

Edgeworth Town

Sept 15 — [1819]

My dear Harriette –

Your letter gave me a great deal of pleasure from many causes – which if I divided into 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> &c my discourse might reach from here to Mullingar – I rejoice that you and Sneyd are well enough to enjoy all the pleasures of Paris – and I am sure you deserve to be pleased because you take so much pleasure in recording the kindness of those who pay you attention – Your visit to Mad<sup>me</sup> Recamier amused us much – I do not know what Sneyd can have done to her to make her laugh – in my time she never went beyond the smile prescribed by Lord Chesterfield as graceful in a beauty – I think your tour of country houses must have been much more agreeable to you than a mere routine life at Paris – Mad<sup>me</sup> Recamier's niece asks me for a book to translate – by the first opportunity I can find I will send her the son of genius<sup>1</sup> – if you will assure me that it has not been already translated – You ask whether Popular Tales have been translated – yes once by Mad<sup>me</sup> de Roissy & once by some name-less person – – I think I would venture to lay

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<sup>1</sup> Humphry Davy (1778-1829), Cornish chemist and inventor, 'The Sons of Genius', poem written when Davy was just 17, and published in Robert Southey's *The Annual Anthology* in 1799 honours the natural philosophers, the 'sons of Genius', and talks about how these men interpret nature. It argues that a scientist can serve humanity. [Ros Ballaster]

a good round wager that Mad<sup>me</sup> Recamier will not go into a convent

*[Down the left side]*

My dear Harriette let me in my own person give my love to you & Sneyd  
& Mamma's & any sisters - we are all delighted at the good accounts  
of both yourself & him – Your very affect<sup>te</sup> Frances M – Edgeworth –

*[Across the top]*

Pray for the  
future direct  
your letter  
under cover  
to a Maugin  
Castle – You  
need not put  
a second cover  
to Fox <is neces>  
<rary> – I mean  
that if the inclosed  
postage is paid  
the frank will  
operate as soon as it touches English  
ground – the English  
postage of your last  
was 5/2 – and on  
the same day I  
received a note  
from M<sup>de</sup> Recamier  
& her niece which  
being a double

letter was also  
5/2 – A letter  
has arrived  
from the Abbé  
Lanyan giving  
an account of  
you – but I  
have not yet  
seen it –

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but it is a fine thing to talk of

Mad<sup>me</sup> Gautier is at Plombiere – I have

lately had a letter from her from which I ~~had inclosed~~ copy the following passage : “Je retournerai vers la

fin d’Aout à Paris – ou plutôt à Passy et c’est alors

que j’espère jouir encore de la société de M – &

M<sup>de</sup> Sneyd – J’aime beaucoup M<sup>de</sup> Sneyd – Elle

a de la gaiété et de la grace dans l’esprit – Elle

paraît bonne et sensible – ce qui est deux attributs

essentiels aux femmes – il que les dames Edgeworth

qui j’ai eû le plaisir de connaître possèdent

<uniquement>”<sup>2</sup> —

We have seen M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Tuite – Melasina is

much better than we expected from your account

& from that of many other people – from the moment

she came home she grew rapidly better – She is now

able to walk as far as the Abbé’s garden without

fatigue – and she came here with M<sup>rs</sup> Tuite in the

morning & returned after dinner – & appeared

tolerably well all day – – notwithstanding this

amendment I think her health in a fearful

situation – her looks are sallow & lead<en> – there

is a great deal too much flesh & blood for endur

-ance – she has the same sweet temper & freedom

from affectation that she used to have – her manners

are softened & improved – & she shuts her mouth –

– Mrs Tuite has been very entertaining in all her

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<sup>2</sup> “I will return near the end of August to Paris – or maybe to Passy and that is why I hope to enjoy again the society of Mr and Mrs Sneyd. I like Mrs Sneyd very much. She seems kind and sensitive – the two attributes that are essential to women – and which the Edgeworth women I have had the pleasure to know possess especially” [trans. Ros Ballaster].

accounts of Paris & Italy – I understand that  
she advised your going to Tours – we admire  
all her reasons – General Paine gave dinners  
there which he said he should not be ashamed  
to see the Princes of the blood for which he paid  
1/6 per head – You say that Paris living is extra

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vagant – I wish you would enter into some particulars for my sake – tell me whether you drive your own carriage – I thought that was impossible in the streets of Paris – Tell me how much a good Voiture de service costs per month –

Lucy's back bone has completely joined & is as straight as ever it was—but she must lie still a month or two longer – till it strengthens – her general health has not suffered by the confinement – My aunts bring Honora back to us the beginning of October – Lovell is at Cheltenham – which has done him good – he is going to Brighton – and must be home in a month to the election of Sir George Fetherston I suppose it will be – but M<sup>r</sup>. White has shaken his purse in every voter's ears to such good purpose that it is a more doubtful business than was at first expected – Mr. Fox has not yet determined whether he will stand or not – We are very glad that Lovell has had the prudence not to stand though he has been much pressed to do so

Sneyd's conscience may be at ease about M<sup>rs</sup> [Crence?] for she has written me a very obliging letter ~~<where>~~ from Caen in Normandy where she says Agh!! at the dirt – & I am sure lifts up her hands as she did when we saw her at Wycombe – ~~<xxx>~~  
~~<xxx>~~ ~~<xxx>~~ ~~<xxx>~~ – This last week we have had the pleasure of having our kind friends M<sup>rs</sup>. & Miss Carr with us – M<sup>r</sup>. Carr came over to Ireland on Excise business with Col. Doyle

– he was detained in Dublin while his wife & daughter came down to us – except the first day which was an Irish rainy day every day has been sunshiny & fine & M<sup>rs</sup>. E. has taken advantage of the Sheriff's horses & two yellow jackets to drive about – They went to Baronstown where there was a link of connexion with an

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/English\ friend M<sup>rs</sup>. Benyore – of whose name I believe Sneyd knows something – Lady Sunderlin & Miss Catherine Malone did the joint honors of their house most amiably – and gave us as fine a collation of grapes peaches & nectarine &c as France could supply – Another morning we took the same tour of the tenants wh<sup>ch</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. Curwen formerly went – Hugh Kelly's was as nice a house and parlour, gates gardens, all that should accompany a farm house as any which England could afford – James Allen – though grown very old & in a forlorn black shag wig – looked like a respectable yeoman – the country's pride – and at my insistence brought out a fine group of grandchildren as ever graced a cottage lawn – indeed some of them were two nice for cottages as they were in white gowns & black lace pellerines it being Sunday – In driving home at the cross roads (at Corbey (for Sneyds information) we had the good fortune to come into the middle of an Irish dance the audience on each of the opposite banks – picturesque in youth beauty, sunshine & vanity of attitude & expressions of enjoyment – the fiddler sitting out & the dancers in all the vivacity & graces of an Irish gig delighted our English friends and we stood up in the landau looking at them for nearly twenty minutes – it reminded me of Charlotte's admirable drawing – by the by – five of her figures have been beautifully engraved – Lord Longford luckily came here & breakfast whilst the Carr's were here – Miss Carr



you know is Lady Byron's intimate friend & Lord  
L. and all the Pakenhams are much attached to  
her though she had the misfortune to refuse Sir Edward  
– M<sup>rs</sup>. Carr was so charmed with Lord L. that she ended  
my thinking him very handsome – and M<sup>r</sup>. Whitney  
honours M<sup>rs</sup>. C. with his unqualified approbation. M<sup>r</sup>. C  
knows of it /but\ no fatal consequences we hope are likely

*{returns to first page for closing lines}*