

MS. Eng. Let. c. 717 fol.64r

I long to  
be with  
you again  
more than  
~~your~~ ever  
your affect=  
=tionate  
friend &  
grateful  
niece  
Maria E

Edgeworth Town  
January 21<sup>st</sup> 1820

My dearest Aunt This deep snow reminds me of the happy time I was with you once in the three weeks snow, and in another month please God I shall once more on the dear sofa beside you, Provided our invalids go on as favourably as they now promise. Aunt Charlotte though confined to her room is I may say almost well. Lucy is very much better, the back bone almost sound and her chief pain now is at the time of dressing. The uncovering the dressings in this cold frosty weather gives intense pain. She preserves color and flesh and appetite & spirits & that sweetness of temper which pain cannot alter. I have the pleasure to tell you that Sophy is going on as well as can possibly be expected. The jaundice is yielding to **blue pill** &c &c &c. ~~and~~ she is recovering her lilies & her roses will blow again it is to be hoped in

MS. Eng. Let. c. 717 fol.64v

– She has sat up in her arm chair these two last evenings and the **listlessness** and sickness of jaundice have gradually ~~given away~~ disappeared. She is now able to enjoy gruel (which by the by I never could enjoy) and talking which I scarcely ever was too ill to enjoy and

reading.

We have all been reading Ivanhoe, at different times of the day and night each of the three volumes has been in requisition in the different rooms of the invalids & most thank ful have we been to the ~~enchanter~~ <wizzard> <Walter> Scott who with his magic spell and charmed book can banish painful realities & "snatch us from ourselves away". I am afraid to spoil any part of your pleasure by speaking of either the story or the character before you have read it. Write directly therefore and say whether you have it, or whether you are likely to have it soon or whether You can get it readily from Merrion Street if I send my copy up there for you . I dare not attempt sending it by post I think in these hard times. What think you

MS. Eng. Let. c. 717 fol.65r

I enclose a letter from Mackintosh in which I warn you there is his opinion of Ivanhoe. If you are afraid of fore=stalling you can miss it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> page.

The question of mine which Mackintosh writes to answer was "Who did you allude to in your speech on the seditious meeting bill when you said an honora ble gentleman who had ~~written~~ made the "English laws his particular study & "who had written the history of a mo= dern great republic"

We could not guess what author or what history Sir James Mackintosh meant & I dictated a note to <secretary> Fanny asking Sir James who he meant at the same time. I expressed my admiration of his fine speech ~~last~~ on the criminal law which I dare say that my uncle & Richard must have particularly noticed.

To day Mr Nugent the son of old Nugent of Kilsolla who ~~of~~ squired Lady Cathcart over to England after her imprisonment ~~dined~~ luncheoned

here and I fell into discourse with him concerning olden times & Lady Cathcart, her jewels &c. I asked if I had understood his father rightly that she was very avaricious. "Yes Ma'am but she

MS. Eng. Let. c. 717 fol.65v

"could send very odd presents. She ~~she~~  
"sent my father Ma'am some time  
"after she returned to England a  
"present of a bed side carpet and of  
"an old dress which she had worn  
"when she was Lady Mayoress she  
"said, and which she said was very  
"valuable. I remember seeing it &  
"fingering it when I was a boy it was  
"some shift silk that stood an end with  
"silver flowers tarnished, but we thought  
"it mighty odd".

I hope that my dear Margaret will write to tell me how Sophy does. We are very anxious to hear and can never sufficiently rejoice that she did not hazard her precious health by attempting to come here in such weather & at such a time. Lovell is pretty well, and has these last three days taken good long walks which agree with him & are necessary to him after his sedentary schoolmaster labor – My Mother aunt Mary Honora & myself all in rude health send their kind loves to you. Pray tell me how poor Miss Lorens wrist goes on.

In the next Farmers Journal you will see a short tribute to our excellent faithful M<sup>rs</sup> Bellamore. I hope your Molly Coffey is well. Dearest aunt