

Dinton - Dalwood Letters

'Dinton', 16th March, 1830

My dear George,

Yesterday morning those of our party at home were made very happy by the arrival of our letters from you and Margaret.

The Grand Council of the Nation is now assembled in London. The duke, I think, is very inclined to do his best for the good of his country, and I can assure you it is very amusing to see watch the different movements of part spirit. He cares neither for Whigs nor Tories, but the latter, or rather the High Tories, are so irate with him that they try to oppose him, but he has too much ability for the poor worn-out Ultras. But what is very diverting to me is this old set who have been the cause of all of our distress and misery are forever taunting the Administration for not relieving it, which nothing but time and patience can do. The Duke is going to take off the cider, leather, and beer tax this year, which is certainly doing something. Not that sellers of these commodities will lower their prices as they ought, for nothing but the rent of land decreases in value, and that is not to be believed, because the market returns say to the contrary. Thus the farmer gets 4 ½. for his oxen, which is retailed by the butcher at 6d or 6 ½ d. and they vow they get no profit and that trade is done. Mary Anne is staying with Louisa, both very well, and the little children; the son is called Wyndham, after his Grandfather. Mary Anne says he is a lively fellow, and kicks famously. Your boy must certainly possess some family tastes, as he begins driving at so early an age, but children are always such little mockbirds. Alexander is still at home, coursing and rabbit-hunting his time away; at the former amusement this year he has been unlucky; all his dogs have turned out so ill. But it does not depress his spirits, for he hopes for a winner in every puppy. You can ask what has become of Henny? She is at school at Brighton, and very well; but, she grows so little that it is hardly perceptible, and we are in hopes the sea air would make her shoot; but she still continues to grow only an inch a year. I fear she will find how little she is when her nephews get above her, which will soon be the case, for William is immensely tall for his age. Margaret may be sure that he little wants shall be attended to There is a package of threads, tapes, pins, and needles on board the Australia, which I hope will be more than half way to you by this time. I am glad Charles Wyndham is going on so well; he has lately got a civil appointment of some value, through Uncle Egretton's writing to Lord Combermerle on his behalf, which will enable him to save money to some extent yearly. It makes Uncle and Aunt George very happy to hear he is getting on so well. Lucy's intended match gives great pleasure to them, and I think with reason. You, I suppose remember Mr. Grey at Harrow? William says he was like there, and now he is a universal favourite. Mr. Wyndham's name appeared in the minority on the Catholic question.

(unfinished)