

**Maria Edgeworth to Aunt Margaret Ruxton
17 June 1819**

Edgeworths Town
June 17th 1819

“From six o clock till breakfast time [rolled]
up in the chair in your room” did my
Foster lie my dearest aunt? Thank you
& I can tell you /that\ he has from 12 o clock
at night rolled up on my bed, at my
feet and never stirs till I open my eyes
in the morning & then he shakes himself
becomes very modestly to lick my hand
- He is the dearest, most amiable best=bred
dog of his noble and royal breed _ And
I thank you, my dear friends for his
Amiability – As you know I am pledged
to believe that education does more than
nature. Pakenham is exceedingly fond
of Foster when he spares him/certain marks of affection\ with his
teeth & claws. Pray tell me whether he al=
ways scratches himself unremittingly
for a good hour after he wakens; beside
running his nose, and teeth into himself
at many odd times of the day. He is as
clean as a silken muff being washed
regularly once a day besides all the wash=
ings in the rain & wet grass which he gives
himself. Quin advised me to sprinkle
snuff over him to cure him of this deman=
=gaison: Foster tasted the snuff; at the first lick
last night when he was going
to work

{Side bar}

I am afraid
you sent
the Ed Rev
before my
uncle had
time to read
it; for I find
the Irish
distillery
laws uncut

- tell me if
he or you
would like
to have it
again - &
I will send
it to you
when we
have read it.

one of Lovells
boys is at
this moment
imitating
a turkey cocks gobbing
for the
amusement
of his compan
nions –
When I see
you again
I will tell
you a curious story of a dis
covery of a robbery by such an
imitation

{end of side bar}
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made a forlorn face, put down his ears
& moved from place to place to run away
from the evil – in vain - -
Before I quit the subject of Foster upon wh^h
I could speak forever allow me to tell you
a story /told me yesterday by major Wallace\ ~~xxx~~ of your dear old Duke of
Norfolk. His grace possessed some of
this rare King Charles ~~black-mouthed~~
breed and he was so desirous to preserve
the exclusive possession of them that he
had the puppies destroyed & given to feed
his German owl. The late queen begged
to have some of these royal puppies & the
Duke could not refuse – the puppies were
sent but changed it is supposed on the
road by some of his Grace's people who had
learned from their master how valuable
they were. That they were changed is certain
- because the Queen gave one of those which

she received to General Garth, who was then Major Wallace's Colonel; the Gen.^l shewed the Major his treasure, conceiving that he was a judge of dogs. The major on opening the mouth to look for the distinguishing marks of King Charles breed the black inside; discovered that it was an errant cur. ___

My Fosters mouth proved his noble descent to Major Wallace's satisfaction_ & mine

So now having spent two pages upon my dog it is time to think of my relations – My mother looks wonderfully well considering all she has gone through; but I am certain that the sense of doing what is right and kind & of being in the highest degree useful is the best

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cosmetic in the world. The bloom of Ninon de l'Enclos is nothing to it. Under that, there is always the yellow mark of art & the fear of being detected.

Lucy is going on as well and better than Gardener expected. The part of the back bone which she some weeks ago could not endure to have touched he yesterday pressed with his knuckles /it\ hurting her but very little. She is admirably patient and cheerful; she has not lost flesh or color or even her good-humoured smile. Sophy may rest assured that she will go on persevering in lying horizontal. She has never been /to sit up\ up - She is raised a little in her bed with pillows so as to be able to work & read with a light desk before her. Nothing has been closed – that was quite a mistaken /interpretation\. It was meant only that the large circumference which had been excoriated by the cautery is now healing.

Sophy [c]omes home on Wednesday – Miss Wall Harriet B and Miss Nangle arrived here about an hour ago. Harriet B wonderously renovated with color flesh, animation and appetite. D.^{rs} {Cheque} forever! for all my friends.

Lovell's stomach has by its swellings & pain ~~given him great & xxx and~~ given us great alarm lately. He has yielded to our entreaties & goes up to Town again on Monday to take advice -- It is a thousand pities that he should not have health who really lives but, to do good to others,

-- I cannot tell you how much he has done
here of all sorts of good, within and without doors
~~xxx~~ effectually within these few months

At this moment he is out with his troops
of 120 little happy urchins from his school
who are making hay in the lawn; & never was
hay better /made\ or more expeditiously ~~made~~ _ Each
little troop under the command of its captain &
monitor

//

~~with~~ working all with military order without
military slavery – in busy, not sullen silence
--It is a very pleasant sight. _ Among these boys
is the son of an unfortunate man who was hanged
at the last assizes; and whose execution Lovell as
sheriff was obliged to attend. [L?] heard the sobs of
this child in the crowd as he followed his father
after execution & /Lovell\ learned that the boy who had
{address}
been brought up by his mothers family had an excellent
character. All the neighbours said that if the father had but
listened to that boy he would have perswaded him not to go
out with the robbers. Lovell brought the boy to Edgeworths town,
took him into his school – excited him to earn money by weeding in
the nursery & by breaking stones - to pay for his own schooling,
the boy had scarcely rags to cover him. It was proposed by Lovell
that the boys should earn him a suit of clothes. each boy only had to
subscribe 5.^d. they eagerly agreed to this & set to work instantly
-- one of the little boys a son of Lovel Forbes footman got up at
Nine o'clock to break his quota of stones to earn 5^d for this orphan

{side note}

His schoolfellows all like /him\ because they have
helped him – He is saved for so much from
ruin & misery which must have followed
from early dis-grace & despair _ He is now
among the hay makers in his new jacket happy
& active. __

The trellice is excessively pretty full aches & c
pilasters of roses & honeysuckles to the very top __ I am [toiling]
at my dear
fathers life
and have the
sweet feeling

remaining
that he would
be pleased
with wife, sons
& children
if he could
see them
endeavouring
to pursue
his principles
& acting toge=
ther with
one united
feeling of
gratitude
& affection
for his memory.
Dear Aunt
I am affection
ally yours
Maria E.