with the L[ord] Chamberlain to show us the country - we dined at Court every day during our stay - in short I

hardly know myself out of Buckles & a lace frill'. On to Leipzig. Yesterday they had been presented to the king and queen of Saxony, and the princess. Adds a postscript, that they had arrived at [?] Berlin, and no letters from Keele. They meant to go to St Petersburg by Denmark and Sweden, 'direct now to poste restante - Stockholm.'

30. Keele.
14 July,
[1817]

The same to the same, in Hastings.

On her arrival there, had found his letter, to her great joy. His account of himself and his situation delighted her and she wished she were with him, feeling herself in want of some of the strength he was imbibing. Had passed four delightful days at Denham, 'the luxury of it after London I cannot forget & I was quite fascinated with Lady Emily Drummond, of all the persons I ever met with she seems to me what I sh[oul]d most like to Cultivate[,] sense, information, fun, good taste[,] high breeding, & while teaching her Children in a wretched room in a Cotten gown[,] looking her high blood so resplendently thro' it all[,] that I was charmed. Nothing could exceed the Queen[']s good nature to us & the visit was very pleasant as I had P[rince]ss Sophia & the D[uche]ss of Glos'ter in comfort. P[rince]ss E. gave us a pretty dejeuner at her Cottage on Tuesday & the young ones had magnificent presents[,] Charlotte a Chain & Cross from the Q[ueen], that is beautiful & Lizzy bids me tell you P[rince]ss Eliz: did not mind you for she gave her a beautiful watch & Chain.' Had travelled leisurely to Brereton, sleeping at Woodstock and Stratford, his father riding. Dick and Harriet had visited them, 'in high preservation'. Bess and Harriet were not coming there at present. News of friends, including her old friend Bob Steele. The hours then passing rent her heart with bitter recollections and the horrors of that time last year.

31. Keele.
Sunday,
[20 July,
1817]

The same to the same, at Ashburnham Park.

His letter had been most welcome and she rejoiced that he was gaining health in such a pleasant manner. Was sure he would rejoice in Dick's appointment to the vacant stall in Worcester. Had had a letter from Harriet, full of joy, who was going to meet her [the writer's] mother. Had had a letter from Lady Bathurst, to tell her of the gracious manner in which the Regent had given Lord Bathurst the blue ribbon. She was going to Wood End to be with her mother and sister, who would feel the loss of her [the writer's] old friend B. Steele severely. Had been out yesterday in her fancy carriage. The wet weather, '...a more Cold[,] melancholy winter than this spot exhibits need not be. I wonder if it is as Cold elsewhere[,] but I suspect not, the foliage is bad here & the place has not the look of luxuriancy out of doors that belongs to July.

Within it is rich & glowing as ever.' Envied him his days at Ashburnham, 'as I have heard more of the charms of that place than of most places in the Kingdom...' Had not heard from Fauche, 'when I shall see her[,] & I am shy of taking her from her family, I hope she will come next week. We talked of an expedition in the little Carriage in Sept. to Hampshire & Wiltshire[,] but the weather was fine when we talked so big.' 'Not a Coal sold at either of the Colliery's & the people more out of work & poorer than when we went to Town[,] which is very discouraging.'

32. Stuttgart.
26 Oct.
1817

The same to the same, at Keele.

Remembered being very disappointed somewhere at not finding a letter from him. Prayed him write as soon as he had received this. Had arrived at Stuttgart from Munich yesterday, by way of Venice, Padua and Verona. Describes the journey, which they found 'very striking...after a summer in Russia'. Had dined at Munich with the king and queen of Bavaria, 'in a most sociable & agreeable manner. The King is downright & honest, fat & good humoured, the Queen[,] who is sister to the Empress of Russia[,] has been a beauty & is reckoned very clever & particularly proud of the English'. Hoped to arrive in Paris the 5th November. Was getting very impatient for England. Hoped the Princess Charlotte had got a boy by that time. News of friends.

33. Keele.
Sunday night.
[11 Jan.
1818]

The same to the same, at Sandon Hall.

He would be surprised to hear from her so soon, but thought the past eventful, so would communicate with him. Had had a letter from John, telling her of an alarming account he had received of Mr Howard from Greville, upon which he had set out for Ashstead early that morning. Had also had a letter from Lewis, from Dawlish, saying he should be at All Souls on Tuesday next, and at Keele from 21 January to 2 February. News of friends.

34. Keele.
Thursday night.
[1818 or later]

The same to the same.

By his account of his intended movements in H's letter, the writer concluded this letter would find him returned to Wherstead. Had had the most comfortable account possible of her mother by Dick's and Anne Dod's letters. All at Keele were well. His father had gone about some exchange of land near Nantwich and was to sleep at Mr Hill's. Their Radicals seemed to be subdued, 'tho' we have plenty of Military to guard us.' Feared the Lancers were going to be changed for other companies. News of shooting at Blithfield. Hoped a fresh influx at Wherstead might soon make it necessary for him to resign his room, and then they might catch a bit of him, 'tho' I expect you will be off for Eton directly...'

35. Bath.
Tuesday.
[? 1821]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Lord Cawdor's health was improved. Had heard from Lord Bagot, who spoke highly of his health, and pleasure at Lady Londonderry's on Saturday, '& names [sic] being at the opera the night the Q. was there[,] where he thinks her reception was such that she will never go again...' Last night she heard Sir W. Bagshaw sing with the finest voice she ever heard. Nearly forgot to tell him that Patience was bought and the uneasy bay mare taken in part exchange.
36. Audley Square.
31 May - 3 June,
[1823]
- The same to the same, in Paris.
- His letter from Florence of 13th December gave her sincere pleasure, 'especially as I think Mr Watt[']s joining you will make the remainder of your sejour abroad so much pleasanter'. They were to quit 'this great Babylon' on 27th June, and would be at Keele on 7th July, 'eagerly looking for the arrival of your dear self.' Harriet was gone to Ashstead for Epsom Races, the Howards were to bring her back on Monday, when they went to Mr Dupre's ball for his daughter. Was sure he would rejoice to hear that Mary was recovered and was to resume her situation at Keele. News of Lord Gower's marriage, Lord Stafford had given him the Shropshire estate, which, added to his present allowance, put him in possession of £30,000 a year. Hoped to see them at Trentham. What did he say to Lady G. Connyngham's marriage with Lord Burford, 'if half what is said of his want of intellect is true & that he has once been confined[,] it is buying a Dukedom (& a poor one) very dear,...' The king was always ailing, 'an Eresipelas on his Leg, but will not have it said[,] which mystery is foolish & causes many untruths to be told.' Prince Leopold was to give a ball on the 19th, 'but we are not of the Chosen.' Further society news.
37. 14 June,
[1823]
- The same to the same, in Paris.
- Would begin a letter to-day although it would probably not be finished before Tuesday (the foreign post day). Thanks him for his letter from Genoa of 29th May. News of friends. Would call on Lady Bath in a day or two. Had told Henderson that he must be prepared for him [Ralph Sneyd] the beginning of next month. Did not like the idea of consulting Baillie again, he was by no means what he was, recommends Phillips. Lord Salisbury had died yesterday, Lady Salisbury would 'not like being bereft of her honors, she has 4,000 a y[ea]r jointure & the house in London. L[or]d Harrowby is to have his Garter[:] the D. of Cumberland arrived in Eng[lan]d yest[erda]y & went down directly to Windsor to the King, who is[,] I hear[,] very well & going forthwith to Cowes for the Summer.' Had been to Mrs Alexander Baring, to see her new

house, 'which is the most Comfortable & magnificent residence I ever saw, she is the kindest & most amiable person,...she took Charlotte to the Opera last night...she quite adores you.' People in general that had met him abroad and, indeed, all his friends, had made a point of being kind to her, except, 'entre nous', Mr Ellis. News of future visitors to Keele, Lord Clare, the Charles Percys. Lady Frances Leveson had brought forth two boys. Thought there were things that would make it unpleasant for him at that time to stay there, therefore he should steel himself against the violent efforts that would be made to detain him.

38. Keele.
7 Dec.
[1825]

The same to the same, in Paris.

Thanks him for his letter. They were all well, Bess and 'H' were to come on Saturday, the Greville Howards on the 19th, ' & Walter[,] I hope[,] on the 17th. We were not a little annoyed yest[erda]y by a letter from him to say he had not got his remove into the 6th.[,] the lowness & melancholy of his letter broke my heart & it was so evident it was from fright & nervousness in his examination that he lost it that I own I feel a grudge towards Goodenough for not having him up again before the Holyday's.' The girls were infinitely grateful for the drawing of the head-dress, 'the hideosity of which is appalling'. Lord Bagot had had famous weather for his shooting party. The Harrowbys were to come to Sandon yesterday. Further family and local news. The Mail now went through Newcastle from London a little after eleven, 'it travels eleven miles an hour, which is tremendous & makes me very nervous about Walter Walter[,] who travels by it.' Was anxious to hear he found his new residence comfortable. No day yet fixed for Soby's marriage, which was very inconvenient. Was growing stouter.

39. Keele.
Sunday,
18 [Dec.
1825]

The same to the same.

Anxiously hoped Tuesday would bring a letter saying he had received her letter, having written three times. Harriet and Charlotte had returned from Edge on Thursday, Soby having been married on Tuesday by Sir Philip Egerton, John being obliged to act as her father, Mr Dod having fallen down and much hurt himself. Walter had arrived [at Keele] yesterday. His [Ralph Sneyd's] account of the Duke of Choiseul had been interesting. Was beginning to be alarmed about filling the ice house. Thought the state of the country frightful. Heard Lord Bath had let his house for £2,500 a year to Mr Fawkes, 'who was a Corpse in it two days after'. Did not understand why Lady Bridgewater had given £17,000 for the Duchess of Dorset's, when she had so good a house herself in Grosvenor Square. News of friends. Believed Blithfield was full of Legges, and boys, girls, tutors and governesses.

Lord Bagot never wrote and she knew nothing about him, except that he went out one day and shot six hares. 'Bess & Haddy go there from hence but I have not heard the day named we all dread'. Postscript added by H[? arriet Sneyd].

40. Keele.
21 Dec.
[1825
or later]

The same to the same.

His letter had been a true delight, and she was thankful to find he had routed out any of their letters. They were all well, 'though she could not say she had ever felt quite as stout as she did before her illness. Was sorry to say their worldly concerns were not going on as prosperously as when she had written last week, 'for alas on Monday Sparrow[']s Bank broke at Newcastle & we had[,] it seems[,] put money in it to pay at Xmas for all the new buildings[,] purchases &c[.,] so that your Father loses (for I cannot conceive people who have no real property paying again) rather above £5,000, he bears it most beautifully, for it is a trial & the immediate distress of not having a farthing is great. I fear also he may look to its having a considerable effect upon the rents, I never remember such a time, Banks breaking every where, yest[erda]y the Nantwich Macclesfield & one of the Birmingham [ones], & I expect to-day we shall hear of Stone[,] Congleton & other's[,] it makes sad distress amongst the people.' News of the Greville Howards, who were going to London at the end of February, Ashstead being, she believed, shut up and the estate undergoing a great deal of reformation. They meant to go to the Hague in April. Had had a letter from Lord Eliot that Lady Jemina had got a daughter. The death of the Empress of Russia, 'the idea of Constantine succeeding horrifies me.' John was still confined to his bed at Edge, with the gout.

41. Keele.
Saturday.
[? 1826]

The same to the same.

Thanked him for his kind letter. Wished she had received it an hour sooner as she could then have sent his things by Harriet and Fanny, who had gone that morning to Elford. News of friends. 'The King expresses the greatest anxiety[,] I am told[,] to open the Par[liamen]t in person[,] but has now Gout & dines in his bedroom tete a tete with Sir W[.] Knighton. P[rince]ss Sophia is in high faver [sic] [,] which is quite new & goes to him every other day.' Had 'heard the other day it was the etiquette always to go into the K. of F's presence at first with your hat on & take it off after[,] in doing which L[or]d Granville[']s wig came with it[,] which would annoy him not a little[,] I think.'

42. Keele.
Monday.
[? 1826
or later]
- The same to the same, in Southampton.
- Thanks him for his letter. Was very glad to find she had done right in sending his letter to Southampton. Rejoiced that his visit to Lady Bute was so well timed for being a comfort to her. News of visitors at Keele, including 'young Brook Boothby...a very pleasing Gentlemanlike person, he is a Student at Oxford & I feel very anxious for his protection of Walter.' Mr Vincent was now at Ashbourn Hall, he had told her at the archery that he should write to him, 'as his wish was to come here when you were at home[,]' so how he will arrange about Keel & the Menai Bridge I have yet to learn.' Was now going in the open carriage with Lady Errol and Mr Boothby to Madeley. Would like to express kind wishes to Lady Bute, but was afraid of appearing presumptuous.
43. Keele.
Saturday.
[21 July,
1827]
- The same to the same, in London.
- Thanks him for his letter. Lord and Lady Rolle had expressed their desire for him to visit them. News of friends and acquaintances, William Sneyd had visited Keele yesterday for the first time since his accident. Was much 'distress'd by Durose (who is the greatest Comfort) having met with an accident[,]' which I fear must kill him, on Tuesday his Boy fell from the hay rick upon him & he is inwardly hurt, he has been bled and lost above 100 ounces since & is so bad I fear he will die.' Envied him the sight of Mount Edgcumbe in this beautiful weather. Walter's nice pointer, Flora, was dead of the distemper and the keeper at Trentham was in despair.
44. Keele.
Monday.
[May or June,
ante Aug.
1827]
- The same to the same.
- Knew he would be angry that the letter had been enclosed, but being unable to get a frank and having another to send, she could not resist it. Tom had arrived yesterday with his horses. Had had letters from Blithfield that were very satisfactory, Lord B. had been most kind and brought Dick to be at ease and see things in the pleasant light they were to be viewed in. 'L[or]d B. is much pleased with his own letter to Canning[,]' which I want to see, Dick has written him a line to ask what course he is to take...' Was at that moment 'quite beat' by the effects of a tremendous thunderstorm in the night, 'which was provoking as the large Hay Field at the bottom of the Park was all quite ready to carry today.'
45. Keele.
Saturday.
[May or June,
ante Aug.
1827]¹
- The same to the same.
- The Blithfield party were just gone from hence, '& in his pocket my L[or]d carries a letter he rec[eive]d from Canning last night[,]' appointing Dick Dean of Canterbury[:] Mum till it is announced by other than mine.' Gives further details.
- [1. Letter written not earlier than 1825].

46. Keele.
 8 Aug.
 [1827]
- The same to the same, at Saltram House.
- Thanks him for his kind letter, 'by your intended plans I conclude this will find you at Saltram[,] where they will be thrown into grief by the very rapid death of Mr Canning, which is shocking, & I feel very sorry for his relations & friends, the Copleys are here & much dismayed, as they associate particularly with all his connections.' News of arrivals and departures, friends and future events, including the Blithfield archery on 5 September. Had heard from Lady F. Sandon 'with quite as comfortable an account of L[ad]y [?] H. as I expected, all her family are to meet her at Sandon on Sat[urda]y[.] She comes immediately after the funeral w[hich] is to be tomorrow, however Mr Canning's death must now detain L[or]d Harrowby.'
- [1. Of Lady Harrowby's eldest daughter, Lady Elvington].
47. Keele.
 28 Aug.
 [? 1827]
- The same to the same, at the Earl of Bathurst's, Cirencester.
- Hoped her letter would find him well after his inflammatory attack. Was anxious to hear his account of dear Lady Bathurst. Had returned to Keele from Blithfield on Saturday. News of friends, including Lord Clare, 'as amiable a dear as ever', Lady Bromley, Miss Curzon and the Errols. Had not been to the Holly Bush archery, but Lizzie had won first prize, 'a beautiful Gold Bracelet. She & Harriet were the same in numbers & obliged to decide it by throwing dice.' The Charles Percys were to go to Cirencester on Thursday. Was most happy in the thought of their coming to Keele. Lord Bagot had asked the Cunliffes to Blithfield for the archery. Lord and Lady Shrewsbury were to be there.
48. Keele.
 Thursday.
 [? c. Aug.
 1827]
- The same to the same.
- Trusted this would find him arrived in safety at Saltram. Thanked him most sincerely for his last letter, 'I felt deeply penetrated with gratitude that that Angelick Being should have express'd a regard for me, I draw in with deep humility knowing how little worthy I am of it, but her bright example of every virtue, & of the support given on a death bed to a mind so finely trained to religious principles, ought[,] indeed must[,] I think[,] make an impression that will I trust be beneficial!!!!' The Bagots were all at Keele, Agnes had received a bracelet from him [Ralph Sneyd] that seemed to have given the greatest satisfaction, yesterday had brought an offering from Lady Grosvenor of the most magnificent and beautiful necklace and ear-rings. They had all driven to Madeley on Tuesday, but had not been admitted, fancied Lord Crewe had been there. News of friends, including Mr Newdigate. 'I had a

letter yest[erda]y from L[ad]y Bagot & I will Copy verbatim the part about you[:] how I must ans[we]r it Heaven knows[.] "Tell me what I have done to or wherein affronted or disgusted your son Ralph? He hardly speaks to me when we meet in public[,] never has he called upon me, & the other day Cut me. I suppose he has some good reason but I confess I have fashed myself in vain to find it out[.] I don[t]t care! - only I should like rather to know why a person who used to covet my Correspondence even shou'd all of a sudden have taken this twist.["] You see[,] you are in a large scrape...' News of Walter, who was going to Guy's Cliffe. The Staffords would not be back at Trentham, 'as I find they are to be in London the beginning of Oct[obe]r about their house & to settle with Wyatt to finish it & move his pictures as they are to be in it in the Spring.'

49. Keele.
 1 Sept.
 [1827]

The same to the same, in Cirencester [redirected to Great Malvern Wells].

Thanks him for his letter, which she answers quickly that she might tell him to direct to Walter at 'Bilton Dunchurch'. His father was to be at Oxford with Walter on 10th October. John had left Keele that day, and Fanny had gone with him to Brereton, and was to join them at Blithfield, where they were to go on Monday for a week or ten days, according as her lord wished about his birthday, which was the 11th, 'for as it is Lichfield Race week & we do not mean to have any thing to do with it[,] I had rather come back.' Was glad he found Lady Bathurst tolerably well and should rejoice to have her under that roof. Wished to know, when he wrote, whethar the quinine strengthened him.

50. Friday.
 [? 1827]

The same to the same.

God bless him for his letter, but was very anxious to hear his odious attack of inflammation was entirely gone. They were to go on Wednesday to Blithfield and returned there [? Keele] Saturday. Was in hopes of seeing Lord Clare, from whom she had received a most amiable letter, saying he would come in his way to Ireland. Had had a letter from Lady Frances since Lady Harrowby got to Sandon, with a tolerable account of her.

51. Blithfield.
 Monday.
 [1827
 or later]

The same to the same.

Had not the wherewithal to make a letter anything but dull, however, knew he would be glad to see her scrawl and hear she had had no drawbacks. Lord B. was but very poorly. Was a beautiful day and Lizzy was at Ingestre. Had written to tell Andrews she might go home next Friday, to be in London on 8th March. As ill luck would have it, Cecil Talbot had come while Lizzie was gone to Ingestre.

52. Blithfield.
Wednesday.
[1827 or
later]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Confesses to 'bestiality' towards him on the score of writing, but stupidity and idleness had governed her terribly of late. Would rejoice to get a sight of him when weather and planting permitted. Had been out that day for the first time, and had walked four times between the vestibule and the church porch. Had been down to dinner for the first time yesterday, 'or rather to pudding for I shall continue to take my meat at 2 o'clock.' Her lord was better but not sound yet. Comments on preparations for leaving. Hoped last night's papers were accurate in saying that the D. of C. was gone to France. Did not quite agree in thinking the Directors at all preposterous in not asking him to their dinners. The world was 'too generally prone to treat adultery & all self indulgence as trivial....'
53. Keele.
Saturday.
[19 July,
1828]
- The same to the same, in London.
- Thanks him for his kind letter. Was truly sorry to hear he had had his pocket picked, 'knowing how ill you cou'd afford it. I will begin another purse for you forthwith.' News of incessant rain, which would be a sad disappointment if it continued when they went into Wales, 'which we are to do on Wednesday'. They were to make a tour while at P[ool] Park, to see Conway, the Menai Bridge, &c. They were to go to Hawarden on their return. Everything would be comfortable for him when ever he wished to return, and he had only to write a line to Lycett, and he would find butler, footmen and, she thought, a good cook. News of friends. A vacancy in the office of Clerk of the Crown in the province of Connaught, and Deputy Clerk of the Crown for the City of Dublin, and Mrs Babington's hopes of obtaining the former for her son. Had just returned from Madeley, where they had been detained by a violent thunderstorm. Adds a postscript, that Lord Vernon had had a paralytic stroke.
54. Pool Park.
Thursday.
[7 Aug.
1828]
- The same to the same, at Guy's Cliff.
- Thought this would meet him at Guy's Cliff and could not amuse her solitary hours better than by holding converse with him, for all the party had gone to see the wonders of North Wales. Always felt a clog and incumbrance [sic] in a party of that sort, although William's kindness to them all was extreme. On (?) 27th September he and Louisa were to go to Heaton, and were to be at the Manchester Music Meeting, with Lord and Lady Wilton, 'Manny', and Eleanor Williams. Other ~~visits~~ and arrangements. Fanny would come in for an archery and ball, and was going to the eisteddfod at Denbigh, 'which was a great Welsh musical meeting[,]' which I believe takes it by turns to be held in North and South Wales.' His father's foot was much better. Had had a very nice letter that day from Lady Frances Leveson,

from Trentham. Adds a postscript, that it would be doing her an essential kindness if, previous to his going to Keele, he would give Townsend a hint that, as Thomas had been made butler, he must support him, 'if you knew all the domestic worries I have had upon the subject by the impertinence & finery of the Maids'.

55. Keele.
Monday.
[13 July,
1829]

The same to the same, in London.

Thought he would like to hear from home and was anxious to be the first to write. (?) White had reported very favourably of the writer's leg. No variation had happened in the events of the day since he had gone. The weather was so beautifully fine and she rejoiced that he and Anne of (?) Guirstein had such for their journey. They had got an uncommon pretty book to read called 'Private Life'. Wished he could discover whether it was written by Lady Ravenworth's aunt. Had been to see Daniel, who was recovering. Had said everything to him that they had agreed to, but found he could not bear the idea of taking a place in London. Relates the circumstances. News of the family.

56. Blithfield.
Thursday.
[24 Dec.
1829]

The same to the same, at Keele.

'Here I am in the little middle room at the end of the lower Gallery & am writing to you while the rest are at Breakfast[,] having had mine in my own room;...' Was feeling better. Expresses her affection and gratitude towards him, 'by which you have softened the heaviest affliction I cou'd meet with upon Earth!' News of relatives and friends.

57. Cheverells.
Saturday.
[1829 or
later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Would not delay a post thanking him for the game, which was very seasonable as brother Charles was to come from the Grove on Monday, and Betty Curzon on Wednesday. Was 'a regular soaking day' at Cheverells, but the last two had been quite lovely. Miss Sebright was recovering, after being given over, and the day he left the kitchen maid had broken out with small-pox. The mark was on her arm from vaccination, but the doctor said he had never seen so severe a case of it. However, she was doing well. Hoped nobody else would have it and had persuaded Walter, Charlotte and Lizzy to be vaccinated. The papers said Beaudesert was to be sold, could that be so? Lady Clarendon had written Harriet to say she had been to London to see the Duchess of Sutherland, who she thought was very unhappy. Prayed him tell Mrs Streit she was very grateful for her letter and for the bottles of rose and peppermint water. Continued pretty well.

58. Blithfield.
Saturday.
[9 Jan.
1830]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Dull as it would be, she was vain enough to think he would like a scrawl 'as a companion over the Library Fire tomorrow.' News of arrivals and departures. 'My Lord[']s paper yest[erda]y dismiss'd the D. of Wellington & all the ministry, today it speaks of a disagreement between him & the K- about P. Leo. being K. of Greece...' '...L[ad]y Harrowby[,]
L[ad]y Gerra: &c called here this Morn[in]g & left Tickets but w[oul]d not come in[,]
wh[i]ch huffs My Lord & one cannot tell him there was nobody for them to ask for[,]
which is really the case.' Charles was in despair at the army being reduced as it would put him on half pay. Forgot to remind him that what was in the tea chest was all the green tea that was at Keele.
59. [c. 21 Apr.
1830]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- [Final page only] ...and also said that Sir Henry reported better of the king, and the Duchess of Gloucester had found him better yesterday than she had expected. News of the family and friends.
60. Audley Square.
Wednesday.
[5 May,
1830]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Thanks him for both his letters. Hoped and thought she was getting well, friends were very kind in calling, but had not been a match for seeing more than two or three a day. Lady Bathurst had been with her again yesterday and had given her as good an account of Lord Bath as could be expected. News of other friends and acquaintances. Charlotte sent her love and would say all he wished to Lord Rolle. 'Harriet is the one of my Girls whose [?] looks annoy me[,]
but she is grown so pale & thin & has such frequent headaches I hate it[,]
but she don[']t like to be asked after her health.' Had not heard of the king that day, 'but he was better yest[erda]y & when they took him Gruel said "Isn't this a dainty dish to set before a King". George Upton had had the most violent small-pox, but was thought to be out of danger.
61. Audley Square.
Friday.
[14 May,
1830]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Knew he would like to hear from her that she slept better and had felt to gain strength, 'tho' still not equal to much exertion'. [In London] it was always a thick yellow fog, with a great deal of North East wind, which had brought all the influenzas back again. Hopes of seeing him on the 29th. Lord Bagot had returned to Black Heath after church on Sunday, and was to go abroad on Tuesday. It was impossible to say whether the king would die soon or last some time, 'recover he cannot all the Doctors agree, & with five in constant attendance night & day they have so little time for sleep that Sir Henry[,]
I fear[,]
will be killed, for the K[ing] don[']t like him

out of his sight.' Lady F. Sandon had come to see her yesterday, she was wishing to get a house in 'the Regent[']s Park for L[ad]y Bute'. Lady Harrowby and (?) all were going abroad in July, for a year, into Italy, and heard the Charles Percys were going, was that so and did he mean to join them? Further family news.

62. Audley Square.
Thursday.
[20 May,
1830]

The same to the same, at Keele.

'Pritchard has a Hobby de Hoy Man Boy Footman ready for you that was with L[or]d Sandon last year, & he says is what will suit you while you are in London, & is of a respectable family... Pritchard & all the Harrowby household are dismissed when they go abroad as there is to be a general break up & the House in Gros[veno]r Sq[ua]r[e] to be let, in my opinion it will be a fortunate person who takes Pritchard[,] as so valuable a head servant is rarely met with.' News of the family. Dick was better. Lewis had gained his election to Oxford. The king was for the present recovering '& people are beginning to buy Colours with spirit.' Lord Stafford had opened their fine house the night before last and two of hisy[Ralph Sneyd's] sisters had been there. The splendours beggared description. News of friends. Lunch with Lady Bathurst. The [Audley Square] house was sold to a Mr Caldwell for £1,800. Fanny had been with Sir Herbert and Lady Taylor to see Miss Kemble, 'I am very anxious to get the others to see her as she finishes her acting next week, but I am somewhat like a Hen with Ducks;...' Considers forthcoming engagements.

63. Cheverells.
Wednesday.
[July, 1830
or later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Should have thanked him immediately for his kind letter, but finding Lizzy had written the day before, thought he would prefer one of later date. They were obliged, in July, to have large fires. 'L[ad]y Verulam[,] L[ad]y Harrowby & L[ad]y Wortley came between six & seven as a morn[ing] visit, they had been hinder'd by the Salisbury's[,] which I regretted as it gave me so short a time with L[ad]y Harrowby[,] who I always love to be with, & L[or]d Harrowby has given up going abroad & they are going a tour en famille[,] which they begin by Oatlands on Tues[da]y[,] Cirencester, Badminton, the Cawdors, & thro' South & N. Wales to Sandon, so they will visit my Lord at Pool Park.' Had been shocked by an account of the death from cholera of Mrs Smith. The Stanhopes were coming there on Sunday. News of Walter, in Frankfurt.

64. Cheverells.
Monday.
[1830 or
later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Thought it possible he might not have received a letter she had directed at random to Keele, where she had since heard he had not gone before going to Sandon and Blithfield. If he was at

home, in one of his solo evenings he could write her a good long history of himself and how his Blithfield [visit] had gone off, which must have been very odious. News of the family. Lord Bridgwater had asked Charlotte and Lizzy, who had been some days at Ashridge, to meet the Salisburys and Verulams, and to go to the great annual ball at Berkhamstead. Thought they had liked the visit, and hoped they might be at a winter ball at Hatfield. Was every day in fear of Lord Grimston being beaten by the Radical. Would appreciate his sending her a little game, 'to feast Agnes and Newton upon'. The Dutch business made her quite sick. 'I am being very grand with Laborers for there is a new rate which obliges me to pay for two whether I employ them or not.'

65. Cheverells.
Sunday.
[1831 or
later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Thanks him for his letter. Certainly she wished to follow his advice touching the money, and trusted him to have the goodness to act for her, '& to let me know when to destroy [sic] the Land I am now in possession of.' Was glad to hear Charles could go to him. Was able to send him a very good account of Walter. News of visitors. Lord Francis was coming to England (but not Lady Francis) 'upon this horrid business of Mr Bradshaw[,] or whatever his name is.' It had been reported in the paper that the Duke had left 12 of the best pictures in the Bridgwater collection to Brasenose College, which was to choose which it liked: surely he had not the power to do so? Heard that Lady Ely had resigned and that Lady Howe was to succeed her as Lady of the Bedchamber. Feared the Duchess of Leeds was much worse and likely to resign, in which case Lady Cornwallis was to succeed her as Mistress of the Robes.

66. Cheverells.
Sunday.
[1831 or
later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had received his kind letter that morning. Wished to be told about 'the recent settling of Blith[fiel]d money matters' and whether 'any arrangement took place about the payment of Interest, & when abouts my years is likely to be paid into Drummonds, as some circumstances will make it convenient to me to know[,] but I shall be annoyed if by asking I occasion you any trouble.' Hoped the change from bitter cold to 'quite summer' weather would benefit his cold. Harriet and Lizzy had ridden the new horse yesterday. The riding master was 'the greatest quiz I ever met with & as he was in most of the great battles is cover'd with orders.' News of arrivals and departures of guests. It was quite unnecessary for the Bishop of Lichfield to ordain Walter, as it was immaterial which bishop did it. Understood that Mr Shirley had offered Ettington to Ralph Bagot, that he had written to Walter and had had no answer, which, as they had

had letters lost, made her sure he had not received it, '& surely you had better encourage R. Bagot to accept it forthwith, as it will rid you of him, & somebody co[ul]d hold Wolstanton for a little time?'

67. Brereton.
1 Aug.
[1832 or
later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

They had been wondering whether he 'were got to Keel', and thanked him for his letter. Harry Sneyd had brought them the Elford open carriage, 'so ours is quite at liberty for you whenever you send for it'. News of visitors, including Anne Dod, expected the day before.

68. Cheverells.
1 Feb.
[Year
unknown]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Hated to think she had been so long in thanking him for his letter from Sandon. Walter was to remain there [at Cheverells] until the 10th and was anxiously waiting for a letter from Frederick Gooch, 'none being come makes him sadly affraid [sic] there should be any hitch with the Bishop about Bagginton.' News of arrivals and departures, including the arrival on Monday of Anne Dod by the Mail from Brereton, 'I am in a fright lest those of the Irish members that can afford to travel by it should impede her.' Charlotte was to be married the 20th February, 'I marvel who she will get to give her away?' Had just had a kind present of fish from 'my Lord', very quick and good from Hastings. Was glad Bob Curzon was going to visit him [Ralph Sneyd], he was 'very knowing' about buildings. Had heard from Fanny, who had been spending a very pleasant week at Dogmersfield.

69. Keele.
4 Feb.
[Year
unknown]

The same to the same.

Had received his letter of the 30th yesterday - 'marvellous quick'. His father was better and she hoped would go to Bath the week after next. Walter had got his remove. It would be rather triste for him that they should not be in London at Easter. News of friends.

70. Cheverells.
30 Dec.
[Year
unknown]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Thanks him for his kind letter from Sandon. Was disappointed that he thought he should not be able to get there next month, it seemed so long since they had met. News of the family and friends, Char: Dod's marvellous marriage, Lord Bathurst's disagreeable robbery. Had continued to be tolerably well, adhering to early dinners and retired habits, but was much annoyed at being obliged to give up going to church, from the extreme damp, 'it is very greivous they will agree to no plan of warming it.' Had been quite distressed at Lady Queensberry's daughters 'having driven over here the day before yest[erda]y, near 9 miles in their little one Horse Chaise (for they are

too poor to keep any other)[:] the Girls were all out & I was at dinner so was not told, & they returned in the heaviest rain I ever remember, & it was the more moving as she knew I could not go to her.'

71. Cheverells.
Sunday.
[Date y
unknown]

x? Jan. 1884 - d
last time before
to chancellorship
of Oxford.

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter, by which she pictured him at Sandon, '& beg you will not fail to give my kindest love to L[ad]y Harrowby & tell her I feel greatly obliged to her for not dying upon St Bernard.' News of Lady K. Grimston's intention to marry Mr Barham: 'I don[']t know him, but I hope he is worthy of the very great prize I think he has got, she will be a sad loss to Cheverells.' News of visitors. Harriet and Lizzy had ridden yesterday to visit Lady Queensbury, who was lately come into those parts, 'she is wretchedly poor but I hear a very nice person & her married Daughter[,] L[ad]y Mary Gage[,] who lives with her[,] is[,] they say[,] very pretty.' Asks who was likely to succeed Lord Grenville in the chancellorship.

72. Cheltenham.
Monday.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same.

Complains at not having heard from him or anyone else, and trusts she may find a letter at Shipton. Would be in London to dinner at half-past six on Friday, 'I wish you may be disengaged that day.' Elizabeth Carnegie was to come with them, that had been settled at 10 o'clock last night by Harriet and Charlotte, 'to my surprise, for I thought it was all given up but they overcame Lady C. just before we left Bayes Hill,...' No tidings of Boisragon, and it was most probable he would not be there before the 15th. All were well but herself, who felt far otherwise. 'Pray say strongly dans ma famille how glad you are E.C. is coming to us as you know any innovations are reckoned extraordinary & apt to be condemned & I feel as if, as they don[']t know her, I sh[oul]d be in a scrape! vous m'entendez.'

73. Blithfield.
Tuesday 11th.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same.

Had that moment received his letter and instantly obeyed his orders about writing, but feared he would not get the letter. Grew tired of not seeing him and began to count the days. Was remaining there that day for my lord's birthday, to-morrow they returned to Keele, with Lady Errol. News of arrivals and departures.

74. Cheltenham.
Tuesday.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same, in London.

His kind letter had just arrived. Boisragon had not come, nor did they hear any tidings of him, which annoyed her beyond measure, both on Fanny's and her own account, from some circumstances she would explain when they were

? 1880 or earlier.

tete a tete. As soon as he had gone on Saturday she had asked his father whether he had any objection to her speaking to Elizabeth Carnegie, ' & it was quite moving how kind she took it & how infinitely she was pierced...', and she was to speak to Lord C., 'who is evidently much gratified[,] but there are hindrances that I fear will not be surmounted[,] tho' it is not finally [?] negatived till she receives some letter.' Thought it would be a good thing for Harriet to have such a companion. Had taken her pills and had begun the water again that morning, since which she had felt better. They were going to Lady Jersey that night. Had passed most of yesterday with Dr Bell. Concludes, 'Oh my dear[,] dear Ralph[,] cheer & encourage me by your wished for letters[,] for my head is sore troubled & my spirit sinks within me every day that London approaches nearer. The P. stays at Brighton till [the] 17th, so there can be no Levee a good while...'

75. Shipton.
Tuesday.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same, in London.

Was so much delighted at receiving his kind letter. Elizabeth Carnegie was to meet them at Burford on Thursday. They had written to Maidenhead to order beds and dinner, so he might picture them at Frogmore on Friday. If he should meet Jane Carnegie in public, or happen to be passing No.2 Upper Harley Street, he should tell her about Elizabeth and that the sooner she came to see her the happier they should be. 'Heneage had dined tete a tete with L[ad]y Jersey on Sunday & gone with her to Mrs Allen's....' Had become more in love with the Cardigans than she could say.

76. Audley Square.
Wednesday.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same.

By his letter to Harriet she was annoyed to find it must be the middle of May before he would be in London. Waited for him daily. News of the family and friends. An account of a mishap with his old chariot. [Letter incomplete].

77. Keele.
Wednesday night.
[Date unknown]

The same to the same.

It would be some relief to her heavy heart to write to him before he left England. Expresses her unhappiness at their separation. Had fretted a little about his trunk, and hoped he would get it by to-morrow night. News of the family and visitors.

78. Cheltenham.
Thursday.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same.

They were much as usual. No Boisragon yet, but his servant said they felt sure he would come that week, 'oh, that he may. I was put with L[ad]y Cardigan at the Well this morn[ing] & condoled with her on not seeing him, & I am quite sorry on her account[,] she looks so pretty and so sick.' She had said Lord Brudenell

had seen him. They were going to Bayes Hill that night, to a party. Had asked Lady Jersey to drink tea with her. His father had gone riding with Miss Franks. They were enlivened by a good military band from Gloucester during the assizes, 'when I stand with them it is chiefly to inhale Col. Berkeley[']s perfumes[,] wh[ic]h are so very fine.'

79.

Keele.
Thursday.
[Date
unknown]

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter and hopes this letter would find him at Thoresby. Begged him to say many kind things for her to Lord and Lady Manvers. Had returned from the Wedding, which had taken place that morning, where all parties had conducted themselves properly and Lady Stafford had done and said everything most kind. Should be glad if he came home at the time he mentioned. Walter desired much love to him. Lewis was to go to Hardwick on Tuesday and to return again. Thought his father was better, 'tho' he w[oul]d be more so if Silverdale was not doing ill & the pits at Le[y]cett by some accident befalling them not gett[ing] Coals when we c[oul]d sell them as many as c[oul]d be got'.
