

UAM/1/20/219

71, Queen Street
18th Jan^y 1808

My Dear Sister,

I am much concerned to ~~read~~ so bad an account of yourself, as that your Letter of the 14th Inst^{ance} furnishes me; and likewise, of Mr. Dickenson's accident. As he is now attending Louisa in her dancing parties, I hope, he does not feel much inconvenience from it.

My House is an Hospital. Five Children in the Measles; three of whom are now in Bed, and two, in a state of Convalescence. My two youngest Boys introduced this disorder into the family, and my three youngest Girls have caught it. Lady Napier has been confined, for these last six weeks. A cold, Cough of an obstinate nature, which refused to submit to the usual remedies, has at length been succeeded by a violent Eruption over her Arms & Legs, which has entirely removed the Cough, and is now bestowing a new skin on her Ladyship. Though

She is well in point of health, yet care must be taken, in this changeable weather, to prevent any return of her Cold, so, she has not been permitted to go out. This state of my family has occasioned my remaining at home, instead of going up to the Meeting of Parliament, which I should have done had Maria been able to stump about, as usual. Besides, the Invalids I have mentioned, my boys Peter is confined to bed, with a feverish Complaint, which is increased by apprehension. Whenever anything is the matter with him, he grows alarmed, and there is more plague to get up his Spirits again, than to remove the disorder.

I had accounts lately from my eldest Son, who is well & cruising in the Mediterranean. My second Son, who is cruising in the Channel, and ought to have been drowned three weeks ago. He was conducting a Boat, with Prisoners, from a Prize to his Frigate, when (probably being overloaded) the Boat sunk, & left the contents sprawling in the water. Providentially, they were near the Frigate so that they were all saved. My Dragoon swam to the Ship & got up the sides of it,

changed his Cloaths, went into another Boat, & returned to the Prize for more Prisoners.

As we do not associate with the dissipated & gambling part of the Community, I can give you no Intelligence as to the motive of Miss Wynne's return. I never met any of the Wynne's or Campbell & his Wife, at any party I have been at. His character was notorious here, some years ago, for having robbed Sir Charles Douglas's Pocket Book. Sir Charles accused him and he did not resent the accusation, though, I believe, he denied it. He then left this Country, & I heard nothing more of him till he brought down his Wife. His Marriage did not induce me to seek his

acquaintance, not even, after you had told me that his Wife was your friend. Lady Charlotte Campbell, as their Sister in Law, sometimes them, & so did Lady Augusta Clavering when here; but, I did not find that, a sufficient reason for my family having anything to do with them. We live quietly, & our happiness is of the domestic kind, not depending on the gay world, with which we have very little connexion indeed. I am sorry for Mr. Holman; but, not at all surprised at what has happened.

Adieu, My Dear Sister. Maria joins me in every thing kind to you, Mrs. Dickenson & Louisa. Best wishes to my Countrywoman. Ever your faithful Friend and Affectionate Brother J. Hall

Edinburgh 29th March 1808

Mr. Dickenson

Leighton House

Leighton House

Wells

Watson



Lord Alexander Gordon was thought better, and it was supposed, might have lived; but this appearance of recovery did not last above two, or three days. I attended his funeral out of Edinburgh, last Monday, on its way to the North —