

Dear Brother,

St. Petersburg. 9 Jan^{ry} 1840

I take the opportunity of a messenger going to London to wish you, Mr. Hamilton & your Daughter, a happy New year and better health than for these last years past. I wont reproach you for not having wrote to me, nor I wont allow you to say that I am unmindful of my Eldest Brother. Indeed I sh^d be unjst to myself did I give room for such an appearance & you would be so to me, did you think yourself forgot. This Country particularly often puts you in my thoughts, I believe it is much improved in its buildings since that date, another difference is, that now, ~~that~~ they are very refined, after the french taste in their way of living; drinking is out of fashion but eating, to say the truth has taken its place. There is great plenty of fish

flesh & fowl (Oh froze at first) but I
think every thing has a better taste in
Eng^{land} than here. In addition I never taste nor
do I like any one Russian dainty such
as Caviar Herbit &c but with these there are
plenty & variety sufficient, & now that we
are settled & have all our Poultry fatted at
home I think you will approve of our Table
in all respects, & otherwise of our House.
We are in the finest streets called Le Quadrée
Moskai. Our summer residence is lent
us, by the G. Duke it was built & laid out
by Chancellor Bestucheff & is in an island
a few Wersts from S^t. Petersburg. Called Kamino
ostroff, we like it very much & it is
given to us again for next summer.

The cold dry air here proves specifically
for my Dear Lord thank God his
health is perfectly restored. he offers
you his most affectionate compliments
as does your three nephews & three
nieces who are all prodigiously grown
& I must so far forget for a moment that
they are my children as to tell you, what
I dare say you will hear with pleasure
that they are universally reckoned here
a very remarkable fine family. They
are all good natured children & nothing

is spared for their Education. I scarcely
wish you may think at their return
that ~~they deserve~~ what has been said
that ~~all the family~~ as well as my dear Lord's perfect health
The Court has I believe always been
since the first of the Empire, very
brilliant it is so now, & the Reigning
Sovereign is the finest Woman in every
distinguishing quality & perfection, in
her Kingdom. She has been very ex-
traordinarily fortunate in the success
of the first Campaign, the second pro-
bably will be decisive. They speak
here upon these victories with the
utmost moderation. I sometimes
see Gen^l Fullatton, he is I think fond
of you & if you would send him your
compliments I am sure it would please
him he had the command in Persia last
summer. Mr. Howel remembers you
& Consul Swallow who has been long
here, & much & justly esteemed. Lord
Marischal is settled with the K^{ing} of Prussia
he writes to me sometimes he is a
charming old man & as lively as at forty.
Adieu My Dear Brother once more
remembers me kindly to yourself &
family & believe me ever your most
affectionate sister & humble
servant. J. Cathcart.