

Ref Code: GB 172 S[RS/RevWs]

Sneyd Papers

Calendar of correspondence to Ralph Sneyd from Rev. Walter Sneyd

If you require this document in an alternative format, such as large print or a coloured background, please contact

special.collections@keele.ac.uk

Special Collections and Archives, Keele University Library,
Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE

(Lists of Archives)

Accession No. or Code: S[RS/Rev.WS]

Name and Address of Owner: University of Keele, Keele, Staffordshire.

Accumulation or Collection: Sneyd archives.

Class: Private.

Reference Number:	Date:	Item:
-------------------	-------	-------

CORRESPONDENCE

To Ralph Sneyd (d.1870) from the Rev.Walter Sneyd (d.1888)

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Westminster.
10 Feb.
1826 | [The Rev.] Walter [Sneyd] to Ralph [Sneyd].

Had long intended to write to him, but thought he would wait till he could tell him the agreeable news that he had got his remove, which he was now able to do. 'I took my seat in the sixth on Wednesday evening, the 1 st of Feb ^y . Goodenough was goodnatured to me, & said that I knew it very perfect &c, but that I was very deficient in knowledge of Ancient History - which I fear is true - I intend therefore to lose no time in beginning to read some history - Rollin; or perhaps you may recommend me what is the best, if you write to me again. - I like the sixth very much - the books are quite different, & of course more difficult - Aeschylus - Horace - & Grotius, at present - It is really very entertaining to hear Goodenough explain the lessons - he <u>must</u> be very clever, & have a wonderful memory - it is |
|----|---------------------------------|---|

curious to hear how glibly he quotes from all sorts of authors.' When last he had heard from Keele they had been all well, except Papa, who had had a bad cold. Papa had meditated going to Bath soon. London began to look rather less dull. The Williams's had been very good-natured to him. The Davenports had come to town last week. Charles and Lewis had been going out for Saturday and Sunday to Lord and Lady Ponsonby, who were then in town. The writer believed they were going to South America almost immediately. The weather was cold and foggy, and Westminster Abbey looked as tall and black as ever. Even the meeting of parliament brought very little fashion into that part of the town. When did he intend to return?

2. Ch[rist] Ch[urch].
5 Mar.
1828

The same to the same, at Keele.

The east wind having driven him home from his walk earlier than usual, he thought he could not fill up the time till dinner better than by answering his kind letter. Feared that his letter would be of the dullest, for nothing had happened there of late. Was becoming tired of his own health, and of the nasty remedies which he was incessantly making use of, without their producing the slightest effect. Had had a letter from Dr Crawford on Saturday, saying that he was not sorry that the mercury was tardy in taking effect, for the greater would be the chance of its final success, and that he must persevere. Had called on Lewis that morning. He had told him that he should certainly be there at Easter and probably afterwards. Had got his print of Keele very nicely framed. Arundell Bouverie was also at Merton. Should be very sorry indeed if he came to Oxford while he happened to be away, 'for I sh[oul]d like you to see my room, & to breakfast with me, & all sorts of things.' Had not yet seen Arthur Talbot since his arrival. St Mary's church had been opened in form last Sunday, for the first time since the completion of its improvements. Wood had been suffering of late from a violent toothache. He was to go the next day to London, to see Cartwright, the dentist. He was going to stand for a fellowship at Oriel. Sincerely wished he might get it. Intended going to the debate the next day, for the first time since he had been a member of the club. Was delighted to hear they were engaged to go to Pool Park. Had begun another attempt at etching.

3. Ch[rist] Ch[urch].
14 Mar.
1828

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had a kind of message for him from Arundell Bouverie, who desired him to tell him that if he was meaning to come to Oxford in his way to London, he hoped it would not be till after the 15th of next month, as he would be away from 25th March till that day. The Greville Howards were now at the Warden's, but were to go the following day. The writer had dined there on Tuesday, and had been to a grand party he had had on Wednesday evening. All the principal dignitaries of Oxford had been there, and some members of the

Choral Society. Had never heard anything so lovely as Lord Ossulston's singing. Was going to a concert in Lord Hastings's rooms. The Greville Howards had paid him a visit in his garrets, the day before. Had had a letter from F.Gooch the day before, from Baginton, saying that he should be there [in Oxford] the next day and asking him to dine. Had had a very violent debate the night before. Lord Ossory, a member of the society, had in fun written some ridiculous questions in the question-book, upon which a Mr Hamilton had proposed a motion to expel him from the society. The motion had been brought on the night before, in the common-room at New College. The debate had lasted 3 hours and the motion had been thrown out by a majority of 18. The whole business had made a great sensation. Collections were to begin next week, so he trusted in a fortnight he should be with him at Keele.

4. Ch[rist] Ch[urch].
27 Feb.
1830

The same to the same, at Keele.

Was quite ashamed of having been so long without answering his two letters. Had been intending it daily, but what with lectures and reading, he found he had very little time to spare, except what he devoted to exercise. Began to get nervous and fidgety as time passed, 'for, as I am a very slow reader, & am afflicted with a strong tendency to drowsiness over my books at night, I find I do not make the progress I had reckoned upon - however, I trust when the time comes, I shall be prepared. I like my private tutor, & go to him for an hour every day.' Had ridden over to Nuneham the week before and seen Lady Harcourt. She had been looking very well, but he was sorry to hear that Lord Harcourt was breaking fast. They were gone to London and had lent Nuneham to the Moores. Concluded that he was busy with his planting, '& making the most of this very delicious weather'. Thought upon the whole that Christ Church was unusually dull that term, but it was favourable to one's reading.

5. Ch[rist] Ch[urch].
Friday.
[19 Mar.
1830]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had settled to go to F.Gooch's on 3rd April and stay over Passion week till the 12th, when he should return to his rooms there. Had written to Mama to tell her of his plan. Had given Lewis his message touching the 'Stemmata Chicheleana', and he said it had been published, 'tho' it is a scarce book, as there were but few copies printed - If you wish to have it, I think I can engage to procure it for you, in Oxford'. The Greville Howards had been at the Warden's for two nights, in their way to town. Thought their account of Uncle John very indifferent. Must beg him, if he pleased, to let him have more money by the end of the month. Had received £230 from him since July, and there remained therefore £120 to complete the year's allowance. Perhaps he would let him have £70? Adds a postscript, that Louisa Chester had left £1,000 apiece to Spencer, Heneage and Fanny Drummond.

6. Baginton.
1 Dec.
[1830 or
later]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had found his letter awaiting him on his arrival there the day before. In consequence of what he had said touching his [Ralph Sneyd's] plans, the writer had decided to go to Capesthorpe on Thursday, if they would have him, and had therefore just written to Mr Daven[por]t to propose himself. He would probably find him there when he came, and they could return to Keele together, as he had proposed. Was dying to see all he would have to show him. He must have done so much since he had been there two years ago. Charles and he had left Cheverells the day before, and had had a successful journey by the 'Independent'. 'This little place is very snug and warm - our party consists of Fred. & his brother Harry, Charles, & me. The Hall looks dreary & deserted - I marvel that the Bromleys sh[oul]d live there so little - for it really is a very nice, & gentlemanlike place - with great capabilities of improvement'. The following day he purposed riding to Elford, and then to Brereton for a night. Was glad to think they should meet so soon.

7. Cumberland Street.
8 June,
[? 1831]

The same to the same.

Believed he had heard from some of the family what the writer's plans were. The day fixed for their departure was next Wednesday, the 15th. Was looking forward to his expedition with infinite satisfaction. They purposed going straight to Paris, and when they had been there some time, to make a tour somewhere, but they had not fixed where. 'I shall vote for the Rhine, & the south of Germany - I think I shall probably return to England about the end of September - can I do anything for you in Paris?' Thanks him for the pedigree. Found however that he need not produce it till just before the election. There was another vacancy by the death of Mr Meade. 'I have been rather dissipated than otherwise during my stay in Town: plenty of balls, & drums in proportion - I have got over my bow to the King & Queen, having been presented both at a levee & a draw[in]g room - On Monday we all go to her M[ajest]y's ball.' William had been living in the house with them all the time. Robert Curzon and the writer had gone down for two nights to Leader's villa at Putney, and very much he had enjoyed it, ' - a most excellent house full of fine books & pictures - & lovely gardens & grounds - He has about 150 acres, beautifully laid out by Repton...' That put him in mind of his [Ralph Sneyd's] pools, how he should like to transport himself to Keele and see what he was about, what beauty the place must be in. Should try to dispose of his pony before he went, it had been a most useful beast, but its day was past, 'so I have desired Daniel to make the best bargain he can for me - & shall look out for another in the Winter -'. His mother had had a bad cold, but it was nearly gone. Had made a few good additions to his library, but thought with great zest of rummaging the old shops at Paris.

8. Salzburg.
26 Aug.,
[1832]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had purposed writing to him any day those last three weeks, but somehow, between travelling and sight-seeing, had even found it difficult to despatch a periodical epistle to Cheverells, but some general outline of their contents had, he dared say, been forwarded to him. Suffice it therefore to say that thus far his journey had answered most satisfactorily. As far as Cologne they had had the society of the Percies' friend, Col. Dundas, whom they had grown very fond of. They had devoted a week to the Rhine, had tarried some days at Frankfurt, and from thence had made an excursion to Homburg, 'where poor dear old P[rince]ss Eliz[abe]th received us so kindly that we were touched to the quick - she took us a drive, & shewed us all her favourite places, gardens &c - Kept us to dinner - & in short went out of her way to shew us every attention - I w[oul]d not have missed that visit for the world - Homburg is a poor, rattle-trap sort of old Palace - grass grown, & moth eaten - but she has done wonders for it - '. The princess must have found it a bad substitute for Windsor, when first she had come. At Frankfurt Curzon and he had parted for a few days, Curzon taking the Nuremberg road, the writer proceeding to Heidelberg, then to Stuttgart, where he had been disappointed at not finding Edward Disbrowe, he being with the K. at Ludwigsburg, from thence to Ulm, Augsburg, where he had again joined Curzon, and Munich. Had had a letter of introduction from Lord Bagot to a M. de Baader there, a very agreeable, clever old man, who had showed them the gardens at Nymphenburg, in which were two fountains, the finest in the world, which he had constructed. 'The water is thrown up [MS. imperfect] ... dead flat to the height of 100 feet, by means of an engine, & oh! the pictures! both in the town, & the 45 rooms full at Schleisheim! & oh! the library! with its 600[,]000 vol[ume]s! One sh[oul]d stay months at Munich to see every thing properly'. They had been induced to stay till after the grand opera in honour of the K.'s birthday, which had given them an opportunity of hearing Mme. Waagen, their prima donna. Lady Ellenboro' had not been at Munich, but was still in high favour. Had arrived at Salzburg the evening before. Had never seen anything so glorious as the situation of the town. Curzon had gone off that day to the salt mines, but the writer had recollected his advice, and declined. They were to proceed to Innsbruck and to Geneva. Had been much grieved to see poor Mrs Drummond's death in the papers.

9. Geneva.
7 Oct.
1832

The same to the same, at Newby Hall, Boroughbridge.

Would not leave that place without writing to thank him for the two letters he had found on his arrival the week before. 'I bore the announcement of Mrs Sinclair's demise with great fortitude - it c[oul]d not have occurred at a more convenient time.' As it was probable that his sisters had

communicated to him the contents of some of his letters, he would not bore him with the detail of their route. They had crossed the St Gotthard three weeks ago, and had traversed Switzerland, via Lucerne, Berne and Lausanne, all of which, together with the lakes and country, had delighted them. In Geneva they had found several of their mutual friends, who were for the most part bound for Italy. De Tabley and his bride were there, who were going to Rome, as were also the Bradyalls. Rejoiced in the prospect of the Percies. To-morrow they were to cross the Simplon, visit Isola Bella and hoped to be at Milan at the end of the week, then Padua and Venice. Supposed they should not get to Florence till the middle of November, and Rome the beginning of December. Would that there were any chance of his joining the party. Was glad to hear that his canvass promised favourably for Mr Watts Russell - 'what sort of Parliament do you expect we shall have - as bad, or better than was expected?...' Was sorry to send so very dull a letter, but was sleepy and perplexed with bills and packing, for they started early the next day. 'At Lausanne I found Gibbon's library in the act of being sold - & of course c[oul]d not resist a book or two, out of sentiment - many valuable English books were being disposed of for almost nothing.'

10. Venice.
3 Nov.
[1832]

The same to the same, at Keele.

It struck him that he could not employ himself better that evening than in writing to him. Had left Geneva on the 8th [October], taking with them an old Ch[rist] Ch[urch] friend, Hamilton by name, 'now a Fellow of Merton'. As he knew it of old, he need not rave to him of the beauty of the road through the Valais. Had made three days of it to Brieg and then crossed the Simplon. They had arrived in Milan on the 13th. The writer had stayed there 3 days and proceeded to Brescia, Verona, Vicenza and Padua, stopping at each long enough to see them thoroughly. Had arrived in Venice on the 23rd, and had taken up their abode at the 'Europa', a most excellent hotel, '& all the people belong[in]g to it remarkably civil'. Could hardly find words to express his wonder and delight with Venice, and his regret to see the state of ruin and decay into which it had fallen. Had been obliged to keep his room the first week, from an attack of rheumatism. 'What Churches! & Palaces! & Pictures & Marbles! My eyes are quite worn out with the perpetual blaze of splendid things.' Was now left quite alone, for Hamilton had taken leave of them on Tuesday, and Curzon had gone the night before to Trieste, to explore as far as Pola. Should set out on Monday and proceed through Ferrara and Bologna to Florence, where Curzon would join him, and where he hoped he might fall in with the Percies. 'You will, I am sure, congr[atulate] me when I tell you of the success with [which] my researches after the antique were crowned yesterday - I had got the scent of a little old Priest who possessed books wh[ic]h he w[oul]d sell - why, I don't know - for he is

very rich - however I went to his house, & rummaged over a very satisfactory library - & to my boundless delight I discovered, & eventually bought for a very moderate price, certain articles wh[ic]h I suspect even the British Museum w[oul]d be proud to possess. What say you to Greek M.S.S, of Homer's Iliad, & Odyssey, Thucydides - & Aristides - All as perfect, clean, & fresh as if written yesterday - in old wooden bindings! They once belonged to the Monastery of St Francesco della Vinea, in this city. There are also some old M.S chronicles - & a very ancient Latin Translation of Aristotle, M.S on Vellum, illuminated. &c[.,] &c[.,] but the value of Greek M.S.S, everybody knows - I have also been unable to resist buying for £10, very cheap - a beautiful picture by Canaletto - undoubtedly genuine, of the Piazzetta, Campinile, & corner of the Doge's Palace - just the most satisfactory view of Venice one c[oul]d possess.'

11.

Rome.
9 Jan.
1833

The same to the same, in London.

Had deferred writing to him till he considered himself fairly settled, and able to give an account of their manner of life, and so forth. After three weeks at Florence, during which time he had been ill for 8 days and the weather had been singularly unpropitious the whole time, they had set out on 4th December for Rome, stopping for a day at Sienna, the cathedral there being one of the very finest he had seen. Had arrived in Rome on the 8th December, where they had been most cordially and kindly welcomed by the Percies. After several days wearisome search, they had established themselves in their present lodgings, 466 Corto, near S.Carlo, where they had a suite of tidy apartments, but gloomy, but they were clean and gentlemanlike. The weather had been bitter cold ever since their arrival. It would bore him if he talked about the things he had seen. Describes St Peter's and the pope's entry on Christmas Day. William and Charles Bagot had arrived there in high force last Thursday. The English society there was voted a failure that winter, but as he lived mostly with the Percies he had no reason to complain, they had also the de Tableys, Braddylls, Mr and Lady Vere Cameron, Lord Duncan, Hamilton, Lord Chelsea, Lord James Butler, Leader, and two or three more who attended Mrs Mrs Percy's Wednesday evenings. His letter had procured him all sorts of civilities. Describes dinners he has attended and people he has met. Had got an Italian master who came three times a week, and was taking lessons in oil painting from a very clever artist named Chatelain. His usual walking companions were either Charles Percy, Hamilton, de Tabley or Curzon. They said the carnival was to be unusually dull, for the pope had imposed heavy new taxes, which caused much discontent, '& he is terrified lest there sh[oul]d be an explosion. The government does not seem to be very efficacious - for at least every week, there is a shocking story of robbery, or assassination.' The theatres were open but not worth going to. Had been grieved to

see in the newspapers that Mr Watts Russell had been defeated, '& fear that the elections in general are very much against us.'

12. Naples.
25 Feb.
[1833]

The same to the same, at Keele.

He would probably be surprised at seeing where he dated from. Would give him the principal events in his history since he had last written to Harriet. First had come the carnival at Rome, masks had been prohibited and even the scanty amusements which had been allowed had been strictly watched by large bodies of military, there had been no occasion for such vigilance for he had never seen a more quiet, good-natured populace. Towards the close of the carnival, a friend, Sir George Palmer, had offered to take him to Naples and bring him back. On their way they had been delayed 12 hours outside the gates of Capua, which had just been closed for the night as they arrived. Describes what he had seen in Naples, including the king and queen, who had 'paraded about dressed as Chinese in a sort of Pagoda-shaped Car & pelted their subjects...' Describes the people he had met, including Miss Strachan, 'in great beauty & the favored [sic] suitor at present is a C[oun]t Sandor, a rich, clever, ugly Hungarian.' Had visited Herculaneum and Pompeii, and the next day they were going up Mount Vesuvius. Supposed the end of the week would see them back at Rome. Whether he should return there or not was very doubtful, 'for to tell you the truth, I am reduced to the necessity of applying to you for assistance - my finances being in a most diminished state. You know that when I came abroad, I was obliged to take out my letter of credit for the full extent of this year's income - That is, alas!, nearly evaporated - luckily for me, Mrs Sinclair's death may enable me to keep my head above water - nevertheless, I must still implore y[ou]r help - I believe that, on L[ad]y Day, the 21st [sic] of March, I am entitled to £160, being the first $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly payment of the interest of the £8[,]000 - I want very much to raise £250, wh[ic]h w[oul]d enable me to return leisurely homewards, seeing Provence & Savoy, wh[ic]h I am anxious to do - w[oul]d you be kind enough to lend me the additional £100, wh[ic]h I w[oul]d repay the very earliest moment I c[oul]d...' Had already overdrawn Drummond's for most of what would be paid to them on his account in June.

13. Rome.
12 Apr.
1833

The same to the same, at Keele.

In answer to his last letter, begs first to thank him for the £250. With regard to the state of his finances, they were exactly as he had explained at Guy's Cliff, and in his last letter. Before he had left England he had obtained permission from Messrs Drummond to draw for that year's income before it had been paid into their hands, and the sum which would be paid into their hands on his account in June would clear off his debts. A change had taken place in his plan of returning. William Bagot had accepted Lord Ponsonby's offer of a lift to Constantinople,

leaving Charles to return alone. As the writer was in search of a companion they had agreed to unite. About the 20th they would start together, taking the following route, Loretto, Ancona, Ravenna, Venice, Verona, through Trent to Innsbruck, round the Tyrol to Lake Como, Milan, Turin, Chemberry, Geneva, Neufchatel, Basle, Dijon and Paris. Trusted his plans would accord with his wishes. Had not thought of returning to Naples and should certainly be in England early in July. 'Now on the subject that embraces the interests of my whole life, I think it right to speak unreservedly to you, as my best friend & adviser - I certainly have felt scruples about going into the Church, f[ro]m the consciousness of infirm health & bodily weakness - wh[ic]h so depress my spirits, that I often think I am unfit to undertake a life of active duty, & heavy responsibility. The aspect of the times is particularly threatening to that profession, & may require the exertion of energies wh[ic]h I don't possess - I have been greatly perplexed - have thought deeply on the subject, & consulted my friends - & have at last resolved to endeavour to fulfil my original intentions - I will do my best & buckle to my work as soon as I return to England, in the hope that I may meet with encouragement, that my health may still amend, & that I may obtain some small charge wh[ic]h I may be capable of undertaking - I do not think it possible that I c[oul]d prepare myself for passing a creditable examination by the B[isho]p of Lichfield's Chaplain in the space of 3 months - I will set to work immediately, but I am a slow reader, & sh[oul]d wish to be able to attend Dr Burton's Divinity lectures at Oxford, & if possible to read with someone before I am ordained - I promise you there shall be no idle delay. - Now with respect to Wolstanton - knowing that you are anxious to get rid of R.Bagot & that the most convenient means of effecting that object is by my taking possession of the living, I will with pleasure do so - but with the understanding between ourselves that after a little while, I shall either give it up into y[ou]r hands or, with y[ou]r concurrence, change it for something more suited to my capacities - My object will be, as soon as I can do so, to look about in the hopes of purchasing, or somehow procuring a little quiet living, with a small population, in some retired, rural situation, where I c[oul]d settle down for life - & in that case only c[oul]d I look forward to entering the Church with an easy conscience, & some prospect of passing a happy & contented life.' Had received some time ago a letter from R.Bagot, requiring him to declare his intentions with regard to Wolstanton, which he had [answered] by saying that his intentions remained unchanged. Prays an answer, directed to Geneva. Their season was over, nothing could be more gorgeous and imposing than the ceremonies, especially the benediction, and the illumination of St Peter's was by far the finest sight he had ever seen. News of excursions and other travellers. A nephew of Napoleon, Prince Bacchiochi, had been thrown from his horse and killed. Harriet had written him a most satisfactory account of his works at Keele.

14. Cheverells.
7 Nov.
[1833]
- The same to the same.
- As he would be anxious to hear more about his mother, he was glad that he could give him a comfortable account of her. Mr Burlin had not been for the last 3 days, but was quite satisfied with her pulse and thought the mischief effectually subdued for the present. 'My Lord' was prodigiously well. Harriet would have told him all about their gaities at Ashridge. Had declined being of the great shooting party, it 'brought home 295 head of game - They say there is no shooting in England on a more magnif[icen]t scale...' On their return to Cheverells they had found Uncle Charles, who was to proceed to Gorhambury on Sunday afternoon. Considers the possibility of a visit to Keele. News of friends and relatives. Charlotte was to go to Hatfield, to meet the Lothians. Winter had set in with severity.
15. Hagley.
27 Jan.
[1834 or later]
- The same to the same, at All Souls, Oxford.
- Thanks him for his letter. Since he had left Blithfield on Monday he had not been able to obtain as frequent bulletins of Agnes's state of health as he could wish. Yesterday a servant had been sent to King's Bromley to enquire, and the answer had been, verbally, that she was better. There was no one at Hagley but Betty Curzon, and till little Bob returned from Cheshire it had not been very lively. To-morrow Lady Katherine Barham was to come from Sandon. Lady De la Zouche had had a bad account of her mother that morning. She was, he believed, dying at Parham. Had sat with Bess and Haddy on Tuesday and thought them tolerably well. Could fancy him as much bored as he was with the hunting and claret at Coombe. However, they were good-natured and there was so much to look at about the house and place that one might enjoy two or three days there very well. Intended going there from Elford. 'I quite agree with you as to the loathsome vulgarity of Cottingham's plans.' Thought he was right to get into a lodging in London, and recommends one at the top of Mount Street. Nearly all the servants were ill with influenza. The weather was detestable, was not surprised at its breeding pestilence.
16. Oxford.
9 Apr.
[1834]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
- Supposed this letter would find him reestablished among his works and plantations, and if he had the same weather at Keele that they had there, he must find it bitter, chilly work. Had come there on Monday from Tytherley, where he had paid a very snug visit of a month's duration. Was very well lodged in Merton College, in the quality of guest to his friend Hamilton, '& my ears are at this moment being stunned by the triple-bob-majors wh[ic]h are ringing like mad f[ro]m all the Church steeples, in honor [sic] of my having two hours ago been invested with all the dignities & privileges of a Master of Arts, as a Grand Compounder - which honours were most dearly bought at the cost of above £50 - !!! & I suppose these same bell ringers will be plaguing me

for more pounds before the day is over.' To-morrow he was to proceed by coach to Biscoe's, at Whitbourne, near Worcester, there to remain, he hoped, till the time of his ordination. Fanny and Arundell were to come to the Warden that day week, and had other visits to pay in Oxford before proceeding to Cheverells. Requests him to ask Mr Styche to copy from the register a certificate of his baptism, to send with other testimonials to the Bishop of Lichfield's secretary. Did he think he should come to Oxford for the Commemoration? The Bishop was to preach the sermon, the Bathursts and the Archbishop of Canterbury were to be at Lewis's.

17. Hawarden Castle.
8 Nov.
1835

The same to the same, at Keele, forwarded from the Hon. G. Fortescue's, Boconnoc, Cornwall.

Had long been purposing to write to him. Must retrace his history from some time back. After he had seen him last he had gone to Cuddesdon, and thence to town, where he had been disappointed in his hopes of hearing something of his MSS. His principal object in going to London had been to see Mr Barder and to entrust to him the business of arranging the loan for rebuilding Wolstanton vicarage. From London he had gone to Cheverells, and then to Tabley, making an inn of Guy's Cliff on the way. Had found a large party at Tabley, among others Curzon, G. Harris, Hugh Cholmondeley, the Glynnes, Brookes, etc. The next day had been the Christening, and afterwards a splendid dinner 'of 42 covers'. The next day there had been private theatricals. At Hawarden there also had been, and still was, a good deal of company, Lord and Lady de Tabley, Miss Brooke, Mrs Arthur Talbot, Harris, Curzon, Cholmondeley, Rt. Phillimore, and a Danish Count Plessen. On Monday, Curzon, the writer and Harris were to return to Tabley, and on Friday they would go together to Vale Royal, and from thence to Capesthorpe. News of his sisters, Harriet at Guy's Cliff, Charlotte and Lizzy at Ashridge, but now returned to Cheverells. What were his plans? Wanted to know when he thought of returning to Keele, for he should like to pay him a visit before leaving those midland parts. Supposed he ought to go and see how his new curate was getting on at Wolstanton. Had enclosed a letter which he had received the night before from Archdeacon Clerke. Greatly wished he [Ralph Sneyd] were at his elbow, to talk the matter over, but the letter would tell its own story. He [Ralph Sneyd] knew what his feelings and wishes were and how gladly he would throw up what he had and take what had now been offered. Feared it could not be at present. It was too soon to give up Wolstanton, and the Bishop of Lichfield would hardly consent to his taking a curacy in another diocese 'when I ought, in fact, to be residing at my Living'. Moreover it would not be fair to take a curacy which he must give up in a few months. Invites his brother's views.

18. Tabley.
20 Nov.
[1835]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had just received his letter and rejoiced to see his handwriting again. Had returned to Tabley from

Hawarden last Tuesday week, and was to have gone to Vale Royal, but Lord Delamere having been nearly killed by a fall from his horse, they had been put off, so they had been pressed to stay on there. However, Curzon and the writer had gone to Capesthorpe for two nights, and had returned yesterday. There they had found Harriet Williams, the Bromleys, Carletons and G.Gooch. Mr Davenport had had a touch of gout but was better. Had offered to go that day to Calveley, for a night, 'but it appears that Ned took offence at the shortness of my proposed visit, for he wrote to decline having me - how like him!' The writer and Curzon, therefore, were to go the following day to Eaton, after which the writer was to go to Capesthorpe and Curzon to Combermere and Vale Royal. His MSS. were safely arrived at the Custom House and Mr E.J.Stanley had, at his request, very kindly sent from the Treasury to the Board of Customs, to desire that every care and attention might be paid on examining the cases. Curzon had promised him to help unpack and examine them. Would come to Keele for a day or two next Monday week and go on to Hagley, paying him another visit in January. Had declined the curacy of Begbroke. Longed to hear what he thought of Cornwall.

19. Blithfield.
22 Jan.
[1837]

The same to the same, [at All Souls, Oxford].

Knew not exactly how to direct this, but should take his chance of its finding him at All Souls. His letter had been most welcome, for he had been wanting to hear from him. He had asked about the writer's health - he was now well, but the first fortnight or three weeks of his stay in those parts he had spent very wretchedly, 'as I had the Influenza severely - & then suffered tortures f[ro]m my old enemies, abscesses - two of wh[ic]h, successively, did their worst.' Grieved to tell him that they were all under considerable anxiety about Agnes Lane. She had had the influenza very severely and it had left her in a state of low fever, which had induced Newton to send the day before for Hodgson, of Birmingham, who had come on there the night before to see Chig, who was very ill with influenza, indeed dying. His report was not favourable, he was very apprehensive of typhus. Poor 'My Lord' was in a terrible nervous state. What a season it had been! He had been informed of Harriet B.'s marriage. Liked Lord Charles extremely. He had gone off the day before to Longleat, to attend Lord Weymouth's funeral and to see Lord Bath. Edward Drummon was at the Rectory. To-morrow the writer was to go to Hagley, where he would stay a week or ten days.

20. Blithfield.
Monday.
[? Jan.
1837]

The same to the same.

He would be glad to hear that the accounts from King's Bromley were decidedly satisfactory. Agnes was in no respects worse, and in some, better. Newton's last note had been written evidently in better spirits, 'My Lord' was much happier, and Chig was much better. The writer moved to Hagley that day. Had visited Archdeacon Hodson two days ago. Had wanted to talk to him about the proposed new church at Chesterton,

respecting which the writer had had letters, '& also, as a last resource, to request his assistance in the matter of an exchange, as a drowning man catches at a straw - He was very civil.' Mr Kinnersly had written him word that he had nominated a Mr Wade to his new church at Kidgrove, '& I have ascertained that he is a very proper person - wh[ic]h is all right. He civilly invites me to visit him, & preach the open[in]g sermon, early in April - This I have, as civilly, begged to be excused, on the score of distance, uncertain health, &c - for, as you may suppose, I had rather be whipped than do it - '. News of friends. Was grieved to hear of the loss of the great Ash tree at Keele.

21. Denton.
16 Nov.
1839

The same to the same, poste restante Rome.

Was ashamed to think how long it was since he had last written. It had been very tantalizing to hear of the delicious hot summer he had enjoyed. They had had none at all. Never remembered so bad a season. His sisters had been with him for three weeks in September, and had had visits from others of his friends. The Bishop and co. had been at Cuddesdon for two or three months, 'but now alas! they are flown off to Blith[fiel]d for the winter.' Lady Harriet had been a great invalid when she had first come in the summer, 'but this bracing air quite restored her.' They had lately been under some anxiety about Harriet Thynne, who had caught a cold in the summer and the physicians now thought that her lungs were slightly affected. Heard there was some question of her being sent to Torquay. Lewis had taken his final departure for Castle Rising, and the Howards were to be there to receive him, '& start him in his new abode...His loss to me is very great, for he was a companion much to my taste...' His successor, a Mr Goldney, had arrived the day before. In the course of the summer the writer had paid two short visits at Middleton. Lady Jersey had been all good nature. The first time he had gone with the Bishop, and they had been a family party, with the addition of Mr and Madame Graham, '(the latter made many enquiries after you)'. The next time Lewis Bagot and he had gone to meet the Duke of Cambridge, Princess Augusta, Prince Esterhazy, '& a huge housefull of grandees - & even that was pleasant, for the Cambridges were very light in hand & goodnatured & it was marvellous how we all romped & played at petits jeux in the even[in]g.' During their stay there had been an expedition to Oxford, 'to show them the lions, & the D[uke] of Wellington was of the party - The Warden of All Souls gave them a dejeuner in All Souls Hall, & escorted them about - It all went off very well, the bells were rung, & the mob cheered, & they were pleased with what they saw - I had the high honour of being introduced to the Duke, & felt excessively proud when he shook my hand - He was cheered on his own account, quite as much as the Royalty.' Had made acquaintance with a very agreeable foreigner, a Count Mortara, a Lucchese, who had come to Oxford some time ago with Henry Wellesley, (Lady Hatherton's brother),

who was his particular friend, to examine the Italian MSS. in the Bodleian. Had heard that he had been anxious to see his collection and had asked him and Mr Wellesley over. They had come two or three times, and the Count had been astonished at his collection, 'wh[ic]h he considers extremely precious'. News of other friends, and visits to Parham and Woodmancote, (Henry Wellesley's living). 'The Staffordshire Gazette has amused itself for several weeks past, with inserting elaborate descriptions of Keele, & all y[ou]r improvements there - In the last No. (Novr. 9th) after some criticisms on y[ou]r planting it spake thus "We the more readily hazard these few strictures, in as much as the exquisite taste of the accomplished owner of Keele Hall, leads us almost to expect perfection in whatever he undertakes" - There's for you!' The ministers had been well hissed at the Lord Mayor's dinner on the 9th - 'the insurrection in Wales will not have added to their popularity - I suppose the Q. can't make up her mind to marry P. Albert, for I see he is gone back to Germany - I hear she snubbed him - & that he is weak, & a violent Politician - wh[ic]h is not exactly what we want.'

22. Denton.
6 Dec.
[? 1842]

The same to the same.

Amongst Ashmole's MSS. in the Ashmolean Museum, there was a volume of collections relating to some of the Staffordshire churches, in looking over which he had found the account of sundry monuments in Keele church, as existing in his day, '(about 1660); which, as they no longer exist, must have been thrown away, when the old church was pulled down, & the present hideous one built! Provoking enough - for the altar tomb (the first described) was probably a very handsome one - I have enclosed an exact copy of his notice (with the exception of the inscriptions on the two slabs, which still exist, to the memory of Edward Brett, & Lawrence Cranage) - '. Gives details of certain pedigrees. The MS. was probably the only record remaining to prove that such monuments ever existed' - & it is tantalizing to hear of the Chancel & the North Aisle! which leads one to suppose that it was a venerable & spacious old Church, in these days - So much for antiquarian matters!' Had not heard of him for a long while. Nothing very eventful had befallen the writer, 'excepting that I have taken possession of my oak room, in wh[ic]h I am now sitting - & very particularly snug, & odd, & picturesque it is, I flatter myself.' Lady Harriet continued to improve, by slow degrees, and they hoped to be able to take her to Blithfield either immediately before or after Xmas. The Bishop was gone that day to London. He would have heard of Sir Charles's serious illness, however, he was recovering when the last accounts had left Canada... [Letter incomplete].

23. London.
25 July,
[1843]

The same to the same.

Had done with Little Stanhope Street. Therefore it had been by the luckiest of accidents that he had

got his letter the day before, which had been brought to Tilney Street at the very moment that he happened to call there, after his arrival in London. Was housed at the Grosvenor Hotel. 'Y[ou]r disaster about the picture is most provoking. I hope however (as you speak of the velvet gown being the part damaged) that the more important parts have escaped, & that the mischief is not beyond the reach of [?] Segucio's skill - I sh[oul]d like very well to be help[ing] you to hang them up'. He surprised him by saying he had not heard from Vincent since he had left Denton, for he had told the writer that he should certainly write the next day. Wanted to hear of his plans. Hoped he meant to pay him a visit at Denton. He was engaged to Nuneham on the 3rd, and was to meet Rogers, Mr Granville and Lady Granville. Had lunched there on Wednesday last and found a largish party, the Granville Vernons, and William Vernons, the Archbishop in very good force. A largish party had come over from thence to Denton on Saturday, Miss Harcourt, Sir J., Lady and Miss Johnston, and Granville Vernon and his daughter, '(How pretty & nice she is, by the way!)'. They were to have lunched with him, '& I had an "elegant collation" ready - but the rainy morn[ing] had frighten'd them, & they did not come till after 3...' The great event which brought him up to town had come off that morning. They had all assembled in the vestry of St George's. Minnie [? Downe] had looked beautiful, '& went thro' her part with more nerve than I expected.' The Bishop had married them. Then had come the sumptuous dejeuner at the Greville Howards, and in course of time the bride and bridegroom had stepped into their new chaise and four and were, by that time, safe, he presumed, at Bookham. Could not believe she was Mrs Dawnay. Had had a most interesting letter from Curzon. 'He seems heartily tired of Erzeroon, but has no idea when the conferences will conclude - He adds at the end, however, a fearful piece of news, wh[ic]h puts me in an agony - viz:, that the Plague had broken out in certain villages, a day's journey distant; & that the destroying angel seemed to be march[ing] towards Erzeroon. Their hope is that the mountains may check, or divert, its progress - but he is evidently uneasy on the subject, & describes the inhabitants of the city as being aghast at the news. He had written to S[ir] Stratford Canning to beg that the conferences might be removed to Trebizond, or Tabruz - but there w[oul]d be many difficulties in the way...' At his desire, the writer had carefully withheld that news from his family. The writer's sisters were well. They were living at the chemist's, No.9 North Audley Street, and he was to meet them the next day at Harriet Williams's. Had consulted Dr Ferguson on his own account, for he had been suffering much from stomach and nerves lately. [Dr Ferguson] had told him he was full of gout.

24.

Bishopthorpe
P[alace].
6 Nov.
[? 1843]

The same to the same.

He might perhaps like to have a line from him, with the history of his North country peregrinations. Had had a most dismal, wet day for his journey from

Tabley to Harewood the previous Monday, which he regretted as the country seemed very beautiful between Manchester and Leeds. Had managed very well about the various trains, and had been at Moor Hill between 3 and 4 - '(It is a good house in the village of Harewood, to wh[ic]h they have given this name)'. Had found only the Arthur Lascelles's, but Lady Harewood had come the next day. Had had two fine days for his visit and had devoted them to lionizing the great place. They had been doing a great deal to the house, which would make it very convenient, and the new terrace would be very handsome - 'but I do not admire the style of house.' The grounds were very magnificent. The woods had suffered terribly from the snow storm some three weeks previously. Had come there [to Bishopthorpe] on Thursday, having stopped at Leeds to see Dr Hook's church, and at York, to get a first view of the minster, '& there I fell in with Miss G. Harcourt, L[or]d Francis Egerton, & L[or]d & L[ad]y Radstock - These, with the Fred[eric]k Harcourts, & a Mr [?] Creyke (a neighbouring Squire) made up the party wh[ic]h I found staying at Bishopthorpe.' The archbishop was perfectly well, and kind and cordial as usual. They had been every day to York, where there was much that was worth. On Friday they had gone to the evening service, in the minster, as they had come out, who should he have fallen in with but the Greville Howards, on their way from Harrogate to Elford. That day the Charles Percies, William Harcourt and Egerton Harcourt were expected. Would stay with Tom Egerton till the beginning of the next week. If he were disposed to write, his direction would be Dinnington Rectory, York. After that he did not quite know where he went, but probably back to Staffordshire, and, in the first place, to Brereton. Was to meet the Percies at Blithfield. Charles was charmed at the notion of going with the writer to visit him [Ralph Sneyd] at Keele. Adds a postscript, did he know that Lord Enniskillen was going to marry a Miss Casamajor?

25. King's Bromley.
8 Dec.
[? 1843]

The same to the same.

He would rejoice to hear that not only were the good accounts of Curzon confirmed, but Lady De la Z. had received a few lines from himself, very shakily written. She had kindly sent over to Blithfield to tell him of that, and he had called at Hagley on his way to Denton. Bob Curzon and Lady De la Z. had arrived at Hagley on Saturday last, very happy at the receipt of that letter. 'My own plans have been deranged, in consequence of hearing that there is Typhus fever at Denton, in some cottages not far f[ro]m my gate - & I am advised to delay my return - This is inconvenient - but as I suppose it w[oul]d be foolish to go into an infected neighbourhood unnecessarily & am offer'd unlimited hospitality at both Blithf[ie]ld, Hagley &c[.] [&c[.] - I have decided on remain[ing] in these parts until after Xmas, ...' and should hope to be at Denton to receive him when he was disposed to come to him. Had come there on Wednesday, and was to go to Elford and Blithfield. Mrs Augustus Legge and 2 daughters were there, also Alfred, Agnes was much

the same. The house was very comfortable, the library interesting, and the children nice, well-bred lads. Had not been well and had sent for Birch, who had put him on a course of blue-pill, and so forth. He had strongly urged him to go to Bath, with 'My Lord', and should probably do so. 'How I sh[oul]d have liked to have seen Chatsworth during the Q.'s visit! & how royally magnificent it must all have been!'

26. Elford.
10 Sept.
[1st half
of 19th cent.]

The same to the same, at Keele, forwarded to Blithfield.

Had never expected to find so large a sheet of paper in Johnny's blotting-book, however, would see if he could cover it, 'for I think it is high time we should report progress to each other.' Had driven over there in his gig on Monday and intended to return home on Friday. Johnny was tolerably well - at least in looks, but he couldn't eat his dinner without being sick and had no appetite whatsoever, '& these are ugly symptoms'. He and the writer had set out the day before in his little carriage, meaning to drive to King's Bromley, but had been turned back by the rain. Heard much of his speech at Ham and the satisfaction it had given. General Dyott had dined there the day he had come, and had given him an account of the ceremony. Thought it was since he had last written that his sisters had paid him a visit, they had been very snug together. Was anxious to hear of Charlotte's safe return, and whether she would come to him on her way into Staffordshire. Lady Louisa Bromley had set out alone for London, from whence she was going with her aunt, Lady Louisa Stuart, to Versailles for six weeks, on a visit to her sister. Walter meant to make a tour somewhere and, he believed, F.Gooch was to be his companion. Mr Newdigate was still very ill at Leamington. It had been a great pleasure to the writer to see Charles Percy again, and especially to hear that they were coming home for the winter. Hoped next month to get a sight of him at Keele.

27. Denton Rectory.
Tuesday,
5 Aug.
[? 1856]

The same to the same.

Hastened to tell him of his great happiness - 'Dear Henny has consented to be my wife, & we both desire your blessing - '. Fanny, as he might guess, was in high glee at this happy result of their visit there. Intended to go to London for a night, to see his sisters, and to return to Denton on Friday. Sincerely hoped that he [Ralph Sneyd] would go to Nuneham on the 11th, to meet the d'Aumales, and that either there or at Denton he should be able to see him, to talk about this important event. Richard intended to go from hence, with his girls, to Lowestoft, '(a quiet sea place on this East Coast)', for a short time. Believed Richard [? Malone] would take up his abode, temporarily, at Leamington.

28. Denton.
Wednesday.
[? 1856]

The same to the same.

Forwarded the enclosed to him at Henny's request, 'as she did not know your address - It came this morning,

in her first (& such a dear!) letter to me.' Had had a line from Harriet, who would come there on Friday. Had bad news about his pony. The Nuneham coachman had told him that it was completely broken-winded and would be scarcely able to do any more work. Should be obliged to get another, which was not an easy thing to find. Thought the Cheneys had been favourably impressed with Denton. Wondered whether the Duc d'Aumale would be coming over there the next day.

29. Denton.
Friday,
[? 26 June,
1857]

The same to the same.

Had at last received from Bluemantle the shield of quarterings according to his making out. There were three Welsh ones which were new to him, and he had written to him for explanation on two or three points. When he had his answers he would send him [Ralph Sneyd] the shield, with all particulars. 'It is carelessly drawn out (though very neatly) - for there are some blunders; wh[ic]h, however, I can easily set right...' Discusses the details. They were greatly enjoying that most delicious weather - 'though it is too hot to do any thing very active...' The garden was in very great beauty and the roses most abundant, though there was a good deal of blight, and the fierce heat withered them and hurried them on so rapidly. To-morrow morning they started again for Strawberry Hill, but returned on Monday. Wondered whether they should see him at the breakfast? He had received a card of invitation from the committee, to be present at the Manchester Exhibition, on the occasion of the queen's visit next Tuesday, but had written his excuses. 'It must have been hot work in Hyde Park, this morn[in]g!'

30. Denton.
1 July,
1857

The same to the same.

Sent him the shield of quarterings, which he had received from the Herald's College, also Mr Murray Lane's last letter. Had sent him a cheque, and if he [Ralph Sneyd] would pay the £2.12.0 into the writer's account at Drummonds', he should be much obliged. Discusses the quarterings. They had had a hot journey to Strawberry Hill on Saturday morning. The fete had been a very pretty and successful one. Had been disappointed at not seeing him. On Sunday, late in the afternoon, all the party staying in the house had gone to lionize the Duc d'Aumale's house and garden. On Monday their host and hostess had set off early for Manchester, where they had a house for a week. They [the writer and his wife] had had a prosperous journey home, and had not been sorry to find themselves amongst their own roses - 'I never knew them in such profusion, - & the garden, altogether, is in its greatest beauty.' The weather had, however, completely changed and they had had almost constant heavy thunder showers, which had knocked the flowers about cruelly. They expected Fanny and Arundell there some time in the course of that month. When did he mean to come? Adds a

postscript: 'The Indian news is grave indeed! I wonder whether Gen[era]l Anson is equal to the emergency.'

31. Denton.
Friday,
'6 o'cl:',
[? 26 Feb.
1858]

The same to the same.

Was just returned, with Frederick Gooch, from Oxford. The last sad duties to poor Lewis's remains had been paid with every mark of respect and affection to his memory. After the ceremony the will had been opened, and the writer would try to give, as far as he could remember, the contents of it. He had left £500 for a painted window in All Souls' chapel, £500 to the schools and poor of his living of Lockinge, £1,000 to the schools, &c. of Wolstanton, £500 to the writer, '£200 to you "with the hope that you will lay it out in a marble chimney piece for one of the rooms in the new house at Keele, in wh[ic]h his initials may be introduced..."', £100 each to Harriet, Charlotte and Lizzy, £500 to Frederick Gooch, £500 to Hervey Bagot, £500 to Charley Bagot, £100 to one of Frederick Bertie's sons, who was his godson, £3,000 to his servant Glanville, who had lived with him 28 years, besides his wine, beer, linen and a quantity of furniture, £1,000 to Mrs Glanville, who had been his housekeeper, and £500 each to their two children, small legacies to all his other servants, £100 to his curate at Lockinge, £100 each to the Radcliffe Infirmary and the Lunatic Asylum, and £50 each to two women who had nursed his sister in her last illness. That was all he could recollect. The whole residue was to go to Lord Poltimore, who would get a considerable sum of money besides the house that poor Lewis had just bought. There had been a legacy of £300 to Lady Poltimore. Had no time for more. Hoped he was getting better. Was himself wretchedly poorly. The relations present had been Lord P., Richard Sneyd, Frederick Gooch, Hervey and Frederick Bagot, and himself. Believed Lewis's property amounted to nearly £45,000.

32. Buxton.
Saturday.
[? Aug.
1859]

The same to the same.

Must try to catch him before he started for the north. They had been induced to prolong their stay at Melbourne until Wednesday, Harriet having come there on Monday from Netherseale - '(Harry Bagot's)', in consequence of an invitation from the H[arr]y Gooches. They had had George Newdigate for their railway companion from Derby to Rowsley. As Buxton was brim full, they had stopped the night at Bakewell. Had driven to Haddon, which they had duly lionized, 'but the place was crowded with vulgar sight-seers, with whom we were driven on in troops - wh[ic]h bored us; & spoilt our pleasure in seeing what one w[oul]d have greatly admired & enjoy'd, if seen in peace & quiet.' On Thursday they had come on to Buxton, and had tried to secure a gite, but the difficulty had been very serious. Had 'ultimately engaged the only lodging, in the whole town, wh[ic]h w[oul]d hold us - & was to be vacated yest[erda]y -

& f[ro]m thence I am now writing - It is not what I sh[oul]d have chosen - being almost out of the town - & inconveniently distant f[ro]m the baths - It glories in the name of 'Hartington House' & is the very last house on the Macclesfield road; look[in]g out on bare, bleak hills - The architecture is of the Methodist Chapel order - the walls, about 2 inches thick - no shutters, or curtains - & very little furniture, but it is clean - the people, civil - & the air, very pure & bracing...' Full as the place was, they had found but very few acquaintances. They had not been there many minutes before they had fallen in with Lady Craven and Lady Evelyn, but grieved to say that Craven had just had another slight stroke. The only other acquaintances he had seen were Miss Emily Ford and Swinton. Had had an interview with Dr Robertson, the chief physician there, about baths. They had had a message from Lady Mildred and Miss Hope, inviting them to Beresford Hall. Should like to do that and go to Keele, if that suited him. Thought of going to Rhyl, in Flintshire. Had had a letter from Henry Cheney, about his excursion to Keele. The Harry Gooches had taken them over to Elvaston - 'I suppose you have seen those gardens? No one that was not raving mad c[oul]d have invented anything so queer - The effect of those endless vistas of dark evergreens, & clipt jacks in the green, struck me as dismal in the extreme! The gardens are quite worth seeing; but by no means to be envied.' Supposed he had heard that William Harcourt was going to marry Lady Theresa Lewis's daughter, Miss Lister, in...[Letter incomplete].

33. Denton.
26 Dec.
[1861]

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his note and receipted bill. Sent him on a letter he had received from Norreys, in answer to a few lines which he had written to Lady Waldegrave, about 'G.H.'s' death. It would tell him what he wished to know. Sir Henry Dashwood of Kirtlington was talked of as his probable successor in the representation of the county. His homeward journey had been accomplished without any incidents worth recording - had found only a family party at King's Bromley, and ditto at Guy's Cliff, with the addition of Miss Julia Drummond, Frederick Gooch had dined and slept there on Monday. 'I was in Leamington on that day - (the day of P. Albert's funeral) - & nothing c[oul]d exceed the general aspect of mourning & grief which the whole town wore - every shop close shut up - blinds down - bells tolling - & not a carriage stirring. The desire to mark the respect in wh[ic]h the Prince's character was held, seems to have been universal. News of the family, and of the weather. Frederick Gooch had just been over to luncheon from All Souls, and had been making acquaintance with baby. The Bishop was at Lavington, but was to return to Cuddesdon on 7 January. Their vicar, Mr Swinny, who was in a very precarious state from heart disease, had been ordered to Malta.

34. Denton.
9 Nov.
[1861 or
later]
- The same to the same.
- Would aim a few lines at him at Blithfield. They (including Louchy and her child) had returned home on Tuesday, having found it impossible to wind up matters so as to leave Leamington sooner. Louchy had left her maid (Lander) behind, to put the house in proper order for letting, and to have an inventory of the furniture made, and she had rejoined them the day before. Their present comfort and the writer's peace of mind were a good deal disturbed by his finding on his arrival that his hot water apparatus (just at the season when they required and relied on it) was of no avail. The boiler, a costly affair, which had scarcely been in 5 years, proved to be worn out. Should be obliged to go to London the next week on business connected with poor Richard's will, the probate of which he expected to receive in a day or two. C[harlotte] and Lizzy would receive him in Eaton Square. Had been writing to Harriet, to propose to her to visit them, to see how baby was grown.
35. Teddesley.
11 Apr.
[Between 1862
and 1863]
- The same to the same.
- They had accomplished their journey there without misadventure and had found Lord H[atherton]'s omnibus waiting for them at Penkrige, and had had a very cordial reception on their arrival. Had found Frank Newdigate and his wife there, who had been pressed to prolong their visit on purpose to meet them. Had never seen Mrs Frank Newdigate before and had been very favourably impressed. Had also found a pretty Mrs Fitzherbert, from Swinnerton, paying a morning visit. Edward Littleton was there, and Lady Margaret was to arrive that evening, Lord Hatherton was pleasant and goodnatured, as usual, but the writer did not think him very well. He was making a new drive, through some wild ground in the park. News of friends. They were to leave on Monday morning, post to Wolverhampton, have 2 or 3 hours at Leamington and hoped to be home before 6. Had not yet heard whether they could have the rooms in Ebury Street at the time they wished. News of the weather, 'odious - a bitter, black, venomous N.E. wind - & so cold, that I expect snow - '.
36. Denton.
17 Apr.
[Between 1862
and 1863]
- The same to the same.
- Thanks him for his letter. Had liked their visit at Teddesley very much. The Hathertons intended to go to London soon after Easter, to Thomas's Hotel. They had left Teddesley at about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 on the Monday morning, posted to Wolverhampton, whence they had come to Leamington, where they had stayed at the Clarendon Hotel, where they had found Harry Gooch and his wife. Louchy had come there to see them, looking much better. Had seen Jones, Henny had done some shopping, and at half-past 3 they had proceeded home. Describes the building operations in progress at Denton. The builder would be glad to get rid of them on Wednesday, when they were to go to London, having secured their house (90, Ebury Street) for a month.

News of the weather and the writer's and his family's health.

37. London.
24 Apr.
[Between 1862
and 1863]

The same to the same.

They had transported themselves, bag, baggage and baby, from Denton to Babylon, the day before, and were comfortably established at No.90, Ebury Street, Eaton Square. They had dined with his sisters the day before, i.e. with Harriet and Lizzy, for C[harlotte] was gone for 2 or 3 days to the Crystal Palace Hotel. News of the baby's teeth. Might now, very confidently announce that, D.V., she would have a little brother or sister before the close of that year, but not sooner than before the end of November. Hoped it might be a brother. Had seen Lady Harriet, who was perfectly well, a few of his acquaintances at the club, and had got a glimpse of Craven at the Oxford station.

38. Denton.
Thursday.
[? Autumn,
1863]

The same to the same.

Supposed he might safely direct the letter to Tulliallan, to catch him on his return. Thanks him for his letter. Had hardly left himself time to write, having been hindered by a long visit from Lady Georgina Bertie and Miss Kerr, the Maid of Honour. News of the family, and the fever at Cuddesdon, which seemed to be passing off. Believed he should go to Guy's Cliff on Monday, '& hope to take the opportunity of winding up our tiresome business with Mr Sherwood, the lawyer...', and might go on to Coombe, if the Cravens could have him. Charlotte and Lizzy were to come to them the following week. Had not yet got a successor to their cook, 'wh[ic]h is inconvenient - as Mrs Redfern's future husband is very impatient. We are mak[ing] enquiries about one or two - & hope something satisfactory may soon turn up - We have alas to look out for a housemaid! What a plague servants are!' Poor Mr Morrell, the rich brewer, had died. He left an only child, a girl of 9, who would be an immense heiress, rumour had it she would have £30,000 a year. Louchy, who had been staying at Rhyll, had been in the greatest anxiety about her child, who had been dangerously ill. Miss Kerr had said that she had seen the queen since her return from Germany, and had thought her particularly well and in better spirits. Had taken several rides on his new mare.

39. Denton.
'Monday 11th',
[? Dec.
1865]

The same to the same.

They had to thank him for a very acceptable supply of game. Had been confined to the house with a cold. They had had a visit from [Dr] Miller, and had made him see Henny. He had assured him there was nothing at all wrong with her heart. He had also looked the writer over. News of the weather. 'Poor Mortimer (my groom) has lost two children, within the last fortnight! one f[ro]m Croup, after 24 hours illness...' Their chicks were all well, thank God, 'though they have all had little colds - yest[erda]y was little

R.'s & Lina's birthday, of 2 - & tomorrow is Izzy's, of 3!' Henny had been driving to Oxford, to buy toys for presents. Loucky and her little girl were to leave Brighton the next day, and she was going to pay visits to Lady Hatherton and to Miss Disbrowe, in London, and they had asked her to come there [to Denton] for Christmas, on her way back to Leamington. The cattle plague was spreading all round about them. Had declined taking shares in the Protection Company, which had been formed in the district. Had directed his lawyer to signify to Lord M.'s agent his acceptance of the key, in cautious language. Loucky had written word that the Mr Sherwood, the lawyer at Leamington, who had taken two years to do what had been necessary for them about poor Richard's will, and who had for years been 'man of business' to the Wises, had been found out to be a thorough rogue, and had swindled Mrs Wise of some thousands of pounds. He was to be exposed and punished. Dared say he would be very glad to get home again after his Chatsworth visit. Adds a post-script, that he had heard that Webb had sold his collection of ivories to the government, for Kensington M., for £9,000.

40. Denton.
28 Dec.
[18]65

The same to the same.

Was doing what he could to further Dr Miller's interests in the matter of the Charterhouse appointment. Had written to the Archbishop of York and Lord Devon, and intended to apply to Lord Romney. Could he [Ralph Sneyd] not also make an interest with Lord Howe? News of his health, the family, and friends. Found that Arthur Davenport was actually rebuilding Capesthorpe, with Salvin for his architect. It had been some time in progress and was to be finished next year. There was not much to tell him. The Bishop had been for 2 or 3 days to Cuddesdon, and had preached most admirably on Sunday and Xmas Day, but he was off again to Lavington and returned towards the middle of January. Frederick Gooch had come over from All Souls last week, and 2 days ago they had had a large party from Nuneham. Edward Harcourt and his uncle, William Gooch, had come over early, and later Mrs Malcolm with Mrs and 2 Miss Gooches. They were still in much anxiety about Mrs Rice, who had been a Miss Harcourt. In Willis's last catalogue there had been a book he ought to get, the Vitruvius Scotius, price £1.1.0. Remembered it at Hamilton and the old duke telling him how scarce it was.

41. Denton.
25 Jan.
1866

The same to the same.

Gives him (as Harriet desired him) two addresses, of agents for servants. Thanks him for his letter. Hoped he would let them know about his visit to Trentham, '& what y[ou]r impressions are of our future K. & Q.' They had had some unwonted dissipations lately, having dined twice at the Palace. The Bishop of Lichfield had been there, and various country neighbours, Oxford dons and members of the Wilberforce family. News of a visit by Sir Charles Anderson, of the weather - 'Oxf[or]d is like an island in a lake' - and the cattle plague, and

of the death of Lady Elizabeth Osborn and Henry Wellesley, who would be very much missed at Oxford. Considers the value of his collection. Had had a very sad letter from Curzon, giving a very unsatisfactory account of his wife's health. Was expecting a visit from Robinson, of the Kensington Museum, who had a good hope of obtaining the appointment of Director of the Gallery, in the place of Sir Charles Eastlake. About the middle of February he expected a visit from Charlie Bagot and his son Lewis, who was going to try his luck at the examination for Christ Church studentships. Hoped he might get one, but feared his chances were slender. It would probably be his only chance of obtaining a university education. The writer's godson, Walter, had just passed his naval examination, and had entered the 'Britannia' at Dartmouth. News of friends.

42. Denton.
Thursday.
[? Jan. or
Feb. 1866]

The same to the same.

Had received the enclosed from Arundell that morning, and sent it on to him as a supplement to the former letters. They were anxious to hear again about Charlotte, who had been very unwell. Henny's uncle, James Layard, was there. Was sorry to say the cattle plague was spreading to Cuddesdon. It had attacked two adjoining farms and was very fatal. Wondered how the invalids at his farm were getting on.

43. Denton.
6 Feb.
1866

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letters and for the hamper of game, which had arrived very opportunely, in as much as they were to have a party of 6 to dinner on Thursday, and were expecting a visitor, an uncle of Henny's, James Layard, who lived at Bath. Was sorry to hear that sickness had begun amongst his cows, 'Pleura (they tell me) is almost as fatal a disease as rinderpest - its treatment, however, is better understood'. The writer's cows continued well, but there was no improvement at Cuddesdon, though the malady was still confined to Chillingworth's farm. News of the weather. Was glad he had been to Trentham. The royal visit there seemed to have gone off very satisfactorily. Must now touch upon the Wolstanton project. Had consulted Arundell, 'who has much greater facilities for finding the right man', and enclosed 3 letters from him, mentioning 4 persons. States his own preference. The Dartmouths had asked them to visit them at Patshull, in Easter week. Was sorry to hear that Charlotte was laid up with influenza. Had had another heart-breaking letter from Curzon, poor fellow, he was miserable about his wife, who was, the writer feared, in a state to justify his anxiety.

44. Denton.
23 Feb.
[1866]

The same to the same.

Sent him the enclosed heart-breaking letter he had received that morning from Curzon. Feared that it indicated a hopeless state of things. Had arranged

to go to London the day before, to his sisters, one chief object being to see Curzon, but had been obliged to renounce his plan and stay at home, 'on account of [an] ailment - I am again a sufferer f[ro]m those plagues to wh[ic]h my Constitution seems unfortunately to make me liable, viz: abscesses - I have had a small one in my ear, wh[ic]h was very painful - but is now well - & another, worse, in the nether regions, wh[ic]h frighten'd me lest it sh[oul]d, f[ro]m its' position, turn to fistula - I have been forced to have it surgically treated - but it is, happily, now healing,...' They had a rather sick house, little Loulou had a bad, ulcerated throat, and Izzy also. Cogan was doctoring them, and attributed it to excessive relaxation, from the unusually damp state of the atmosphere. Mrs Cook, their housekeeper, was also confined to her bed from the effects of a very severe cold and quinsy. She was an invaluable servant, 'so I trust she will soon be set to rights - In the meantime, we are obliged to fall back upon the laundry maid; who contrives to cook for the house - & really wonderfully well, considering! All these cares tell upon Henny - who is not look[ing] very brilliant - though not ill.' Hoped he had shaken off the indisposition he had spoken of in his last letter. He would have heard of the shock that Fanny and Arundell had just had from the almost sudden death of their cook and housekeeper. They had heard from Harriet, who said that Charlotte, though better, did not shake off the remains of her influenza rapidly. She said that Henry Lane had been expected in London, but would have to start off for Dublin immediately, to join his regiment. What an alarming state of things there seemed to be in Ireland. Poor Lord Clifton's death would throw a great load of business and responsibility on William's shoulders. 'How are your Cattle getting on? The plague continues fearfull bad at Cuddesdon - Mr Gale has lost 22 - & has about 25 ill - & Chillingworth has lost 15 - It has not yet spread to Denton, happily.' Adds a postscript, that if he lived and all was well, he rather meditated moving, with all the family, to Buxton, about the middle or end of May, but the scheme was 'in nubilus' [sic] at present.

45. Denton.
1 Mar.
[? 1866]

The same to the same.

Could give a good report of their hospital - Izzy's throat was pretty well again, and Loulou's much better. The writer's local ailment was better, 'though still under surgical surveillance'. Their cook, who had been ill with repeated quinsies, was convalescent, all the rest of the family were well, '&, especially, little Ralph - who is as fat, sturdy, & jolly a little fellow as one need wish to see! He is very shrewd, & entertain[ing] - & begins to talk, after a fashion!' Had been greatly shocked at seeing in the Times the death of his old friend Sir George Palmer. Was glad to hear he had not lost any more of his cattle. 'The plague continues to be very fatal, at Cuddesdon - but it has not come nearer to us, as yet.' They had had a visit on Monday from Lady

Georgina and Agnes Bertie. They had given a pretty good report of old Fred. Lady G. was to visit her sister, Lady Emily McNamara, at a place near Southampton, and was to stop in Belgrave Square, on her way, to lunch with the Lane girls. His Times of yesterday had led him to hope he might that day hear that Lord Russell's government had come to an end, 'but, no such luck! It seems, however, that it is uncommonly shaky, & likely to collapse - if it does, what will happen next, I wonder!' They had had 13° of frost the night before, and it was snowing.

46. Denton.
Monday.
[? 26 Mar.
1866]

The same to the same.

Hoped the hurricane of Friday afternoon had done him no serious damage? 'It has injured me, considerably - hav[in]g blown down two large trees within my garden walls - viz: one of my tallest poplars - wh[ic]h now lies at full length across the garden; & measures 108 feet! & a good sized fir tree - wh[ic]h grew in the back walk, by the wall wh[ic]h skirts the Garsington R[oa]d - The poplar, in its fall, cut through & smash'd my best clump of evergreens - &, altogether, the disaster has made a sad mess, & will give us a good deal of trouble - '. Had gone to London to his sisters, last Tuesday, and returned home on Saturday. 'I did a good deal of business - & saw a good many friends - (not poor Curzon, however - who has remain'd at Parham since the funeral, & has not, as yet, (I am told) made any plans - I call'd 2 or 3 times at the door in Arlington Street - & heard a tolerable account of L[ad]y Horton - but did not see her.' Had lunched with Lady Waldegrave. Had attended a Philobiblon breakfast at Mr Huth's, whose library was one of the choicest and most valuable that had ever been collected. He was said to be enormously rich. The Harry Gooches were in London, and he was very seriously unwell. Lady Harriet was looking well, but had had a slight stroke. 'Most fortunately it happen'd that Miller was in the house at the moment, & she was in the act of talk[in]g to him - when he saw the threatening symptoms - gave her brandy instantly, & did all that was requisite - so the danger was check'd...but mind you don't let her find out that I have told you of her being ill; for she cannot bear to be enquired after - '. Charlie was in town. Henny had had a sharp touch of lumbago. Loulou was not quite well. The Bishop was at Cuddesdon. They were engaged to go to Patshull, and believed they should then go to Blithfield. Adds a postscript about [Dr] Miller, who had said he owed him [Ralph Sneyd] a letter, but had been in such close attendance on Lady Derby that he had had no time. He was full of domestic troubles, believed it was a question of a separation from his wife. She was in the hands of the priests.

47. Denton.
Monday.
[? 2 Apr.
1866]

The same to the same.

They should have liked, of all things, to have passed 3 or 4 days with him at Keele, but was much afraid that it would not be possible. Considers the

difficulties. Loulou was much better. Was glad to hear that he was getting rid of his cough. 'I am truly grieved to hear of the ravages of the Rinderpest on y[ou]r home farm - It is a terrible calamity; & a most mysterious one - I fear that it is still spreading - We had hoped that it had died out, in this neighbourhood - but alas! it has again broken out at Cuddesdon, on Mr Gale's farm - he having already lost between 50 & 60 head of Cattle!' Adds a separate postscript, about visiting Keele.

48. 'No.2'
Denton.
Tuesday.
[? 3 Apr.
1866]

The same to the same.

Should send this line to Oxford, to catch the early post. Had heard that morning from William, accepting them, but good-naturedly suggesting that if it were a question of their going to Keele, as he [Ralph Sneyd] was coming to Blithfield next week, it might suit them better to go to him [Ralph Sneyd] first, and all go on together to Blithfield. That, if it suited him, would be much better. Desires an answer by return of post, to Patshull.

49. Travellers' [Club].
27 Apr.
[? 1866]

The same to the same.

His date might perhaps surprise him. Had come to town (to his sisters) the day before, and was to go home the following afternoon. The inducements had been a Philobiblon breakfast at Stirling's, and a Fine Arts soiree, at Lady Charlotte Schreiber's. Had taken Hervey Bagot to the latter. The writer had been unwell. They had found all the children well and the place getting greener and prettier every day. They had picked up Charlie Bagot at Oxford, and his son Lewis had joined them the next day, having been unsuccessful in his attempt to win a Brasenose scholarship, but it was no discredit to him. There had been 45 candidates and only 3 scholarships, and the examination had been extravagantly difficult. No one who was not of double first class calibre could have been expected to answer the questions. Had seen Lady Harriet that morning and thought her tolerably well. He knew, of course, that Lady Ponsonby had left almost everything to her old French maid. Lady Harriet, as residuary legatee, got the house (there were eleven years of the lease remaining), and he believed she would get some little money. Had seen poor Curzon the day before. He was well in health but sadly broken down and in a great state of indecision as to his future plans. He never could bear to live at Parham while his mother lived, her petty jealousies made it intolerable. Nobody seemed to know what the result of that night's division would be, but if the government had any majority, it must be a most insignificant one, so the bill, he presumed, would be abandoned. News of the family. Proposed to bring Henny to London for 2 or 3 weeks. News of the weather. Had met Count Pablen, who had been anxious to know when there would be a chance of his coming.

50. [As from] Denton
Rectory.
Harleston.
1 Aug.
[1866 or
later]
- The same to the same.
- Had been glad to get his letter the day he had left home, and to hear that he was tidily lodged, but should rejoice for his sake when his sejour at Bath was over, for it must be a bore. Wonders whether he [Ralph Sneyd] would go to Nuneham, to meet the d'Aumales. If the writer had been staying at home he should have tried to get the Duc d'Aumale over to Denton, to see his books. After he [Ralph Sneyd] had left the writer, the latter had found it advisable to have a horse-doctor over, to see his pony, which had evidently been unwell, and he had bled and physicked her, much to her benefit. Had been to London and his sisters had let him have a bed in Eaton Square. Had called at Ercoli's, 'to see y[ou]r picture - he was out - but I got admittance, & saw it - & think it decidedly like - & shall be glad to have that in preference to the drawing - but, if I see Ercoli, on my way back, I sh[oul]d suggest 1 or 2 slight alterations, wh[ic]h w[oul]d, I think, improve the likeness.' Had left London and fallen in with Richard Sneyd and his girls at the Shoreditch station. Had found Fanny and Arundell very well. The weather had been and was gloriously fine and very hot, and 'this place is in great beauty - &, as usual, in the most perfect trim - '. The day was to be busy, for it was Fanny's annual school feast, '& there will be a great gathering, this afternoon, of Farmers' wives, & schoolchildren, who are to be feasted, & to have what they call a 'frolic' - We are to dine at 2 o'cl: in consequence - '. On Wednesday Miss Sanby was to give a little dejeuner, to show off her garden. 'On a certain subject I have nothing more to say at present, except that I have every reason to be in good heart - for the manner towards me is all that I c[oul]d wish - & I think I may hope that my next letter to you may announce something decisive - In the mean time, my plans are, of course, unsettled - I cannot tell you how very great a satisfaction it is to me to feel that I have your good will, & good wishes, in this matter.'
51. Keele Hall.
Friday morning.
[1866 or later]
- The same to the same.
- Left him the enclosed letter of Fanny's, which he had received from Charlotte that morning. Hoped and thought that the slight increase of pain from the lung was of no real consequence, as there were no other symptoms. Charlotte told him no news worth retailing - all was well with them.
52. Denton.
16 Mar.
[? 1868]
- The same to the same.
- Some time ago he had written to Lucas and requested him to send him a form of receipt, properly drawn up, for the £100 he [Ralph Sneyd] had paid to Drummonds', which the writer might sign, as executor, and forward to him. Quotes the reply. Had written a receipt, enclosed, and also enclosed Drummonds' letter, announcing that they had received the £100. News of his health, and relatives. Louchy was staying with them. She had come with 'little Louie', who was grown

an immense girl, on her way from Hastings to Leamington. Henny and the chicks were well, Izzy decidedly stronger, but she was not allowed to use her legs at present. Had written to Dr Acland, begging him to appoint a time for Henny to bring her over to Oxford. It would be at least satisfactory to have his opinion and approval of the system which Stovin was pursuing. There was very little else to tell him. News of friends.

53. Travellers' Club.
Monday, 15 June,
[? 1868]

The same to the same.

Had come to town on Thursday last. Had had the greatest possible difficulty in getting a bed, 'at last, after hav[ing] fail'd at at least a dozen hotels, the Porter at this club succeeded in procuring me a little room at the top of the house opposite - hot, & stuffy - but clean - & convenient, inasmuch as I live at the Club.' They had had a pleasant Philobiblon breakfast at Lord Dartrey's, in Curzon Street. Had gone with Fanny, in the afternoon, to see the portraits at Kensington, and afterwards to the Horticultural gardens close by, where the band had been playing. Alfred Bagot had been with them. Had dined with his sisters. News of the weather - delicious - and hay. News of Edward Cheney, and Caroline Bromley. Fanny was to come to them and stay about ten days. Stovin, their doctor, had seen Izzy, and nothing could have been more satisfactory than his opinion of her. He had said they might, with perfect safety, make their arrangements for taking her with the others to Keele, the beginning of July, perhaps Saturday 4th, if that suited him? The roses were coming out in profusion and he wished himself at home, under the shade of the trees.

54. Denton.
Tuesday.
[? 23 June,
1868]

The same to the same.

Had been truly glad to get home on Saturday, 'though the Review at Windsor made it a very bad travelling day, on the G.W. line'. Had been very glad to rest ever since, for the stifling heat and fatigue of London had pretty nearly knocked him up. News of the drought - Lady Georgina Bertie and Agnes had come over to lunch. They had not yet found a house to suit them and would remain at Albury till August. Lady Georgina was very anxious to get a tenant for Weston. Had seen Lady Waldegrave in town and had actually gone, for $\frac{3}{4}$ rs of an hour, to the ball she had given to the Prince of Wales. 'It was brilliant, & pretty - but the ladies' toilettes I thought monstrous!' Lady Waldegrave had asked Henny and him to come to Strawberry Hill, but they had declined, as Fanny would be there, and they should hope to move, with all the family, to Keele, on the 6th. News of visitors, of invitations, and of his visit to London. Had taken pains to discover a fit person to whom he [Ralph Sneyd] might entrust the restoration of the monument, but had not been successful. Edith Lane was engaged to marry the eldest son of Sir Walter James. Dared say Newton [Lane] and Agnes would be very much pleased with it. Was sorry to say that Fanny gave a not very

good report of Charlotte, who was suffering from the effects of the great heat. They had a new curate at Cuddesdon, a Mr and Mrs Nicholas, both 'young, & good looking - & promise to prove an acquisition to our society.'

55. Denton.
1 July,
1868

The same to the same.

The letter was only to remind him that they hoped to be at Keele on Monday next, the 6th, '& the invading army will be a formidable one! viz: H[enn]y & I, & 5 chicks - with man, & maid, & 3 nurses! - Fanny, & her maid, will accompany us - & Arundell (com[in]g f[ro]m London) will, I suppose, be in the train wh[ic]h joins our's at Stafford...' The drought continued. Was afraid, from Lizzy's letter to Fanny that morning, that C[harlotte] was recovering her strength but slowly, and that their journey to Keele might be somewhat postponed. News of friends.

56. Denton.
7 Oct.
[? 1868]

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter and the partridges. Was glad he had received their parcel, without damage, and hoped that their contributions might add a trifle to the profits of the Bazaar. The only great event in their history, since he had written, had been the arrival of Miss Prichard, the new governess, who had come on Monday, from Knockin, in Shropshire, 'her father's Curacy - Henny is much pleased with her - & as far as we can judge at present, she really seems to be just what we wanted - she seems a thoroughly amiable, good temper'd, unaffected & sensible girl - very anxious to please, & to do her duty by the children (who have already taken to her immensely) - she seems very fond of children - &, young though she is (21), has had a good deal of experience in teach[in]g. - Her training has been excellent - & her plan of teaching seems to be very good - & methodical - not superficial - but laying a good foundation, & begin[nin]g at the begin[nin]g of things - She has been, for 2 or 3 years, at a school in Switzerland - both teach[in]g, & being taught & where there were girls f[ro]m different Countries & of all ages - & she is able to teach French, German, & Italian - besides music - &c. [,] &c. She is rather good looking - with gentle, quiet, unassuming manners - un-governessy, & un-vulgar - she seems to have been a favourite, wherever she has been - & to be thoroughly well principled - she was very shy, at first - but that is gradually wearing off - We are all in very good heart about our new inmate - & hope, & think, that we have had the good luck to hit upon a treasure! It is a great weight off Henny's mind...' News of the family, the weather, and Ernald Lane, who was coming to them for a couple of days. 'Henny has engaged a sister of Bach's (C[harlotte] & Lizzy's maid) as her future maid - & we have got a tidy new housemaid - but, for the life of us, we cannot find a laundry maid, wh[ic]h is very inconvenient.' Hoped he had got rid of his ear- and face-ache. He had been suffering from the same sort of pain.

57. Denton.
17 Oct.
[? 1868]

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter and the hamper of game. Was glad to be able to say that their first good impressions of Miss P[richard] were by no means diminished. She really seemed to be, in all respects, just what they wanted. That day being a half holiday, Henny had taken her to Oxford, to do some shopping. Suggests a visit to Keele, where he should very much like to meet the Charles Percys, '& as Henny is interested, & occupied, with the children, & Miss P., - & encourages my scheme - I can leave her, without scruple, for a few days.' Had heard from Curzon, who was just leaving Folkestone for London, and was to go to Parham that day. He had been visiting the Granvilles at Walmer. On his way back he had picked up at Dover 'a most grim & precious Curiosity, quite in his line - viz: a large 4^{to} Abyssinian M.S., on vellum, with 40 rude illuminations - & wh[a]t appears to have been K[ing] Theodoric's Bible! It had been 'looted' by a soldier, at the sack of Magdala, who had sold it to the man at Dover, f[ro]m whom Curzon got it, for £10! He gives a most amusing acc[oun]t of his trudge to the station, encumber'd with Cloak, umbrella, & this huge, heavy volume under his arm! but he is delighted with his prize! & it c[oul]d not have fallen into worthier hands.' A letter the day before from Heneage Drummond had told him that his brother, Spencer, had had, in July last, a paralytic attack. They had received from Mr Harrison at last the whole lot of photographs of the children, which they had taken when they were last at Keele. Ernald Lane had been with them for Saturday and Sunday last.

58. Travellers' Club.
Saturday,
19 [Dec.
? 1868]

The same to the same.

Had come to town on Wednesday last. At Tiddington station, near Albury, he had seen Ernald Lane for a few minutes, who had given him but a very indifferent account of his sister, Beatrice, and had said that his father also had been seriously ill, with gout in the stomach. Had found Charlotte and Lizzy prosperous in their snug little abode, where he would remain their guest until Tuesday. Had done a good deal of business in the shopping line, and had seen several friends, including Curzon, who had come up to meet his boy from Eton, and had taken him back to Parham for the Xmas holidays. The day before the writer had dined with Edward Cheney, had met the Charles Percys, Lady Louisa P., and the Jocelyn Percys, Tom Ashburnham, Henry Greville, and Count Pablen, who had desired his kindest love. They had all been glad to hear of his improved health. Heard that De Tabley was to be Comptroller of the Queen's Household, and that Mrs Arthur Upton had again been confined of a still-born son. 'I have been buying toys, & bon bons, for my chicks - Fortnum & Mason's shop is very attractive, at this season!' Had been very glad to get his letter the morning he had left home, and to learn from his letter to Lizzy that he was able to get out, and enjoy the fine weather.

59. Denton.
31 Dec.
1868

The same to the same.

It had been a great pleasure to him to see his handwriting that morning, and to receive, on the whole, a satisfactory bulletin of his health. Should have written sooner but for a most painful inflammation in his right thumb '(not gout)', which, thanks to iodine, was nearly well. Thought the proofs he had given of an excellent constitution warranted his taking a much more cheering view of the future than the tone of his letter implied. News of the weather, 'the accouchement of our best cow', the Bishop, and Ernald Lane, who was settled at Albury.

Enclosed, list, dated 8 December, of those who had written letters of enquiry to him during the illness of Ralph Sneyd, 15 names excluding relatives.

60. Denton.
7 Jan.
1869

The same to the same.

Was sure he would be glad, as the writer had been, to hear from Charlotte that they had sold their house in Eaton Square, or, at least, had got rid of it for 21 years. Wished that Sir J. Pakington would have paid them a certain premium in cash, thereby enabling them to pay off Holland's bill. Hoped that the sale of their furniture would produce something, though, he feared, not much. Their home chronicles were not very interesting. Their cow had produced a cow calf and was doing well. 'Our poverty-stricken dairy will be much benefitted by this event'. On Tuesday last they had dined at the vicarage and had met a large but dullish party of neighbours, and yesterday being Twelfth Day, they had had a small merry-making 'for our chicks', to which they had asked the Basil Wilberforces. Miss Prichard, the governess, had returned in time for our little festival, after her fortnight's holiday. News of the weather, floods and mud. Wondered whether he had come to any irrevocable arrangement respecting the new organ to be built for Keele church, which Mr Edwards intended to give? 'You know what a genius Fred[er]ick Gooch has for sacred music, & organ play[in]g - which has been his passion, all his life - I had mention'd to him that it was question of an organ, to be built for the new church at Keele - & he has written to me to say that he c[oul]d very strongly recommend an organ builder at Birmingham (Bossward, by name), of whose good workmanship, & knowledge of his art, he had had much experience...', etc. If he were disposed to give him the order, Gooch would superintend the work. Would he let the writer know? Hoped he was getting on prosperously, the mildness of the season was wonderful.

61. Denton.
16 Jan.
1869

The same to the same.

Had that moment received a letter from Frederick Gooch. Quotes from the letter, in which Gooch agrees to undertake the supervision of building an organ in

Keele Church. Felt sure he would take pains to execute the commission satisfactorily. There was nothing to tell him. They had bought a cow, the writer was digging in his field for gravel, and the Bishop was expected on Monday. Had hoped to have heard from Charlotte the result of their sale, but had not. They had driven over to Nuneham a week ago. Thought old William Harcourt wonderfully well. There had been a large family party there, including Mrs Malcolm. They had enquired much after him.

62. Denton.
1 Feb.
1869

The same to the same.

They were almost drowned and blown away by the tempests and torrents which had raged there for the last 3 or 4 days. The floods were more extensive than he ever remembered them. The Bishop had left Cuddesdon on Saturday, after a shorter stay even than usual. They had dined with him about 10 days ago, and had met a large, but rather uninteresting party, of family, and clergy. Sir Thomas Winnington and his daughter had come over to lunch from Oxford, where he and Lady W. had been detained on account of the serious illness of their eldest son. Was very glad C[harlotte] and Lizzy were fairly rid of the house in Eaton Square, but they were still ignorant of the amount realized by the sale of their furniture. Hoped it would be a good way towards Holland's bill, which must be a large one. Had been glad to hear from C[harlotte] that he had felt able to receive, and do the honours, to the Duke and Duchess of Argyll. Frederick Gooch had written him word that he had heard from him and had been to Birmingham and seen the organ builder.

63. Denton.
22 Feb.
[1869]

The same to the same.

Having nothing particular to tell him, he had put off writing, in the hopes that he might have had a few lines from himself to report progress, but had been disappointed. Perhaps he found it troublesome to write, or perhaps (like the writer) he had nothing particular to say. He had at least this much to tell him, that he was going to London on Friday for a few days, Edward Cheney having kindly invited him to visit him in Audley Square. As the writer's sisters had invited Henny to stay with them in Chester Square, at the same time, they should probably go up, and return, together. The writer would come in for a Philobiblon breakfast at the Dean of Westminster's, which would give him the opportunity of a prowl amongst the tombs in Westminster Abbey. He had that morning received the new volume of their Philobiblon Miscellanies, with the duplicate volume, which he should, as usual, send him. Would take it to London and entrust it to his sisters, who, he was glad to hear, were engaged to spend a week with him after Easter. Was much shocked at seeing in that day's paper the announcement of poor Lady de Tabley's death. They had had a change of weather for the worse. Henny and all the chicks were well, they had escaped colds

and influenza so far, but the writer was suffering from gouty-rheumatism.

64. Travellers' Club.
2 Mar.
1869

The same to the same.

Was very glad to find his letter waiting him, on his arrival in Audley Square. Had dined with his sisters and Henny. Arundell Bouverie was also in town. The latter was not well and had been consulting Miller. Feared it was a question of a rather disagreeable operation. He was about to resign his archdeaconry, the work had become too much for him. Had been shocked, too, at finding his dear old friend Curzon unwell. On Thursday morning, when the latter had got up, he had found that his face was partially drawn to one side. His doctors called it 'facial paralysis'. Had done his commission at Bain's, and he would immediately send him down some books and almanacks. Was very glad to hear he had appointed in poor Thompson's place an agent who sounded so promising as Mr Hollis. News of the weather, cold, stormy and vicious. Charles Bagot (the Col.) had called on him that morning. London seemed very full. Had called on Henry Greville. On Saturday he had been at a Philobiblon breakfast, at the Dean of Westminster's. The party had not been very numerous, they had elected two new members, Chichester Fortescue and Froude. After breakfast they had adjourned to the Abbey, where the Dean had taken them into parts not normally shown. Lord Mahon had been married that morning, at St George's.

65. Denton.
22 Mar.
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

He might perhaps like to hear that Henny was going on well, though still advised to remain on her sofa. Now hoped that very soon she would be about again. As he could leave her without any anxiety, he had fulfilled his promise to Edward Cheney and had gone up again to Audley Square, to be present at his Philobiblon breakfast, and at his request, had taken with him a selection of the plums of his library. Had managed to call on Curzon, who, he grieved to say, remained in statu quo. There was no improvement whatever in the distortion of his face, he was not otherwise ill, but was shy of showing himself and would not come to Cheney's breakfast. Had also called on the Bouveries, and had seen Fanny, and Arundell in his bed. He was going on very favourably. Had seen C[harlotte] and Lizzy also. The former was still poorly. They had a troublesome, inconvenient job on hand, in their kitchen, putting up a new kitchen range and boiler. Chichester Fortescue, whom they had lately elected a member, had come to Cheney's breakfast, and they had filled up the last vacancy by electing G.Tomline. Most people in London seemed to have got colds. Adds a postscript, that he ought to seal with black, for Louisa Chester, of whose death he had heard in London.

66. Denton.
17 Apr.
[18]69

The same to the same.

Now that he was left alone, he might like to hear

from the fountain-head what little Dentoniana he could find to tell him. First he must say how glad they were to hear that he had been steadily improving, and shaking off the effects of that unlucky attack of bronchitis. Charlotte had written him word that he had been out driving. News of the weather, and of the garden, which was beginning to look green and to increase in interest. News of the family, of Henny and Loulou. They really had a treasure in Miss Prichard, 'who is so nice, & judicious, in her management of her little pupils - They are all very fond of her - & they make good progress with their lessons - Izzy takes great pains; & is very forward for her age - Little Ralph is fat, & sturdy - He is grown, too, & looks the picture of good health - & is very nice looking - He is a dear little, affec[tion]ate, boy - but it is not easy to fix his attention, to his lessons, or anything else, for more than a minute at a time! Whereas Lina, who is slow, & quiet, but painstaking, gets on the best of the two. Little Eleanor (whom we still call Baby) is the pet of the whole house - she is so very pretty, & so entertain[ing] - She has the most beautiful complexion I ever saw - & promises to grow up, in her different way, quite as pretty as Loulou.' They were all looking forward to Charlotte and Lizzy's visit. Had had a letter from Curzon, from Parham. Was sorry to say he announced no improvement in the condition of his face. He proposed to come there with his son Robin, who was then to be matriculated and would commence life at Christ Church after the long vacation. Had lunched the day before at All Souls, with the Warden and Mrs Leighton, to meet Frederick Gooch and his little boy Harry. Robinson was struggling in Oxford, engaged by the university authorities to make a 'catalogue raisonne' of the Raphael and other drawings in the Taylor galleries - 'He is also a Candidate for the new Professorship of 'Fine Arts', lately founded by a Mr Slade - '. News of friends. Had had a Philobiblon card for a breakfast at Sir John Simeon's, **which the writer should not profit by.**

67. Denton.
5 May,
[1869]

The same to the same.

It was time that he should be having another letter from hence. Thanks him for his letter. Hoped he continued to get his daily outings, with advantage and enjoyment - 'Even in this ugly region the advancing Spring makes the Country beautiful - so what must it be at Keele!...' C[harlotte] and Lizzy's visit had been a pleasure to them all. The writer had been a great sufferer during most of their visit, from an inflammation in his ear, but it was now well. Had been expecting a visit from Mr Robinson that week and was to have taken him to Nuneham that day, to lunch, and to see the pictures, but he had been summoned back to London. Their vicar, Mr King, rather to his dismay, had received through the Dean of Westminster, a command to preach before the queen at Windsor, the following Sunday. The writer had had a card for a Philobiblon breakfast at Houghton's the following Saturday, but had no intention of going.

News of friends, including the death of Spencer Drummond, the breaking off of the marriage of Evelyn Shirley's daughter, 'solely owing to Sir John Crewe's strange & unreasonable conduct in the matter of Settlements...'; and Sir Charles Mordaunt, 'it is to be hoped that he may get rid of his worthless wife as soon as possible'. Expected a visit from Curzon and his son Robin, who was to be matriculated at Christ Church. Had promised to pay Frederick Gooch a little visit at Baginton and should like to run up to Keele for a few days.

68. Denton.
19 May,
[1869]

The same to the same.

Their chief event had been a visit from Isabel Percy, who, after visiting a friend, Miss Skene, had come to them before going to London to join her parents at Claridge's. News of the weather. Was that day expecting Robert Curzon and his son Robin. Was looking forward to seeing him. Would visit Lady Harriet at Elford before coming to Keele. Louchy and little Louie were to come there [to Denton] next week and stay with Henny. Had lunched at Nuneham last Monday and found Mr Harcourt very well, but Mrs H. had looked ill. Sir Roderick Murchison had been there [at Nuneham]. They had been expecting the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Tait [at Nuneham] from Oxford, to see the place, which certainly had been in great beauty. Their bishop was expected at Cuddesden that day. Tuesday was the annual 'Cud[desden] Festival' - which I am not sorry to shirk!' Had received a copy of the Duc d'Aumale's book, 'L'Histoire des Princes de Conde'. Supposed he had sent a copy to each member of the Philobiblon Society. Had heard from Frederick Gooch that William Davenport had been seriously hurt by the fall from his horse at Lichfield, at the time of the Yeomanry meeting, but was doing well.

69. Baginton.
25 May,
[1869]

The same to the same.

A line to say that he hoped to be with him on Friday. Was bringing no servant with him, as he was obliged to leave Cook at home, to attend upon Henny. Was to go to Lady Harriet at Elford on Thursday, for a night. Curzon and his son Robin had been with him, Robin had got well through his examination, the former was no better. He was going back to London to try the effect of galvanism. News of other friends, including Frederick Gooch, who had desired him to say that, in consequence of his letter, he had written to Mr Ward to desire that he would, for the present, suspend the work for the organ at Keele.

70. Denton.
7 June,
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

Had had a very tedious journey home. Had been disappointed at finding Henny more weak and poorly than he had expected, and she was still obliged to keep strictly to her sofa. Had had some talk with her doctor the day before, who had assured him there was no cause for uneasiness about her. Foresaw that she

would have to keep at home and as quiet as she could until the time of her confinement. She was sadly bored with these restrictions. Louchy and Louie (who was grown into a great tall girl) were there, and would stay on, Miss Prichard having gone home for a 3 weeks' holiday. Baby's head was much better. The garden was in great beauty. This was Commemoration Week in Oxford. Charlie Bagot and his wife and daughter were to come to Oxford, to spend the week at Christ Church, as the guests of Archdeacon Clarke. Describes the festivities. Was anxious for the next day's post, which would, he hoped, bring a more satisfactory account of Arundell than the last. Poor Fanny! He was moved to think of her nervous anxiety. That day was her birthday. His Times that day announced that the Lords had decided to throw out the Irish Church Bill. That might be rather a dangerous exertion of their power, and might bring about an explosion in Ireland. 'The 'liberal press' will, no doubt, do its best to stir up mischief, & ill blood.' If Henny were well enough for him to leave her, he might probably go to his sisters in London for a short visit. Was glad to fancy him enjoying the fine summer weather. Guessed he would live much in the wood, and in Spring Pool. Adds a postscript, 'Charlotte tells me that Lord Yarborough has taken Lily Hill for 2 years.'

71. Denton.
14 June,
[18]69

The same to the same.

It stood for his going to London to his sisters, the next day. The doctor had assured him that he could leave Henny without the slightest scruple. The baby's head was better. Was anxious for the next account of Arundell. Last week had been Commemoration Week at Oxford. Charlie Bagot and his wife and daughter, had been staying with Archdeacon Clerke at Christ Church. On Tuesday Louchy and the writer, and 2 or 3 of the children, had gone to see the flower-show in Trinity gardens. The band of the guards had played and there had been a great concourse, and they had lunched at the Clerke's. The children had been delighted with their junket. On Thursday there had been a sort of garden party at Nuneham - '& I drove over - I never saw the place, & garden, in such beauty! All the elite of Oxf[or]d, & its neighbourhood were walking about.' News of friends, and of the garden, 'in high beauty'. Weather permitting, they proposed to begin hay-making in a week's time. Their vicar, Mr King, had started that morning on a 5 weeks' holiday tour of Switzerland. Was glad he had asked Frederick Gooch to come to Keele. 'I hope, too, to hear that this unlucky organ business is being arranged to your satisfaction.' If he had any commissions for the writer to execute in London, he would give him due instructions.

72. Travellers' Club.
Monday.
[? June or
July, 1869]

The same to the same.

Had been shut up since Thursday with a feverish cold. C[harlotte] and Lizzy had gone to Maddox Street and given all his instructions to Mr Rogers junior.

Meant to go home on Thursday, and on Wednesday, if he was feeling up to it, he intended going to the garden fete at Holland House, which he had no doubt would be a very pretty sight, and for the invitation to which he was indebted to Edward Cheney. Curzon was at Parham. Had called on Lord Ashburnham and had found him at home and apparently quite well. He had been, as usual, exceedingly gracious and good-natured. The queen was giving a fete to the Viceroy that afternoon, in Buckingham Palace gardens. Had seen C[oun]t Pablen several times at his club, and he always made much enquiry about him.

73. Travellers' Club.
Wednesday.
[? June or
July, 1869]

The same to the same.

Thanks him for his letter. Charlotte was better, Lizzy was very well. News of the weather, and friends, including Curzon, whom he thought a little better, the Delameres, the Shirleys, and the Charles Percys. Had not yet been to the Royal Academy exhibition. Hervey Bagot was in town. Had been glad to hear from Frederick Gooch that the organ business had been finally arranged. Had just been to see his [Ralph Sneyd's] cabinet at Mr Rogers's, in Maddox Street, and had admired it extremely. Discusses the matter of its feet, and draws a design. Rogers still had a considerable number of exquisite pieces of carved wood, belonging to him. The largest piece, the front and sides of a coffer attributed to Guilio Romano, Delamere had thought to be one of the very finest pieces of old Italian carving he had seen. Rogers proposed to bring together these odd pieces and to have them photographed, and to send him the result. Curzon and the writer had been to see the Duke of Newcastle's house, and the things which were to be sold. News of marriages, Lord Newport and Lady Ida Lumley, and a daughter of Lord Lyttelton was to marry young Denison (the Speaker's nephew and heir), son of the late Bishop of Salisbury. Henny was still condemned to lie on a sofa. Louchy was still at Denton, and Miss Prichard was to return the next day from her 3 weeks' holiday. Baby's head was getting gradually better, and the accounts of Arundell were now decidedly better. Adds a postscript: 'The Viceroy arrived yest[erda]y - the escort of guards wh[ic]h was to have accompanied him to the Palace, arrived too late! how sure we are to blunder every thing we do - & affrent when we ought to be especially civil!'

74. Denton.
14 July,
[1869]

The same to the same.

Hoped he was enjoying that fine summer weather. It was a long time since he had heard from him. Had come home a fortnight ago, a good deal the worse for the bad cold and cough which he had picked up in London, but they had gradually worn themselves out. Wished he could give a more flourishing account than he could of Henny. She had been for some weeks strictly confined to her room, and her sofa, and not allowed to put her feet on the ground, nor was it likely that she would be allowed to make the least exertion for some time to come. The chicks were all quite well,

thank God. The garden was in great beauty. Louchy and Little Louie had returned to Leamington ten days ago. Had been frisky enough to run up to London, to attend a Philobiblon breakfast at the Duc d'Aumale's. Had put up at the Burlington Hotel, dined with Curzon, and he and the writer had gone together to Twickenham, which had been in great beauty. The duke was adding a picture gallery. The Count of Paris had been at the breakfast, 'where we muster'd about 22 - a pleasant party - & no lack of treasures, of every kind, to inspect - His last acquisition is an exquisite little Raphael picture - wh[ic]h formerly belong'd to the Orleans family - & wh[ic]h he has lately bought, for £6[,]000!!' Poor Lord Taunton, whose death he had been shocked to see in that day's paper, was to have gone, with Houghton, to the breakfast, but being unwell had not come. Had unluckily missed seeing his sisters and the Bouveries. News of friends. Had heard from Charlotte that morning a flourishing description of the Downe wedding. Arundell B., from all accounts, was quite well again. Fanny had gone to Ashtead.

75.

Denton.
27 July,
[? 1869]

The same to the same.

Had but little to say but would write, as he bade him. Henny continued much the same. Scarcely expected that she would be allowed to move from her sofa before the eventful time arrived, 2 months hence. An itinerant photographer had called the other day and they had let him try his powers on a family group, '(Miss Prichard in the centre) - & I enclose a specimen of the result!' Had had a visit from Robinson and had taken him to Nuneham, to luncheon, and he had been interested in seeing the place, pictures, etc. There was a great gathering of the Volunteers of that district, being held that week, on the flat ground across the river that one looked down upon from the windows of Nuneham, and on Friday next Princess Christian was to give away the prizes. Curzon had written to him from Parham, but was going to London the next day to meet his boy. C[urzon], under the influence of a sudden return of bibliomania, had given an immense price for a copy of Coverdale's Bible. Would be much obliged if he would send him back the Duc d'Aumale's book. News of the weather, the drought was becoming serious. Was glad to think that C[harlotte] and Lizzy would soon be going to Bedgebury.

76.

Denton.
11 Aug.
[1869]

The same to the same.

He would perhaps like to hear how they were getting on. Henny had been certainly better for the last ten days, and had therefore been allowed a little more liberty. The chicks, since the break up of the dry, hot weather, had all had colds and coughs. It was unlucky that circumstances made it impossible for him to take them to the sea, or to give them a change of air that year, but it could not be helped, so they must hope that they would mend at home. News of the weather. Thanks him for the return of the books.

Believed that Dr Moberley's appointment to the bishopric of Salisbury was a good one. He was, he believed, a moderate in his church views. One rumour there, was, that Winchester would resign, Oxford fill his place, and Stanley come to Cuddesdon. Stanley might possibly prove a pleasant neighbour, but he was much too unorthodox to be desirable as a bishop. 'I am greatly disappointed that Robinson has not been elected to the new Slade Professorship of 'Fine Arts' at Oxford - & feel sure that that vainest of Coxcombs, Ruskin, is the very last man in the world that Mr Slade w[oul]d have wish'd to fill the post.' Lady Johnstone's death seemed to have been quite sudden. Yesterday there had been a 'school feast', and a sort of garden party, at Baldon, '(Mr Thompson, the Banker's & I took Loulou, & little R., & Miss Prichard, there - It was a very gay, pretty sight - the school children feasting at long tables spread on the lawn, with a band play[ing] - & a large gathering of County neighbours with their children - The garden was in remarkable beauty.-'. They had also been invited to a garden party at Shirburn Castle the following week, but it was too far off. Lady Georgina Bertie and her girls were just settled at Weston. Curzon wrote to him from Parham, where his son Robin, who had finally left Eton, had been with him, and was to begin his Oxford career after the long vacation. Curzon was much pleased at having bought lately '(for a large price)' a good copy of Coverdale's Bible. Had heard from Charlotte from Bedgebury. Was so glad that she and Lizzy had at last got out of London and were able to enjoy fresh air and flowers, before the summer was quite gone by. News of Ernald Lane.

77. Denton.
17 Aug.
[1869]

The same to the same.

Was touched and most grateful to him for his kind thought for his pocket, 'of which a letter from Drummonds, this morn[ing], has given me the welcome information - '. Henny had made very satisfactory progress. She had been allowed to come downstairs to dine with him, and the day before, for the first time in 3 or 4 months, she had been out in the garden in a Bath chair. The chicks were all quite well again. His neighbour Mr Ashurst, of Waterstock, had been thrown from his horse on the turnpike road and pitched on his head. The event had made much sensation in that district, where he was much respected. News of friends.

78. Denton.
22 Mar.
1870

The same to the same.

Charlotte had written him word that he [Ralph Sneyd] and she had been wondering what had become of the old Bible, in which had been entered all their ages, sponsors, &c., so he wrote to tell him that it was safe in his hands. 'My Mother (to whom it belong'd) gave it to me - & I have also enter'd therein all my own children's names, ages, &c - I wonder, by the bye, how the book came into my Mother's possession?

for it once belong'd to Harley, L[or]d Oxford (the great book collector) - 'Thought that C[harlotte] left him [Ralph Sneyd] that day for Elford. They were all looking forward to having her at Denton next Monday, when she was to come from Guy's Cliff. Should be anxious to hear what report she gave of Charles Percy. Had been suffering from a very sharp attack of rheumatism. News of the weather. Was glad to hear from C[harlotte] that he was expecting a visit from Edward Cheney. Had seen in the papers the death of Anthony, the picture-cleaner, and of young Denison, the Speaker's nephew.

79.

Denton.
30 Mar.
[18]70

The same to the same.

They were very glad to have Charlotte with them. There was not much to tell him. The chief news was that Ernald Lane was giving up Albury, having accepted the living, such as it was, of St Michael's, Handsworth, close to Birmingham, which had been offered to him by one of the Peels. He was to be succeeded at Albury, as a stopgap only, by a son of Coxe's, of the Bodleian. They had had a long visit the day before from Lady Georgina Bertie and her neighbour, Mrs (?) Devereux, whose first husband had been Lord Valentia's father. Had received a few days ago a handsome, folio volume, sent by Stirling. Supposed he had sent a copy to each member of the Philobiblon Club [sic]. It was entitled 'The Chief Victories of the Emperor Charles V', was profusely illustrated, and was altogether a very handsome and interesting book. C[harlotte] was to stay with them until Friday week, and the following day Louchy and little Louie were to come to them, for Easter. Soon after, Henny and the writer should go to London, to pay a visit to Chester Square. 'I suppose your church must now be drawing very near to completion, in all essential respects - When do you think it likely that the re-opening will take place? & what is to be the mode of proceeding on that occasion? I sh[oul]d much like to be present, myself, at it - & I have reason to believe that Arundell has the same wish, - if you have no objection to hav[ing] us with you at the time?' How did the old tomb look? Supposed the old marble couple were comfortably settled under their arch in the chancel. Henny had called at Nuneham, a few days ago, and had seen Mrs Harcourt. Old William H. had been very ill, but was better. Their son, Edward, was a good deal out of health. 'The Scarlet fever is at Oxford - & in the College, at Ch[rist] Ch[urch] - Mrs Liddell, (the Dean's wife) has it - & some of the young men, also - It is very bad indeed at Marlboro' School, where some of the boys have died - it seems to be everywhere...'

80.

Denton.
4 Apr.
[18]70

The same to the same.

Must slip a note into C[harlotte]'s letter and thank him for his, and most especially, for the announcement of his kind intentions to add £100 a year to his income, which was most important news and relieved him from a good deal of care and anxiety. C[harlotte]

had told the writer of her business talk with him, and the writer was glad to know that her income would be amply sufficient to secure her ease and comfort during her life. There was not a particle of news to tell him. Curzon had written him that he was going to Parham for the Easter vacation, with Robin and his little girl. News of the weather.

81. Denton.
19 Apr.
[18]70

The same to the same.

A note from Sutcliffe told him that his church was to be opened on Sunday, 1st May, with a sermon from Archdeacon Moore, and he had written to him to say that he had given up all idea of being present on the occasion. There were various impediments, the chief of which was that he was not in good trim for undertaking long railway journies. Hoped his [the writer's] gouty-rheumatism and sciatica would pass off and that Henny and he should be able to visit C[harlotte] in London. Should also look forward to visiting him at Keele in the summer, '& bringing our chicks with us, - if you like to have them? - in which case, I think we can promise you that they will be very quiet - & shall keep quite out of y[ou]r way, except when you are disposed to see any of them.' Was afraid that he would have to go to Buxton some time or another, which was a bore. Louchy and Louie were there [at Denton] and would stay till the end of the week, and they were expecting Henny's cousin. 'I had a visit, last week, f[ro]m a Mr Horwood, a lawyer, who is one of the Govern[men]t Com[m]issioners for examining the M.S.S in private Collections (where permitted to do so) - & who came to look over mine - He stay'd one night - but had only time to take a superficial survey of what I have, - & is to come here again, some future time, for more serious business. We thought him agreeable - & full of antiquarian knowledge, & zeal. He was to go, yest[erda]y, to Rousham, in this County - to examine the Cottrell papers, belong[ing] to Mr Cottrell Dormer.' Miss Harcourt had called there [at Denton], who had said her father was well. Was sorry to hear that her uncle, Charles Harcourt, was hopelessly ill at Carlisle. She and her sister, Lady Morshead, were going to him that week, to help nurse him. He had probably heard that Fanny had had a tumble and hurt her nose. The Shotover property was for sale.

82. Denton.
25 Apr.
[18]70

The same to the same.

Was very sorry to hear that he had felt it necessary to send for Walsh during the night of Friday, and trusted that the cause of his discomfort had been removed, and that he should have no return of it. The season of the year was especially trying to creaky folk, as the writer found, he was full of gouty-rheumatic pains, and hobbled about like an infirm old man of 90. Had had a letter from Curzon that morning, that his mother was on her death-bed. Describes the circumstances. She was nearly 83. News of the drought. The bishop's brother, the vicar of Ilam, and his wife, were at Cuddesdon. They were old

acquaintances and had called on the writer. 'The rats have found their way to my Pigeon-house - & feast upon the eggs, & young pigeons, to our great vexation, & loss - so my men are hav[ing] a chasse, with ferrets, today - but, I fear, to no purpose.' Adds a postscript, about the massacre by the Greek brigands of Mr F.Vyner and his companions. Hoped very strong measures would be taken to punish the culprits.

83. Travellers' Club.
5 May,
[18]70

The same to the same.

Had been very glad to hear that he had been able to be present at the opening of his church last Sunday, and was none the worse for the exertion. Wished he could help about the stained glass window, but feared it was not very likely that he could. Tomline, to whom he had just spoken in the club, had told him that he had put up 3 windows in Lincoln cathedral, which he considered good, and he had employed a man named Hughes. News of the weather, the writer's and his family's health. Alexander Hope, Lady Mildred and a daughter were to dine with them that day. Was so delighted at Delamere's son and daughter. Had lunched that day with old Lady Horton, and had found the George Hortons and Miss Carleton there. Curzon was, of course, detained at Parham. The accounts of Lady De la Z. seemed to be very hopeless. The Edward Curzons were at Parham and seemed to be a comfort to R[ichard] C[urzon]. Harry Bagot, who with his wife and little girl, had come to London for a week, was detained on account of their child being laid up with Scarlet fever. Edward Cheney was gone to Venice, and the Shirleys were not in town. The only news he had picked up that day was that there had been a burglary the night before at Mr Beaumont's house, in Piccadilly Terrace, and £20,000's worth of Lady Margaret's jewels had been stolen. There was some chance of Arundell Bouverie's coming to town.

Parham

84. Travellers' Club.
10 May,
[18]70

The same to the same.

He might like even a dull letter from Babylon, better than none at all, so would report progress. Henny and he, like everyone else in London, had had colds and sore throats since they had come to town, thanks to the detestable east wind. Charlotte also had had a bad cold, '& I have got the E. wind down my throat - but my rheumatism is, happily, much better;...' Had had a pleasant dinner at de Tabley's on Sunday, (Delamere, Harris, R.Phillimore, &c.). Phillimore's son, Walter, was going to marry a Miss Lushington. The last account of Lady De la Zouche had been so much better that he supposed she might possibly rally, to a certain extent, 'though recovery can hardly be possible.' Henny and he were engaged to dine with Lady Waldegrave, with Lady Georgina Bathurst, and with Caroline Bromley. They were to stay with Charlotte until Friday of next week, and were then to go home. Had seen C[oun]t Pablen the day before, who had made tender enquiries after him. Had also, just then, been talking to Lord Granville, who had also asked much after him. There had been a drawing-room that day, 'but I have been shopping at the other end of the town - so I have seen none of the

Pablen

fine ladies in their Court dresses!'

85. 4, Chester Square.
16 May,
[1870]

The same to the same.

Had just heard that Lady De la Zouche had died the day before.¹ Was glad, on Curzon's account as well as her own, that she had been spared from a long and tedious illness. News of the weather and the writer's health. They were engaged to dine with the Malcolms, with Philip and Lady Jane Dundas, and with the Davenports. If he had not yet made his selection, he believed he could confidently recommend him to employ Clayton and Bell of Regent Street, for stained glass windows. Mr Gambier Parry, whom he had been glad to meet at dinner at Caroline Bromley's, and who was the very best authority on such matters, thought very highly of them. Mrs Basil Wilberforce had just been there and had brought them an invitation from the Bishop of Winchester, to dine, but they could not do so. Had dined with Delamere the day before. He was to go the following day to Cheshirè, to attend Lord Cholm[ondele]y's funeral. 'H[enn]y & I went, on Sat[urda]y night, for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, to see the world at a crowded drum at L[ad]y Waldegrave's - The fashionable toilettes, & monstrous Coiffeures, were remarkable!' C[harlotte] was reading Hepworth Dixon's 'Free Russia', which she thought worth reading. Her conservatory was very nice. Had spoken to her about their mourning, and she had said that 7 June would be the date for their going out of mourning.

[1. Harriet Anne, Baroness De la Zouche, died 15 May, 1870].

86. Denton.
28 May,
[18]70

The same to the same.

Wondered whether he would like to have a tiny little visit from him alone? As he had mentioned in a letter to Charlotte that he had not been feeling quite so brisk as usual, the writer hardly liked to make any suggestions at present as to the time when they might propose to bring the children to visit Keele, but if the writer were to see him, they might talk the matter over. He must tell the writer very honestly, whether he had rather that he did come, or not. They expected a visit from old Fanny Parker, about the 7th or 8th, and must be at home to receive her. They had returned home a week ago, having enjoyed their little London season. C[harlotte] had made them very comfortable. News of the children, the garden, and the weather. Their bishop and his family were at Cuddesdon, '& our children are gone this afternoon, by invit[atio]n, to play, & have tea, with the Mackarness children.' Had heard once, only, from Curzon, since his mother's death. She had been buried at Parham, last Saturday. Wondered whether he should ever be able to call him by his new name. C[harlotte] had forwarded an invitation card to dine with the Granvilles, which they could not do, neither could he attend Van de Weyer's Philobiblon breakfast on Monday.

87. Denton.
6 June,
[18]70
- The same to the same.
- Supposed he had never received a letter about 10 days ago, in which the writer had proposed to run down to Keele, alone, for 2 or 3 days, to see him and the place. That week he must be at home, for they were expecting a visit from Fanny Parker, but after that, should he feel disposed, he had but to say the word. Did not like to suggest any plan for a family move, as he did not know whether he still wished it, or felt up to quite such an invasion. Their weather there was glorious, but the want of rain was becoming very serious. George Horton was at Oxford, visiting his nephew, Robin Curzon, and they were expecting them there that day. Curzon intended to drop the 'De la' and call himself Zouche. The bishop was to have his ordination at Cuddesdon next Sunday. Old Sir John Coleridge (the judge, and Mrs Mackarness's father) was staying at the Palace.
88. Denton.
17 June,
1870
- The same to the same.
- Their best news was that they had at last had a most welcome downpour. The drought had been terrible, no grass, and everything dying for lack of moisture. The day before the heat had been intolerable, '& I had just finish'd carrying the last load of my poor little failure of a hay-crop (wh[ic]h might have been easily carried in wheel barrows), when a heavy thunder-storm broke over us - & continued, more or less, through the night - with a deluge of rain - wh[ic]h the thirsty ground suck'd up with delight - Today is delicious...' News of friends, Fanny Parker, 'my old friend Wood (f[ro]m Worcester) & Sir Stephen Glynné,...' The latter had come to Denton for one night, having come to Oxford to vote for Mr Bayne, the Christ Church candidate for the University Registrarship. The writer had also gone to vote for him, but he had been beaten hollow by his Brasenose opponent. Next week there was to be a whirl of festivities at Oxford, for the Commemoration, and for the installation of Lord Salisbury as Chancellor. Henny and the writer might probably go in to see the flower-show in Worcester gardens, and they were invited to a grand luncheon at All Souls on Wednesday. Their garden was in great beauty, the roses coming out in great profusion. News of the family. Henny and the writer had lunched at Nuneham the week before, old William Harcourt had seemed very well. Curzon was in London, Lady Horton was to return to Catton, Eleanor Bagot was still with Charlotte, but was to go to Ashtead. Had not yet fixed his time for going to Buxton, but thought he should go towards the middle of the next month.
89. Denton.
28 June,
[18]70
- The same to the same.
- It grieved him to hear nothing from him, the more so as it made him fear that he might be less well, and found writing a fatigue. Should be most thankful for a message, even. Longed to see him again. Was going up to London the following day, to Charlotte, and should return on Saturday. There was a Philobiblon breakfast at the Duc d'Aumale's on Thursday. Last week had been

a time of great festivity at Oxford, for the Commemoration. They had been at a flower-show in Worcester gardens, and at a grand luncheon at All Souls, and at a fete given by the Free Masons in St John's gardens. On Thursday morning Frederick Gooch had come to them, and they had taken him with them to a garden party at Nuneham. News of the weather, the drought was a serious business. 'My poor little hay rick is about a $\frac{1}{4}$ of the usual bulk!' Miss Jones, who had been Henny's governess in former days, was staying with them, and was able to give useful advice about their children.

90. Denton.
4 July,
[18]70

The same to the same.

He had been so very pleased at receiving his welcome letter that morning, and looked forward to seeing him on Friday next. Hoped he might find him pretty well and able to enjoy the pleasant weather in his garden. Had returned home on Saturday, after a two days' visit to Charlotte, who was suffering from weakness in her eyes, which Miller said was gout. Had had a pleasant Philobiblon breakfast at the Duc d'Aumale's on Thursday, but would reserve his gossip until they met on Friday.

91. Denton.
31 Mar.
[2nd half
of 19th
cent.]

The same to the same.

Had scarcely left himself time for writing, but would scribble off a few lines as he would be looking out for another report of the babies. Describes the after effects on them of the measles. The nurse had been really ill, but was much better, and able to come and give a little help, which was all the better for Henny. News of his own health. His new drainage works and 'Cloaca maxima' were finished and in full operation. Had had it thoroughly well done and it would secure their well from any possible taint in future. Had heard from Charlotte that morning. They had been to the Phillimore-Fortescue wedding, which had been frisky of them. She had said that Edward Bagot was very ill. Fanny talked of accompanying Arundell to London on the 18th, when he came up for Convocation, and of perhaps running down to Denton, to pay them a flying visit. Wondered when they might be looking out for him? Rejoiced at the improved accounts of Vincent.

92. Denton.
15 Dec.
[2nd half
of 19th
cent.]

The same to the same.

They had been very glad to receive so good, and still improving, an account of him, as he had got from Miller. It had been kind of Miller to write. They had got safe home last Tuesday. Since their return they had had a little visit from Charles Percy, who had gone on to London on a visit to Edward Cheney. He had taken to the children, of whom he had highly approved. The writer was going to London the following day, to pass a week with Charlotte and Lizzy in Chester Square, but would return home for Christmas. News of the weather, which had made the place very damp, and the writer very rheumatic.

93. Denton.
Saturday,
[March,
2nd half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Wrote a line only to say that it stood for his going to London on Monday, to his sisters'. Invites him to drop him a line to Eaton Square if he had any commissions he wished him to execute. Went solely for business and had rather stay at home, for he dreaded London in that weather, '& the probable influenza! - We have true March weather...' Henny was gone to Oxford for shopping. Heard from his sisters that the accounts of poor Mr Curzon were not better. Poor Mrs Newdigate's death was very sad.
94. Denton.
Monday.
[2nd half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Would try to give him his own bulletin, but as he wrote from his couch, the scrawl would be scarcely legible. The fashion of his daily life remained as it was when he had been there, i.e. 'I am carried every day into Henny's room, & laid on the couch in the bow window, f[ro]m whence I can see the garden - & am carried back to bed at night - but still I am decidedly better...' Mr Cogan thought that in a day or two he might be promoted to a Bath chair, which the writer intended to hire from Oxford, and had also ordered a pair of crutches, from the carpenter. News of visitors and friends.
95. Denton.
Thursday.
[2nd half
of 19th
cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Had received the enclosed note from Mrs Harry Gooch that morning and could not do better than send it on to him. Melbourne was a place that certainly ought to have a good gardener, and one who had the taste to appreciate its old-fashioned beauties and peculiarities. Should be glad if Hill (or Mr Fleming) could recommend a satisfactory person for the place, and had just written a line to Mrs Gooch to tell her he would forward her application. News of his health. Was out of doors as much as he could, either on crutches or in his Bath chair. The weather was delicious. Thanks him for the box of fresh grapes. Henny would be extremely obliged if Mr Hill would be good enough to send her some cuttings of his choicest sort of roses. Was quite vexed at what he told him of the failure of his rail road - 'but also very much puzzled - for my half yearly circular f[ro]m the N.Staffordshire R[ailwa]y says that the 'Madeley line' was thrown out, & 'Mr Sneyd's line' was carried - Pray explain to me what this means - was your line necessarily combined with the 'Madeley' one - & therefore falls to the ground? or, how is it? I sh[oul]d not have been so anxious to vote for L[or]d Chandos, t'other day, if I had thought him capable of acting in so shabby & treacherous a manner - '. The magnolia under the window was flowering beautifully.
-