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Sneyd Papers

Calendar of correspondence to Ralph Sneyd from Harriet Sneyd

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CORRESPONDENCE

To Ralph Sneyd (d.1870) from Harriet Sneyd (d.1867)¹

1. Keele.
 17 Sept.
 [1815]

Harriet [Sneyd] to Ralph [Sneyd,
in Italy].

As there was a packet going to him, she would put in a few lines, though she had very little to tell him. They had gone to Capesthorpe on the 9th, for three nights, and had found Uncle John there, 'which made the visit a deal pleasanter.' They were to have gone on Thursday to Uncle Dick's, but a letter saying that Mrs Bagot had been brought to bed of a girl, at his house, had determined Mama to go without them, a resolution the writer never thought so good, 'but when I heard of all the sport that was going on; (such as going to the Lichfield race ball, which was very good, &c. &c) & that we should have been no inconvenience to them; I confess I thought it was an unfortunate one.' They were going to

[1. See also under letters to Ralph Sneyd (d.1870) from his sisters Frances and Elizabeth].

have Lanza again that autumn. If he should see or hear any thing very pretty 'in that great music shop, Italy, do bring it us, there's a good lad.' Had had thoughts of reading Eustace's travels in Italy, to follow him in her mind, but it was such a tremendous work that she thought she must give it up, 'especially as the book belongs to the Newcastle Society. - Poor Eustace! we saw his death in the paper last night.' Comments upon the hot weather, 'so hot, that we found it almost impossible to keep ourselves tolerably cool. You can not have had finer even in Italy.' Their harvest was already finished, were his vendanges? How did his Italian go on? Thought it would be no bad plan if they were to begin a correspondence in that language. Longed for his next letter.

2. [9 Oct.
1815]

The same to the same, in Florence.

Mama said she had told him everything, therefore it was needless for her to attempt to write anything like a letter, as it must only be a repetition of her's; but must nevertheless tell him how many, many happy returns she wished him of that day. They had all drunk his health. They were a very small party now. Papa was gone to town and to Cheltenham. To-morrow Grandmama came to them. How she had envied him all day and wished herself in Italy, 'for I have been quite starved in England.' Hoped they should have a letter from him soon, from Florence. Felt as if he would just miss seeing the fine things which were being sent out of the Louvre. Lizzy had the whooping-cough, Walter had not yet begun. 'Do tell me whether you approve my scheme of our holding a correspondence in Italian.'

With, postscript, from Frances Sneyd: 'It would be quite in vain to attempt to innumerate [sic] all my good wishes, I will therefore (like Mrs Brick) sum them up in one, which is, "that you may die a good old man."'

3. Keele.
17 Jan.
1816

The same to the same.

Could not suffer Mama's letter to go without inserting a few lines, '& this thin bit of paper I think I may venture to enclose without the Post knowing any thing about it.' Expresses concern at his having been ill, quite loved Lord Ponsonby for his kindness to him, thought Sir Robert Lawley must be an amiable man, and begs him accept his offer, 'or any other that is made for your conveyance home! You must return to England immediately to be well doctored. I fear that your health should be injured by wrong treatment, & though you speak highly of Mr Edwards, I cannot help fearing that he may not have all the skill requisite. - Would he were Dr Boisragon!' News of the family. 'We are asked to dine at Trentham next Friday.' Fanny would write in a few days.

4.

Keele.
7 Mar.
[1816]

The same to the same, poste restante Florence.

Would not delay one day thanking him for his very agreeable letter. It had arrived last night accompanied by one for Mama dated six days later, and one from Lord Ponsonby to Papa. 'A very rich post, we thought it!' Rejoiced in the good accounts of his health, felt somewhat alarmed at all the dissipation he was going to plunge into, and trusted he might live through the exertion of being Charles Surface. 'I am dying to read the School for Scandal. We have already tried but without success, to get it from Newcastle. But why did you not send us the whole Dramatis Persone, and tell us when the performance was to take place? Lady Har[rie]t told us that Lady Ponsonby had refused to do the part of Lady Teazle.' How he made her mouth water when he talked of their spending a couple of days together in the Academy. His encouragement had given a fresh spur to her ardour for drawing. 'I look forward with pleasure to resuming my lessons with Mulready.' Supposed that in about three weeks they should be moving Londonwards. Mama seemed to have a thorough dread of the subject. Anne Dod was to come for one night, on her way to Blithfield. They were still a sick house. There was an influenza reigning 'which lets not a single creature escape.' Lady Jersey had told them two pieces of ~~G~~helttenham news, that Dr Boisragon was gone to Brussels, and that Miss Hicks had run away with a Major M'Cromie. There had been no tidings of Uncle Charles yet, since he had sailed. It was not known when the royal wedding would be. 'They say that the Prince of S: Coburg is very amiable & clever, as well as a beauty. What a jump for him!' Had promised to leave Mama the flaps, therefore had not room to say much more.

With, postscript, from Louisa Sneyd, expressing thankfulness that he was so well recovered. How little had he thought when they saw Mrs Charles Locke and 'the Donkeys' that he should be acting with her at Florence. Harriet had given him all the news, 'save that poor Pea is dead froze one night on the great Sycamore.'

5.

Audley Square.
8 Apr.
[? 1816]

The same to the same.

'In spite of my dislike to writing [sic] when other members of the family do, I cannot resist this opportunity; as I hope it is the last, or very nearly the last, letter that can reach you at Florence.' Longed for the time when their tongues and not their pens would talk to each other. They had arrived 'in this Black Babylon on Friday; & find it very empty. Half the houses have bills in the windows; - and the few people who are here, are too poor to give anything. There is no such thing to be seen as a Card upon any body's chimney piece. - I have no patience with

all the people for going abroad to make this country so dull & so poor. - As I have no chance of going, I comfort my self with thinking that it is very patriotic to stay in England.' Princess Charlotte was to be married on the 18th, they heard. 'They have taken Camelford House for 2[,]500£ a year; & yesterday, Lady Grenville was looking at Gen[era]l St. John's, next door, (which they are meaning to let).' Lady Charlotte Legge was going to be married to Mr George Neville, 'which makes them all very happy.' He had a new cousin - Alfred Bagot - Lady B. had been brought to bed the day before they had come. Wondered whether he would fall in with Lewis at Paris, 'he talked of going next month.' Had been summoned down to Lanza, 'therefore must break off short.'

6. Keele.
16 July,
[1818]

The same to the same, at Longleat.

Pitied him if he was broiling in town that day, and supposed he was, as the paper said his dinner was on that day. How he must pant for the country. 'This is something like a Summer really.' They had arrived there on Saturday, '& found the place in great beauty (out of doors).' Was sorry to tell him that Mama was very unwell indeed, 'very unsnug', but Bentley had told them she was going on quite as well as he could expect. Had fixed to go to Blithfield next Monday, but did not think now there was any chance of Mama's being well enough. They had been very much delighted at receiving a letter two nights ago from Elizabeth Carnegie, saying that it was her intention to come there next week if they would have her. She travelled with Anne, who was going into Scotland. 'We shall keep Elizabeth a long while, I hope. - Make haste & come!' Lewis had been there for two nights and they had been over with him to see his house at Wolstanton, 'which he has made very snug indeed;...' Hoped he had seen the two new duchesses and would send an account of them. 'The D[uche]ss of Gloucester writes Mama word that she is quite delighted with the D[uche]ss of Kent - & I hear that the D[uche]ss of Clarence's ugliness has been very much over rated.' Had he heard that Lord Gower was to marry Lady Elizabeth Cunningham. They had not heard anything of it there, but only in a letter from Miss FitzClarence. Supposed he would be at Longleat by the time the letter got there. If Miss Stewart were there, prayed him remember her very particularly to her. Was sorry he should have to pay for her dull epistles. 'I am now going to walk for the rest of the Evening, hav[ing] been keeping cool in the house all day.'

7. Keele.
Wednesday,
4 Nov.
[?1818]

The same to the same.

As she wished to keep up some degree of intercourse with him, she thought it was high time she should write again. 'I am sitting in

your room with Charlotte, who is come into it whilst her own is aired; for she is very unwell with a bilious obstruction. She was violently sick for two days, could keep nothing on her stomach; so Northen ordered a dose of Calomel the night before last & to keep in bed yesterday. He is to see her again to-day. She does not seem at all comfortable[,] very low & very yellow. She certainly has a touch of the jaundice, though I hope she has been taken in hand time enough to prevent its coming to such a decided jaundice as I had.' Mr Newdigate and Lucy Parker were there. Mama had gone over to Blithfield for two days last week. Bess and Haddy were now with her. Lady Charlotte Neville was come to Blackheath in so bad a state of health that Lady Dartmouth would not like to leave her. Wondered whether it were true that Lord Valletort's death had been occasioned by tight lacing. They were delighted at hearing a very good account of him from Charles Percy. Was sincerely sorry for Charles Percy and him, as she knew what a severe loss he would be to him. Could not help thinking that it was a very disagreeable sort of favour to have conferred upon one, to be banished to the Ionian Islands. Wished he would come home after having parted with him. Such a place as Longleat would be very likely to undo the good of Cheltenham. Was happy to say there was a letter from Lord Bagot, with a much better account of Lady Charlotte Neville, but she had been in a very alarming state. Mama had heard from Princess Sophia, who had had the worst spasm she ever had before. Had gone over to Sandon with Lady Harriet, the other morning, Lady Harrowby had been in very good looks and Lady Mary had been delighted with her excursion abroad. Was glad he would send her some new music. Dr Northen had ordered Charlotte some more calomel.

8. Bath.
25 Apr.
[? 1821]

The same to the same.

Did not think she had had a letter from him since 1816, and did not know any circumstance that would please her better at that present time than receiving one. 'Letters are our chief entertainment at this place & we are marvellously greedy of every scrap of London Gossip.' Had heard yesterday to their joy that Lady Louisa Erskine was coming there next week. Mama had just had a letter from Mr Belasyse, with a pressing invitation to her & 'one of the girls (whichever stands the waters most)', to come to Cheltenham for ten days. Had heard from Matilda Trefusis yesterday, who had been nursing her brother Charles, who was now recovering and had gone into Devonshire with Lord Rolle, for a change of air. Longed to hear how his dinner would go off on 1st May, and supposed he would go to the Drawing Room on the 3rd. Lewis told them that the Duke of Devonshire was to give a

ball on that night for the second Miss Howard. The last two or three days had given them an idea of how broiling Bath must be in summer. 'To-night alas! Mrs Leman gives another assembly, to wch Papa thinks it right we shd go, & I must be one as I did not go last time, & a great bore it will be indeed.' Lord and Lady Cawdor had been going to arrive the day before, Lady Willoughby was to come next week, 'I wish we knew her.' Papa began to look much better for the waters and Mama was tolerably well, and Walter was happy. Papa had had a letter from Stafford a few days ago, containing but an indifferent account. Prayed him tell Lord Bagot they were looking on with considerable pleasure to seeing him there. Supposed he had been spending these lovely days at Roehampton, of which she gave him joy.

9. Bath.
Wednesday morning.
[3 May, 1821]

The same to the same, in Bath.

By his permission Mama had communicated to her the contents of his last letter to her, 'they have grieved me & touched me indeed much more than I am able to express - I cannot bear to think of you unhappy; & be without the least power of giving you comfort. But severe as must be the disappointment you have had, your own fortitude, and rightness of mind will I doubt not, with God's help, enable you to get over it.' Felt more than ever that he should come there, 'for I think the part of the Town we inhabit, you can never have seen much of before; - you are pretty sure of seeing no acquaintance but your own family, - & you will have leisure & means for attending to all S[i]r Will[ia]m Knighton's directions for your health.' Was in hopes that the waters were doing all they should for Papa, had begun them herself and had found them agree very well. Was not quite satisfied with Mama, who had had an accident again, which she thought would oblige her to go up to town to see Henderson. Lady Louisa Erskine was to come to Bath. She and Miss Paget were to dine there that day, and Mr Bamfylde, who was to go to town on Saturday. Lizzy and Walter had been vaccinated, but it could not yet be determined whether they had taken or not. Felt curious to hear how Lord Bagot's dinner had gone off. Dared say he was very glad it was over. 'I suppose he is very happy in being invited to dine at L[or]d Liverpool's.' Adds a postscript, trusting they should have him amongst them very soon, and that she had not said a word to her sisters. Mama had desired her to ask him if he would find out at Lord Lovaine's whether there was any card for them for the ball at Carlton House, '& if there sh[oul]d be, wishes you would have the good-nature to take the proper steps about an excuse being made.'

10. [c.28 Dec.
1822]

The same to the same, poste restante Rome.

Had gone to Blithfield fully determined that she should write him a long letter from thence, '& make L[ad]y Harriet write in it too.' The time, however, had passed, and no letter had been written, so she had made Harriet promise to send her half a sheet to do up with hers, 'as I thought it w[oul]d be hard upon you to lose her part.' Had spent a very pleasant fortnight at Dick's. They had both spoiled her. When she had first gone, there had been Lord Spencer, Captain S., and a large party at the Hall. They had gone away a few days afterwards, '& then we had a most agreeable[,] small party of our own - Seymour Bathurst, & Edw[ar]d Drummond, (who staid all the time I was there) & Heneage Legge, & Mr Fortescue for 2 or 3 days.' Had found Bess and Haddy 'here upon my return, both well...' The Duchess of Leeds 'returned here from Blithfield & is still here - She is as good-humoured as it is possible & thinks every thing 'delightful' & 'charming'.' News of other friends.

11. Audley Square.
10 June,
[1823]

The same to the same, in Paris.

Reckoned on this letter finding him at Paris. How pleasant to think that he was got so much nearer to them. How much she should have liked to have gone to meet him at Paris, 'but alas! we are people of no enterprise at all.' There was a great deal going on, balls, concerts and parties innumerable - 'We take them in moderation though; more so indeed than we c[oul]d wish, as of course we partake of the Spirit of dissipation so prevalent at this time of year.' The lady patroness of Almack's had left off giving them tickets. Prince Leopold had cut them, '& so have several who are going to give balls. - L[ad]y Char[lo]tte Duncombe gave one at Almack[']s last Thursday, which was magnificent.' Had enjoyed nothing so much as 5 or 6 days she had spent at Ashstead. They had gone from thence to Epsom races, 'which I had always a curiosity to see.' Had made acquaintance with Miss Upton (Lord Templetown's daughter), who had been with Mary Howard that year. What an extraordinary match Lady Elizabeth Conyngham's was. 'L[or]d Burford by all accounts must be quite an idiot. However she is in great spirits they say[,], so I suppose the prospect of being a Duchess is all-sufficient to her. - The D[uche]ss of Gloucester & P[rince]ss Sophia have been lunching here this morn[ing] - both in high good looks & more amiable [sic] than ever - Mama had a long letter from P[rince]ss Eliz[abe]th yes[terda]y, in which she says she had been delighted to hear good accounts of dear Ralph from L[ad]y Sheffield who had been to visit her.' They were all surprized and delighted at the way in which Mama stood a London life. 'She always will chaperone us, & stay as late as we do; & we cannot dissuade her from it, as it does her no harm.' Was sorry to hear very uncomfortable accounts of poor, dear Soby. They were quite in love with Mrs Alexander

Baring. They had just got into their new great house in Piccadilly and had asked them to come and see it. Had he read 'Quentin Durward'? Liked it extremely.

12.

Keele.
Saturday.
[? ante 17
July, 1825]

The same to the same.

The reason she wrote so soon was that she had a message for him from Mrs Greville Howard. Fanny and she had received a most good natured note from her, pressing them to go to Elford, and offering to send to Brereton for them. They should be there on Friday. She had desired the writer to tell him that she hoped he was intending to go there to meet Seymour Bathurst. Prays him make Seymour aware that he was expected. 'Do, both of you come! We shall want Jemmy people.' Was sorry to say she had nothing good to tell him of poor John Talbot. 'Think of Lady Essex's good nature in sending her carriage for Walter on Wednesday, giving him a dinner & bed at her house, & taking him to a children's ball at Mrs Drummond's - never having seen him before! ' Lady Essex still would have it that Lord Burford¹ was to marry Mrs Coutts, at least she said it was generally believed in London.

[1. William Aubrey de Vere (Beauclerk), styled the Earl of Burford until 17 July, 1825, when he succeeded to the dukedom of St Albans. He married Mrs Coutts 16 June, 1827].

13.

Keele.
26 Feb.
[? 1826]

The same to the same, in Paris.

The arrival of his long wished for letter had been most agreeable, and she thanked him very much for it. It had found her at Elford, where Fanny and she had been for near a fortnight. Except for Bess and Haddy they had nobody there but the George Legges and Mr Lanes for a day or two, and Dick and Harriet the last two days 'to make a good finish.' The change of air and weather had quite wiped away all the remains of the influenza. Had found Mama with a bad cold and no voice, which was, however, better. She would do a great deal more talking than was good for her with Lady Sheffield, who had come there with Anne. They had left Harewood the day after Lady Caroline Lascelles's confinement. The Duke of D. and Lady Harewood had seen Lady Caroline for a few minutes and had been dreadfully shocked, 'her emaciation was so terrible.' Wondered whether the Duke of Devonshire was to go and act king at Nicholas's coronation. His [Ralph Sneyd's] story of the Princess de Vaudemont had made them laugh very much, but his 'taking in Mademoiselle to dinner before all the Big Wigs filled us with amazement. Did you talk to her of Mad^e. de Genlis? I wish you would try to see and get acquainted with Mad^e. de G. and describe her to me - for having been living with her through eight vols., I feel an interest in her in spite of her disgusting vanity.' Would try to do

something for Madame de Montjoye's collection, and so would F. & C., but owned that nothing frightened her so much as drawing for an album. They had good accounts from Bath, where they seemed to live in a constant round of dissipation. Did not expect Papa would stay on long after Lord Bagot left. Had he begun to think at all about when he should return to England? Heard that Lady Caroline Stanhope's marriage with the Duke of Newcastle was broken off, which she was sorry for. The world had married Lord Dartmouth to Miss Inge - a report there could not have been the slightest foundation for. News of Dick and Harriet. 'We have been taking so lively an interest in the distress of the Spitalfields weavers, as to read all the speeches & debates upon the Silk trade!'

14. Saturday.
[ante 8 Aug.
1827]

The same to the same.

Had received her books and thanked him a thousand times for executing her commission so well and so speedily. Hoped it had not been very troublesome, but was afraid, with his departure so near at hand, that it might have been so. 'The Bagots have just left us, - and little do the Dicks now think what tidings they are bringing them! Yesterday's post brought My Lord a letter from Mr Canning containing the offer of the Deanery of Canterbury for Dick; which has, as you may guess, given us no small degree of pleasure! But My Lord most earnestly charged us not to mention it to any body but yourself, & to beg you also not to speak of it. I am sorry for him, I confess, for I think he is in an awkward situation & feels himself so. I only hope he will put on a face of pleasure, and not announce it to Dick, as if it was a calamity, which entre nous I am a little afraid of. - I wonder what is the income! - The canonry of Windsor he gives up, of course.' The Gopleys had put off their coming till Thursday, which was unlucky as they had fixed Arthur Talbot to meet them, and they would come in for Mr Newdigate and Lucy Parker, 'who will not suit them at all, I think.' News of other friends and future movements. The length of time that poor Lady Ebrington continued was a severe trial for those around her. Did he ever hear whether poor Lady Harrowby had engaged Mlle. Borch? It was impossible to name the subject to her, but she had heard of a person from Miss Murray, who sounded as if she would have been perfect for the situation. Perhaps in the course of time he could find out whether they were still in want of a person in that situation.

15. Cheverells.
25 Nov.
[1827 or
later]
Probably 1830-31

The same to the same, at Keele.

Knew he did not like to be long without hearing of Mama, and therefore was going to write him a line. She was, she thought, particularly well just then, 'better than she has ever been since

her last attack.' Walter and Charles were gone to town. They returned on Wednesday, which day they and two of them were to go to Ashridge. Did not expect it would be very gay, 'as her invitation is to meet Miss Grimston & Lady Frances Somerset. Her parties however are generally of that sort - & I must say it is very moving of her always to ask us when she has any body.' Walter and Charles were to set out northwards on Saturday for Frederick Gooch's, in the first instance. Walter had had a letter from Lewis '(the Warden)', inviting him to All Souls, but as it would throw over all the arrangements he had made, he had declined. They had not yet seen Lady Katherine [Verulam] since her marriage had been declared. 'We cannot like the marriage - & specially since we have heard from Fanny that Arundell & Mr Wall do not at all like Mr Barham. I have great misgivings of his being quite good enough for her. However you have heard him well spoken of, and the family are all pleased with the match, so I hope it will turn out well. She is a very very nice person, & will be a dreadful loss to Gorhambury.' Charlotte lives much at Hatfield. She had gone there on Thursday and they were expecting her back that day. If she brought any news, she would add it. Had had the most amiable letter from Lady Clarendon, with news of Lord and Lady Jersey. What a very melancholy thing poor Mr Howard's death was! They supposed from his saying that Lady Louisa Fortescue was going on prosperously that she was brought to bed, but they had never heard of it, or seen it in the paper. Charlotte was returned and had liked her visit at Hatfield very much. She had met Lady Georgiana and Col. De Roos, Mr and Mrs Sullivan, Lord Mahon, William Percy and some others, '- but not the D. of Wellington, as the papers w[oul]d make us believe.' Thought Lord Talbot was disappointed to find that Tixall was not to be sold - 'having made up his mind to get it. He heard it whilst he was here.'

16. Barmouth.
Tuesday.
[? July,
1828]

The same to the same.

Though she had not the luck of getting a new pen, she must answer his letter, therefore had taken an old stump for the purpose. 'I wish you to know that we all drank Tunstall's health in bumpers, last Saturday.' Had just been out to see the tide come in. Wished he had been with them the day of their expedition to Harlech Castle. It had been built in the year 530 by Maelgwn Gwynedd and partly rebuilt by Edward I in 1283, 'so one part of it is nearly 1300 years old.' Lady Bagot had some thoughts of asking the Prince for a grant of it, and £30,000 to fit it up with. Prayed him let her know if the Mitfords arrived safe. Was grieved she would not see him before he went to Oxford. Was aware this letter was very dull, 'but how should it be otherwise, for the history of every day is nearly the same, viz:

Breakfast at half past 9; dip three times a week; sit still the first part of the morning; walk out the latter part; fare very well; & sometimes read Johnson's life in the evening but still oftener my Lord & Lady sleep, & then I am obliged to begin ringing the little hand bell to wake them; we generally all go to bed at 10 o'clock. Though this may not furnish matter, for an entertaining letter, it certainly is very snug for practising.'

17. Pool Park.
Saturday.
[2 Aug.
1828]

The same to the same, in London.

Thought he would like to hear something of them. They (that was to say Mama, Fanny and herself) had come there on Wednesday. The rest of the party, in the open carriage, had not come till the day following. Papa had been obliged to delay his journey a day, 'having hurt his foot, most provokingly. A gate, w[hi]ch he was trying to put right upon the hinges fell upon it - no bone is broken or put out, but it is tremendously bruised - & he is still unable to set it to the ground without great pain. He moves about the house with crutches.' The house [Pool Park] would be charming when finished, but it was much larger than she had imagined. 'We live entirely upstairs, the ground floor is in a very unfinished state. The rooms now used as dining room & drawing rooms, will be spare bed rooms - and as we are now, a party of sixteen, all well lodged, & rooms vacant besides, you may imagine it is a pretty good sized house! Had it not 'built itself' one would be frightened at the immense expense of it!' Last night they had all (Papa, Mama and 'My Lord' excepted) gone to a play, 'in a barn at Ruthin - which was exceedingly good fun.' They kept very early hours, breakfast at nine and dine at four, 'which if it were at all like summer would be very agreeable; but they don't suit this sort of weather - The days & evenings are endless.' Francis Paget was there, who had received and accepted an offer from Lewis of the curacy of Headley, 'w[hi]ch Mr Moore gives up. He cannot however take it till next year. - How very unlucky Dick was, to have left Town just as before the ArchBP.'s death!' 'My Lord' was furious at the appointment of Dr Sumner to Chester, who, he said, was a rank Methodist.

18. Keele.
Wednesday.
[1828 or
later]

The same to the same, [in Denbighshire].

Though Lizzy was writing to Charlotte, she must put in a few lines to him to tell him how satisfactory White had been to her that morning. He had said that she [? the writer's mother] was as much better as it was possible, 'that the circulation was so much improved - & her colour & looks so much improved; (which I had already observed to Lizzy).' She [? the writer's mother] had been out that day walking. It had been beautifully fine, and she hoped he might have such a day to-morrow, when the opening into the

Vale of Clwyd would look beautiful. Lizzy and she had been taking advantage of the pretty lights to sketch a little. The man had come from Blithfield to cut the trees. White had been sent for to Trentham yesterday. Lord Stafford had been worse the night before, and Johnson had been sent for. White had only seen Lady Stafford yesterday, when Lord Stafford had been rather better. Lady Stafford had sent a very kind message to Mama by White. Was sorry to hear that poor Daniel's place had turned out wretched - 'that there is not the meanest farmer's servant about here that is not made more comfortable. White said he had sent him his advice to give it up immediately.' News of friends, including Harriet Williams, to whom she must now write a line 'to tell her how annoyed we were, & ask how Davy stood her journey'.

19. Blithfield.
Thursday,
14 [Jan.
1830]

The same to the same, at Keele.

F. had written him the letter she had intended to write him on Tuesday. The changes since had been the arrival of the Lanes yesterday, and of Mr Neville, Mr Glynne and R. Phillimore that day, and the departure of Charles. He was gone to Beaudesert and Elford on his way to town. 'I never saw a school-boy more sorry to be got to the end of his holidays, than he was.' News of visitors at the Parsonage, Dr Finch, and two Mr Baileys. Lewis was in high force 'but grown almost quite bald - which rather alters him.' News of other members of the family. Thought her mother was oppressed by the numbers at Blithfield. Fancied he was very warm and snug and in no ways inclined to leave his own fire to go to Eaton that weather. News of friends. Dick and Harriet had gone over to Sandon on Tuesday and had seen Lady Harrowby and Lady G. Wortley. They had been expecting the Grevilles, and the Francis Levesons, from Eaton. They were feeling melancholy that evening with the thought of parting with Walter ~~for~~ so long. 'He & Francis & Mr Clarke set out together in a Chaise at Six o'clock tomorrow morning.' Chig was very quiet, with the exception of his cough, which was rather troublesome to him.'

20. Ingestre.
Wednesday.
[? 23 Feb.
1830]

The same to the same.

Would have written to him sooner, 'but finding I had so very little to tell you, I thought my letter might be rather better worth sending, if I put it off till I came here; which Fanny & I did yesterday;...' It was impossible to be snugger than they were there, only Lord T[?albot], Cecil, Mlle. Muller and themselves. Had just received a few lines from Mama. Was delighted that she had had such a good day for beginning to go out. Was delighted to hear he thought of riding over to Blithfield. 'Boddicum' stayed there till Monday, the Levetts were to go there on Saturday. Had had a letter from Lady Harriet that day. They

were still house hunting '& hovering about Sir J. Stanley's in Audley Square. It w[oul]d be very agreeable indeed to have them so near, but I confess I do not think they ought to think of such a house as that. It must be far beyond what they ought to give[,] so large a house in a situation so much sought after. I c[oul]d not help saying last time I wrote to Har[rie]t, that I thought it w[oul]d be a great pity if they had all the children in London when they were so much better in the Country - but she seems to have understood it as if I was speaking only of before Easter.'

21. Saturday,
24 [? Apr.
1830]

The same to the same.

Had no pleasure in sitting down to writing to him, having nothing but unpleasant things to say, 'tho' I am much happier than yes[terda]y, inasmuch as Mama is a great deal better.' Describes her mother's condition and their sending for Sir Henry Holford, 'who came directly he rec[eive]d our note, & was more kind & amiable in his manner than any body ever was.' He had given them a good account of the King, who had had two good nights and was certainly better, 'still one cannot help feeling very much frightened ab[ou]t him.' Grieved to say that the last account of Lady Bath had been much worse, but knew that he would hear of her constantly from other quarters. What a sad tragedy was the death of Lady Wilton's boy, ' - And I am so moved for the nurse who gave him the wrong medicine[.] She is in a state of despair I hear. But I do not believe the mistake was sufficient to have caused his death if he had not been in a very bad state before.' Dick and Harriet had not intended coming before Monday, but Lewis had met with an accident at Westminster and hurt his shoulder. Fanny had a slight bilious attack. Was afraid nothing could be worse than poor Lady Ingestre's state '- I fear a most decided case of insanity.' Lady Bathurst and Lady Georgiana had called on them yesterday, Lady Bathurst looking so well and so nice, Lady Georgiana looking thin and ill. Lady Bathurst had given a sad account of Lady Louisa. Supposed that Mama had told him 'of our carriage & coachman distresses.'

22. Audley Square.
Wednesday.
[28 Apr.
1830]

The same to the same, in York.

He should have a line directed to the Post Office. Mama was going on perfectly well. Thought Hollings had done as well for her as Sir Henry could have done. Supposed that the King was not much better that day, by Sir Henry remaining at Windsor. Hoped the king would go on some time - 'for I dread the event & the combustion it will make.' News of Dick and Harriet, and Lewis's accident, which she feared was 'but too likely to defeat his Election, which after all his hard fagging, will be a very hard case.' News of friends, including Lord Clare,

who had complained very much of his [Ralph Sneyd's] staying so long in the country, 'as indeed we all do.' They would be anxious to hear the result of his expedition.

23. Audley Square.
Monday.
[3 May,
1830]

The same to the same.

He had had no account of Mama since Friday, so he must have a line that day, though she could not report quite so well of her. Hollings had seen her that morning and had said there was little disposition to a return of the disease. 'I hope he is right - & he has seemed to understand her - but I never could build my faith in him - It is a great nuisance that Sir Henry is not to be got at now!' People looked very desponding about the king. On Saturday he had been as bad as possible, but she heard he had been a little better yesterday. Heard the princesses were all very low, 'and that the D[uche]ss of Gloucester, who went to Windsor on Friday w[i]th P[rince]ss Augusta, was very much shocked at the change since she had seen him ten days before. One cannot help feeling that the longer he continues to live, the better for us all, yet it is too cruel to wish his continuance in this state, for I am afraid he suffers horribly. - The Duke of Clarence is keeping himself very quiet at Bushy; and shewing very good feeling, or at least good taste, in his conduct.' Felt sure that he would have been informed by Saturday's post that the melancholy event in Grosvenor Square had taken place at half past two that morning. Could not bear to think of his having that melancholy subject to prey on his mind and fill his thoughts in his solitude. Mama had desired her to thank him for his letter from York. His journey must have been most miserable indeed. They had had a visit from Lady Frances Sandon, '& very much she fascinated us all.' Lady Bute was coming to London. How she wished he would come to London. 'Do not put it off much longer, or the King will die, & then I suppose every body will go.' News of the family and other friends.

24. Audley Square.
Saturday.
[8 May,
1830]

(?) The same to the same.

The writer had provided herself with a frank from Lord Clare, who had called upon them yesterday, thinking he would like a few lines written that day. Mama had improved decidedly, though still very weak. Was sure that if she could sleep two or three nights out of town, it would do her more good than anything else. The only place they could devise was to Lady Taylor's in the Regent Park, 'which is very like going into the country'. Lord Bagot &c. were to get to Blackheath that day. ~~Mama was about to make an exchange in the carriage~~ line. The little carriage he had given her had 'no power of driving with a postillion - therefore it holds but two - & if some & not all of us wanted to take any journey there is no room for

maid or things - so what we want is a barouche w[hic]h will hold four inside. We have had a second hand one from Mr Thrupp to try - drove in it yesterday to the Regent's Park - & liked it very much. Daniel says it is perfectly sound in all the wood work, &c. Thrupp asks 60 guineas for it - but he will not give more than 15gs. for ours. Daniel thinks we shall not get more for it any where else, as he says he has seen great numbers of the same kind at the Bazaar sold at 12£.' Thought Lord Clare had been looking better than they had seen him before. He had been to see if he could get him [Ralph Sneyd] some lodgings he had liked in Sackville Street. How glad she would be when he was in them, 'or any where else in this Town.' The accounts of the King varied a little from day to day, but she did not believe there was then any individual who entertained the smallest hope of his recovery except Hollings. The interest felt about him was very strong indeed in all ranks. The Duchess of Gloucester was gone down to Windsor that day. They had seen none of them for some time, 'but P[rince]ss Sophia is to come here on Monday at one o'C.' The Cholmondeley marriage was to be on Tuesday. [Letter incomplete].

25. Cheverells.
Sunday.
[1830 or
later]

The same to the same.

Did not like to let the post of that day go without a line to tell him that Mama was better. Mr Burlin had been very much pleased with the improvement in her the day before. Sir Charles was just gone to Gorhambury, ' & I could not help putting off writing my letters till he was gone, which has left me very little time to tell you about our visit to Ashridge, which was very agreeable.' The Berkhamstead Ball she had now seen once, ' & am quite satisfied never to see another (unlike L[ad]y Salisbury, who never intends to miss one whilst she lives!)' Lady Bridgewater's impromptu quadrille, as she called it, had been very pretty. The house had looked beautiful, 'so light & gay, & the draw[in]g room was such a splendid ball-room. Tea & supper in the dining room. They kept up the dancing till near 2 o'C. when the people went away. The party stay[in]g in the house was, the Verulams (including L[or]d Grimston & Edward & the girls) - Lord Craven, Sir Walter Riddell, Mr Fane, & Mr Beavan (I don't know how he is spelt, but he has 600,000£) - old Lady Salisbury and ourselves i.e. Eleanor, Lizzy, Walter & myself. - Lady Bridgewater's kindness to us quite touched us - she would take us in her carriage to the ball - & seemed to look upon us as specially belonging to her. She spared no pains to make it pleasant to every body, & succeeded.' The gentlemen, (Walter excepted) had all shot on Friday, and had been quite delighted with their day. 'They brought in 300 head of game & had above 700 shots.' How she wished Uncle Charles had come

in time for it. Lord Clarendon had been very ill indeed with ~~gout~~ ~~in the~~ throat, but was now out of danger. Charlotte was invited to go to Hatfield on Friday, and would meet the Lothians. 'Lizzy and I are very envious of her sight of Cecil.' Uncle Charles had talked with great admiration and approbation of all ~~his~~ doings at Keele, 'but it was too provoking that you sh[oul]d have had such a wet day for him.'

26. [? 1830
or later]

The same to the same.

Thinking it would be a satisfaction to him to have one line about Mama, she had made 'My Lord' leave her a frank, and was thankful to say she could send him an excellent account of her. She had improved very much these last three days. 'My Lord' and Eleanor had left them, 'My Lord infinitely better than when he came'. Charlotte was just returned from Hatfield, where she had met the Lothians, Lord Talbot and divers others. Lord Talbot was to come there on Thursday. The Bishop had announced himself for Saturday. Harriet Williams had dined and slept there on Friday, on her way to Capesthorpe. She had enjoyed her month at Paris. 'How do you like the family at Madeley Manor?'

27. Blithfield.
Saturday evening.
[26 Feb.
1831]

The same to the same.

Was very tired of her work, 'so I may as well vary my employment, & write you a few lines.' F[rances] and she had returned that day, having spent three most enjoyable days at Ingestre. Yesterday she had gone with Lord Talbot in his curricule, and F[rances] with Cecil in the pony carriage, first to call on Lady Fitzgerald, and then to Hagley, where they had seen Bess and Haddy. On Thursday they had received a very uncomfortable account of Lady Sarah [Talbot] from Lord Ingestre, but the account they had had that morning had been much more comfortable. They had been disappointed to find Mama 'gone back' instead of having gained ground as we hoped in this nice weather - having caught a little cold three days ago - This is very provoking.' 'Boddicum' was to go on Monday. News of other arrivals and departures. Feared he would think the arrangements anything but agreeable, nevertheless trusted they should see him in a few days. Heard that Dick and Harriet were now after a house in Grosvenor Street, 'having given up Sr John Stanley's as being too dear. I suppose it was not dear for the house, 600£ for the Season - & the one they are now about is 500£. I am sorry they are so unwise as to take an expensive house at all, but if they do, I wish it were the one so near us, for it w[oul]d be very pleasant to have them there. How extraordinary if true that Lady Paget (Sir C.'s) & her daughters have turned Catholics!' Asks him to ask Townshend if he remembered to deliver some letters, and if he [Ralph Sneyd] would bring some violets from 'under the wall near the hot house'

when he came. Charlotte desired her to thank him for his letter, '& to tell you that Minny was in ecstasies with hers.'

28. W[est] Tytherley.
23 June,
[? c.1832]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Fanny begged she would thank him very much for his letter, and announce to him that the flitch of bacon had set out on its journey to him yesterday, and hoped it would reach Keele in time for Charles Percy to taste a little bit. Hoped he had fine weather for going over all his improvements with him. On Thursday they had had deluges of rain - vexations for Arundell's hay, which was just fit to be carried. West Tytherley was looking very snug. Fanny was looking very well. They had driven every day in her pony carriage, and that day the writer was to mount the pony and ride with Arundell. Admired Norman Court extremely. Comments on Ralph Sneyd's news and news of friends. 'How did you feel when you read an account of the outrages upon the Duke of Wellington on the day of Waterloo?!!!' It was perhaps not possible to hate and despise one's country more than she had before, 'otherwise it would have augmented those feelings to the utmost. - I feel afraid there will be some attempt at mischief the night of the ball - & that Mama will be frightened & nervous - for she was intending to go with [? word omitted] Sisters. - The Tory "nobs" (as a farmer here called the nobility speaking to Arundell a few days ago) seem to be endeavouring to please & entertain the King by giving him a series of fetes. Lord Dartmouth gives a breakfast to the K. & Q. at Blackheath on the 5th of July. - That at Moor Park is to be on the 10th, I believe - & very pretty, I sh[oul]d think it must be. I wish L[ad]y Westminster would ask us to it.' Arundell was very eager about the church, which was now being roofed.

29. The Grove.
24 Oct.
[1832]

The same to the same.

Had been delighted to see his writing and get some tidings of him. Should be in despair if the odious dissolution prevented their seeing him in December '(and I fear it is but too likely)', for they were becoming quite strangers. Lizzy and she had been visiting about from house to house most assiduously during the absence of Mama and Charlotte. First they had been to visit 'Munny', and were delighted to find her so comfortable, & apparently happy.' Then they had gone to Ashridge, 'Magnificent & beautiful beyond any thing I know. And nothing could be kinder than L[ad]y Bridgewater was to us but dull it was - very!' Lord and Lady Bute had come for one night and she had liked them very much. 'She is particularly agreeable. They are now gone or just going to Scotland for the winter.' The writer and her sister had been twice to Gorhambury, 'which is a very beautiful house. There are always people there - & they themselves are all so good-humoured & merry & pretty! (not Lord V.) - And L[ad]y Verulam (who is too silly

certainly) is so very amiable to us...We met old L[ad]y Salisbury there the other day, who met [sic] great enquiries after you. She seemed in great force, riding every day, and walking, and dressing! - She wore a chaplet of white roses one evening[.] It was rather shocking to see her old head shaking in its youthful attire.' Besides her they had met Edward Drummond and Mr Fane, a brother of Mrs Arbuthnot. On Monday they had all gone from Gorhambury to Hatfield and the writer and her sister had come to the Grove. 'There was a review of the Yeomanry in Hatfield Park yesterday - & the Duke of Wellington inspected them - They were all to dine there afterwards - about 400 - We could not contrive to go & see the review, otherwise we would, for the sake of seeing Hatfield.' Found nobody at the Grove but William Bathurst and a Captain Le Marchant, just returned from the Cape. The former had given a prosperous account of Mrs Seymour and her son. There had been a dinner of neighbours yesterday, and so there was to be that day, divers Montagues yesterday, among them the pretty Mrs Henry M., and very pretty she was. Intended returning home to-morrow. Lord and Lady Clarendon's kindness to them had been beyond description. Were just returned from a drive to Cashiobury, where Lord Essex was for a few days. 'How he can resist staying at Cashiobury I can't think. What a pretty place it is!' He had probably heard that Lord Bagot and Eleanor were coming to them about the 26th of the next month.

30. Cheverells.
Monday.
[Nov.
1832]

The same to the same, at Keele.

In the hope that the Bishop would arrive that day to frank the letter, she sat down to write him a few lines. Had thought much of him since the death of poor Lady Bute. Was afraid Lady Frances Sandon had set out before the last account had reached Staffordshire. Hoped that was not the case, as in her weak state so long a journey, with the aggravation of its being too late, must add to the trial such a loss must be to her. Charlotte had had a letter from Mrs Percy last week, from Grasse. They had just, and only just, decided to proceed to Rome for the winter, to Mrs Percy's great joy. They had heard from Walter from Venice, and he was to be in Florence on the 10th. 'I find myself in a very uncomfortable state of irritability about our atrocious, & most disgraceful war. We deserve to have our trade ruined, our name branded with infamy - & all the evil consequences which we are pretty sure to derive from it. I can't help wishing the King of Holland to give us such a licking - & then I should like to send him Lord Grey & L[or]d Palmerston to do what he pleased with - (only never to send them back to us.) - Miss Octavia Sebright, who came last week from Ramsgate, told us that the feeling of aversion & disgust to this Service was very strong, throughout our Sailors.

I hope it may perhaps have a good effect upon the elections, for I believe the feeling of dislike to the war is pretty general - & that it may therefore be brought forward to great advantage by the Tories. The Potteries, I s[houl]d think would be very inimical to it.' Was vexed that 'these nasty Elections' would oblige him to put off his visit to Cheveralls. This was a most seasonable month of November - thick dense fog almost every day. Supposed he had heard from Mama since the writer's sisters' visit to Ashridge, which they had enjoyed extremely, and of the great fancy and tableau ball which was to be at Hatfield soon after Christmas. 'And I suppose moreover that Mama told you of all the men she is obliged to employ - Seven at 9^s. a week - with noth[ing] upon earth for them to do. - I think this somewhat arbitrary, & certainly not pleasant.'

31. Wednesday.
[26 Mar.
1834]

The same to the same, in London.

Mama had had a tolerable night and some quiet sleep. Discusses her condition and treatment. Asks if he would have the goodness 'to send down a box of Abernethy's Biscuits, w[hic]h they say are so light & easy of digestion & she cannot bear bread.' Thanks him for his letter. Hoped he would come on Monday. It was very cheering to think of the Charles Percies being in England again. Did not know why she had withheld such a pleasant piece of intelligence from her, in the letter she had had the other day. They had opened his Stafford paper and had forgotten to send it on. Hoped he did not mind. The letter they had forwarded had looked as if it might have kept until he came.

32. Denham.
Saturday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]

The same to the same.

'One might as well be Two hundred miles from London from the length of time the letters are between this place & town.' Was happy to tell him that Mama had borne her journey much better than they had expected. The writer had settled her matters very well, 'for instead of being five days in the coach, I have got leave to join the chaise with Fauche & the servants on Monday when we meet them at St Albans, & go on post & be dropped at Brereton on Tuesday - I am very happy in this arrangement as you may guess.' Things seemed to be going on much more quietly than was expected in London. 'I was much amused at the list the New Times gave us of the peers who had sent apologies - "L[or]d Granville - above age" - "L[or]d Gower, considerably above 70" &c. &c. I hear (not f[ro]m Radicals) that the Queen's behaviour in the house was very good indeed & that she looked very well. How imposing it must have been when the Duke of Wellington stopped his horse, & silenced the mob, which was hissing him, by a look of astonishment.' Lord Dartmouth and Lord Aylesford were to dine at Denham the following day. 'We are going with the Drummond girls to a dance at Mrs Blinco's, where

1820? ||

there is to be the band & the Officers belonging to the 85th f[ro]m Uxbridge. There will certainly be nobody we know, so I think it will be a good deal more trouble than pleasure[,] but Har[rie]t Anne has set her mind upon it, & they won't go without us.' John Chester had come yesterday and Anne and Liz were just come to spend the day, '& there is such a noise in the room that I am sure my writing must be quite unintelligible.' Supposed he had been enjoying ~~the lovely weather not too~~ little at Longleat. The Duchess of Beaufort was not come to town. They had seen Lady Granville the day before they had left. Adds a postscript to say that Mama was much better that day, and that the 'Queen has taken Cambridge House! How snug for us to have her so near! though I hope before next Spring she will be over the seas again[.]'

33. Blithfield.
Friday evening.
[ante 7 May,
1834]

The same to the same.

Mama had improved very much on her journey. Thought she had told him that she [the writer] was to travel in the chaise, '& get to Brereton on Tuesday, I had therefore not seen Mama from Monday morn[in]g at Denham till she arrived at Brereton yesterday - & I assure you I was very much struck with the amendment that had taken place during that time.' F[rances], C[harlotte] and the writer had come on to Blithfield yesterday, and had found Dick and Harriet both in very good looks. They were gone to dine at Brereton that day, very much to the writer's annoyance. 'It was an odious scheme of Bess's, by which they see much less of Mama than they would have done by driving over in the morning, and we lose their company for more than half of the only day we are here. We drew lots for which of us sh[oul]d go with them (as the chaise only holds three) & Charlotte got it. We all return home to-morrow.' It had rained at Blithfield almost all day, but she had taken advantage of a fair gleam to go and see all the fair doings at Blithfield, and thought the improvements would be very great. Uncle John, she heard, was set out that day for Cowes and would not be at Elford again after the 20th of next month. He was to deposit Charles at the Charter House on his way home. They had heard yesterday that Emma Carnegie was going to be married to a Mr Douglas, 'of large fortune and very old family.' Fanny had had a letter from Lady Elizabeth Somerset, in which she said that she, Lady G. and the Duchess were just setting out for London, 'having had a summons from the Duke.' Supposed he would not stick very exactly to his fortnight at Longleat. 'I doubt whether I have written common sense, for the boys are making such a riot!!!' Adds a postscript, in verse, concerning an invitation to him from General [William] Dyott, to visit him at (?) 'Haunch Hall'.

With, (i) note, from Louisa Sneyd (d.1834) to Ralph Sneyd.

34. Thursday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]
- The same to the same, in London.
Mama was much improved. Describes her condition and treatment.
35. Cheverells.
Monday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]
- The same to the same.
Thought she might as well send this letter to Mr Wall to frank to him, and enclose his button, 'for Sir John having taken his departure without paying us the farewell visit we had expected, I have no chance of ever getting a frank here.' Mama had been going on extremely well. What a sad tragedy was the death of poor Seymour Bathurst. 'Poor dear Lady Bathurst, a severer blow could not have fallen upon her, & without the smallest preparation!' Lady Georgiana De Rous had very kindly written immediately to Charlotte. They had first heard the news from Miss Octavia Sebright, who, thinking it might have given Mama a sudden shock if she had seen it in the newspaper without previous preparation, had very kindly come there to apprise them of it.
36. Friday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
Mama had had a quiet night. Describes her condition and treatment. Charlotte had a cold. Regretted the departure of Anne Dod. The accounts of Sir Charles [Bagot] were very satisfactory and she heard he meant to go to Dick at Canterbury when he was able. Lady Georgiana de Roos [sic] had been very kind in sending them accounts of the poor Bathursts again. 'Poor dear Seymour!'
37. Cheverells.
Tuesday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]
- The same to the same.
Mama had desired her to ~~tell~~ him, with her affectionate love, that she would write him herself, but was not feeling quite up to it. She was anxious to thank him for the game and very fine grapes. The writer was not so well satisfied with her as she had hoped to be. Mr Burlin had seen her yesterday and found her much better. They were all complaining of the cold most energetically and thinking of keeping their beds. 'My Lord' was uncommonly well, 'in spite of all his lamentations.' They were looking forward to seeing the Bishop there on the 15th, '& Charles proposes to come with him to stay a bit, so I can hope Walter will defer his Staffordshire journey for a little while.' Walter had had a letter from Lewis from Venice that day, and the writer had had one from Mrs Percy, from Rome, a few days ago.
38. Cheverells.
Thursday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]
- The same to the same, at Keele.
It vexed her bitterly after such a satisfactory continuance of good accounts, to be obliged to send him a different one. But she grieved to say that Mama had had one of those horrid attacks of spasm or asthma the night before. Sweeny, however, had assured her all the time that there was no

cause for alarm, and would not allow her to call up Charlotte, who had a cold. She was, thank God, much better than she could have expected her to be that day. Lady Bagot had been very kind in sending them daily accounts of Sir Charles, who was now going on perfectly well.

39. Wednesday evening.
[ante 7 May,
1834]

The same to the same.

He would, she knew, like to have a line from one of them to-morrow, and she had persuaded C[harlotte], who said she had promised to write that evening, to let her do so instead, 'for I need hardly tell you that all my heart & all my thoughts are with you.' Mama seemed tolerably comfortable that evening. She and the writer had dined together in 'My Lord's' study. They were deeply touched by all the kindness shown them there. Dick and Harriet were both very unwell. Young Charles was there and dear Bess and Haddy. Bess had desired the writer to give him her affectionate love and thanks for the perfume he had sent her. They were to go to Ingestre on Monday. They had been much penetrated and overcome by the kindness and affection of all the village people, 'who were at the gate as we passed. If you had an opportunity, perhaps you would express to Mr Styche or Mr Simpson (who we distinguished amongst them) how deeply we felt it. - Mama was on the other side of the Carriage, & we are not quite sure that she saw them.' There seemed to be no prospect of any change in the weather, so she trusted he would be there as soon as possible. Could not bear to think of him remaining alone. Adds a postscript, asking him to beg Andrews to look in her bedroom for a ring, which she must have left there, it was the mourning ring of poor Lady Bagot.

40. Cheverells.
Friday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]

The same to the same.

Believed he had heard that Mama had had a comfortable night before he had set out. Describes her mother's condition and [Dr]t Sweeny's which treatment, of which Mr Burlin highly approved. Mr Burlin had been very amiable and gentlemanlike, and had said he was so convinced that Sweeny understood her case, that his visits were perfectly unnecessary. They were very glad to hear that Sir Charles had engaged Andrews. Hoped he would let them know how long he was performing his journey to Elford, 'also what you thought of Johnny.'

41. Cheverells.
Saturday.
[ante 7 May,
1834]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Describes the illness of her mother and her condition. If she were not better the next day she would send a letter to him to Dunstable, 'so if you do not receive another account by the same post as this, you may rest assured that there is no cause of uneasiness, & that she is no worse.' Wished there were not 120 miles between them.

42.

Cheverells.
Tuesday.
[? May,
1834]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Felt very grateful to him for having written to her on that sad and trying day. They had lost what was most valuable to them on earth, the affection of a mother, '& such a Mother is irreparable! - & leaves a dreadful vacuum w[hi]ch can never be filled up as long as we live...' They were quite well. Had driven Fanny for about half an hour the day before, and Charlotte and Lizzy were driving that day. Peter took up the chestnut pony during the day and it would soon be fit for them to take gentle rides upon. Considers the disposal of her mother's effects.

43.

[? Cheverells].
Thursday.
[? May,
1834]

The same to the same, in London.

Was thinking much of him that day, 'and all you are doing for us. And as I sit in the calm and quiet of this place my feelings are full of gratitude to you, who are harassing yourself both in mind and body, to spare us. How anxious I shall be to hear from you!' If he were to see Mrs Stanhope, prays him tell her that she would have written to her 'had I been able to tell her anything about ourselves;...' Was afraid the box containing the picture must have made his journey very uncomfortable the day before. 'I was quite annoyed to see how very much it was in your way.' Found there was so little servants' tea left she had enclosed a note for Antrobus, 'to order a few pounds - & as it will only be a small parcel, I suppose, have desired it may be sent to Mivart's [Hotel].' If it was inconvenient to carry, would he desire Townshend 'to direct it here to be sent by Coach.' Had been glad to hear from the Bishop that the two Harriets had arrived and pretty well. Reminds him that there was hair enough 'to have a large piece at the top of a box, if you sh[oul]d like to have it so. Pray consider only how you would like best to have it.' If he should be writing to Charles Percy, would he add her thanks to Mrs Percy for her letter. Would be anxious to hear how he found Lady Bathurst & Lady Georgiana.

44.

Cheverells.
Friday.
[? June,
1834]

The same to the same, in London.

Had had a long letter from the Duchess of Gloucester that morning, 'in which she expresses how much it would delight her to see you whilst you are in Town - if you would call at G.H. between 3 & 4 o'clock. She asks me to write to you & ask you whether next Tuesday at half past three - or Thursday at the same hour - & desires me to write to her & tell her w[hi]ch day you will come[,] that she may be sure to be at home. - Now if you think you can get away f[ro]m London on Tuesday, I sh[oul]d be very sorry if this prevented you: & in that case I feel sure she w[oul]d see you on Monday. But let me know by Lady Harriet, or by return of post, which day I shall tell her to expect you, & I will write on

Sunday.' They were delighted to think of seeing dear Lady Harriet the following day, and very glad they could have George there during the Bishop's absence. Charlotte had heard from Harriet Williams that day, 'f[ro]m which she finds she need not leave this place till Friday.' Roberts thought it would be a great pity if any money were spent upon the barouche - 'as he does not think that if the springs & wheels were made safe - the carriage itself would now bear luggage or be fit for a long journey - tho' it may be useful for going short distances & with little luggage.'

45. Cheverells.
Tuesday.
[24 June,
1834]

The same, and the Rev. Walter Sneyd (d.1888), to the same, in London.

Walter wanted to write him, but she would begin his letter whilst he was riding, and tell him how much obliged she was for his. 'Whether you succeed or fail in restoring to us the paper which is so dear to us, our gratitude to you for all the exertions you have made in the attempt, must be the same; & that is on my part inexpressible.' Did not allow herself to think there was a hope of seeing it again. The hay looked nice but there was very little of it. Did not know how she should get on for money if he did not return by Saturday to pay the mowers, &c. Fancied him at that moment with the Duchess of Gloucester. 'I heard from her this morn[in]g. - I hope she will not encounter such a risk as going to the Abbey, but from what she says, she seems to have some thoughts of it.' Had had a very kind letter from Miss Sneyd of Byrkley Lodge that evening, who thought it possible they might like to be there 'in the midst of our relations'.

[Letter completed by the Rev. Walter Sneyd, asking for a loan of £30].

46. Cheverells.
Friday.
[? July,
1834]

The same to the same, in London.

Need scarcely tell him how happy the few lines they had received that morning had made them, 'nor how very[,] very full of gratitude we feel to you for all you have done, & all you have undergone, to procure for us this comfort & happiness. Those precious papers, are if it is possible, rendered still more dear & valuable to us through your affectionate exertions, w[hi]ch have restored them to us, and which I never can forget.' Lizzy and she were most anxious to hear when he would return to them. Had been terribly shocked by hearing yesterday from Roberts that he was thinking of leaving them. It was to Lady Augusta Kennedy he wanted to go. She was to give him 60gns. a year. 'He is to be at the head of a large Establishment - & to go with her to Brighton, & to Windsor, if he likes. - He says he wished to have spoken to you upon the subject before he saw L[ad]y Augusta[,] but you were not

at home when he called at Mivart's.' Had had a letter from the Duchess of Gloucester a day or two ago, in which she had spoken strongly of the pleasure his visit had given her.

47. Cheverells.
[1834 or
later]

The same to the same.

They were very anxious he should come on Thursday, of which he gave them hope in his letter to Walter, inasmuch as on that day he would find Fanny there. Bess and Haddy had come the day before yesterday, and the writer was better satisfied with their looks than she had expected to be. It was disagreeable to have such weather, the sudden change to winter was far from pleasant. They had spent from Monday to Thursday at Westbrook and had returned more than ever impressed with the excellence and agreeableness of Granville Ryder, & lamenting his deafness. Lord Ebrington and his boys had been there and nicer boys one never knew, 'but they have been made Radicals, which is a g[rea]t pity.' Was glad to hear that he had given up going abroad that year. Where were the Grosvenors and what did they mean to do, she wondered. Concluded that he would be at Blithfield on Monday, and would find the Percies still there. Thought they must have had chilly and splashy pleasure at Lichfield races. 'However they had Sir Robt Peel. How anxiously he must be looking out every post for the familiar epistle Mr O'Connell is so good as to promise him - after the nice letter he wrote to the D. of Wellington.' Hoped Charlotte had thanked him for the cargo of game he had sent them. They would thankfully receive any more from either Keele or Blithfield, now that they were more numerous, 'for we do not get much from Beechwood.' Thought 'my Lord' had told he was to go to Garnstone on the 17th.

48. Cheverells..
18 May,
[1835]

The same to the same.

His letter had reached her yesterday morning, at a moment when it was most particularly congenial to her feelings. Had intended, when she sat down to write to him, to have mentioned the subject of their mourning to him, but it was too painful a one and her courage had failed her. Felt glad of the pretext which a slight mourning afforded to them of delaying the change for a week or two longer. The servants had now put off theirs. Could not tell him how much obliged they were to him for his kind offer of James. They did not wish to go to town before the 9th or 10th of June. Octavia Sebright was so kind in offering to look about for houses for them. It would be less troublesome to her than it would to Harriet Anne Drummond, who had no carriage. Supposed Charles Percy would not be at all contented with a short visit from him. His visit would be good for Charles Percy, 'who ~~certainly~~ has got a notion that he is too poor to get on at all - which makes him fuss himself about little things - and I am so afraid this should grow upon him,

which would be such a pity!' His good P.S. about Staffordshire politics, corroborating all they had heard before, filled her with hope. When was the nomination to be? 'It will be a most anxious contest. The Conservative Association will be indeed a most troublesome tax upon your time, if it is to require your presence one day in July & again in August.' Adds a postscript about the possibility of his visiting Mr Minton, 'will you mention that I was disappointed at not finding the Bell (with Convolutions twisted round it) which I had ordered, with the rest of the China. I feel an awkwardness about it as it is one of the things w[hi]ch I am convinced I did not pay for, tho' I am by way of having done so. At all events I am distressed at not having it, as it was a present for the eldest Miss Sebright, who knows about it, and I do not know how to get it now.'

49. Cheverells.
7 Aug.
[? 1835]

The same to the same.

Congratulated him, for actually it was raining. Had not seen a drop since they had left Portugal Street, 'and it was melancholy to see flowers, vegetables, & fruit, all dried up & withered.' A more enjoyable summer she never remembered, when the earth had been refreshed she hoped there would be some more such weather. 'Yes, Emily Grimston's marriage was duly announced to us; and we heard that they were all to come to Gorhambury yesterday, and the wedding to take place there in about three weeks.' Expresses misgivings for the bride's happiness. Looked forward to his visit to them very much, though the pleasure of it would be a good deal damped by the thought of the long absence which would follow it. Trusted he would certainly return 'early in the Spring of next year.' Was glad he was likely to get her friend Galeazzi to go with him as courier. Wished she could hear of a good place for James. Had begged Octavia Sebright would mention him to Mrs Halsey, 'as they are just returned from abroad, & taking new Servants, and might want a footman.' Roberts had written to inform her that he had got Lord Sheffield's place. Wondered how long the Lords and Commons would sit. News of friends and acquaintances. Had 'some hopes we might have induced L[or]d Clare to make an Inn of us,' but that was out of the question now. Lizzy's news was that Lord Duncannon's son was to marry Lady Fanny Lambton, and Lord Gardiner, Miss Hughes. The Bishop of Rochester's daughters made great marriages. 'I believe they are very nice girls.' When was his Conservative dinner? Had he heard anything of poor Lady Egerton, and whether her daughter's case was hopeless?

50. Guy's Cliff.
10 Nov.
[? 1835]

The same to the same.

He would be surprised to see that she was still at Guy's Cliff, her intentions originally having

been to return to Cheveralls the week before, however she had been engaged by the Percys to accompany them to Packington. '(I hope the Bromleys will never know, as we had stoutly withstood a great deal of pressing from them to meet the Carletons at Baginton exactly at that time - giving for reasons that the Percys would probably be setting out for Ramsgate, & I that I must return to receive them at Cheverells on their way.) The Ramsgate scheme has however been given up for more than a week, and they are not stirring from home at present.' They had desired her to urge him to put his plan of coming there into execution. Had put off her departure [for Cheverells] in the hopes of getting a sight of him, if he gave up Oxfordshire, and he had not mentioned any other visit after Badminton. News of the Percys. Packington had been dullish and the writer's companions had brought all the agreeableness with them. 'It is a good house & altogether a fine place I think, but not cheerful.' Charlotte and Lizzy seemed to have been living at Ashridge. Their last visit had been to meet the heir and Lord St John. The first time they had met Lady (?) Care. and Mr Peckell, just before poor Lady Mark's death. News of Walter. Was sorry Harvey had not been elected at All Soul's. News of other relatives and friends. His account of Boconnoc was very nice, but it had not been a fine autumn for seeing country.

51. Cheverells.
Saturday,
21 Nov.
[? 1835]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Had made quite sure of having the Bishop there that day to frank her letter, but now felt somewhat doubtful on that score. He had written to say that he might possibly be there on Thursday or Friday, but no Bishop. 'Well, you know by heart now what a disappointment it was to us not to have you at Guy's Cliffe [sic] in your way homewards. Had passed a very snug, pleasant time at Guy's Cliffe, '& liked it much better than if they had been more junketty, & had more company.' As she had been about to set out by the 'Crown Prince', she had seen Charles Percy, who had insisted on riding to Warwick to see her in the coach. Had found Charlotte prosperous, but Lizzy did not look well. 'Charlotte is going to Hatfield on Monday, to stay ten days. Walter goes with Robt. Curzon to Eaton to day and to Capesthorpe on Tuesday. Lizzy wrote to him yesterday & told him that you were at Keele. I am very glad to hear that the ship containing his MS.S. has arrived safely. I suppose he will be in a fidget to see them.' Sir John was at Beechwood, she heard. Lady Verulam and Lady Katherine Barham had come over [to Cheverells] on Thursday. They expected the Cravens at Gorhambury that day. Had heard from Mrs Timmis lately, 'chiefly upon the business of the School, & begging we w[oul]d consult you.' Was sorry the Duke of Beaufort had been too ill to receive him.

52. Cheverells.
1 Dec.
[1835]

The same to the same, at Keele.

Thought he would be anxious to hear about Charlotte, so she sent him a few lines, as she was not able to write herself, 'to tell you that she returned yesterday early in the day, Lord & Lady Salisbury having gone to Town for some hours. She looked quite fagged & knocked up, as you may suppose; and the draught which Sweeny prescribed to her, instead of making her sleep, made her sick, so she is somewhat ragged to-day - I trust however that in two or three days she will be all right again.' [Continues with an account of the fire at Hatfield, in which the Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury lost her life.]

53. Cheverells.
24 Jan.
[1837]

The same to the same, at Coombe Abbey, Coventry.

Thanks him for his letter. They were wishing to know his history very much, '(perhaps I sh[oul]d say your Geography.)' Must tell him a piece of news, as he had just left Middleton, that was that Harriet Bagot was to marry Lord Charles Thynne. 'If you have not heard it do not mention it, as Lady Harriet desired us not to do so, as they would not announce it till they had received L[or]d Bath's answer.' Lord Charles's living was very near Longleat and he was ordained last summer. 'They met at Cuddesden two years & a half ago, and since that time he has been most devoted in his attachment, & very earnest in his endeavours to obliterate by his conduct the extravagances he had committed at Oxford, w[hi]ch at first made the Bishop very averse to it. He is now delighted with it.' Was thankful to say they had escaped the influenza. There seemed to be hardly a house anywhere in which someone was not ill of it. Miss Sebright and Octavia had both been dangerously ill with it, had been very unhappy about the Duchess of Gloucester for many days, and had had a deplorable account from Arundell that morning, of their state at Tytherley, where they had all got it. They kept to their intention of setting out on Monday and were all to go, in the first instance, to Lady Carnegie's at Leamington. Charlotte and Lizzy were to proceed to Coombe the following day, before reuniting and proceeding to (?) Brereton. 'I did read Sir Rob[er]t Peel's two speeches, & admired them - Like all his speeches that I have ever read, they are so straightforward & to the point. I have never heard who is to move the address, or anything about the meeting. - Lady Har[rie]t Paget, to whom I wrote congratulating upon their new app[oi]ntmen[t], says it was conferred in the most gratifying manner by the King himself, and they like the thoughts of it very much, although I am sorry to hear that the Salary is about half what Sandhurst is. That is I think a very bad part of the story - tho' the freedom from care & responsibility to Sir Edw[ar]d, and the situation for a large[,] growing up family are very desirable circumstances.' Was sorry the influenza

had killed Lord Rosslyn.

54. Brereton.
25 Jan.
[1839]

The same to the same, poste restante Rome.

Had heard from Walter that he [Ralph Sneyd] wished to have a copy of dear Bess's letter to him forwarded. Walter had returned it to Haddy by her desire. Therefore transcribed it to save time. The original, alas, Mr Lander had taken away, much to Haddy's annoyance. Was quite sure it would never be returned, 'as the object is to prove that & the letter to George Gooch as a will.' It was very odious that the law would interfere in a matter so simple and easily arranged as a private concern. George Gooch had returned there on Monday and was 'much occupied in transacting this tiresome business with Mr Lander.' News of friends. Had not heard of any Radical being put up for Buckinghamshire yet, 'so I hope there will be no opposition to Mr Du Pre.' Was afraid there was much distress in the country from the high price of bread. 'People talk of a scarcity, & I can't think why, for it was not a very bad harvest.' Supposed there would be a great struggle about Corn Laws when parliament met. Had there ever been anything so barbarous as the murder of Lord Norbury? Fanny told her that no successor to Arundell was yet appointed to Tytherley. He was to be instituted very soon. Further news of friends.

With (i) copy, letter from E[lizabeth] Sneyd to Ralph Sneyd, dated from Brereton 3 Jan., 1837, concerning the disposal of £1,000 in the hands of Ralph Sneyd.

55. Cheverells.
29 Aug.
[1839]

The same to the same, in Siena.

Thought it time to send him another despatch, although there was little to tell him, except that they were all well and prosperous. They seldom (or never) saw anybody except the inhabitants of Beechwood. All the news they got was through the newspapers, so he would know before the letter reached him that the long and useless session of parliament was at length at an end, ' - and that Mr Spring Rice is made a Peer (L[or]d Monteagle) - because he can't be a Chancellor of the Exchequer, and that Mr Poulet[t] Thomson is going as Governor to Canada! - Mr F. Baring [is] to be Ch[ancello]r of the Ex[cheque]r, and Mr Labouchere [is] to be in Mr P.T.'s place. They say Lord Clarendon is to have Seals of some kind, but what has not transpired yet.' They had heard they intended to go abroad for a year, 'but if this is true they will of course change their plans.' Charlotte and she had driven the pony over to Westbrook on Monday, ' - a great exertion both for ourselves & the poney!' Lord Harrowby and the Sandons were going abroad, the object was their eldest girl, who was now well, but very delicate. Lord Charles Hervey was said

to be very amiable and Lady Harriet extremely happy. Frederic Ryder and his bride were at Sandon and Lady Georgiana had said they all seemed to like her. News of other friends including Mary Howard, Lady Aboyne, Sir Charles and the Duke of Dorset, the Duchess of Gloucester, the Charles Thynnes, the three Lady Legges, George Gooch, Mr Hervey Aston, Mrs Arthur Talbot, Lord Talbot, and the Bagots. News of the elms at Keele, one of which was to be taken down while they were away, 'we are alarmed about the one nearest to the house, which leans much more towards the house than it did, & f[ro]m the raising of the ground, it is evident that the roots are working upwards. However I trust he will stand several years longer. He w[oul]d make a terrible smash if he came down of his own accord.' The writer was copying a small Holy Family, which she had borrowed from Beechwood. It was so long since she had handled oil colours that she was very awkward with them and not at all satisfied with her work.

56. 'Pickhurst Mead
(being LV. Carl.
Legge's cottage)'.
10 July,
[1840]

The same to the same, in Paris.

Had received his letter the morning she had left home and had not been able to write sooner. They were looking forward with impatience to his return. Was quite charmed 'with the beauty of this place - both the house & place itself, and the country about it. It is the most rural[,] pretty country possible - & this house both outside & inside quite beautiful - small of course, but all in such good taste. It belongs to a Mr Moysey, & Caroline has it till next Midsummer. It is not far from Addington; & Bromley Hill & Eden Farm &c are neighbours. To-day we project an excursion to Holwood, (Mr Pitt's once) - but the weather is showery & unfavourable for excursions which is tiresome. Yes[terda]y we went by rail road & steamer to Chelsea - Found them all in a bustle - the Queen having sent word that she should come there at half past three - All the old pensioners were drawn up in a body - & it was a pretty sight - She & P. Albert - & their attendants - (only two carriages arrived ab[ou]t 4 o'clock - Not being accoutred for Royalty, L[ad]y Caroline & I did not join Lady Har[rie]t Paget, but we had a very good sight of them both - which I was very glad of - for I had never been so near the Queen, or seen P. Albert at all. I admire him ~~extremely~~ She looked nice - pale & interesting; and she was very gracious & amiable to Sir Edw[ar]d & L[ad]y Har[rie]t - She went into the Chapel & through the Wards. We did not get back from our excursion till past nine o'clock.' Princess Augusta had been better yesterday and the day before, but was still in a very precarious state. They had not yet heard that Sir Henry had pronounced her out of danger. Had seen the Bishop and Lady Harriet in Grosvenor Square, on her way through London on Tuesday. They were to go back to Cuddesdon on Saturday, and soon after to

Longbridge, and then to Canterbury. The Bishop had said he ought to write to Austin, or he would very likely not find him at Canterbury the day he wanted him.

The same to the same.

'How you was blessing your stars all yesterday that you were not at Byrkley Lodge! and indeed I must confess you had not a very great loss. I was very sorry for the Sneyds, who did the thing as well as it could be done. - The day seemed to be clearing up at about one o'clock, so we all went, & had time to shoot two ends before the rain began again; and then it poured torrents & every body was driven into the house. (Happy they who got near the fires!).' The shooting had not been brilliant. Lady Caroline Legge had won the first ladies' prize, 'a very handsome amethyst clasp', Dick had won a ring and a snuff box, Frank had brought back a gold toothpick case. It had been the thinnest meeting she had ever seen. News of the family and friends. Had showed his bow to Mr Finch, who had said it was a trick Waring's bows were very apt to play, and recommended returning it.

57. Blithfield.
Friday evening.
[1st half of
the 19th cent.]

before May 1834

58. Blithfield.
Thursday.
[Aug. 1851]

The same to the same.

Had been driving to Brereton and had found his letter at the Rugeley post office. Had but a few minutes to express the comfort it was to her to see his hand and to hear from himself. Felt sure he would instantly go to poor Lady Isabella, 'and I also feel that nobody else would be the same comfort to her that you would be. It is heart-breaking to think of her!' Knew how great and irreparable a loss it was to him. 'William & his bride come on Saturday.'

59. Blithfield.
Saturday.
[Aug. 1851]

The same to the same.

Had written to Adams '(our housekeeper)' to desire her to prepare his room, and to get the writer's room ready for dear Lady Isabella, 'in case it should be required. Of course we can only be most anxious that the house should be of any use it can be to her, & to yourself. I am very sorry that she should have determined upon undertaking what I fear is a trial beyond her strength - but I feel sure that you are right in not opposing it, if she has set her mind upon it.' Felt her grief was too deep and overwhelming to venture to write to her. Was sure he would, if the opportunity should occur, express all she would wish to. Adds a postscript: 'William & Lucia arrived soon after 3 o'clock, - escorted by a troop of Yeomanry from the Rugeley station - there were triumphal arches, - bands, bells ringing, & the ground in front of the door here strewed w[ith] flowers. No one ever had a more cordial welcome into a family. After luncheon W[illiam] took her all round the garden &c - & has

now driven her to the Park! - The day has been beautiful. My Lord has been very nervous - I am glad for all their sakes that the first arrival is over.'

60. Blithfield.
Thursday.
[? Aug. 1851]

The same to the same.

It had been a great comfort to her to get his letter that morning. Had been most anxious to know how Lady Isabella had got through that trying day. His account of her was as good as one could expect. Was so glad that she had so affectionate and devoted a friend with her as Lady Emily Pennefather was by his account. Hoped he would get home on Saturday. Felt so anxious he should have the repose he must need so much, [etc]. Lady Dover had arrived before luncheon, from Trentham. The Duchess of Sutherland set out for Scotland that morning. Lady Dover had already won all hearts: 'What an enchanting manner & countenance it is!' Was glad to hear he was tolerably comfortable in Eaton Square.

61. Elford Hall.
Monday 8th.
[? Aug.
2 1859]

The same to the same.

It was very little she had to tell. Had made no plans for moving yet. Thought Lady Harriet wanted her then, as she was alone, '(i.e. with little Jessy.) And even her intercourse with Fan Paget is cut off - as her children have got the measles! Six of them are in bed with it since Saturday - & L[ad]y Har[rie]t is afraid of her litter even getting it.' Charles was better and had accepted Hervey's invitation and was gone that day to Blithfield Rectory. Hervey had also sent her a message, about paying him a visit. Was also engaged to go to Netherseale. He had probably heard from Charlotte and Lizzy how kind the Hopes had been in asking them to stay at Bedgebury till the beginning of September, so their visit to Fanny was deferred till October. Had had a better account of Walter from Henny, who had said that Mr Jones thought Buxton would do good to Walter, and that they hoped he might be able to stand the journey next week. News of visitors, the wet weather and the bad prospect for the harvest. News of friends, including Lady Georgiana Bathurst.

62. Elford Hall.
26 Aug.
[1859]

The same to the same.

Wondered whether a line that day would catch him at Keele before he started for Scotland. Returned to Elford Hall yesterday, from Melbourne, where she had gone from Netherseale on Monday, where she had been very agreeably surprised at finding Walter and Henny, 'for Harry Gooch had not mentioned them in his invitation note and I was in the dark about their movements.' Walter had looked poorly, as was to have been expected, but walked very well. They were to stay until Wednesday, when they went to Buxton, and Keele. Describes the beauty of the gardens at Melbourne: 'Both Harry & Mrs Gooch seem to enjoy it thoroughly, & to think themselves very

fortunate (as indeed they are!) in having got the place.' News of friends and acquaintances, including the forthcoming marriage of Lord Dalkeith and Lady Louisa Hamilton, which 'sounds like a very nice marriage[,]' Charles & Sophy met her at Blith[fiel]d & admired her very much.'

63. Eaton Square.
3 Oct.
[1861]

The same to the same.

They had seen the announcement of Harriet Williams' death in the Morning Post of Monday, at Worthing, and the butler in Grosvenor Square had sent to Eaton Square on that day to inform them. Deeply lamented her loss, but could not wish that a life of such intense suffering should have been prolonged. Was glad she had been with Miss Trotter, a most devoted and attached friend to her always. Was glad she had been spared hearing of the destruction of Capesthorpe. It was very extraordinary that it should have happened on the same day that she died. Should be very glad to get away from London, which looked dingy and dismal, and foggy enough after Worthing. Was to go on Wednesday to Denton (Norfolk). Louchy was to sleep at Eaton Square on Tuesday, and to go with her. Lizzy was to join Charlotte at Lady Isabella's on Saturday and on the following Saturday they were to go to the other Denton. Lady G. Bathurst was in town, rather worse than better.

64. Denton.
4 Nov.
[? 1861]

The same to the same.

As no post came there on Sunday, she had only received his letter that morning, and therefore could not enlighten him. 'Surely Kenrick - our dear mother's maid - died! - Her health was failing so much that she was obliged to leave (in the Spring of /34, I think) and I am under the impression that we heard of her death not very long after - But my memory is bad, & I cannot recollect how we were informed of it - & therefore can't be positive about that fact - though I can't believe she is still living. She was a widow, but we never heard of her having any children. Her name was Anne, I am pretty sure. No application has been made to us, - and it is very odd that no plea should have been urged for applying for relief to you. If I am wrong in believing poor Kenrick to have died long ago, & that she should be alive now, & in want, - of course one w[oul]d feel anxious to relieve her, - but no other person of that name can have any claim upon us.' Comments upon the weather, snow and rain, 'with a high cutting North wind!' Was not going to Castle Rising but would stay at Denton till the middle of next week probably, 'but whether I go direct to London, or to Gogmagog on my way back, I do not yet know, not having had an ans[we]r from Susy Osborne yet.' Fanny said that William and Lucia sometimes came to visit the Kerrisons, so perhaps they were going to that year. Was glad to hear that the dowager Duchess of Sutherland was in better health. Wondered that he

had missed seeing the young duchess's titles gazetted in the Times. Only supposed that it was to please the dowager duchess that the Queen conferred them, 'but I don't know that it gives her any pleasure?' Adds a postscript, wondering what state A. Davenport was in and where, and that she was sorry for poor Lady (?) Hatherton.

65. Blithfield.
24 Dec.
[1861]

The same to the same.

Did not know that Walter had intended going to King's Bromley on his way to Guy's Cliff, when she had directed her letter to him at Keele, 'begging he would impart the little it contained to you.' Thanks him for his letter. Had deferred writing till to-day, as she might have more to tell him after William's return. 'He came back by the Express Train, & was not here till ten o'clock last night. It was a most sad & touching service! - but well got through. The Music beautiful - Several were much overset - & poor little Prince Arthur stifling his sobs by biting his pocket handkerchief. - The D. of Cambridge & Lord Palmerston were both prevented coming by illness. William did not see the Duchess of Sutherland - but she was there - He saw her car[ria]ge & servants - also the D[uche]ss of Buccleuch's & the D[uche]ss of Wellington's. One feels very anxious to hear how the Queen is after the trial of that day. They do not say that her health has suffered at present but she is much exhausted, & her strength requires to be kept up. Princess Alice seems to be invaluable from her good sense & forethought as well as her attentions to & care of the Queen. Every one praises her. I dare say you have heard from the D[uche]ss of S. - Lucia hears from her or Lady Constance frequently, which is a comfort - for one can think of nothing else. - And tho' full of admiration for the bravery & fortitude with w[hi]ch the Queen has met this blow, it is impossible not to feel anxiety about her, knowing how she adored P. Albert, & how she leant upon him. The loss will be more & more felt by her. Never was there a more universal grief! A sorrow that has touched every heart, of rich & poor.' News of friends. It would go hard with her not to have a sight of him and of Keele whilst she was in that country, and she hoped she should. But at that time of year her courage for journies depended much on the weather. Would be there at all events till the beginning of January and was to visit Walter and Henny on her way back. Nuneham would be a great loss to them. Did not know whether Edward Harcourt and Lady Susan were likely to live there. Lady L. Cavendish had told Lucia that her father was very anxious not to be Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

66. Private Secretary's
Cottage, Phoenix
Park, [Dublin.]
27 Sept.
[Between 1863
and 1865]

1863 ^{see}
S[RS/ES]/8

The same to the same.

It was blowing tremendously, and she was afraid the gale ~~was~~ likely to continue. George and May would not hear of her going so soon as Monday under any circumstances, so she had agreed to stay till Wednesday evening, cross then, and sleep at Holyhead. Her hope was to be with him on Thursday. The Channel Fleet had arrived in Dublin Bay early yesterday morning. George Gooch, who was with Captain Phillimore, had come on shore, and George had seen him and asked him to spend the day there. He had not appeared and they supposed the wind was too high for him to come off the ship. There were banquets and balls to be given to the officers, but if it went on blowing so hard the admiral would not stay. There were seven ships. They had dined at the Lodge with Lady Caroline Lascelles. May had chaperoned the Misses Lascelles to the opera, and the writer had gone too. Captain Phillimore¹ and the officers of the Defence had sent her an invitation to go on board and dance from 1 to 6 on Wednesday, which she certainly should not wish to do, even if it were not the day of her departure. The Duke of Devonshire and Lady (?) L. Cavendish were coming to-morrow to the V.R. Lodge. A Captain Buller was staying there, just returned from Canada, whom she believed he knew. Had been to Christ Church cathedral that morning. 'G. & May are very kind, but I sh[oul]d be sorry to be quartered upon them very long.'

[1. Captain Augustus Phillimore, appointed in command of Defence 1 Oct., 1862. The ship was paid off by June 1866].

67. Eaton Square.
6 Apr.
[1864]

The same to the same.

Wondered whether he had begun to think about taking wing and coming out of his nest? Did not think he had ever left it since she had been with him in October. Hoped he would be making some London plans before long. Walter told them that Robert Curzon had asked him to come to Arlington Street on Friday next, which he hoped to do. News of the family, the death of Mrs Moore, George Fortescue's eldest daughter, and the wedding of her sister and Augustus Phillimore. Had no doubt that he heard much more frequently of Mr Vincent than they did. They had driven there last Thursday and the servant had told them that he had been much better. News of Lady Georgiana Bathurst. 'What an absurd fuss is being made with Garibaldi! - How we English do overdo everything, and exaggerate every feeling! - I feel quite vexed that the D. of Sutherland sh[oul]d invite him to Stafford House! - He is a fine[,] brave soldier, - but a brigand, & a Revolutionist - & not used to good Society, I sh[oul]d think - & it appears w[oul]d have been well content to be left in peace & quiet.'

68. Eaton Square.
Friday.
[? 1864]
- The same to the same.
- Had already desired that the box containing the fruit should be sent back, and believed it was gone: 'It did contain such beautiful grapes! and the pears will be very good, I have no doubt - They will wait to be eaten.' They had been so generous as to give some of the grapes to Lady Isabella, who was very worthy of them, and was anxious to know whether the white ones were 'Golden Hamburg'? Walter would not allow her to delay her visit to Denton, as he was going from home, so her Blithfield visit was still uncertain. Lizzy and she had seen Mr Vincent yesterday, who was confined to the house with a swelled face.
69. Eaton Square.
28 Mar.
[2nd half of
the 19th cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Thanked him for his letter. They had been very glad to hear of the arrival of Walter and company at Keele at last, though she feared Walter was not at all in good case. Did not know of Henny's cold and sore throat. Comments upon the wet weather and cold east wind. Had accepted driving in an open carriage with Gertrude that day, which she hoped she would not repent. William had appeared on Tuesday afternoon, having come up from Blithfield to look at a house in Grosvenor Street, '& some others that I had seen for them.' They required such a large house and the price of houses was so high that year. Perhaps they might come down after Easter. A son of Mr William Russell's had met with a very bad accident. Was dreading a new cook and housekeeper next week.
70. Eaton Square.
26 Nov.
[2nd half of
the 19th cent.]
- The same to the same.
- The game had just arrived, it would make a very pleasant variety from the weeks of mutton. Thanked him also for the promised grapes. Had he seen those Paget cousins, when they had come to shoot his pheasants? And what sort of youths were they in appearance? 'They have been cruelly ill used by their father, in having neither education nor employment given to them.' His 'only news' that he was very well was the most satisfactory he could send them. The alternations in the weather were wonderfully rapid, iron frosts and warm and wet. News of relatives and friends. William and Lucia had very good naturedly invited her to come to Blithfield for Christmas. Had not decided to do so yet. Long rail road journeys in the winter required courage now. 'How very shocking the Catastrophe of L[ad]y Char[lott]e Chetwynd's death!' Had no news to tell, 'except that Lady Talbot de Malahide died this morn[ing] - w[hi]ch does not interest me.' [Letter incomplete.]
71. Eaton Square.
Monday.
[2nd half of
the 19th cent.]
- The same to the same.
- Could not express her pleasure or gratitude for the letter she got that morning from him. It was a most agreeable and kind proposal, and she would

be 'too happy' to go to him. If he (or Eason) would write a line to order a fly to be ready for her at Whitmore at 3 on Wednesday, she would be much obliged. 'It is too hot for pleasure here - and they say the river is getting dreadful - and that it will be hardly possible for Parl[iamen]t to sit very long. Luckily that has not reached us.' Lady Mildred Hope &c. were to go to Bedgebury on Tuesday, and the writer supposed that C[harlotte] and L[izzy] would be going in the course of next week. Lady Isabella was in despair that she could not receive any of them till after 1 August, but her cook was so ill she had been obliged to send her home for a month.

72. Elford Hall.
Thursday.
[2nd half of
the 19th cent.]

The same to the same.

Was sure he had felt sorry for her when he saw her lovely bunch of clove carnations left behind. Had not recovered her vexation. Had had half an hour to wait at Whitmore. An elderly gentleman and two ladies got into the same carriage with herself, going to Lichfield, and at Norton Bridge Archdeacon Moore had got in, '& they were all very glad to meet! I did not know him - but C[harlo]tte & Lizzy met him at Blithfield, - & I thought he looked as if he had some idea who I was, so I made acquaintance with him before he left the Train. Very agreeable he seemed to be.' There had been no fly at Tamworth and the writer had travelled to Charles's door in an omnibus. Colonel Bagot being unwell, '& L[ad]y Harriet having kindly urged my coming to her, I came on here - & arrived at a little before seven.' Gertrude had been very ill with diptheria at Clifton. Had enjoyed the fortnight she had passed with him.
