

Transcription of MS. Eng. Lett. c.718, f.179-182

f.179r

Edgeworth Town
Oct: 14 —19

My dear friend

I am glad for your sake my Aunts' & Honora's that the Quarter Sessions brought you back just in time happily to meet – they cannot receive any where a more delightful welcome to Ireland – than they will enjoy at BlackCastle.

I am sorry – for so sorrow & joy tread upon one another's heels ever more in this world – I am sorry that the Carrs could not profit by your very kind intentions towards them at Rosstrevor – and I thank you as much for my share of the kindness as if they had received it all – They promised to come to us – and to bring with them a very agreeable charitable man D.^r Lushington – some time between the 14th and the 20th – but this is the 14th & we have heard nothing more particular –

With your manner of life at Bally Edmund you know I used in former times to be delighted and I have still a lively recollection of the ravenous appetite for buttered cake in the evening which the excitation of the sea air or [spry Aunt?] or of both together used to raise in me – I can tell you more than you know about Lord

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Kilwarden and Don Juan – a lady with whom his Lordship walked out one Sunday at Rosstrevor was offered Don Juan by him – and refused it saying she disliked the morals of his Lordship's poetry and that she had no curiosity to read this which she heard was unfit for that all ladies were of that opinion – that he had left the work on purpose alone with Miss Ruxton – and that though she had refused to read it, she might when nobody would know it – the lady expressed much indignation – and said that this single trait was enough to show Lord K's character to her if she had not known it before – I long to be snug on the sofa – and to hear what I am sure will be an entertaining chapter of Saints & Sinners –

We have been much interested in the life &

letters of that most excellent and amiable & un-pretending of creatures – Lady Russell – There are touches in these letters which paint domestic happiness & the character of a mother & a wife with beautiful simplicity – I like even Miss Berry much the better for the manner in which she has edited this book

We have heard today that Capt. Beaufort & his little boy are safe and happy at Upton – the boy is not Shy and quite at ease with his little cousins -- After all – let other circumstances be what they

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may – good servants such as D^r. & M^{rs}. Beaufort are secure in the decline of life, of happiness in their children – and never was this more amiably or warmly expressed than in the letter I have lately seen from both D^r. & M^{rs}. B. – We heard of our little Francis & from him on Monday – his rib is whole again & he is so well as to be able to shoot at a target – is not it curious that he & Foster should have had precisely the same accident? – Foster by the by as a paragon of dogs – and I am growing fonder of him every hour & more grateful to you & my Aunt & I must add to Margaret for his early education – He has won Kitty’s warm heart by some instances of his heroic cleanly forbearance – to bear & forebear you know if the sum of virtue I forbear to overfeed him – and bear to be abused for doing that which I do not do – so that I am at the summit of human virtue and very modest into the bargain – [!]

From ten o’clock the morning after Lovell arrived he has been Sunday at dinner only excepted [hard] at his Sheriffalty duties at Longford – the Evening post is cool in comparison with the warm praises which we hear of him on every side of his impartial & steady conduct at this election – and of his prudence & of his knowledge of a business which is new to him – the fatigue is great for he is at it nine hours per day – The situation is not without some peril for M^r. White has brought with him Sunday Leitrim professors of the art of electioneering – who consider bullying & mobbing as essential proofs of science – The Sheriffs regulations

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however have hitherto prevented all serious disturb

=ance – Mr. W. stands upon gold – and has nothing else to stand upon – An odd mistake occurred the other day – from a lady's reading the name Guiness the brewer – on some barrels which were going for Mr White to Longford – and conceiving that they contained guineas – [their] written in characters that all that [she] might read – Sir [G?] Fetherston was a head – it is said that the election will not end till Tuesday – I hope the fatigue will not exhaust the stock of good health which Lovell has brought back with him -- and if he escapes this injury we may think this contested election a great advantage to him – as it will have brought in a short time – and circumstances the most interesting & useful to the gentlemen of this County, parts of his character which might not have been brought to view so effectually in the course of a long life – this will make up for twelve years absence –

It is a curious circumstance that I met the other day with a letter from my father to my Uncle Ruxton among the letters which my Aunt lent me – complimenting him most highly for his conduct as Sheriff in a contested election and expressing his opinion of the extreme difficulty of managing the business with impartiality –

I inclose two or three agreeable letters for your amusement – I beg you to return them to me through Maugin as soon as you have read them – and do not not delay for I want something of more importance than these letters – I must beg of you my dear friend to look among my letters to my aunt in July 1817 for that which I wrote to her I think the 14th or 15th I am now come to the last of what I am writing and want to be certain of the accurate recollection of some ~~words~~ expressions of his. I wrote to my dear aunt some time

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To Miss Ruxton
Black Castle
Navan

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2 <a> stray bits of scandal – too good to be lost
Lord & Lady Charlemont are to be separated
-- cause his gallantisms & her Ladyships
want of temper –
Lord & Lady Lismore to be separated
cause unknown to me
Perhaps to themselves

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time ago for this letter and she sent me one written
a week later than that which I want. It gave
her such pain as I perceived to look <for the> over
those letters that I cannot apply to her again &
you must do this for me – Do not delay because
I am very desirous that this difficult & painful
business should be completed before my aunts
& Honora arrive – I shall then read the whole to
them and afterwards put it by for some little
time that I may revise it again with fresh eyes
-- I have settled renumerate Hunter for the loss
he will have by the delay – it is not to be publish
=ed till Easter – by which time I think I can get
out of hearing – I hope to be at dear Black Castle
the first week in January – the Christmas I ought
to spend at home I have not been at home
these two last years at Christmas –

I suppose the lines you allude to were those
which I sent my Aunt with a little violetpot
-- I have no copy – nor has any one a copy but my
mother – who <has> will copy them again if she has
not mislaid the paper – I suppose these are the
lines you mean – because I cannot think that
my Aunt would let the Bishop of Meath <would let>
see those which I sent with Fanny's drawing of
Francis & Pakenham
past 12 o'clock thursday night

Just as we were going to bed & that I
had resolved to keep this letter till tomor
row that I might tell you further election
{page ripped/lines missing} barking

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and called out with a courage for which I am
very remarkable And in military language
which is very familiar to me
Who goes there?
answer=a friend = What sort of a friend
= Garret Sheegan Ma'am – Here's a letter
from M^r. Lovell – and M^r. White has declined
-- Lovells note torn open eagerly says

[half page blank]

“All is over and well over – no disturbance
– I fear I cannot dine at home tomorrow
but shall I hope sleep there”

Smiley who was his counsel has
given great satisfaction – He dined here on Sun
day {lines missing/page torn}