

II.—THE LETTERS OF LADY COLLINGWOOD AND OTHERS TO MISS MARY WOODMAN.

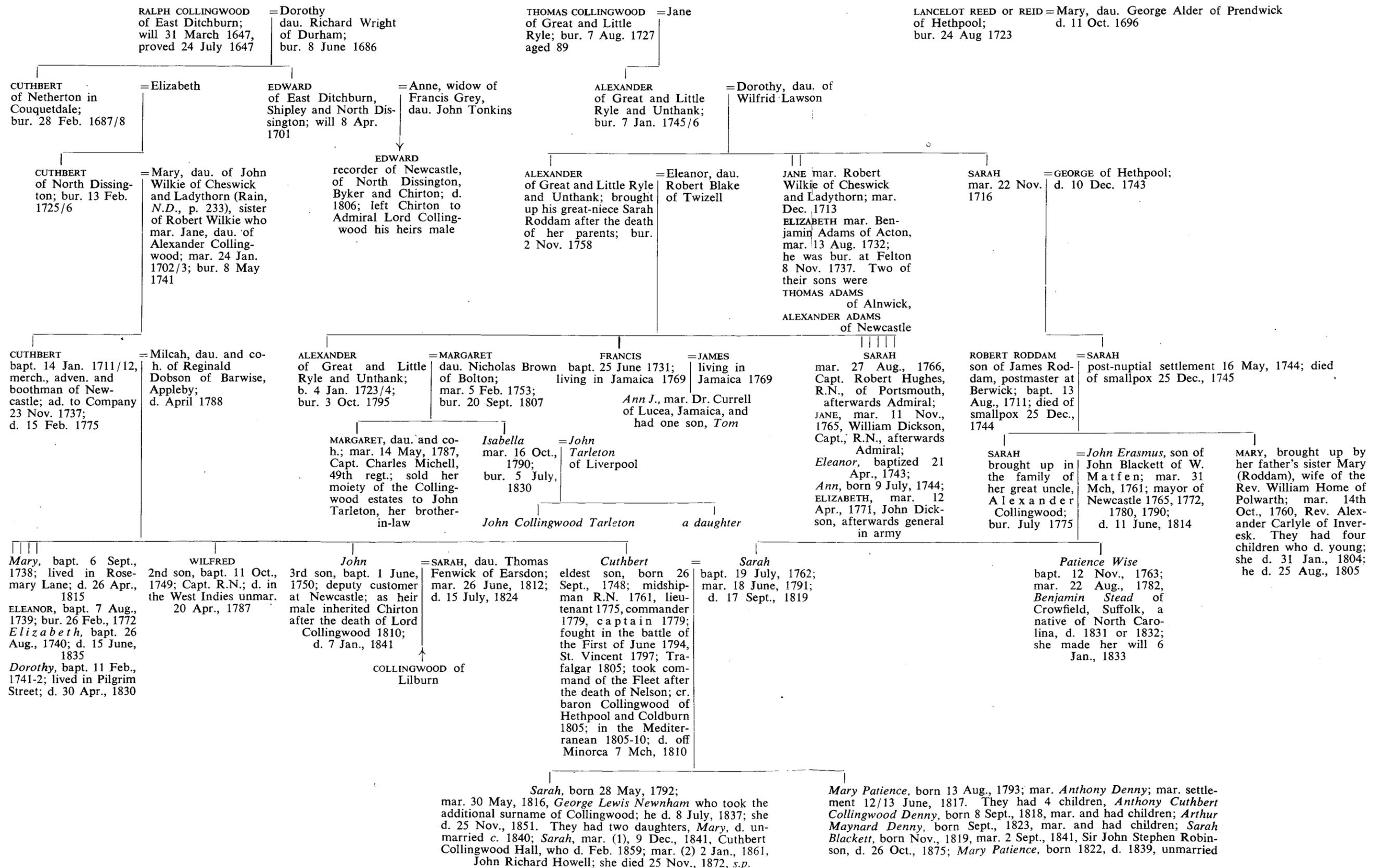
BY M. HOPE DODDS AND A. HOWARD HALL.

Introduction.

Mary Woodman was the daughter of William Woodman of Heron's Close, Morpeth; her mother's maiden name was Mary Bennet, and when the child was christened on 5 July, 1771, she was given her mother's name. Her father died in 1803 and was succeeded by his son, Benjamin Woodman; Mary continued to live with her mother, who died in 1821, and with her unmarried sister Anne, until her death on 3 April, 1843. She had two married sisters, Isabella, the wife of Robert Fenwick, and Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Coulson. Her brother Benjamin had a son, William Woodman, born on 19 March, 1806, who became a devoted member of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, and one of the few men who helped with the production of both John Hodgson's *History of Northumberland* and the *New History of Northumberland*, which carried on Hodgson's work. He died on 19 September, 1895, at the ripe age of eighty-nine, leaving a large and valuable collection of papers and documents which, at his request, his daughter presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne; but these letters, which are addressed to his aunt, Miss Mary Woodman, were not among those which the Society received in 1895; they have been given recently by William Woodman's granddaughter, Miss Muriel Hooper, who lives in Canada. Mr. John Clayton wrote a paper on the letters in 1888 (A.A., 2nd ser., XIII, 1889, p. 167) with the help

A GENEALOGICAL TABLE showing the families of Lord and Lady Collingwood and their relationship to some persons mentioned in the letters.

The pedigree of Lord Collingwood's family is taken from *AA*,³ II, 150ff.; the pedigree of Collingwood of Great and Little Ryle, *NCH*, XIV, 550-1; the pedigree of Lady Collingwood, *NCH*, XI, 258, 261. The names of persons mentioned in the letters are printed in italics.



of Mr. Woodman, but he only printed one letter, that describing the mayor's ball, 22 November, 1806.¹

Mrs., afterwards Lady, Collingwood was Sarah, daughter of John Erasmus Blackett, merchant adventurer and boothman (i.e. corn-merchant), a prominent Newcastle citizen. He was a younger son of John Blackett of Newby in the West Riding of Yorkshire, who was a merchant adventurer of Newcastle, for the Blacketts were a Northumbrian family, though they had branches in Durham and the West Riding. John Erasmus Blackett's mother was Patience, daughter of Henry Wise of Brompton, Middlesex, whose Christian name continued in the family; Admiral Collingwood's second daughter was called Mary Patience. John Erasmus Blackett's eldest brother, Edward, inherited a baronetcy from his uncle, Sir Edward Blackett of Newby and Hexham Abbey, and married Anne, daughter and heiress of Oley Douglas of West Matfen; after this marriage the family was established at West Matfen, and had also the estate of Thorp Lea, Surrey. Their son and heir was William Blackett of West Matfen and Thorp Lea, who married Anne, daughter of Benjamin Keene of Westoe Lodge, Cambridge.²

Lady Collingwood's family on her mother's side is shown in the genealogical table. Her mother died in 1775, and in 1782 John Erasmus Blackett moved from Pilgrim Street, where his daughters were born, to the newly built Charlotte Square, where he lived in the house which is now number 1, but at that time the houses were not numbered. It was while staying with her father in Newcastle that Mrs. Collingwood, afterwards Lady Collingwood, wrote many of her letters to Mary Woodman at her home in Morpeth. The Collingwoods lived in Morpeth, their house in Oldgate is shown on plate VII, fig. 2, but as the Admiral was so long at sea, his wife spent a good deal of time with her father.

The letters in the bound volume of MSS. are arranged roughly in chronological order, but with two groups of undated letters, one group after 1819 and the other at the end.

The following extracts are arranged and numbered in chronological order, and the undated letters are inserted in what seems to be the right places; the reasons for dating them in every case are given in the notes.

The letters are nearly all addressed to Mary Woodman, and therefore only the name of the writer is given at the head. When the letter is addressed to someone other than Miss Woodman, both the names of the writer and the receiver are given.

The original spelling is copied, but the punctuation has been slightly modernized, as there is very little punctuation in the originals.

The parts omitted are greetings at the beginning of the letters and complimentary messages at the end, descriptions of illnesses, gossip which is now unintelligible, long condolences and such like. Several unimportant short letters have been left out altogether.

LETTER 1.

From Mrs. Collingwood.

Charlotte Square
November 2nd 1800

. . . Miss Dickson³ left us on friday morn'g and you will be surprised when I tell you she and Cap'n Sanderson⁴ went off together in a Post Chaise for York. We met him at the play on Wednesday night and he mentioned that he intended setting off for York the next morn'g. Miss Dickson regretted that he had not been going on friday. He said he would with pleasure defer his journey for a day for so agreeable a companion. It was then settled that they should take their chance in the Mail or Union, which I would have preferred to a tête-à-tête with the Noble Captain in a Post Chaise, but Miss Dickson wrote him a card to propose their taking a chaise as she thought it so uncertain their getting places on the Mail. He agreed to it, but I don't think he likes it so well. However off they went at half after nine and it would be twelve at Night before they got to York. . . .

I met Mrs and Miss Smalridge⁵ yesterday morn'g in a shop and you cannot think how surprised they appeared at Miss Dickson's

companion to York. I thought poor Miss Smalridge looked very blank indeed at the information. They told me how well the theatre was attended at Morpeth,⁶ much better than this, so far. I was there with Miss Blackett⁷ on Friday, and I don't think there was five pounds in the house; but Miss Dickson was much gratified on Wednesday by -seeing *Pizzaro*⁸ wch certainly appeared to great advantage after the Morpeth exhibition; but I think on the whole their sett is as good as this. . . .

. . . There is a concert on Thursday wch I have the offer of tickets for, therefore, my dear Mary, if you can contrive to come here before that I should be very glad. I recd the Books safely.

I had a letter from My Husband on Friday. He had been drove into Torbay by the dreadful storm on Sunday last but he was (thank God) quite well. . . .

LETTER 2.

From Miss M. B. Dickson.

Kensington.

March 2nd 1801

. . . I have been staying in Londⁿ near a month, and have been extremely gay, at the play, the opera, etc, but nevertheless I was rejoic'd to return to my rural abode, for fresh air & green fields are still my delight, not forgetting *purling streams*. How often do I recollect the *sweet dips* we have taken together!!! I wish we were near enough to *repeat the same*. There is a very comfortable cold bath near me in which I continue to plunge three times a week. I am the *envy & admiration* of the whole neighbourhood for my perseverance.

You can imagine how much I was surprised to receive a letter from Mrs Collingwood dated Plymouth, without any previous notice of her leaving N'castle.⁹ . . . I doubt whether our friend will have much of the society of her amiable husband. I wish Parson's Yard were near Plymouth Dock, that we might be together, for Mrs C. is used to such *constant comfort at home* that I should think in her present situation she must be far from comfortable. I was sorry to learn from her last letter that Mrs Stead had not been well, and that she was to leave her father very soon.¹⁰ She is certainly a *fascinating* woman and her appearance infinitely more prepossessing than that of our friend, but I question whether she has her *intrinsic merit*. I shall long to see her and to hear all the news of the north. . . .

Owing to the King's illness & the change of Ministry it is im-

possible for anyone to judge of what may happen. What I am more interested in is the *high price of provisions*, which I devoutly hope, for the sake of the *many*, may soon decrease.¹¹

So, *our friend* Lord Morpeth is going to take unto himself a wife.¹² I suppose she will preside at your next dance. Everyone speaks highly of her character as being an amiable one. I saw her at the Opera. I do not think her handsome, but she look'd very agreeable and good-humoured. Perhaps His Lordship may frank this epistle for you, my dear Mary, as *Frank Gregg*¹³ said he would get it done for me.

LETTER 3.

From Mrs. Collingwood.

Charlotte Square
23 Feby 1804
Thursday

. . . I yesterday rec'd a letter from My Husband dated the 9th day of Jany off Ushant. He was well, thank God. He says the *Culloden* is fitted for him nicely till the *Venerable* could be got ready, for he understands they still intend he is to keep her. She has been well examined. All that was rotten & defective taken out & now that she is all Sound there is not a finer ship.¹⁴ He says the *Culloden* is reckoned a good one but very inferior to the *Venerable*. Read this account to Mrs Currell: "I am here," the Admiral's own words, "without a chair of my own to sit on. They are all on board the *Prince* with the boys. I saw Currell etc at Tor Bay where they were all well.¹⁵ I am glad I got them on board the *Prince*, out of the way of moving, as I have done lately, and in the harbour they would idle for nowadays boys think only of spending money & being fine gentlemen." I suppose the Boys will now remain in the *Prince* till the *Venerable* is ready for the Adm'l. He says they are told the french fleet are coming put the first favourable wind—but he doubts it—for they never, he says, can have so good an opportunity of Wind, Weather, and Dark Nights as they have had lately. Yet they have not gone; for a cutter that looked in the day before saw Eleven sail of the line & all the frigates that used to be there. The Adm'l says they depend more on the winds buffeting us, than on what they can do with their fleet—and they are right—the chances of success in battle perhaps is against them, but in their good Ally, the Winds, and a little political [illegible] by false reports of their intended movements, they are sure at last to cripple and disable us—the *Ville de Paris* is torn almost to pieces

and the other Ships that have been at Sea all the winter are little better. All good Seamen condemn the Measure of keeping the fleet out in these hurricanes of W'terly Wind with w'ch the french cannot possibly Sail for when the time comes that they can Sail we may probably be found not in a position to follow them . . . he says he is taking all the care he can to keep the Ship he is in perfect—looking forward to the Wolf's coming out at last. So much for my Husband's letter w'ch is not the most comfortable one, but we must hope the best and trust in Providence.

LETTER 4.

From Mrs Collingwood.

Charlotte Square

No Date

? October 1805¹⁶

Summary. Miss Morrison¹⁷ has been attended by Mr Ingham and is better. The young folks have begun business again, and I trust all will go on well. Mr Bruce¹⁸ and Thompson¹⁹ attend twice a week, and they are to attend Mr Kinlock & Mr Jack's²⁰ School on three mornings a week.

LETTER 5.

*Mrs Collingwood to Miss Woodman.*²¹

Charlotte Sqr

Novbr 10th 1805

DEAR MISS WOODMAN

I thank you sincerely for your two kind letters, the list of congratulations on the safety of My dear Husband and on his great and glorious Victory tho' it has cost us dear in the death of the gallant & brave Nelson whose fate I lament not only as a publick loss but being the intimate and beloved friend of My Husband, who was in great affliction at the event. However I am now feeling very thankful to Providence for the preservation of this Valuable Husband whose life, I trust, has been spared as a comfort to his family. I am very anxious to hear again as Admiral Collingwood's fleet were in a Miserable State when the Action was over; but I trust we shall soon hear good news of them. Yesterday I was so indifferent from the agitation of the day before & a bad Night to be obliged to keep my Bed all the morn'g. I am much better today & have been writing answering letters for some hours w'ch must be an excuse for this hurried scrawl.

LETTER 6.

From Helen E. Lee.

Edin'h

17th May 1806

Summary. Miss Morrison²² is in Edinburgh for medical treatment. Her illness is described. There is very little hope of her recovery. The writer has heard from Lady Collingwood that she and her daughters have arrived safely in London.²³

LETTER 7.

From Ann Roddam.

Roddam near Belford

20th June 1806

Summary. She mentions a letter from Admiral Collingwood to Admiral Roddam, received by this day's post, dated 19th May. She says: "The Admiral is in excellent health." It is not quite clear whether she means Admiral Collingwood or Admiral Roddam, but probably the latter.²⁴

LETTER 8.

*From E. S. Loraine.*²⁵

Hepscott, Sunday 8 o'clock

Sept. 28th [date of year torn away]

[1806.]²⁶

Summary. A letter of condolence to Mary Woodman and her sister, Mrs Coulson, on the death of Mrs Coulson's little girl in a "dreadful and unfortunate accident". The letter continues:

I thought the Miss Collingwoods looking extremely well and, I think, much improved in their address. Indeed Miss Carter's manners are very good and she is cheerful.²⁷ . . . I think Miss Brown a very pleasant girl and you will find her an agreeable acquisition amongst you at Morpeth.²⁸

LETTER 9.

From Lady Collingwood.

Charlotte Square

Novber 22nd 1806

This letter is printed in *A.A.*, 2nd ser. (1889), XIII, pp. 177-9. It describes a ball given at the Mansion House by Archibald Reed, the Mayor of Newcastle. It is one of Lady Collingwood's liveliest letters and is only omitted from considerations of space.

LETTER 10.

*From Lady Collingwood.*Charlotte Sq²⁹

Friday [Nov 1806]

A letter expressing disappointment that the illness of Mary's mother has prevented Mary from visiting Lady C. and saying that two letters had been received from Lord C. It goes on:

The Ball at the Mansion House did not go off so well as the first. None of the party that dined here stayed supper. My father kept his promise and went with the Reays who staid all night here. They did not seem much pleased with their party at the Mansion House. It certainly was a difficult thing to divide their company equally; but it certainly might have been better.

You would be sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Wilson.³⁰ Indeed, she is not only a great loss to her friends; but a publick loss here. She was a worthy good woman & prepared for such a death wch was as sudden as possible. She never breathed after she fell down in the schoolroom. My girls were there at the time, and Sarah was within two of her. She was telling Mary to hold up her head the moment before. They were put out of the room immediately, and sent home, and were, you may suppose, much shocked: but they did not know Mrs Wilson was dead.

Poor Miss Brown! My head has ached for her. I sent Peggy to her immediately to know if I could be of any use; but she was too ill to see her that night. On Wednesday she went again when I wrote, and she came downstairs to Peggy; but in the greatest affliction. She sent me a message that she would write to me as soon as she heard from her guardian Mrs Taylor. Miss Brown has lost a mother in Mrs Wilson. I shall go there to-morrow and endeavour to see Miss Brown. . . . I have been very indifferent with the rheumatism and I have had it in my side very bad; but thank God, I am better.

LETTER 11.

*From M. Brown.*Charlotte Square³¹

Saturday evening [1809]

This letter opens with a detailed description of the serious illness of Alderman Blackett from which he appears to be recovering.³²

Lady C. was to have returned to Chirton³³ when this letter was written, and Miss Collingwood³⁴ "was to have gone next week".

The visit has been postponed until Mr Blackett is better. The

letter continues: I am prevented visiting the Loraines by Sir William's being dangerously ill. This day we had a rather better account of him. I intended to have gone to Whitburn today; but shall stay till next week, of course, when I hope Mr Blakett will be well enough to return to Chirton. Lady C wishes exceedingly to have you with her if only for the fortnight Miss C is to be with her, for she believes she shall have her all to herself. She did not tell me to ask you, for she says she did ask you and she thought you decidedly refused. As I am not desired to ask you, you can do just as you think best. I have been three months at Chirton and various things have taken place in that time. I have sat down at least fifty times to write to you; but had so much to say to your private ear that I could not put in one sheet, and knew not how to send it from Chirton by a safe *private* opportunity. Before Mr O³⁵ came to Chirton he went to Crowfield³⁶ and there staid three or four days, during which time he made known his intention of *proposing for Miss Collingwood*. Mrs Stead all up in arms: Miss Flower also. Well, down he came. Lady C—but I cannot enter into particulars. You must not breathe a word of this. The result is that Mr O was of course refused. However he made his story good & is not in disgrace with Lady C; but rather in favor. He staid a fortnight & a more upstart *would be genteel* poor-looking creature I never saw. A great deal of Irish familiarity in his manner & I am certain he is anything but a gentleman. It has been a business as never before happened. Sarah is now with her Aunt and is to be sent for in the course of next month. Mary has gone back to Mrs Moss. I think I see you staring at all this; but could I tell you all you would stare still more. I must write to you all particulars if I do not see you. How can I manage it? I must return to Whitburn. Indeed, I have been too long away for I require bathing, and the bath I got at Chirton was all a joke.

I find things so altered since I was last here that I have been far from happy. Our friend's temper is not as it used to be, and I find it impossible to give satisfaction. I have sometimes taken myself to task & fancied I was altered; but I hear so many complaints that I find I am not singular. You see what confidence I place in you.

LETTER 12.

From M. Brown.

Charlotte Square
Tuesday evening³⁷

. . . Lady C hopes you will come on Thursday evening and make

as long a stay as possible. I go to Whitburn on Friday. . . . The present plan is to go to Chirton on Saturday. Old Miss Collingwood goes on Monday and stays a fortnight and then Lady C comes up to Newcastle for a week, whilst Wilkinson³⁸ goes to Crowfield for Sarah. Mr Ingham says Mr Blackett is wonderfully better; but that his complaint very often carries off a person in a few minutes, and he is not sanguine about Mr Blackett's final recovery. Indeed I have many fears.

LETTER 13.

From Sarah Collingwood.

Charlotte Square
Undated
[Spring 1810]³⁹

Summary. Sarah says that her mother is very anxious about Lord Collingwood's ill health⁴⁰ and would like Mary to visit them. Lady Collingwood is very much hurt that Miss Brown has left them to visit Mrs T. Cookson. Sarah offers to come for Mary if that will bring her.

LETTER 14.

*Mary Woodman at Charlotte Square
to her mother and sister.*

Charlotte Square,
Friday [20th Apl 1810]⁴¹

I know how much my dear Mother & Sister would feel for all the family yesterday when they got the account of good Lord Collingwood's death, indeed my d'r sister, you can better imagine than I can describe the state of this family when the sad event was communicated to them.

We had just returned from Church when Mr C Blackett himself brought up a letter from Lord Mulgrave with the melancholy account of his having died at sea on the 7th of March. He said Lord C had gone to Minorca; but finding himself no better, was on his passage home, poor man, when he died. Mr Cosway was coming with him & His Lordship required to remain by his Corpse till they were interred. They are to be brought down.

It was his particular request that he might be buried where he died; but as he died at sea, they think it proper for his remains to be brought down. Lady C'd, Mr J Collingwood and Mr John

Davison are left executors. Poor Lady C. was put to bed immediately and given a good deal of laudanum. She has had a bad night & is this morning very indifferent. Miss C is silently affected. Poor Mr Blackett!!! My heart bled for him yesterday; but like most old people he is to-day very much composed. Mr Ingham tells me the family in Pilgrim Street are in a dreadful state.⁴² Mr Blackett wrote yesterday to Mrs Stead to come down & bring Mary with her. They will be the greatest comfort to Lady C. Lady C beg'd me to ask my mother to let me stay here some time yet; but I will write to you again soon. My d'r sister will understand what I mean; but my head is in a miserable state, not having clos'd my eyes last night; but tho' I have told you that, don't suppose I am ill. . . . The Miss Johnsons were here all yesterday & Miss Brown came this morn'g before breakfast. I got Lady C. to see her. She did not yesterday—indeed she is most clever in writing, & as there is a good deal, I found myself not equal to it.

LETTER 15.

*From Miss Anne Collingwood to Miss Woodman
C/o J. E. Blackett at Charlotte Sq.*

Morpeth

22nd April 1810

A letter of condolence on the death of Admiral Collingwood expressing anxiety for Lady Collingwood, and concern for her father and her daughter Sarah, with the following postscript:

My Anna⁴³ begs her love to you.

Oh! what a pity the dear Admiral's last request could not be comply'd with.⁴⁴ Mr Cosway,⁴⁵ I am certain, must be much hurt at not being allowed to attend to the last sad office of his truly (*sic*) great friend, as it was his desire.

LETTER 16.

From Miss M. B. Dickson.

Aberystwith

12 Nov. 1810

. . . I do not wish, my dear Mary, to gain any information from you, even if you c'd give me any, on that subject, but only wish to know how and where Lady C. is at present . . . whether she has bought a home in London & means to reside there, and whether it be true that Lord C. left such immense property, & pray does not his bro' get the estate of Chirton?⁴⁶

LETTER 17.

From Lady Collingwood.

9 York Place,
Portman Square.
9th Jan'y 1811

. . . Mr Cosway was with us a fortnight. He has been of great service to me at this time, and was so kind as to come before he went to the Mediterranean, which he intends doing at the end of this month. . . .

Mrs Tarleton⁴⁷ has been very kind and attentive. They are very near neighbours of ours. Their little girl comes here to dance with Mrs Jenkins. She is a sweet pretty girl. On Monday she dined here and Mrs Moss⁴⁸ and her young ladies came to tea and supper. It was Twelfth Night and we had a cake. They drew for King and Queen. Mary got the latter, and Mrs Collingwood Tarleton for King. We had no Gentlemen of the party, so each lady drew for a Gentleman, and the young folks had a very cheerful evening. The Misses had each made a dish for supper, which, I dare say, shocked Betsy Reay⁴⁹ very much. She is, I am sorry to say rather [illegible] and conceited. Mr Reay is now got pretty well again and returned home; but he has been very bad, and Mrs Reay has not been anywhere, not counting this house, since my father left us.

I am now looking forward to the happiness of having my sister with us on the 24th inst. Miss Flower accompanies her and will stay about a week. My sister has been but very indifferent which makes me still more anxious to have her with us. I am sure she will like our house. Indeed we are most comfortably settled, and I sincerely hope, My dear Mary, to see you in it one of these days. I am very well settled in regard to servants. Wallace seems to answer very well, so far, as butler. He looks very respectable with powder, and the footman also wears powder. He seems a steady good servant and Bob goes on very well. I have four maid-servants besides Wilkinson. I know you are interested in everything concerning us which makes me thus particular. I have been living as quiet and retired as possible. Much more so than I would have done at Newcastle. My dear Father and Mary Brown⁵⁰ are going very well; but I am sorry to find his rheumatism is no better. This weather is certainly much against it.

We have been twice to see the skating on the Serpentine River which amused me very much. Hundreds were upon it and seemed very fine skaters.

LETTER 18.

*From Lady Collingwood.*9 York Place
10th May, 1812

. . . We propose setting out for the North the first or second week in July and I shall not be sorry when the time arrives, as not only wishing for a little quiet we are looking forward with much pleasure to the thought of seeing you, my dear Father, and also some friends.

I hope you will come to us the first week in August and accompany us to Whitburn, where I have taken a house for three months, and where I hope we shall be very comfortable and the sea air and bathing will be of service to you. Mr Cosway⁵¹ will, I hope, be at Whitburn part of the time, wch I think you will have no objection to, as he will be an agreeable addition to our party. So remember, My dr Mary, you are engaged to us.

You would, I am sure, think much of us on the day of presentation at the Drawing Room. My dear Girls got through the business better than I expected. Sarah was, poor soul, much frightened; but to my surprise, Mary not the least. She rather enjoyed it. They both looked very well and the dresses were much admired; but as you will see an account of this in the paper I shall not particularise them. We are to go again to the Drawing Room next Thursday, and that night I have my party wch will be a very large one. About four hundred invitations are sent out, and it will have a gay appearance as all the ladies that have attended the Drawing Room will come in their Court Head-dresses. I think I shall be pretty well fatigued that night. . . .

. . . Yesterday we dined at Lady de Crespigny's and met Lord and Lady Nelson. . . . Lord Nelson is a most vulgar disagreeable man. The Widow Viscountess Nelson has been in town, and we saw a great deal of her. She is a most pleasing woman. . . . On Tuesday last I had a Box at Covent Garden for *Coriolanus* wch is Kemble's first character,⁵² & the play got up in grand style. Isabella Lisle dined here & went with us. Have you heard of Young Lisles having got leave from Chancery to quit Oxford, and to marry at eighteen is rather too early a period, I think. Miss Salvin is the lady.⁵³

LETTER 19.

*From Sarah Collingwood.*York Place,
14th Mar 1813

. . . We have been twice to Covent Garden Theatre since we came

[from Newcastle] and last night all the party, except myself (as I was not quite well) went to see the new Drury Lane Theatre⁵⁴ and were much delighted. Soon after they had returned home—some of them had not gone to bed—there was an alarm of fire, and Wilkinson—on looking out of the window—saw that it was in the street opposite to us. We were all soon up and equipped in flannel gowns &c &c and we trotted about till about 4 or 5 o'clock, when it was got under, but the flames were frightful and the engines were very long in coming. The house was completely gutted. It was next door but one to Mr Cosway's lodgings and my mother was first afraid it was his.

Mrs Currell dined with us on Tuesday; but not her son. She says he has got boils on his neck which prevents his calling. My mother saw him when she called & she thinks nothing can be worse than he is. We have not had the pleasure of seeing him yet. Mrs C was in great spirits and danced her Indian dance⁵⁵ after dinner. . . .

John⁵⁶ dined with us on Sunday sennight. He is much thinner and is kept more busy than ever at the Treasury. He is private Secretary to Mr Vansittart⁵⁷ who is very kind to him. My mother & I are to dine on Saturday at the Pattersons where he is to be. The rest of our party go in the evening. Sunday is Master Jacky's & we generally have a visit from him. He has been here this morning and he has promised to get me a frank for Mary Browne, and as it will be one to carry any weight, I shall enclose this in it also.

I shall seal this letter with the supporters for the table cloths.⁵⁸

LETTER 20.

From Lady Collingwood.

York Place

1st July 1813

. . . I have waited for a frank to inclose half the money, viz Ten pounds and in about a fortnight we shall write to you again and send another ten pound. I think it is better not to send both together for fear of accidents. We have much to thank you for My dear Mary not only for all the trouble you have undertaken for myself & my dear Mary in regard to the linnen but for your kind visit to my father, which he feels most grateful for, I assure you.

Mr Cosway set out again on Tuesday for Hampshire, and returns on Saturday, when he will have finally settled about taking this place Belmont belonging to Sir George Prevost who is abroad. The marriage of my dear Mary & Mr Cosway will take place about the middle or end of August.⁵⁹

. . . Last Friday we were at a very elegant ball at Mrs Cootes's, mother to Sr Charles Cootes who is just of age and comes into possession of a property of thirty thousand a year. The house he has purchased in Connaught Place is most elegantly furnished—and the Service of Plate used for the first time that night at supper cost six and thirty thousand pounds; so you may imagine how very superb it is. The supper consisted of every rarity that could be procured for money. . . . Peaches & Nectarines &c in great plenty. In short, it was very grand entertainment. . . .

. . . We are very busy making the house linnen for dear Mary. . . .

. . . Lord Tyrconnell's time is so much taken up being private secretary to Mr Vansittart that we see very little of him—which to tell you the truth I think very fortunate, for that *never would do*, and he, I am sure, is of the same opinion. He is going to Scotland for the shooting season. . . .

I am sure you will be glad to hear that my butler Johnson answers extremely well. The Tarletons have had sad work with their servants, and have been without a man-servant for some time. Their house has been attempted, and they suspect by their late servants; but we think only with the idea of alarming them, for their servants do not respect them too much. However, I am feeling much for them at present on account of the illness of their girl, who is, I fear, in a bad way. Mrs Tarleton talks of going with her to Ramsgate; and Mr Tarleton, I suppose, must go to look after his affairs at Collingwood House.⁶⁰ They have been living as quiet as they were gay last year—have given no entertainments whatever, nor had any company. They met with such a disappointment in regard to Mr Tom Adams⁶¹ (whose fortune they expected) that they have never recovered it, and they are at present concerned in a law suit, wch it is thought will go against Mr Tarleton.

LETTER 21.

From Lady Collingwood.

Charlotte Square
6th March 1814

. . . I have engaged a house at Tynemouth from the 6th of June for two months certain, and, as I know sea-bathing is good for you, we hope you will accompany us there: and the longer you can stay the more agreeable it will be. This long-continued severe weather is much against all invalids and the aged. However, thank God, my father has been, on the whole, better lately.

. . . Friday Mary & I went to the play wch Mr Ramsay bespoke. I took a box and filled it, so I did my part. Next Friday the Northumberland Militia bespeak the play and I have got seats. I intended sending to request Frances Fenwick's⁶² company to dinner and to go with us to the play. When the weather improves I hope we shall see more of her.

Mr Cosway is removed to his house in Stratford Place and is very comfortably settled there. He underwent an operation when Dr Gray was with him, and has been going on even better than they would have expected; but this severe weather again will, I fear, throw him back. Dr Gray has now confined him entirely to the sofa wch I have always thought was the only place. Mr Cosway's mind seems much relieved by having had Dr Gray's advice, and his recovery depends so much on his mind being kept easy that his coming to him has been very fortunate, and I hope, in God, it will have every good effect. Mr Cosway is not to go into Hampshire till the season is further advanced.

This town has been particularly gay lately—several sandwich parties and private concerts of wch we of course could not partake; but we go to the Morrison's house dance to-morrow sennight, and to Mrs Wilson's on the 17th, at wch all the North'd Officers are to be also the Band to play, so it will be a gay affair.

The Johnson's⁶³ dance went off very well. The bed was taken down and the Card Tables in that room—the dancing in the Drawing Room, and a standing supper in the Dining Room. . . .

. . . The reason we have fixed to go to Tynemouth is that it is more convenient on many accounts, and much more cheerful than Whitburne.

LETTER 22.

From Lady Collingwood.

Charlotte Square
March the 13th 1814

. . . I can assure you, my dear Mary, that your kindly offer of coming to us at the time you mention will be to us *doubly* acceptable, tho' for your own sake, I was anxious you should have a little batheing and enjoy some of the cheerfulness at Tynemouth. However I trust we shall be able to make your visit here not a *dull* one, as I know you do not require much gaiety. I hope we may look forward to a fine Spring after all this bad weather, and that my dear girls may enjoy some walks with you.

Sarah has suffered from this severe weather, and she is not, on any account, to stir out till there is a change for the better. . . .

... On Friday Frances Fenwick dined with us & accompanied Mary & me to the play with the Johnsons. The Officers of the North'd Militia bespoke it, and there was a very good house. The Band played delightfully, wch was a great treat, and we set our friend Frances home safe. The day was so bad I sent a Chair for her before dinner.

I had a letter from Lady Blackett last Friday giving us the melancholy account of her father Mr Keene's House Swincourt in Oxfordshire being burnt to the ground. No lives were lost. Fortunately the women servants were saved by ladders being put up to the garrett windows; but everything [was] destroyed. The family were going there the next day, & Lady B had set her sister Sophy and little Henry to Maidenhead on their way to meet Mr and Mrs Keene and Fanny; and they had not proceeded above a mile when they met one of the tenants to inform them of this dreadful event. You may suppose what a shock it would be to them. Mr Keene had being doing a great deal to this place, wch they were all very fond of, and it was just completed. The Blacketts had not then got into their new house in Town.⁶⁴

Monday morning. I was prevented finishing this last night, and I must hasten my epistle as they are very impatient for me to read a new book *Patronage*⁶⁵ to them. . . .

LETTER 23.

*From D. Johnson.*⁶⁶

Charlotte Square
June 14th 1814

MY DEAR MARY,

My sister received your kind letter this morning, and as she is engaged at present, has commissioned me to answer it, which I do with the greatest pleasure, well knowing how anxious you must be to hear all about our poor neighbours.

Mrs Stead arrived yesterday morning at 3 o'Clock and I understand they had a dreadful meeting. Mrs S was extremely affected. Poor Soul she had travelled night and day and, of course, was much fatigued. I have not seen her yet. She did not wish to see anybody except my mother. Lady Collingwood is much more composed to-day & I trust Mrs Stead will also be better after she gets a little rest. She had a bad night; but it requires time to soothe an afflicted mind. Poor dear Mr B. has ordered everything in his will in regard to the funeral, which is to be as private as possible—a hearse and two mourning coaches. I rather think that only his clerks are to attend; but I am not certain.

We have all had a very anxious time and were much distressed at the death of our valued old friend. Dear Mr B. took leave of the girls and all the servants, as also of my mother & self. He, poor man, was perfectly sensible of his dissolution. It really was melancholy to see him. They had a nurse, and our maid Betty was there two nights assisting. Wilkinson has not been very well; but is better.

I had nearly forgotten to mention that dear Mr B's remains are to be interred on Thursday at 2 o'Clock. They were obliged to screw the coffin down yesterday.

Mary sleeps with us at present & Sarah with her mother. They talk of going to Tynemouth on Saturday. Maria goes with them.

I heard yesterday that your niece danced extremely well at the ball.

LETTER 24.

From Lady Collingwood.

Tynemouth

June the 21st 1814

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Many thanks for all your kind attentions to us in our afflictions. I am well assured none of our friends have more sincerely sympathized with us than yourself and family. Oh! my dear Mary, it appears like a dream to think on the 28th of May how well this beloved parent was.

The subject of my dear father's illness is too recent & painful a one to dwell upon; but we have received a severe shock, wch I trust the Almighty will support us under.

Mrs Johnson's kindness I can never be sufficiently grateful for. She has, in every sense of the word, acted the part of a true friend. But Maria would have done the same My dear Mary, and had we not expected my sister I should have requested your coming to us, for often did I wish for you.

We came here on Saturday, and I hope the change of scene & air may be of service to us after a little while; but we are still very indifferent.

My sister's stay will, I fear, be very short.

Maria Johnson came with us, and Margt Loraine⁶⁷ will come after my sister's departure. My dear Mary, I hope you will be able to come and spend a few weeks with us here, before we leave Tynemouth. We shall perhaps remain here three months, and return South about the middle of Oct'b'r. How much all our plans are altered, My dear Mary; but myself and daughters are looking for-

ward with some comfort to a visit from you here. They will be most happy to meet you in Newcastle and bring you here any time you fix. As to beds, we can accommodate Maria Johnson, Margt Loraine & yourself all at the same time. Therefore suit your own convenience in coming. My dear Sarah bathed yesterday in the Shower Bath, and is certainly looking better; but, poor girl, her spirits were quite got the better of.

Wilkinson & Thomas are to marry, so I wont look out for another maid.

Your most affectionate Friend.

LETTER 25.

York Place,
Jany the 1st 1816

. . . I have now to inform you of an event that is to take place in my family in the course of a few months by the marriage of my dear Sarah, who has accepted the addresses of Mr George Newnham.⁶⁸ I believe she has long been partial to him, and I do not wonder at it for a more amiable pleasing young man there cannot be. He is adored in his own family and beloved & respected by all who know his worth; and as his abilities are considered to be of the first rate, there is little doubt of his rising in his profession, wch is the Law. He has lately been appointed one of the Commiss's at Paris for settling the English claims in the Funds there. This is fifteen hundred a year, and was given to him in the handsomest manner, with an assurance at the same time of its leading to something better.

George Newnham sets out to-morrow for Paris and will return in May for a few weeks, when the marriage will take place, and he takes his lady back with him to Paris; but I hope only to remain for a few months.

My dear Sarah might certainly have married more advantageously in point of fortune, as Mr G. Newnham is the younger son of a large family; but his father has acted most liberally towards him on the occasion. I have every reason to think my dear girl's happiness has every prospect of being insured by the choice she has made.

Mr Cosway continues better, and I hope will soon be perfectly well. He dined with us on Friday, and we expect him to-day. He always returns in the even'g to Bromley. . . . Mrs Dickson⁶⁹ has been staying in the absence of Maria. She returns to-morrow to Kensington, and is to come back to us for a little while longer after Maria's⁷⁰ departure. . . .

We have been under great anxiety on my sister's account, who had had a most unfortunate accident. She went out in her donkey carriage one of the frosty days and got out to walk down a hill which was very slippery. She fell with her right arm under her and fractured her wrist very badly. It could not be sett for ten days, and the surgeon is very apprehensive it will be a stiff joint. Her sufferings, poor thing, have been dreadful but, thank God, the last two letters from Miss Flower have been very comfortable accounts, and I had a few lines from my sister written with her left hand. I much fear this unfortunate accident will prevent my dear sister being with us so soon as Feby. She had just begun to recover from her long & painful illness when this misfortune took place. When I first received the account from Mr Stead it shocked me so much that it brought on violent spasms in my side, and for two days I was really very ill and obliged to be blistered which relieved me, and I am now, thank God, quite well. . . .

Sarah, since this affair was settled, is quite a different creature being now all animation. . . . I intend, My dear Mary, troubling you with the same kind of commission you were so kind as to undertake for Mary, viz:—Three Damask Table Cloths—4½ yards each—and Four Dozen and a half of Napkins, and six Diaper Table Cloths. I have your account by me—it came to Fifty Pounds. Perhaps [illegible] may now be dearer. As soon as I hear from you my dr Mary, on the subject I will enclose you a Ten Pound Note to begin with . . . this is to be my present.

LETTER 26.

From Lady Collingwood.

York Place

Jan the 10th 1816

. . . I inclose in this a Twenty Pound Note to begin with for the Spinners & c and Sarah begs I will repeat her thanks to you, My dear Mary, and your dear Mother for your kindness in undertaking this business for her; and as this is only a beginning I think the Collingwood Arnis should not be worked till those of the Gentn can be joined. Therefore we will defer that till the next order. . . .

G Newnham is very goodlooking with very fine teeth and a fine open good humoured countenance. He is rather tall, but his manners are still superior to his looks being perfectly the well bred gentleman with good sense. So much for my intended son in law.

Sarah has begun with her french again—has got a master and is studying very hard.

LETTER 27.

From Lady Collingwood.

York Place

March the 10th 1816

. . . Old Mr Newnham, who is a wonderful man at eighty two, dined here with a large party; and I had an evening party of about two hundred and the old gentleman played his rubber at whist in the back Drawing Room while the dancing went forward in the other—only a dance to the pianoforte but it appeared to be enjoyed very much.

We hear from Paris regularly twice a week—very pleasing accounts and entertaining, for our friend is so well introduced he is in the very first sett. He has met the Tarletons twice, at a dinner and a ball. Mrs Tarleton was very civil but never mentioned a certain subject, tho' I had written to inform her of it.⁷¹

Sarah has been sitting for her miniature picture, which is very like indeed, and ere this arrived in Paris. . . .

The Reay's are to be of our party to the play on Tuesday senight. I have got a box at Drury Lane to see Mr Keene⁷² in the *Duke of Milan* which was performed last night for the first time. . . .

There has been a report here that I was going to be married as well as my daughter; but the name of the Gentleman has never transpired. However, should you ever hear it, remember, my dear Mary you have my authority to contradict it possitively there not being the least foundation for such a report.

LETTER 28.

From Lady Collingwood.

York Place

April the 13th 1816

. . . How happy we shall be to see you . . . and you will be a great comfort to Mary and me after dear Sarah has left us, which they do about a fortnight after. My sister . . . arrived, looking really well . . . but unfortunately she has got one of those dreadful colds and a violent cough so that she is confined. this is unfortunate at this time having a good deal of gaiety coming on . . . a dinner party on Tuesday, a box at Covent Garden on Wednesday . . . the Reay's dance on Monday the 22nd.

My party is on the 25th inst, which is said to be the date of Princess Charlotte's marriage.⁷³ . . .

Sarah has got some very pretty dresses mostly coloured (?) gauzes, which are much worn, and the trimmings are so pretty at the bottom of the dresses. . . .

Such weather at this season I never remember. A heavy fall of snow on this Easter Sunday, and much colder than it was at Xmas. . . . Let me know, my dear Mary when you want any more money for this spinning business. The next that is done in that way must be for sheeting against my children's return to settle themselves in their own country.

LETTER 29.

From Lady Collingwood.

York Place

Novr the 17th 1816

. . . We were invited to a small social party at Mrs Bradford's and when I was in the middle of a rubber at whist very near the chandelier down it came & broke all to pieces; but fortunately no one was hurt but only much frightened, and Mrs Bradford submitted with very good humour to this rather serious accident of the Lustre and the handsome Drawing Room carpet which was covered with oil. . . . On Friday the meeting in Spa Fields⁷⁴ had quite an alarming appearance, and I fear we shall have many such. . . . I must not omit informing you how much Mr Deverell lamented your departure & sang your praises in these words—'Miss Woodman is an amiable and pleasant companion—always cheerful and ready, yet never in the way.'

LETTER 30.

From Ann Johnson.

Charlotte Square

Saturday June 21st [1817]

. . . With this I expect you will receive a pair of gloves and a piece of cake from Mrs Denny.⁷⁵ . . . Dora⁷⁶ is quite delighted with Mr Denny, indeed, everybody speaks well of the young man. I think they have every prospect of happiness. They have really been two fortunate young women and dear Mary has had such a lucky escape.⁷⁷

LETTER 31.

From Lady Collingwood.

York Place,

June the 27th 1817

. . . Many thanks for your kind congratulations and good wishes on the marriage of my dear daughter, which to me has been an event of the greatest joy, as I have every reason to hope and trust

the happiness of my dear girl will be insured by her union with one so amiable and in every respect excellent as this same Anthony Denny. He is, in short, everything I could wish for in a son in law, and I feel not a little thankful & proud of the two I have. . . . Dora [Johnson] and I went with a large party to Vauxhall yesterday senight . . . it was very full at Vauxhall, and the first time I ever felt it too hot there. On Thursday we went with the same party to the New English Opera House, and had a full view of the Duke of Wellington who was opposite, and we were very disappointed in his appearance. . . . I had a kind letter from Mrs Tarleton yesterday which mentions that her Aunt Collingwoods are likely to become possessed of great riches & which she hopes they will long live to enjoy, therefore I conclude she Alludes to Mr Adams' fortune, and that his son must be dead.⁷⁸ Have you heard anything of this sort? Do let me know.

LETTER 32.

From Maria Newton Kortright.

43 Rue d'Anjou
4th Octr 1817

Summary. News of the birth of a daughter⁷⁹ to Mrs Newnham, "a darling little thing . . . plump and healthy . . . dark eyes and black hair and promises to be very pretty . . . with a likeness to Papa."

LETTER 33.

From Lady Collingwood.

Rue d'Anjou, Paris
17th Novr 1817

. . . I deferred writing to you in hopes of being able at the same time to make my letter more amusing by an account of some gaieties; but you must now, my dear Mary, take the will for the deed, for this late most melancholy event of the poor Princess Charlotte has put a stop to all the balls that were in agitation here amongst the English until the deep mourning is expired. I think this is very proper. The lamentable intelligence reached Paris on Saturday senight by telegraph to the Duke of Richelieu, and we could scarce believe it; but went to the Ambassador's and learnt that it was, alas, too true, and Lady Elizabeth Stuart's party, where we were to have been that evening was, of course, put off. . . . My two dear Sarahs are as well as possible. The little girl improves daily. Mr Newnham's death made it necessary for George to go

to England, being one of the Trustees to his Will. The old gentleman died very rich, and South-borough is to be sold.

I hope to be at home against Xmas. . . . Miss Kortright . . . and I were much gratified by getting tickets of admittance to Notre Dame on Tuesday the 3rd Novbr the day the king and Royal Family all go in procession in their Court dresses, and the Peers, Ambassadors & Deputies &c to hear High Mass. We had to set out at half after nine o'clock in the morning and the streets were all lined on each side with soldiers, which had a most formidable appearance. A Gen[tlema]n accompanied us and we got very good seats opposite to where the Royal Family were to sit. Benches were arranged one above another covered with Scarlet Cloth on each side of the isle (*sic*) for the spectators. The Royal Family did not arrive till about one o'clock, when High Mass began, which to us was very tiresome. But the music and singing made amends. It was fine beyond everything, and we were much gratified with this fine sight. . . .

LETTER 34.

From M. B. Dickson.

York Place
9th Sept 1818

. . . Lady Collingwood requests me to announce the joyful event of dear Mrs Denny being safely delivered of a very fine boy⁸⁰ this morning at three o'clock. . . .

Mr G L Newnham dined with us yesterday and did not leave us till twelve. He came from Brighton on Monday where he left Mrs Newnham and the dear little girl much improved from the change of air. They are both very delicate. Maria Johnson is staying with them, & old Mrs Newnham is on a visit. Lady C desires her kindest regards to you and will be obliged to you to send Mrs Newnham's sheeting as soon as finished by the waggon directed to G. L. Newnham Esqr, No 5 Hyde Park Corner, London.

I intended to have written to you by my cousin Frank; but his time is always uncertain & I was in the country when he set out for the North. I passed a fortnight very pleasantly in his absence with his family at Wallington. I should have completed the month: but Lady C wished me to be at home when Mary's time drew near, and I wished myself to be here.

I spent three weeks at Barham Wood most pleasantly—at Mr Denny's—and you would be delighted to see the happy couple. Mr Denny is, without exception, one of the most amiable and affect[ionat]e of human beings. I really love him & everybody

who knows him esteems and likes him. May it please God to preserve them long to each other!

LETTER 35.

From Lady Collingwood.

Manor House, Barham Wood
Near Edgeware
May the 2nd 1819

. . . it is a pleasure to hear you are recovering from your accident, and I trust the air of Tynemouth will quite restore you. I hope you will be able to accompany me there about the first of June. I intend setting out, please God, the 17th of this month for the North, and expect to get to Newcastle about the 20th or 21st, and shall remain at Mrs Johnson's till I remove to Tynemouth. You shall hear from me from Charlotte Square to fix the morn'g for your coming to N'castle, and we can then go to Tynemouth in the evening.

I have been here about a fortnight and I am enjoying the beauties of this country very much. I found my dear Mary and her darling boy quite well and I have set my heart [on having] him and his Papa and Mama this next winter in York Place, for I hope I shall be able to persuade you to return with me and assist me in nursing Mary, who I think will be confined again the end of November.

Write & direct to me at this place, and mention what you heard in regard to Mr Adam's death in India: and if it is true that he has left a will and likely to stand good.

Mary received a long letter the other day from Dora Johnson with a full account of the masquerade at N'castle. She appears to be quite delighted, and particularly with herself and party. I think so small a number in these large rooms must have been a dull business.

My house in York Place is let to Sir George Jennings for three months at thirty guineas a week. I understand they have a very large establishment and several french servants for wch I am sorry.

LETTER 36.

From Lady Collingwood.

Tynemouth
Sunday

August the 29th 1819

[On the letter is a note by Mary Woodman: "The last letter I received from my friend Lady Collingwood."]

. . . I know how anxious you will be to hear how I am going on. The only thing I can say in my favour is that my appetite is much better since I came to this delightful house. I can now eat my dinners; but as to walking . . . alas this poor leg—swollen so much that it makes me quite feeble and weak. The men-servants carry me up the nine steps to my bedroom at night, and I walk down in the morning. At night Jemima Loraine and Finlay seat me on their arms and put me into bed backwards and Margt behind assists me in—so that is managed very well. The doctors think the medicines are now beginning to take their proper effect. God grant it may be so. Lady Blackett wishes me to consult Doctor Headlam.

We expected the Johnsons to-morrow; but they are come to-day. They set out for Harrogate on Wednesday. Mrs Johnson still a great invalid. She was to meet us at Wetherby from Harrogate, and they have offered their house in Charlotte Square to us, my dear Mary, in the kindest manner, so we must meet there.

I have been writing to my sister and I am very much fatigued, so I am sure, my dear Mary, you will excuse a longer letter.

I must not forget to tell you that I have had a very kind letter from my son in law Newnham Collingwood offering to come and escort me to Town whenever I will fix my time. So I have now, as the saying goes, two strings to my bow. However this is a great comfort to look forward to. God bless you, dearest Mary Woodman.

LETTER 37.

From Margt Loraine

No date or address
Postmark North Shields
16th Sept. 1819⁸¹

Summary. Lady Collingwood died that day. Her maid Finlay and the writer of the letter were with her.

LETTER 38.

From Mary Patience Denny.

Barham Wood
October 2nd 1819

Summary. She thanks Mary for her letter of condolence on Lady Collingwood's death. She and her husband had no idea that her mother's condition gave any cause for alarm. Her little boy Collingwood is quite well and now walks alone, "which he is not

a little proud of". They are going to take a small house in London for her confinement.

LETTER 39.

From M. B. Dickson.

30 Allsopp's Buildings
New Road
15th Novr 1819

I am very sorry you did not meet Mr Denny—if I had not esteemed him before, his feelings and respect for the memory of dear Lady C must have endeared him. Mary has indeed been most fortunate in her second choice, and in her lovely boy who promises to be all a parent or friend could wish. Mr and Mrs Denny have been in town for the last fortnight and have taken a house in Lower Montague Street (near where Major Bradford lives) for two months. She expects at the end of this month.⁸² I need not tell you how very anxious I am about her but I have great hopes she will do better this time. Her nurse comes to her to-morrow . . . I was in hope she would have been nearer to me . . . but the distance is not so great . . . I can see her daily.

. . . Who should call upon me about three weeks ago, My Dr Mary, but Mr Cosway!! I felt so much on seeing him & Miss Blunt said I turned *quite pale*. He looked so well and so healthy I could not believe it was him . . . had it been any other day than Sunday I should have been alarmed lest he should have encountered Mr or Mrs Denny, as he was once very near doing. He was in a new *suit of black & in excellent spirits*. I have taken it into my head he is going to marry a Scotch Lady who is now at Florence with her family; but nothing more likely than I was quite mistaken. He enquired particularly after you, and when I said I should write to you soon he desired to be kindly remembered to you as he had a great regard for you. He is gone to Florence.

I own I was very much surprised when I heard that Mrs Johnson and her daughters were all gone to Harrogate and left dear Lady C. I am very [illegible] Dora's kind heart would regret that circumstance. It was some consolation to me that Dear Lady C expired in the arms of her old faithful servant. I think Dr Smith should sooner have acquainted her family with her alarming state . . . not, My Dr Mary, that I think all the Physicians in London could have averted the fatal stroke. But it would have been a satisfaction to have had more advice. However all regrets are un-availing now.

LETTER 40.

From M. B. Dickson.

30 Allsopp's Buildings
New Road
1st March 1821

[A letter of condolence on the death of Mary's mother.]

... "My cousin Mr Gregg informed me yesterday of your loss." The letter proceeds to say that the lease of Lady C's house is returned to the landlord, and all the furniture is to be sold. It continues: Mr and Mrs Denny were in town a fortnight ago & took a mutton chop with us. I never saw dear Mary looking better. When I look at her I think her recovery almost a resurrection. She has paid dear for her two lovely children; but I trust they will amply reward her. I suppose you know that Mrs Collingwood is in the family way.⁸³ I hope she will go on prosperously. At present I think it very doubtful. She sent her sweet little girl to me on Tuesday; but she could not accompany her as Dr Granville confines her to the house & to take as little exercise as possible. She wished me to dine with her yesterday; but I had so bad a cold that I could not. She is always very attentive in sending the carriage for me, and sending it home with me. I am very sorry that little Sarah is so delicate. Her cousin little Sarah Blackett is quite the reverse. She is solid (?) like Fatty (?) or little Mrs Dickson—a great compliment to me. She is like her mother and Collingwood like his Papa, except that his hand is the perfect model of what his G'd Mama's was.

Have you heard the news of Mr Cosway's intended marriage, which is to take place very soon? I am daily expecting to see it in the papers—& who should I meet last week but Mr C and the bride elect—Miss Denner⁸⁴—arm in arm, going to the Regent's Park. He accosted me; but did not introduce her. The slightest glimpse I had of her—she struck me as like Dora Johnson, only with more colour. She has a fortune of Three Thousand per annum. Her eldest and only sister is married to the Honourable Captain Rodney, who wanted money. I understand the Dennets cannot boast of rank.

If you have not heard that Mr Cosway made Caroline Warneford an offer last year, do not mention it as coming from me. I did not think Mr Cosway looking so well as when he called on me after Lady C's death.

NOTES.

¹ J. C. Hodgson, MSS. Pedigrees, I, 221, in Newcastle Central Library; A.A., 3rd ser., X, 225.

² Sources for the life of Lady Collingwood:

N.C.H., XII, 378 (Blackett); XI, 258-61 (Read and Roddam of Hethpool); XIV, 544-52 (Collingwood of Great and Little Ryle).

Welford, *Men of Mark 'twixt Tyne and Tweed*, John Erasmus Blackett. *Autobiography of Dr. Alexander Carlyle of Inveresk*, ed. John Hill Burton, new edition enlarged 1910.

Sources for the life of Lord Collingwood:

G. L. Newnham Collingwood, *A Selection from the Public and Private Correspondence of Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood, interspersed with Memoirs of his Life*. 1827. (Referred to as Letters in following notes.)

John Clayton, *Notes on Lord Collingwood*, in A.A., new or second series, XIII, p. 167 *et seq.* 1889.

W. Clark Russell, *Collingwood*. 1891.

John Crawford Hodgson, *The Ancestry of Lord Collingwood*, A.A., 3rd series, II, p. 150 *et seq.* 1906. There is a pedigree by J. C. Hodgson of the Denny family in the centenary volume mentioned below.

Geoffrey Murray, *The Life of Admiral Collingwood*. 1936.

Collingwood Century Collection. In 1910 the centenary of Lord Collingwood's death on 10 March, 1810, was celebrated in Newcastle, and also in London, where there was a memorial service at St. Paul's. In the Central Municipal Library there is a large volume of newspaper cuttings, illustrations and letters recording the centenary celebrations and other material relating to Lord Collingwood and his family. His great-great-grandson, Cuthbert Collingwood Denny was living, and the portraits preserved in the Denny family were reproduced. They included miniatures of Lady Collingwood and Mary Patience Denny her daughter, a large oil painting of Lady Collingwood and her two daughters when the girls were about six and seven years old, drawings of the heads of the two girls at about the age of twenty, a full-length portrait in oils of Alderman John Erasmus Blackett, and several portraits of Lord Collingwood, including a sketch by himself. There are also photographs of later members of the Denny family. In 1912 Cuthbert Collingwood Denny emigrated with his family to Alberta, Canada.

³ Miss Dickson is a frequent correspondent. A family of Dickson intermarried with the Collingwoods of Great and Little Ryle (*see* genealogical table); she may have belonged to this family. In the whole correspondence her Christian name is never mentioned.

⁴ Not identified.

⁵ Mrs. Smalridge was Alice, sister of John Cresswell of Cresswell, wife of the Rev. George Smalridge, rector of Bothnal. (Hodgson, *Northumberland*, 2, II, p. 202.)

⁶ There was no regular theatre in Morpeth. Travelling companies hired any available large room.

⁷ Miss Blackett was probably Alice, eldest daughter of Christopher Blackett, postmaster of Newcastle and his wife Alice, daughter of William Ingham, a well-known Newcastle physician who attended Alderman Blackett. (Welford, *Men of Mark 'twixt Tyne and Tees*, under William Ingham.) This was the family of Blackett of Wylam, only distantly related to Alderman Blackett. Christopher Blackett inherited Wylam in 1800 (N.C.H., XII, p. 232). He was one of the proprietors of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, which then stood in Mosley Street, next the Post Office. (Oswald, *The Theatres Royal in Newcastle upon Tyne*, pp. 14, 54.)

⁸ *Pizarro* was a spectacular melodrama by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, produced in 1789 at Drury Lane. The company at Morpeth had evidently performed it so badly as to "make an exhibition of themselves". "Sett",

spelt with "tt", was the usual word at that time for the scenery. A brilliant account of a performance of *Pizarro* by a second-rate provincial company is given by W. M. Thackeray in *Pendennis*, chapter XIV.

⁹ Admiral Collingwood was promoted rear-admiral of the Red in January 1801. He was in Plymouth superintending the fitting out of the fleet to renew the blockade of Brest. Mrs. Collingwood decided to go to Plymouth, taking their elder child, Sarah, aged nine, with her. They arrived about the beginning of February and on that very day Collingwood was ordered to sail. However, he managed to have one night with his wife. Mrs. Collingwood took lodging at 58 George Street, Plymouth Dock, from which she wrote to her uncle and aunt, Sir Edward and Lady Blackett, on 15 February, 1801. It was bitterly cold and she had had a severe attack of rheumatism. She had only heard once from her husband, when his ship, the *Barfleur*, was driven by bad weather into Torbay for a few hours. She wrote:

"As the *Barfleur* is in course of pay this month, I hope it will not be very long before they return to Cawsand Bay. In the meantime I have the satisfaction of knowing how much my husband is respected here by the very great kindness and attention that everyone shows me." (Original letter in Collingwood Centenary Volume, see note 2.)

She moved to Paignton, and as Collingwood received orders on 8 March to sail to Torbay to take in stores for five months, he probably had time for a rather longer visit to his family. On 10 August Mrs. Collingwood wrote to the Blacketts that as the fleet had been at sea for five months, she was hoping that her husband would soon be returning to take in stores. They were together at the beginning of October, when the preliminaries of the treaty of Amiens between England and France were signed. The treaty was not concluded until 25 March, 1802, when Admiral Collingwood returned to Morpeth and there spent a year. On 16 May, 1803, war broke out again, and he rejoined the fleet for the last time. He never saw Morpeth or his wife and children again.

References:

Collingwood's Letters, ed. G. L. Newnham Collingwood, pp. 84-90.

Clark Russell, *Collingwood*, pp. 97, 101, 103, 106.

¹⁰ Mrs. Stead was Mrs. Collingwood's sister, Patience Wise, wife of Benjamin Stead.

¹¹ Pitt resigned towards the end of 1800, but his lieutenant, Addington, became prime minister. George III had one of his attacks of insanity, but it did not last long. The harvest of 1800 had been bad, and the winter was very severe. The price of wheat rose to 156s. a quarter.

¹² George Howard, Viscount Morpeth, eldest son of Frederick, Earl of Carlisle, M.P. for Morpeth 1795-1806, married in 1801 Georgiana, elder daughter of the fifth Duke of Devonshire.

¹³ Francis Gregg esquire, barrister-at-law, was one of the two M.P.s who in 1789 represented Morpeth, a pocket borough of the Earl of Carlisle. In 1794 he retired from Parliament and Lord Morpeth, who had just come of age, was returned in his place. (A.A., 4th ser., XXIV, p. 110.) Frank Gregg is the only relative that Miss Dickson mentions in her letters; he was a married man with a family and lived at Wallington, near London. When Miss Dickson mentions *our friend* Lord Morpeth, she means that she and Mary Woodman had relatives in the service of the Earl of Carlisle, her cousin Frank Gregg and Mary's brother-in-law Robert Fenwick, who was the Earl's agent in Morpeth. (Hodgson, *Northumberland*, 2, II, 468.)

¹⁴ Fortunately Collingwood never returned to the *Venerable*, as she was wrecked, with loss of life, in Torbay during November 1804. (Clark Russell, p. 116.)

¹⁵ Young Currell was Tom Currell, the son of Mrs. Ann J. Currell. See

genealogical table. On 26 August, 1805, Admiral Collingwood wrote to his sister:

"Currell, Kennicott, and the other youngsters that came [at] the beginning of the war, begin to be useful Midshipmen and are all well disposed." But on 7 March, 1808, he wrote that Currell would never have his health at sea, and on 21 March, 1809, "I can do nothing with Currell, he is very *odd*." (Extracts kindly given by Professor Hughes from *Collingwood's Private Letters to His Sister*.)

¹⁶ This letter can be dated in the autumn of 1805 by the news of Miss Morrison, as in letter 6, dated 17 May, 1806, she was very ill, and not expected to recover (*see note 17*). Mrs. Collingwood brought her daughters to Newcastle in the autumn, as she had done in 1800 and 1804, in order that they might attend classes in dancing, singing, etc. The letter must have been written before the news of the battle of Trafalgar was received on 8th November.

¹⁷ After Trafalgar, when the Collingwoods became suddenly rich, Lady Collingwood evidently wrote to the Admiral asking whether she might undertake the expense of sending Miss Morrison to Edinburgh for treatment, as he warmly agreed to the proposal (*Letters*, p. 184). Mr. Ingham (*see note 7*) evidently had not cured her. The Admiral's letter was dated 17 February, 1806, and on 1 March he wrote again (*ibid.*, p. 192) to ask how the girls' education was going on "now their governess has gone", which indicates that Miss Morrison had been their governess.

¹⁸ John Bruce was a distinguished teacher of mathematics and headmaster of the Percy Street Academy, Newcastle.

¹⁹ Mr. Thompson was the organist at St. Nicholas, and a music teacher. (A.A., 2nd ser., XIII, p. 180.)

²⁰ Mr. Kinlock was the principal dancing-master in the town (*ibid.*). Mr. Jack is perhaps his partner.

²¹ Miss Woodman was Anne, Mary's elder sister. Trafalgar was fought on 21 October, 1805. The news reached Newcastle on 8 November.

²² For Miss Morrison *see note 17*.

²³ Admiral Collingwood was created Baron Collingwood of Hethpool and Coldburn in November 1805; consequently Mrs. Collingwood becomes Lady Collingwood. She chose the title, Hethpool, with Coldburn, being the property in Kirknewton parish which she and her sister inherited. (*Letters*, pp. 159, 165-166.) The Admiralty never gave Collingwood leave to come home and take his seat in the House of Lords, but Lady Collingwood went up to London with her daughters to be presented at court. Lord Collingwood wrote on 5 April, 1806, to her:

"I am rejoiced that you are well, and preparing for your journey to London, where I am very desirous you should be presented as soon as possible. (*Letters*, p. 192.)

She was presented at the court held in honour of Queen Charlotte's birthday on 15 May. The *Newcastle Courant*, on Saturday, 24 May, has a paragraph stating that Lady Howick and Lady Collingwood were presented "last Thursday sen'night", in consequence of their elevation to the peerage.

²⁴ Admiral Robert Roddam, 1720-1809, befriended Collingwood in his very early days, and Collingwood corresponded with him. Anne Roddam was the Admiral's third wife, whom he married in 1795, when he was 75. Her maiden name was Harrison, and she and her sister Elizabeth were co-heiresses of their uncle, George Colpitts of Killingworth Hall. Henry Utrick Reay of Hunwick, Durham and Blackwell, Darlington, married Elizabeth Harrison in 1790, *see N.C.H.*, XIII, 428, where by an error Anne is omitted and Elizabeth is given as George Colpitts' sole heiress. Anne Roddam died on 27 July, 1807; the Admiral survived her, and died in the following year, 1808, at the age of 89. (N.C.H., XIV, p. 288.)

²⁵ Eleanor Susan Loraine was the eldest of the three daughters of James Thomas, fourth son of Sir Charles Loraine of Kirkharle. She and her sisters Jemima and Margaret were friends of Lady Collingwood.

²⁶ 28 September was a Sunday in 1806.

²⁷ Miss Carter was probably the governess of Sarah and Mary Collingwood.

²⁸ Miss Brown was the ward of a Mrs. Taylor, and was living at Mrs. Wilson's boarding-school in Newcastle, probably as a parlour boarder, not a pupil (*see* letter 10). On 6 January, 1888, John Clayton wrote to William Woodman about these letters:

"Miss Mary Brown was in my day very acceptable in the society of Newcastle. I never knew her parentage or from what part of the country she came."

After Lady Collingwood left Newcastle, Mary Brown became old Mr. Blackett's housekeeper. (Letter 17.)

²⁹ This letter was evidently written soon after letter 9, which is dated 22 November, 1806. In letter 9 Lady Collingwood is anxious because she has not heard from her husband for so long. In this one she has received two letters from him. Letter 9 describes a ball at the Mansion House and mentions that there is to be another, to which the Reays of Killingworth (*see* note 24 letter 7) are coming, and are to stay at Charlotte Square. In this letter the second ball at the Mansion House has just taken place.

³⁰ In letter 9 (22 November, 1806) Lady Collingwood said that her daughters were going three times a week to Mrs. Wilson's for dancing and drawing lessons; John Clayton says that Mrs. Wilson's was a first-class boarding-school for young ladies. (A.A., 2nd ser., XIII, pp. 178, 180.)

³¹ This letter cannot have been written later than 9 December, 1809, as Sir William Loraine died on that date, and in this letter he is mentioned as being alive, but very ill. However, Alderman Blackett was also very ill, but he recovered, so it cannot be assumed that the letter was written shortly before Sir William Loraine's death, if there were not other reasons for placing it in the autumn of 1809. The other clue to the date is the statement that "Mary [Collingwood] has gone back to Mrs Moss". From letter 17 it appears that Mrs. Moss kept a boarding-school for young ladies in London. On 17 April, 1809, Lord Collingwood wrote to his daughters about their education, impressing upon them that they must "regard the instruction of Mrs Moss". (*Letters*, p. 512.) It seems therefore that the two girls went to Mrs. Moss's boarding-school early in the year, that they had come home for the summer holidays and that Mary had gone back, but Sarah, perhaps on account of the affair with Mr. O., was not to return to school.

³² Alderman John Erasmus Blackett died on 11 June, 1814.

³³ Edward Collingwood of Shipley, Dissington and Chirton, was the son of Edward Collingwood of Byker, recorder of Newcastle, who had helped Lord Collingwood's father, when he was in financial difficulties. Edward Collingwood the younger befriended Lord Collingwood when he was young. On 26 June, 1805, Edward made his will. He left Chirton to his kinsman, Admiral Collingwood, with remainder to his heirs male. (N.C.H., VIII, 325; XIII, 176.) At this time the Admiral's income was £1,000 p.a. (*Letters*, p. 167 n.) The battle of Trafalgar completely altered his financial position. He was given a pension of £2,000 p.a., which was to be continued after his death in the proportion of £1,000 p.a. to his widow, and £500 p.a. to each of his daughters. There was also a large sum of prize money due to him. On 10 March, 1806, Edward Collingwood died, and Lord Collingwood inherited Chirton, which was worth between £6,000 and £7,000 p.a., so that for the last four years of his life his income was about £10,000 p.a. Lady Collingwood went to live at Chirton in the spring of 1807.

³⁴ Probably Miss Ann Collingwood of Morpeth.

³⁵ The handwriting of this letter is rather difficult, and this solitary capital might be O, or C, or G. But as Miss Brown speaks of the gentleman's "Irish familiarity" it is probably O'. Nothing is known about him and he is never mentioned again.

³⁶ Crowfield in Suffolk was the home of Mrs. Stead, Lady Collingwood's sister. Miss Flower was her companion.

³⁷ Evidently written soon after letter 11.

³⁸ Lady Collingwood's confidential maid.

³⁹ The next letter shows that Mary Woodman was staying with Lady Collingwood when the news of Lord Collingwood's death reached Newcastle on 19 April, 1810. This letter was probably written early in April 1810.

⁴⁰ Collingwood meant to retire in 1806, but after Trafalgar he felt that he must remain at his post for another three years. In 1809 he began to ask the Admiralty to release him, but the reply always was that it was his duty to remain in the service of his country. The word "duty" was an unanswerable argument to Collingwood, and he consented to remain at his post, although his health was rapidly worsening. On 22 February, 1810, he wrote to the Admiralty that he could serve no longer; probably at the same time he wrote to his wife to prepare her for his return to England as a dying man. He was on his flagship the *Ville de Paris* at Port Mahon in Majorca. On 3 March rear-admiral Martin took over the command of the fleet, and Collingwood embarked for England. On 7 March he died at sea.

⁴¹ This letter must have been written on 20 April, as the *Newcastle Courant* (then a weekly paper) reported on Saturday, 21 April, that the news reached Newcastle on Thursday. It was Easter; Lady Collingwood and her family went to church on Holy Thursday, and when she returned the letters were brought to her by Christopher Blackett, the son of the postmaster.

⁴² When Mary Woodman writes of the affliction of the family in Pilgrim Street, she is referring to Collingwood's three sisters. This is the only occasion on which they are mentioned in the letters.

⁴³ Probably Mrs. Anne J. Currell.

⁴⁴ Lord Collingwood expressed a wish for a private funeral, but the government through a misunderstanding arranged a public funeral. The coffin was taken from the frigate which brought it to England on 26 April and brought to Greenwich Hospital where it was placed under the stern of Nelson's funeral car. On 11 May the funeral procession went to St. Paul's where the ceremony was performed and the coffin laid in the vault by Nelson's side. (*Letters*, pp. 560-69; *Russell*, pp. 264-8; *Murray*, pp. 270-75; *Newcastle upon Tyne Weekly Journal*, 21 April, 1810.)

⁴⁵ William Richard Cosway was the son of a baker in Devonport, and his first employment was in the victualling office in the Dockyard. He entered the Navy, and as a lieutenant became Admiral Collingwood's secretary; he was with Collingwood, on H.M.S. *Queen*, at Trafalgar, where he was wounded. Collingwood had a very high opinion of him. See also notes 51, 59. (*The Gentleman's Magazine*, September 1834, p. 316, new series, vol. II.)

⁴⁶ On Lord Collingwood's death the Chirton estate passed to his brother John, as his heir male, from whom the family of Collingwood of Lilburn Tower is directly descended. (N.C.H., VIII, p. 326; XII, 439.) Lady Collingwood, however, was comfortably provided for. Her own and her daughter's pensions amounted to £2,000 p.a. and although Lord Collingwood did not leave an immense property, he had considerable savings from his prize money and from the income of the Chirton estate. Lady Collingwood had also her own small estate at Hethpool. (N.C.H., XI, 261-2.)

⁴⁷ Mrs. Collingwood Tarleton was Isabella, daughter and co-heiress of Alexander Collingwood of Great and Little Ryle (see genealogical table). She

and her husband, John Tarleton of Liverpool, bought the moiety of the estate which belonged to her sister and co-heiress.

⁴⁸ For Mrs. Moss and her young ladies *see* note 31.

⁴⁹ For the Reays *see* note 24. Their eldest daughter and co-heiress Elizabeth Anne, the supercilious Miss Betsy, married on 10 October, 1816, Matthew Bell of Woolsington. (N.C.H., XIII, p. 209.)

⁵⁰ Mary Brown, *see* note 28.

⁵¹ John Clayton, aged 95, wrote on 20 February, 1888: "I met Cosway once or twice at my father's table in Westgate Street. He was then considered engaged to one of the young ladies." i.e. to Mary, probably on this visit of 1812.

⁵² Lady Collingwood does not mean that this was the first time that John Philip Kemble acted the part of Coriolanus, for he had been appearing in it ever since 1789, but that it was considered his greatest part.

⁵³ Robert de Lisle of Weldon and Acton, and Isabella his sister, were orphans and wards in Chancery. Isabella was fifteen. (N.C.H., VII, 501.)

⁵⁴ Burnt down in 1806 and reopened in 1812.

⁵⁵ Probably a West Indian dance, as Mrs. Currell came from Lucea in Jamaica. *See* genealogical table.

⁵⁶ John Carpenter, fourth Earl of Tyrconnel.

⁵⁷ Nicholas Vansittart, Chancellor of the Exchequer, afterwards Lord Bexley.

⁵⁸ The seal has been cut off. Morpeth was famous for hand-woven linen, and Mary Woodman at this time was arranging for Mary Collingwood's household linen, which was to be woven in Morpeth, embroidered with the Collingwood arms, and sent to London to be made up. This was in readiness for her marriage with W. R. Cosway. *See* note 59.

⁵⁹ This letter is chiefly filled with the preparations for the marriage, but in fact it never took place. Mr. Cosway had a serious carriage accident as he was driving through Temple Bar in a gig. (*Gentleman's Magazine*, new ser., II, p. 316.) According to the journalist's account he broke both his legs, but Mrs. Stead commented that he never broke his legs. However, he was so severely injured as to be an invalid for several years. The marriage was postponed, and eventually the engagement was broken.

⁶⁰ For the Tarletons *see* note 47. The family house of the Collingwoods was Unthank House in Alnham parish, but in 1797 the widow of the last Alexander Collingwood changed the name to Collingwood House. These were the parents of Mrs. Tarleton (*see* genealogical table). Mrs. Collingwood died in 1805. (N.C.H., XIV, pp. 552, 582.)

⁶¹ Thomas Adams of Alnwick and Eshott, a cousin of Mrs. Tarleton's father. (N.C.H., VII, 349; II, 388.)

⁶² Frances Fenwick was Mary Woodman's niece, daughter of Robert Fenwick and Mary's sister Isabella. (Hodgson, MSS. Pedigrees, I, 221.)

⁶³ Francis Johnson held a lease of a house in Charlotte Square from the Corporation of Newcastle on 23 March, 1791 (Corporation Archives, 80/8/52). The Johnsons were therefore near neighbours of John Erasmus Blackett.

⁶⁴ Sir William Blackett, son of Sir Edward Blackett of West Maffan and Thorp Lea, was Lady Collingwood's first cousin. Lady Blackett, his wife, was Anne, daughter of Benjamin Keene. Little Henry was probably Henry Collingwood Blackett, born 6 February, 1808, and therefore about six years old. (N.C.H., XII, 378.)

⁶⁵ *Patronage*, a novel by Maria Edgeworth, published in that year.

⁶⁶ Dora Johnson, *see* note 63. Her sister was Maria Johnson.

⁶⁷ Margaret Loraine. *See* note 26.

⁶⁸ George Lewis Newnham after his marriage took the surname of Collingwood, and edited a selection of Lord Collingwood's letters, *see* note 2. The marriage took place at St. George's, Hanover Square, on 30 May, 1816. The

Newnham Collingwoods lived at Hawkhurst, Kent, where George L. Newnham Collingwood died on 8 July, 1837, aged 55. Sarah Newnham Collingwood died 25 November, 1851. (A.A., 3rd ser., II, p. 161.)

⁶⁹ Miss M. B. Dickson had not married, but at that time unmarried ladies of middle age were called "Mrs." as a term of respect, e.g. Mrs. Hannah Moore.

⁷⁰ Maria Johnson, *see* note 63.

⁷¹ Lady Collingwood seems to have believed that Mrs. Tarleton wanted to make a match between her son John Collingwood Tarleton, of whom she did not approve, and Sarah Collingwood.

⁷² Edmund Kean, the famous actor. Lady Collingwood spells the name as it was spelt by the family of Sir William Blackett's wife.

⁷³ The marriage of Princess Charlotte and Prince Leopold of Belgium was on 2 May.

⁷⁴ The riot at Spa Fields was a clash between the military and the extreme radical party who were planning a revolution by force. The leader of the extreme party, Arthur Thistlewood, was executed for an assassination plot four years later.

⁷⁵ Anthony Denny, son of the Rev. Maynard Denny of Tralee, married Mary Patience Collingwood, the marriage settlement being dated 12 and 13 June, 1817. This letter has not the date of the year, but it was evidently written immediately after the wedding.

⁷⁶ Dora Johnson. The writer must be her mother, Mrs. Johnson of Charlotte Square.

⁷⁷ An allusion to Mary's engagement to William Richard Cosway.

⁷⁸ Alexander Adams was the brother of Thomas Adams, *see* note 61. They were related on their mother's side to the Collingwoods of Great and Little Ryle (*see* genealogical table). Alexander Adams gained a large fortune as an India merchant, which he left to his illegitimate son William, a physician in Bengal. William Adams died in 1818 legally intestate as far as his father's real estate was concerned, which escheated to the crown. (N.C.H., VII, 375.) A portion of the real estate was sold and the proceeds divided among the heirs at law. (N.C.H., II, 389.)

⁷⁹ Sarah Newnham Collingwood, married, first, 9 December, 1841, Cuthbert Collingwood Hall of Paddington Green. He died in February, 1859. She married, second, 2 January, 1861, John Richard Howell of Noyadd, Llandygydd, Cardigan. She was buried on 25 November, 1872. She had no children. (A.A., 3rd ser., II, p. 161.)

⁸⁰ Anthony Cuthbert Collingwood Denny, born 8 September, 1818. (A.A., 3rd ser., II, 162.)

⁸¹ According to the monumental inscription in St. Nicholas, Newcastle, Lady Collingwood died on 17 September, but the postmark on this letter shows that the correct date is a day earlier, the 16th.

⁸² The child was the Dennys' first daughter, Sarah Blackett Denny, called after her grandmother. She married on 2 September, 1841, Sir John Stephen Robinson, bt., of Rokeby, co. Louth, and died 26 October, 1875, leaving issue. (A.A., 3rd ser., II, p. 162.)

⁸³ The Newnham Collingwoods' second daughter Mary, who died about 1840. (*Ibid.*, p. 161.)

⁸⁴ Apparently the marriage did not take place, as in the obituary notice of Sir William Cosway it is stated that he married "the daughter of Mr. Halliday, the banker, a partner of Sir Thomas Farquhar". (*Gentleman's Magazine*, new ser., II, p. 316, September 1834.)



MRS. COLLINGWOOD AND HER DAUGHTERS SARAH AND MAY PATIENCE. c. 1800.





FIG. 2. LADY COLLINGWOOD BEFORE HER MARRIAGE.



FIG. 1. BUST OF LORD COLLINGWOOD FROM THE MEMORIAL IN ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL.





FIG. 2. ARMS GRANTED TO LORD COLLINGWOOD, 1805.



FIG. 1. OLDGATE, MORPETH.

The Collingwoods lived in the tall house on the left.



COSTUMES WORN BY WOMEN 1818 (left) AND 1816 AND A MAN'S DRESS OF 1820.

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