

John Davy

‘Some Notices of My Life’

M 118/4 (2 MS vols)

Raymond Richards Collection, Keele University Library

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A Note on the Text

This MS memoir, in two volumes, was written by John Davy (1790-1868), younger brother of Sir Humphry Davy (1778-1829), towards the end of his life. As the text, in John Davy's hand, reveals, it was written at the request of his wife, Margaret Fletcher (1798-1869) (see **i, [n. pag.] [28^v]**), and, on several occasions, John Davy addresses one of his children as the intended reader (see **i, [n. pag.] [63^r, 64^r, 66^v]**). Although not intended for publication, it sheds valuable light on John Davy's life, career, and the circles of which he was part.

The Raymond Richards Collection, amassed by Mr Raymond Richards (1906-78), the Cheshire antiquarian, was purchased by Keele University in 1957, having previously been deposited at the John Rylands Library, Manchester. Richards acquired various Davy family papers, *c.* 1770-1867, including the first MS volume of 'Some Notices of My Life', from Mrs D. K. Rolleston, probably in the 1940s. In 1976, Mr G. R. Rolleston donated the second MS volume of 'Some Notices of My Life' to Keele.

A Note on Editorial Procedure

Square brackets indicate editorial intervention in the text. Editorial comment is indicated by the use of small capitals. Conjectural readings of doubtful words are indicated by the use of square brackets, a question mark or question marks, and, occasionally, where several alternative words are possible, an oblique stroke, i.e. '[?some/?same]'. Cancellation is indicated by the use of strikethrough. Illegible characters are represented by the letter 'x', i.e. '[?xxxxvating]'. Careted-in and/or interlineated words are indicated by the use of angle brackets. Underlining is indicated by the use of italics. John Davy's original spelling, punctuation, and capitalisation have been retained; '[SIC]' is occasionally used to indicate unintentional slips (e.g. repetition of words) or particularly unusual phrasing (e.g. ungrammatical sentences). In some cases, it is difficult to determine whether a character is capitalised or not; in such cases, lower case has been preferred. The footnotes in the text are John Davy's. The original MS is not paginated; page numbers have been added to this TS by the editor, in this format: **volume number, [n. pag.] [added page number ^{r/v}]**.

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[1790 1800 AT HEAD OF PAGE]

Some Notices of My Life

Having a memory nowise retentive, and a disposition to recur but little to the past, my very early recollections are scanty and imperfect, – hardly reaching beyond the first year of this century when I was nine years old, reckoning from May the 24th my birthday, 1790. In 1800 I was at School in Penzance receiving instruction in reading, writing, and the first rules of arithmetic. The name of the Master I have forgotten. That first year of the century was a memorable one, – a year of great scarcity, from a bad harvest, (there had been a succession of them), and a termination of war with France, too soon revived. I recollect the great excitement on the day of proclamation of the peace of Amiens,

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the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, the shouting of the boys, and the hurrahs of the town's people on hearing it read. I recollect too the alarm produced that winter,

by the miners from the adjoining districts entering in a body the Town of Penzance in a threatening manner, – in want of bread.

My Father died when I was about five years of age. Then residing at Varfell, a small copyhold property which he farmed. Of him I have no recollection. After his death, my Mother came to Penzance, and took up her abode in a house, the property of the family, in Market Jew Street, now I believe called East Street. Of her five children, I was the youngest, – my brother was the eldest. Three sisters

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were intermediate. – Of these one, Grace was in a manner adopted by an Aunt, – Mrs Sampson, – and lived with her. The eldest and the younger remained at home. My brother who was twelve years my senior lived with Mr Tonkin, by whom too, he was in a manner adopted and at whose expence mainly educated.

Mr Tonkin was an attached friend of my Mother's family. He had known her sisters, Mrs Sampson and Mrs Millett from their earliest childhood when they were left orphans, and he performed towards them very much the part of a father. – Mrs Millett the youngest of the sisters lived with him in his later years and kept his house until she married. Then my Mother supplied her place, so far as was compatible with her duties to her children.

i, [n. pag.] [2^v]

I have given some particulars of this respected friend in the Life of my Brother. Fond of children, – in his advanced old age I was much with him, and have a distinct recollection of his venerable appearance, and dignified bearing, – dressed in the old costume of the Gentleman, – then passing away, – the ruffled shirt even to the wrists, full wig, cocked hat, [?&c]. I remember too, ~~distinctly~~ distinctly the assembling in his parlour of an evening, chiefly Sunday evenings, to tea, <of a few ladies> to whom he was attached, and had been the friend of, from their infancy, – Mrs Cornish and Miss Allen, – (these sisters) with my Mother never failed being of the party. The latter was my Godmother. She was a woman of great beauty and many charms. She attained an

i, [n. pag.] [3^r]

advanced age. – When I saw her last, she had reached her ninety second year, and she assured me that she never had been happier. She was then in full possession of her faculties, and far from suffering bodily feebleness. I found her standing up, winding cotton for her evening knitting. Soon afterwards sad to say, she came to an untimely end, from her clothes taking fire when she was alone in the act of dressing. I recollect that when I was a child, she would banter me about my eyes, saying, – “if I were you John, I would pull them out – such ugly eyes”! I supposed [?then] (children being essentially realists) that she was in earnest, and that these organs of

mine were displeasing as she described them. My other Godmother was Mrs Oxenham, and my

i, [n. pag.] [3^v]

Godfathers were Mr Oxenham and and [SIC] Mr Pennick, all persons of more than ordinarily distinguished appearance, and from all of whom I always experienced much kindness. In the same work, – the Life of my Brother, – I have given some account of the state of society at that time in Penzance, compared with that of the present time. Then, – its population now exceeding 10,000, was under 4000, – In its remote and isolated situation within ten miles of the Land's End the manners of the people might be called primitive. There was hardly any distinction made as to status, between those who were in trade, and those, – the few, – who were in independent circumstances. Their education was much the same, and their habits,

i, [n. pag.] [4^r]

and they associated ~~very much, though there was little visiting~~, at dances and convivial meetings, held chiefly at Christmas and New-years holidays. Superstition then was a feeling very prevalent in the Mount's Bay, and there was a general belief in spectral appearances, and haunted houses, and demoniacal possession. Even in the best street of the town, there was a house, supposed to be haunted, and it was

uninhabited in consequence. I have not quite forgotten my terrors at night from ghostly apprehensions. No attempts were made to show their futility, nor could they well be made, as even those who ranked amongst the best informed, partook of the old popular belief. My Grandmother Adams, a woman of an acute and spiritual mind

i, [n. pag.] [4^v]

was an instance. She was in the habit of relating the ghostly visitations she experienced, fully believing in their reality, and in her case without any feeling of horror.

The scenery of the Mount's Bay, as well as its remote position favoured perhaps a belief in the supernatural, – as may have done also the uncertain, and dangerous occupations of a large proportion of the inhabitants, – these seamen, fishermen and miners. St Michael's Mount, terminating in its castellated building of unknown age, with many a story connected with it, – Druidical remains scattered about, – and holy wells all favoured the feeling. Nor were there wanting traditions of strange events natural, or supernatural to heighten it.

i, [n. pag.] [5^r]

One I remember hearing was, that the Scilly Islands were once part of the mainland, and that they were separated by a vast subsidence, occasioning not only the swallowing up of the intermediate ground between them, and the Lands End, but also a region beyond them with its city ~~and~~ that of the Lyons or Lionnois with its inhabitants, of whom two only were saved; – who escaped on a white horse, – the horse swimming, – one seated on its back, the other holding by its tail, the latter of whom afterwards bore the name of Eustic (in Cornish hold fast) his mounted friend having called to him so to do. There is an old family of this name even now. There was a similar tradition respecting St Michael's Mount namely that it was once not detached

i, [n. pag.] [5^v]

from the shore as at present, but stood inland, and that in accordance with the tradition its Cornish name signified a vinnied (i e mildewed rock) in a wood.

No where were old customs longer preserved than in this part of Cornwall. St Johns Eve was celebrated as in the most ancient time by bonfires, fire works and torches. The streets of the town on that evening, were a scene, at a late hour, of the wildest confusion, and uproar. A stranger when witnessing it, at a little distance might have been astonished and confounded, and in doubt whether some magical rite was not engaged in with a demoiacal [*SIC*] furor, or that an army had entered, having taken the place by storm. The

i, [n. pag.] [6^r]

running of young men and boys through the streets with torches, which they swung wildly round their heads, ~~was~~ <was> one of the incidents most striking. [?×] Boyish life, there at that time was, as might be expected, one of much liberty and [?wildness] <licence>. Out of school, the great amusement was *war*, – the Penzance boys against the boys of Newlin, and Mouse-hole adjoining fishing villages, – the arms were slings and [?×]the[?×] projectiles stones, – the contest was called “dabbering”, in which most of the combatants trusted to their own unassisted [SIC] flinging power. Wounds were occasionally inflicted, and great was the glee, when a victory was obtained, and the Penzance party drove the Newlin party before them. Quieter amusements were shrimping in the pools at

i, [n. pag.] [6^v]

low water, and fishing for small sea fish in the same pools, – these abounding in animal life, well adapted by their singularities of form to call out any latent taste for natural history.

Nor were there <rivulets> wanting in the neighbourhood, in which the young angler might be initiated in his art. These streams I well remember – of very [?fine] water rippling from pool to pool in the narrow little valleys, <they were> not without

their charms, – their banks fringed with ferns, foxgloves, and various wild flowers not omitting the furze which in this part of Cornwall often covered large spaces of ground, – ([?xxxxxxxx], – and in April or May when in flower scented the air, and “enriched the common light” with its golden blossom.

i, [n. pag.] [7^r]

In Ludgeon, in which was our parish church, furze abounded. – Furze crofts; – how well I remember the glorious appearance these crofts made in spring, when as was my Mother’s habit, we walked with her to Church annually on Easter day. The weather favoring. This plant was <then> in its finest flowering stage, and ~~then~~ in that mild climate, spring with all its young leafy deliciousness was well advanced.

In the work already referred to I have made mention of my Mother briefly describing her excellent character. She was deserving of all ~~all~~ I have said of her, so loving was she, so unselfish, truthful, and simple. She taught her children more by acts than words. Her countenance was expressive of her mind. Even in

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her old age, – (she attained her 76th year) there was a mild beauty in its expression. In the same memoir, I have made mention of my father, – how he was fond of river and field sports and was an experimenter in farming, and a speculator (– not a fortunate

one) in mining. If any qualities are hereditary his sons may have derived from him their taste for angling, and my brother his love of shooting as well as fishing.

Mr Tonkin died in 1801. – He left his property which after the death of an elder brother was considerable, – chiefly landed, – to ~~an~~ a maiden sister. She survived him a very few years. Her heir was Uriah Moore, her great nephew who according to Mr Tonkin's will was to possess it, changing his

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[1801 AT HEAD OF PAGE] name to Tonkin. We were much together as children, but since we have rarely met. He took orders in the Church, had a living from the Bishop of Exeter, is a magistrate of the County, and has the reputa- [SIC] of being a useful and worthy man.

Mr Tonkin left £100, in aid of my education. Soon after, – in the year of his death or the following one, I was entered, as a boarder at Helstone Grammar School, the Master of which was the Rev: Thomas Stubbock, a man of an active but small mind, and of no great scholarship. Yet his school was was [SIC] considered then the best in Cornwall, and the boarders, some fifteen or twenty in number were the sons chiefly of Country Gentlemen. I remained there nearly three years, during which time I had two severe attacks of illness, the

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first of Scarletina, the second of Typhus fever, endangering my life. During the height of the last mentioned illness, the Town was illuminated in celebration of the victory of Trafalgar. In the delirium I then experienced I fancied that I was standing with a crowd of people on the Lizard cliffs and cheering the conquering fleet, as it passed up Channel, the hands of each ship playing "Rule Britannia". I long remembered the scene, in all its imagined vividness and glory.

After this illness I did not return to Helstone. The time I passed there on the whole was a pleasant one. Our school tasks were easy and chiefly in Latin. Before I left I had just begun Greek. We had extra lectures, of a superficial kind, on history and Natural

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History, and a weekly theme to write in English. A play ground was attached to the school, and there was no lack of play, and the natural amusements of school boys, – one of the chief of which, and the most exciting was that of "Follow the leader", a sport not without [SIC] its risks when the leader was a bold one[.] There was a well kept bowling green, belonging to the Town, where the Gentlemen met to play, and <in> the summer evenings, and we had the privilege of using their bowls, in the absence of [~~their~~] our seniors. There was, and still is I believe, a festival peculiar to Helstone kept on the 8th of May, called Flora day, or vulgarly [~~Flura~~] day[.] It consisted in a

dance of the young people, decked with garlands through the streets, concluding with a ball in the Assembly

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Room. It was looked forward to by us boys, with much interest, for we had to choose our partners, and it was always preceded by little fêtes and dances, given by the parents. My selected partner even now I remember. She was called Betsy Travennan, a gentle creature, with a Madonna like face, and a sweet voice. She might have been about 12 or 13, and was the sister of two of my schoolfellows. She died very young, and ~~I never saw her again,~~ and I never saw her again after leaving Helstone. I had a most kindly feeling towards her of innocent regard, and liking, – I like to think, the bud of a virtuous love.

Close to the Town was a pretty lake, – the “Loe pool” somewhat singular in its character; – its

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waters being confined by a bar of sand, and shingle, thrown up by the waves, which bar, – when the lake rose to a height endangering property, was artificially broken, – and the excess let out. It abounded in fine trout from ~~1½ pounds~~ half a pound to 1½ pounds & upwards. We had permission from its proprietor, Mr Rogers, to fish in it,

– and the spending of a holiday on its wooded banks, having my dinner with me, was one of my then enjoyments, tho’ the fishing was of an ignoble kind by lines, with a worm for a bait, – a dozen such lines, requiring, after they were cast out only occasional looking after. The pleasure was in the capture of a beautiful fish, or the hope of such a prize, and in being exposed, – to be brief – to all the

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influences of kindly nature with the fullest capacity for their enjoyment. Penrose the residence of the proprietor of the “Loe pool” is an old Country house of the larger class, in the midst of scenery not common in that part of Cornwall, – of the Park kind, well planted, and with a good deal of natural wood in its vicinity, in which hazel abounded, yielding good crops of nuts, which were not neglected by us, though nutting was prohibited there, – a prohibition adding a zest to the nutting. At the time I was at this school several gentlemen resided in the Town of Helstone and we often experienced their kindness being invited on a Sunday to dinner by one or the other of them. Of all my school friendships

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formed at this time, the strongest and most lasting, and the one I valued most, was that with Samuel Batten. My acquaintance with him had begun before, for he too

was of Penzance. He was a half brother of D^r Hallet Batten, a School friend of my Brother's. My friend had talent very like Dr Battens, and his [?career] was not very different. After a University education, he became an assistant Master of Harrow School, where he was much esteemed and liked. He was very amiable with much warm and generous feeling, and a good scholar to boot. No other school fellow of mine at Helstone in any way distinguished himself.

The next shool [SIC] I went to was that of the Rev: M^r Nicholl at Barnstaple. My Mother accompanied

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me there, as soon as my health was completely re-established. – It was a smaller school than that of Helstone, the number of boarders not exceeding six or seven, and the day scholars hardly as many. Mr Nicholls gained the respect of his boys. He was grave, learned, and kind, – but did not, I think, take much interest in teaching. I remained with him two or three years, and made some progress in Latin and Greek, – little enough, considering the time that was given to them. I read there two or three of the books of Homer, and portions of the New Testament; & in Latin, some of the orations of Cicero, and a good part of Virgil. Not having a pleasure in the study of languages, – after quitting school, I entirely neglected Greek, and read Latin merely

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for the sake of information. Of all Latin ~~writers~~ <authors> my favorite was Cicero, and most so, in his philosophical writings. Mr Nicholls had a good collection of books, – and I was indebted to him for the loan of some, which I read with more than ordinary interest. Those I remember most were Robertson's History of Charles the Vth, and Bishop Watson's Chemical Essays. No book before, at all captivated me with the exception of Plutarch's Lives, – and the novels of a circulating Library, from which surreptitiously I got books, while at Helstone, and was once being detected punished for so doing.

Besides the Grammar School at Barnstaple, there was another School called an Academy, where reading, writing and arithmetic were taught, and French, and Drawing

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were attempted. I attended this school part of the time, an hour or so I believe every other day, – but with little advantage.

The Country about Barnstaple has a good deal of beauty. Its scenery is altogether different from that of the West of Cornwall. Its chief features are its woodlands its rich pastures, and many streams the largest of which, not an inconsiderable river flowed by the Town. It was a salmon river. The smaller ones, – and every valley had its brook, – abounded more or less in trout, and afforded good

sport to the angler. Here I first cultivated fly fishing. Dr Wavil, who gave name to a mineral, – the Wavelite, was a resident physician. He found me out, and often invited me to his house, and after I left school

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[1807-1808 AT HEAD OF PAGE] he allowed me to correspond with him. This his attention, I owed to my Brother's reputation then rapidly culminating. I think his conversation had a beneficial influence on me, inciting me to learn, by making me (unconsciously on his part) aware of my ignorance.

I left this School in 1807, or 1808, I do not recollect the exact time, & remained at home a few months, when I had some instruction in French from a refugee, a M. [?Dugong] who had also been my Brother's French Master. Besides French, I gave some attention to Mathematics, but without the aid of a Master reading Euclid, and using Sanderson's Algebra. My advances in either were inconsiderable, in one not beyond Equations, – in the other not beyond the first six books. – During

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this little interval at home I often spent a day or two with my Aunt Millett, – a most worthy woman, – at Marazion. It afforded me an opportunity of making a thorough acquaintance with St Michael's Mount. On a fine day it was delightful to spend an

hour or two, in the hollow of a great granite rock idling with some pleasant book, – rabbits which then abounded there playing around. It was at the Mount that I began to study practically Mineralogy, – few spots being richer in various minerals.

It was in the Autumn of 1808, that I left home, never to return to it, except on short visits at long intervals. This was the turning point of my life. At my Brother's desire I was to come to him and to enter on the study of

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Chemistry in the Laboratory of the Royal Institution. A journey to London from Penzance then, was not as now, the affair of a few hours. Travelling by Coach it occupied me four days. I slept first at Truro, next at Exeter, where I met my eldest sister then a guest of M^r Russel's at whose house my Brother spent a day when he first went to Bristol. From Exeter by the mail I was two days, and two nights on the way. As well as I can remember the journey cost not less than five pounds[.]

At the Institution I had a bedroom, close to my Brother's, and had the use of his sitting room. My Cousin M^r Edmund Davy was an Assistant in the Laboratory, and had apartments in the building. With him I messed. In my Brother's letter to my Mother about the proposed

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arrangements for me at this time he wrote, "I will teach him Chemistry and Edmund will teach him Economy."

At the Royal Institution I remained between two and three years. I look back on this period of my life with unmixed satisfaction. Never was my time better employed, or with more advantage to myself in the way of mental progress. I found Chemistry practically taught very fascinating. My Brother had just then made some of his most important discoveries, and the Laboratory was the scene of most active research. There I spent the whole of every day *learning* whilst *assisting*, and in the evenings, I had the use of the reading room of the Institution, where I had an opportunity of consulting and

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studying the best Authors on Chemistry. During the whole time I left London only once, – that was after I had been there about a year, and it was to visit my Mother. That visit had its mishap. Geology had become interesting to me, and whilst at home I proposed examining the rock formations as exposed to view in the sea cliffs. On the second day of my exploring, about five miles to the east of Marazion, on clambering down a steep rock I fell, and on rising found my left leg broken. Where I fell was a little cove bounded laterally by high rocks, by the cliff behind, and by the sea in front. The tide was coming in. I crept from it within the cove as far as I could,

uncertain of my fate. A boat passed at some distance, to which I made signals in vain.

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When almost without hope and and [*SIC*] yet little alarmed, I heard a voice from the cliff above asking what I was doing there. The person who asked told me afterwards that he had ~~not~~ come, out of his way to the edge of this cliff not knowing why. The spot was exceedingly secluded, and remote from any dwelling. As soon as I informed him of my situation, he kindly went to the nearest fishing station and got a boat, – (the very boat I saw pass, and the first that had come there for the season) – in which I was taken to my Aunt Millet's in Marazion. There, most kindly nursed I continued till the bone was sufficiently reunited to admit of my being taken home to Varfell where my mother was then residing with my sisters.

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The confinement which I owed to this accident, was not without its pleasures. I read much, and had the gratification of the attentions of loving friends. My youngest sister was very much with me, and she and I were the best of friends. We had before been constant correspondents. How well I remember the kind of ecstasy of love, in which ~~she~~ <we> met, [~~?me~~], (she came to meet me) on my first return. She

was then a joyous creature, with lustrous eyes, a bright complexion, and a most warm, and responsive heart; – with an intellect above the common, and ~~she~~ <it> had not been uncultivated.

On my return to Town, I resumed my chemical studies with fresh ardour, and engaged myself in some original research.

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The results were afterwards published in three papers in the “Transactions of the Royal Society”, – one on a new gas which I had the good fortune to discover, – phosgene gas; – another on the combinations of Chlorine and the metals, and a third on certain compounds of fluoric acid. – At that time my Brother advanced his views respecting the simple nature of oxymuriatic acid, ~~acid and~~ Chlorine views, the accuracy of which were called in question, especially by Mr Murray, an ingenious writer and Lecturer on Chemistry in Edinburgh. Thoroughly imbued with the new doctrine and confident of its truth I answered him. The controversy was carried on in a succession of papers which were published in “Nicholson’s Journal”,

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and having been engaged in the better cause, – I had the pleasure of successfully rebutting his arguments. But my greatest pleasure was my Brother’s approval and

praise. I may mention in proof of his generous nature, his saying to me, about these papers, that he never at my age wrote anything so good. This controversy is noticed by Dr Thomson in his History of Chemistry, – and with remarks not a little complimentary to me, at the same time doing ample justice to Mr Murray Vol. II. p. 269.

Whilst in London I was very little in general society, – nor did I regret it. Occasionally I dined with my Brother at a Coffee House, once with him at Sir Thomas Bernard's and once at Mr Rickman's.

Messrs <Johnson &> Hunter, the publishers in St Paul's church yard were

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then in the habit of giving a dinner weekly to Literary and scientific men. I was once of the party and I well remember Bonnycastle and Fuseli, the painter, and how much I was struck by his coarse and audacious remarks. (Speaking of this reminds me of my surprise, the first time I was in Hunter's shop, soon after coming to Town, on being recognised by Mr Hunter a partner in the business, by my voice, – and when in the Laboratory I called my Brother's servant [~~?xx~~] <he> often answered as supposing it was my Brother who summoned him)[.] A few times I went to the Theatre, and saw and admired John Kemble and Mrs Siddons, and during the Summer I went once or twice to Petersham near Richmond

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to dine with ~~my~~ [?Uncle] the Rev^d Dr Sampson, the brother in law of my Aunt Sampson. For fresh air in an evening in fine weather, I refreshed myself with a walk in the Green Park, or in Kensington Gardens.

The only literary work I then engaged in was, with Mr E. Davy, contributing to a chemical and scientific periodical, in the way of making abstracts adding remarks. Our remuneration was small, for the Editor was a needy man, and our labour of no great value. I remember our having what we called a feast, that is a dinner, with some added luxury, after receiving our first honorarium. This cousin of mine, who was afterwards Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Dublin Society, was a worthy man in his way but of slow intellect and

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not very logical mind. – Though witnessing the whole train of research leading to the new doctrine respecting Chlorine [*SIC*], he was hardly a convert to it, and we had many a tough argument on the subject which tried my patience[.]

In the Laboratory of the Royal Institution, I had an opportunity of seeing some of the most distinguished men of Science of the period, – such as D^r Wollaston, Mr Cavendish, Sir John Herschell D^r Young and others. I had also the advantage of attending the Lectures which were given during the season in the Theatre of the

Institution. – D^r Dalton's on Natural Philosophy, Sir E Smith's on Botany, and Mr Allen's. My Brother's Lectures were those ~~which~~ which charmed me most. – It was indeed a high pleasure to

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hear them. I came pretty well prepared to understand them, and could I be otherwise than proud and exultant in seeing how crowdedly they were attended, and how well they were received, – his audience consisting not only of persons of rank of both sexes, but also of men of Science ~~and of Letters~~ [?were] and of Letters. The subjects of them, – the new discoveries, was very attractive, and was enhanced in point of interest by the eloquent manner in which they were described. His Lectures were almost all written for the occasion and contained new facts fresh from the Laboratory. His confidence in his power was great. He latterly seldom prepared a Lecture till the day preceding its delivery, and he composed it in a few hours. – Much of it was given viva voce; – but passages, commonly at the beginning

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<or> and [SIC] were written. He had, – it may be well to notice, two objects in view in Lecturing, – one the communication of knowledge, – the other, the exciting a love of

science, in both of which he was eminently successful. He was at this time the main support of the Institution[.]

Though my studies at this time were chiefly chemical, they were not confined to these. Metaphysics had a charm for me. Now I first read Bishop Berkeleys “Principles of Human Knowledge”, and his “Minute Philosopher.” I was much delighted with them. The logical reasoning, the clear and beautiful style, and the earnestness and fervour of manner.

I have said that I learned Chemistry practically by assisting in the researches in progress.

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[1810 AT HEAD OF PAGE] This was perfectly true. My Brother never taught me, i.e by explanations of doctrines and facts, – never questioned me as to my progress, in the way of formal examination. I learned very much after the manner in which a child learns to walk, and with all the satisfaction of uncontrouled volition. Great indeed was the advantage I had in this mode of learning. It was more than sport with me, – and in the Laboratory I acquired the habit of research with the love of labour to which whatever little success I may afterwards have attained I mainly attribute.

It was towards the end of the Autumn of 1810, after a glorious comet had just appeared, that I quitted London for Edinburgh,

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to enter upon my Medical Studies for which my chemical, were a good preparation. My Brother ~~was~~ at that time was in Dublin giving a short course of Lectures which were rapturously received at the Royal Dublin Society. I went to Edinburgh by sea in a Leith smack in company with Dr Hope, the successor of Dr Black in the Chemical chair of the Edinburgh College. I had formed his acquaintance just before, and at Dr Pearsons where, I had the courage to advocate in opposition to him, the new doctrines respecting Chlorine, to which, in his Lectures he remained for several years hostile. The first house I slept at in Edinburgh was his brother's in Queen Street with whom he then resided. Though not an eloquent nor elegant

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Lecturer, yet so popular was Chemistry at that period, that his class was enormous, reaching 500. He was a good experimenter in a coarse way, and his experiments were always successful and illustrative of the leading doctrines of the Science, – then from its simplicity easy of comprehension, and <might be> rapidly learned.

During the whole of my student life, I was in lodgings close to the College. In the first I remained only twenty four hours, having been driven from them by bugs, – one restless night sufficed. My next were in the house of the sublibrarian of the College, – Mr Baines, – where I was very comfortable. My next and last (why I

changed I do not recollect) was with a Mrs Gillies, a clergyman's Widow a very worthy woman. The allowance my Mother made me was

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£100 a year, to cover all my expences, – including Professors fees, and I found the sum adequate, never running in debt, and yet wanting nothing. My mode of living was simple enough. I drank neither wine nor beer, and my dinner consisted mostly of one dish of meat, or fish with potatoes, or some other vegetables.

Having had through my Brother and Mrs Apreece whom he shortly afterwards married, many introductions, I now entered more into society and of the best kind. During my three years sojourn the families from whom I experienced most attention were Mr Allen's, the Banker, – (from whom I had a general invitation to their Sunday's dinner) – Mr Henry Mackenzie "the Man of feeling" – Mr and Mrs Fletcher's, –

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Professor Playfair's – Mrs Grant's Mrs Elizabeth Hamilton's. Admission into such society was indeed a privilege, and I have a grateful recollection of the kindness I experienced, and the pleasure derived from it. Evening parties were the most common, – commencing about eight oclock, with tea, and ending about eleven after

a light supper, – parties formed chiefly of young people, but not exclusively so. At Sir James Hall's and Mr Allen's the ~~guests~~ parties were dinner parties, – the guests were chiefly men of Science. At Mrs Grant's Mrs E. Hamilton's, and Mrs Fletcher's the soireés [sic] were more of a literary kind.

The Lectures I attended, were those required for taking the degree of M. D. – and for obtaining

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a Surgical Diploma, the latter with the view to an appointment in the Medical Department of the Army. The first winter I applied myself chiefly to Anatomy, and this practically in the dissecting room of the College under Mr Fyfe. The first dead body that I ever saw was that on which I began my anatomical studies. For a month or six weeks after I had a disgust to animal food, and dined chiefly on vegetables or rice and milk. At that time the number of students attending the dissecting rooms were few, – I often found myself alone there with the exception of one, – Mr Swan, who was then most diligent, and who afterwards so much distinguished himself by his anatomical researches.

The Royal Medical Society

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was the gathering place of all zealous students. – There alone they had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves. I entered it in the first season, and at its weekly meetings formed many valuable acquaintances, and some lasting friendships. During my last year I was one of its four Presidents, my friend Dr Richard Bright was another. The animation with which discussions on medical matters was carried on then, was, as I now think of it, marvellous. Beginning about 8 o'clock P. M. they were often protracted beyond midnight. They were doubtless very servicable [sic] in calling forth talent and inciting to exertion, and the excellent Library belonging to the Society was of great use.

During my second and third year in Edinburgh I gave myself up

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chiefly to practically medicine, attend- [sic] regularly the Infirmary and the clinical Lectures, and during one session I had the advantage of being one of Dr Home's Clinical Clerks. He was an amiable man, and had a very amiable family. His two Clerks had to go to him every evening, to report on the cases under treatment. How well I remember, after this duty performed, joining the family circle, and their ending the evening (the children five or six in number were all young) with music, – sometimes sacred music, – Mrs Home at the organ, and they joining in with their sweet voices.

My chemical knowledge, in advance of most students, was a recommendation to the Professors and especially to Dr Monro, the Professor of anatomy. He asked my

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[1814 AT HEAD OF PAGE] assistance in some enquiries, and I readily gave it, and acknowledgement was made for it in his publication. In his house I became acquainted with his father, then in advanced age, but in full possession of his faculties. There too I met Mrs Monro, – a charming woman for grace and beauty, and manner, singularly contrasted with the appearance and bearing of the Professor.

During this period I did not neglect original research. The chief was on the blood, – which was the subject of my inaugural dissertation, and of a paper which was published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1814. ~~This year I became an F. R. S. and took my degree of M. D. and became a Member of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons. Thus it was an eventful~~

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Amongst other enquiries, I began a series of experiments on the effects of certain medicines on myself, with the hope of useful results. I began with digitalis & took it in large doses. This came to my brother's knowledge, and he, who about the same age had risked his life in breathing gases, wrote to me entreating the discontinuance

of these experiments partly on account of danger with uncertainty of usefulness, and moreover as not being an enviable way of acquiring a name. I followed his advice.

This year I became a Fellow of the Royal Society, and took ~~my~~ my degree of M. D. and was mad [sic] a Member of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons. Thus it was an eventful year to me. I cannot forget the ordeal I went

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through for the two last. – The examination for M. D. was in Latin by all the Professors assembled and formidable enough it was in prospect. – It took place at 11. P. M at Dr Monro's house. That morning I had breakfasted with Lord Webb Seymour who invited me as an act of kindness, – and a most kind and gentle person he was, – a true lover of science, and of most simple and gracious manners. – The examination I was subjected to was a very easy one. That which I passed at the College of Surgeons was easier still, – not deserving indeed the name of Examination, for Dr Kelly who chiefly addressed me asked for information from me, – having he said heard of my experiments on the blood, he wished to to [sic] know the results. That I had

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adequate surgical knowledge seems to have been taken for granted. Yet my knowledge was exceedingly [SIC] imperfect, and I had a vast deal to learn.

During the time I was at College in Edinburgh, the students I most associated with besides Dr Bright were Malden, and Hammick, – both English, and men of talent, – the ~~one~~ former a younger brother of Sir Stephen Hammick B^t of Plymouth, the latter the elder [SIC] brother of Professor Malden, of the London University. My friend Hammick died young of typhus, in Poland shortly after entering the medical department of the Russian Army. I saw him last in Paris in 1815. Had he lived, he would have distinguished himself. My friend Malden after success in practice at Worcester died at the

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age of 60 of disease of brain. He was an affectionate <disposition of graceful> manners, accomplished, and of a poetical imagination. He was remarkable for beauty of person, and was very like the portraits of Sir Philip Sydney. We prepared ourselves for examination together by conversing in Latin on medical subjects, and after our first critical examination, we made in company a pedestrian tour in the Highlands as far as Blair in Athol much to our enjoyment. I had previously been as far as the River Awe with my Brother and Lady Davy in the year of their marriage, returning alone by way of Lough Lomond and Glasgow. – On this excursion, I was

mounted on a mule, an animal not commonly used in Scotland, – and to my annoyance attracted at Glasgow

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a crowd of boyish followers. With fishing rod in hand and fishing basket on back, I dare say may [*SIC*] appearance, thus mounted, if not grotesque, was at least singular, and the rudest people seem to be most observant of outward appearances, and the least tolerant of what is new to them. Besides these two excursions and a visit to Rokeby in Yorkshire at Mr Morrit's, – and ~~one~~ two or three short visits to Mr Ferguson of Raith, I never, during the whole three years of my studentship, left Edinburgh. ~~It was a happy and varied time.~~ It was a varied and a happy life which I had there.

Angling was my chief recreation and the River I most frequented was Cramond Water, parts of the banks of which were very

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picturesque especially about Craigie Hall, where the part up stream is spanned by a single bold arch bearing the inscription "*Utile dulci.*" At the height of summer when the evening twilight passed into the morning one might fish all night, – there was a peculiar charm in the solitude. –

Geology at that time excited great interest, – the Edinburgh geologists were divided into two parties, the Wernerians and Huttonians. My acquaintance was chiefly with the latter, and I was indoctrinated with their views by some of their leaders, such as Sir James Hall Lord Webb Seymour and Mr Allen. With one or other of these I saw ~~I visited~~ the more remarkable geological phenomena of the neighbouring heights, and was shewn by Sir James Hall some of

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the most ~~remarkable~~ striking marks of glacial action, which he was one of the first to observe, but he attributed them not to ice, but to a dobbouch, – a flood, bearing along with it in rapid motion, sand gravel, and stones; – and after graduation I accompanied him into Invernessshire, for the purpose of seeing the remarkable “parallel roads” in Glen Roy and Glen Spein, the subjects before and since of so much speculation[.]

During my last year in Edinburgh I formed the acquaintance of Mr Gillies, a man of poetical feeling and somewhat morbid taste. His motto was an excellent one “Lyra atollit aminam”, but in him it seemed only a sentiment without practical effect. He imprudently distinguished

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himself by giving and [SIC] expensive dinners, (of which I occasionally partook) thus wasting ample means, and in a few years, from wealth reducing himself to poverty. It was at Mrs Fletcher's I first met him and formed his acquaintance.

I have adverted to a boyish experienced [SIC] at ~~Edinburgh~~ <Plymouth>. I experienced a like influence, and for a very admirable ~~person~~ object, in the person of the second daughter of the Lady just mentioned. Meeting her at evening parties, – I could not but admire her; so many excellent qualities seemed united in her. I never spoke of love except in a letter to her excellent and talented mother after my leaving Edinburgh, with the hope that should she have any kindly feeling towards me, my regard should be remembered. We met again in London

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just as I was about to embark for the Continent, – and I bade her “God bless you”. In the wilds of Ceylon when on a journey into the interior, I heard in a letter from her Mother of her death from typhus fever. It was the first great shock of ~~love I ever~~ ~~experienced~~. feeling I had ever experienced. The picture of Mrs Fletcher, ~~which~~ and her youngest daughter, which hangs in our dining room, was from her gifted pencil in which were used colours I had sent from Paris. – With her Mother ever afterwards I kept up a correspondence, not ending with my marriage to my dear wife her third daughter, at whose request I write these brief notices.

I returned to England as I had gone to Edinburgh by sea in

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[1814 AT HEAD OF PAGE] company with my friends Hammick and Malden, and after spending a few days in London, I hurried into Cornwall. This was in the early spring of 1814. I spent a good part of the summer very happily at home with my Mother and sisters, who had then left Varfel for Penzance. The Royal Geological Society there had just before been formed. – I then contributed one Paper to its “Transactions”, on some granite veins at Cape Cornwall.

My Brother had previously resigned the Professorship of Chemistry at the Royal Institution. Mr Brande was was [sic] his successor, and in consequence, a vacancy occurred in the Medical School of Wimbledon Street, where he had lectured on Chemistry. The appointment was offered to me

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and I accepted it, – not liking to be idle. My Brother at this time was on the Continent so that I had not the advantage of his advice. The engagement in a pecuniary point of view was a mistake, and I held it but a short time, merely long enough to give one course of Lectures. For this purpose, I went to Town took lodgings with M^r Newman in Lisle Street, and devoted myself to my duties. The class was a comparatively small one; – My Colleagues were D^r Pearson, D^r Roget and D^r Harrison. They lectured on

several branches of Medicine. – The fees received were divided equally without regard to the expences of each, and mine rather exceeded the fees. On my Brother's return from abroad he advised me to give up the appointment which

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I did, D^r Granville acting for me at the opening of the next session and delivering the Lectures which I had prepared.

This was preparatory to entering the Medical Department of the Army. The offer made of rapid promotion was very tempting. My Brother was assured, by the Director General Sir James Macgregor, that I might calculate on being Physician to the Forces in three years, – the time having gone by of that appointment's being given at first. – I was commissioned as Hospital assistant and <in> May embarked to join the Head Quarters of our Army at Brussels.

It was at Ramsgate that I embarked. In the Transport there were ~~a few~~ a few troops, and several officers. Great was the discomfort of the passage partly owing to my inexperience of what was required

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[1815 AT HEAD OF PAGE] and from my suffering from sea sickness. We reached Ostend on the night of the following day. From Ostend I proceeded by track-boat by

canal to Bruges Ghent and Brussels. At that season the country had as much charm as uninterrupted verdure and careful cultivation could impart. Bruges, and Ghent architecturally exceeded my expectations, and the latter especially, in its triste appearance.

At Brussels, I had a comfortable quarter assigned me in the house of a Gentleman near the Park, and I messed with the family. – ~~I messed with the~~. I was attached to the principal Military Hospital, but had little to do there ~~till~~ until the Battle of Waterloo[.]

On the morning of the 15th of June I saw the Regiment of

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Black Brunswickers pass my window on their way to the field. That was the first intimation of what followed.

In a few hours, the dull heavy sound of distant artillery was heard, and in a few more the wounded were brought in to Brussels in increasing numbers.

The Hospital duty then became severe, and the staff had to remain there day and night. I think <it was> in the evening of the 17th, when the reports brought in by the wounded were most unfavorable, that I went to my quarters to put on my full uniform and take what money I had, expecting to be a prisoner, if the French conquered and entered Brussels, as was expected. The streets I walked through were

deserted, as if the inhabitants were [?panic] struck. – two or three churches that I looked into, were

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crowded. I found the family with whom I lodged, in an upper room, the children gathered round their mother, – their father walking backwards and forwards in a most anxious way, and a long table well supplied with untouched food, – without a single article of plate, in preparation for the worst. I was glad of some refreshment before taking my hasty leave & returning to the Hospital. The morning following was ushered in, by the ringing of bells, from the certain intelligence of the defeat of the French. Now troops came pouring into the City, escorting prisoners, and bearing in the wounded. Tents were pitched in the larger streets and the principal squares. – Medical Officers had more to do than they could well attend to (not only

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from the crowded state of the Hospitals but from the large number of wounded officers distributed in private houses: There was hardly a door, without a number, shewing how many were lodged within. The first rest I had, was on the 19th, when I went by canal barge to Antwerp, in charge of about 200 men, whose wounds were slight, allowing of their removal to make room for the severer cases crowding the

Hospitals at Brussels. On arriving at Antwerp, we found the Quay where we were to land, crowded with kind people who, informed of our approach, had brought bread and wine for the refreshment of the wounded men. That night the City was illuminated, and very beautiful was the effect of the lace work spire of the Cathedral, brilliantly lighted up.

The following day I returned to

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Brussels by diligence. I found my my [sic] quarters so occupied by wounded officers that I had difficulty in getting a sleeping place. We all <daily> met at [~~met~~] at a late dinner, and amusing was the company, no two speaking the same language. I was now attached to a smaller Hospital, in charge of a staff surgeon. And here I was initiated in operative surgery. Most of the patients were French soldiers, and as compared with our own men, I was struck by their superior intelligence and provident care of themselves. Most of the capital operations, such as amputations of the thigh proved fatal. I well remember after a hard day's work amongst the wounded, the pleasure I had in the late evening when going to rest when all was quiet except the song of the nightingale then

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in full song, and nightingales abounding in the neighbouring park.

In the beginning of July, when the pressure of Hospital duty was less, I received an order to join the army in the vicinity of Paris. I had formed the acquaintance <of a> Medical Officer, – George Finlayson, and both being mounted, – we had purchased horses, – we travelled together, an officer of the Buffs bearing us company, driving a cart conveying himself and his luggage. We had to leave our Baggage behind, and I saw no more of it. – My portmanteaus were indeed forwarded to London, but when opened they were empty.

The country we passed through bore too striking<ly the> marks of the ravages of war. The smaller villages and farm houses were deserted. Their inhabitants had fled to the woods, and more than once we expected to be attacked.

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At that time Maubeuge and Valenciennes were besieged by the Prussians. At [?Peyron] where we halted one night, – we found on waking, the house full of Prussians soldiers. – They crowded even our bed room. – My friend had an only brother, who was in the same service, but attached, as assistant surgeon to a regiment. Near [?Peyron] he lost his life, and, there was reason to believe was assassinated. He left his detachment on the March to Paris, for the purpose of seeing a tunnel in the neighbourhood of the Town, and was never more heard of. He like his brother was a young man of great ability. An account of him is given by Sir

Stamford Raffles in a short memoir prefixed by him to a work of George Finlayson's, which the former edited.[×]

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My friend on his arrival in Paris not finding ~~finding~~ his brother with his his [SIC] Regiment, went back and made search, but all in vain. His affliction was very great.

The weather at this time was fine, the heat excessive, – I hardly ever remember greater especially in Paris. I was attached to the Military Hospital established in a great Barrack at S^t Dennis, and had a quarter in the house of a Surgeon, who had served in the French army in the Russian Campaign. The Hospital duties were light, and being so near the Capital, there was hardly a day I did not visit it. Some time I lost owing to an accident. While riding in the Boulevard, a led horse which I was passing <flung> up his heels and dismounted me by a blow on my

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knee, owing to which, I was laid up for some days. – Soon after I was quartered in Paris.

[×] The Mission to Siam and Pegu in 1821 ~~and~~ 2 a posthumous work. My friend died in 1823, at the Cape of Good Hope of pulmonary disease contracted whilst on this mission.

Paris was at that time more than commonly interesting, so many circumstances were peculiar. Though in the possession of the Allied Army the order of things remained unchanged. No shops were shut, no business interrupted. There was general security by night as well as by day. The Parisians crowded to see the Reviews of the Allied Forces. Enjoyment, rather than depression seemed the pervading feeling. I had a servant, and a very good one, – who had just left the Army of the Loire. On my arrival, the great collections in the Louvre, of pictures and statues were entire. – Soon after they were broken up and the most celebrated works were restored to the cities from

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which they had been taken. Our men of the staff corps were chiefly employed in taking them down. No attempt at resistance was made, yet I well remember the gloomy faces of the people, collected in little groupes [sic] in the “Place de Carousel,” whilst the Horses of the Sun were removed by a party of Artillerymen.

Whilst in Paris I renewed my acquaintance with Professor Orphila and formed the acquaintance of Dr William Edwards. – I was introduced to Cuvier, to Vauquelin, and to Biot, and to some other French Savants, and amongst them Guyton de Morveau, then of an advanced old age. My red coat coat was not a recommendation [sic], and with, the exception of Orfila, I received no atten- [sic] from them. Once I breakfasted with him. – He had been lately married; – it was thought proper

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that there should be tea. How to make it was the difficulty, and it tasked the ability of the lady, and her maids with the assistance of the Professor. Whilst in Paris I received promotion, – the first step, – that of Assistant Surgeon to the Forces.

In the early Autumn, having received an order to proceed to Ceylon, I left Paris for England by way of Calais, travelling by Diligence, without Passport as a British Officer. I hastened into Cornwall to spend a little while with my Mother and sisters. Whilst there I had an attack of pneumonia which reduced me to a very feeble state, – i e the disease and the treatment, for I was largely blooded. As soon as I was able to travel I proceeded to Town, stopping a night at Worcester with my friend Malden. After spending a few days

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[1816 AT HEAD OF PAGE] in London with my Brother, then residing in Grosvenor Street, – still far from well, I proceeded by post chaise to Gravesend, to embark, having had official information that the Transport, the “Prince of Orange,” – in which I was to go, was ready for sea. So poorly was I that I rose from bed, to get into the chaise that took me.

On the 7th of Feb. 1816 we took our departure, with a contrary wind, and unpromising weather. There <were> several Officers on board, with small detachments of troops, for the Cape, the Isle of France, and Ceylon. Much was the confusion at first and great the discomfort, – indeed throughout the voyage, which was a protracted one, little was the comfort we experienced. But I was young, – I suffered less than usual from sea sickness, which I attributed to

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[1816 AT HEAD OF PAGE] my previously reduced state, and I soon at sea recovered my health. Throughout the voyage, I was diligent in observing, and made regularly notes of the temperature of the [~~tempe~~] atmosphere and ocean, and not only by day, but also with the assistance of the first mate of the ship at night. The results were given in a paper, which was published in the “Transactions of the Royal Society” for 1817. We did not reach the Cape of Good Hope until the 12th of May. We remained there until the 3^d of June, and very pleasant was our sojourn in a Country new to me, and with opportunities of seeing all that was deserving of notice at Cape Town and its neighbourhood.

On the 8th of July we made the Isle of France, – and I landed the same day. We remained there until the 17th: – Whilst on shore

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I experienced most kind attention from Governor Farquhar to whom a [SIC] I had letters of introduction <and> from Mr [?Blane] Colonial Secretary, – and from Assistant Surgeon Hoskins, of the <two> latter of whom <(they kept house together)> I was the guest. The island was charming, and as an example of tropical scenery, the first I had ever witnessed, it exceed- [SIC] my expectations. Our voyage terminated on the 13th of August: on that day we landed at Colombo, the seat of Government in Ceylon. I bore letters to the Governor Sir Robert Brownrigg by whom and by Lady Brownrigg, I was very kindly received. A good quarter was assigned me, a furnished house, close to the Government House, – and I was from that time, and as long as I remained in the island, put on the footing of the Governor's personal staff, and domestic circle. My notes of the voyage

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written in pencil, regularly kept from day to day are preserved.

I remained in Ceylon until Feb 1820 when, at the desire of the Governor I left it, accompanying him and Lady Brownrigg on their return to England. He was in a feeble state of health, and though invited by Sir Edward Barnes his successor to remain, – I considered it a duty (irrespective of the order) to accompany my patient. I owed him much in the way of gratitude for all the kindness I experienced from him, and more than kindness, for the temporary appointment I owed to him that of

Physician to the Forces, but in which I was not confirmed on my return. The time I passed in Ceylon was an eventful one. A rebellion occurred, of the natives of the interior, i e, of the Kandyan Province instigated by

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[1817 AT HEAD OF PAGE] their chiefs which was put down with difficulty, and after serious losses of men on our part, more from disease, than from the attacks of the enemy. The rebellion broke out suddenly in October 1817, and was not entirely suppressed until the same month of the year following. I have given an account of it in my work on the Interior of Ceylon which was published in 1821, the materials of which I chiefly collected whilst we were in a manner shut up in Kandy, and in doubt whether we should ever leave it, so desperate at one time seemed our position[.]

On the whole, the time I spent in this beautiful and interesting Island was one of much enjoyment. I had uninterrupted good health. – I travelled much, exploring most parts of the country, some of them never seen

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by an European before, and I had more than ordinary opportunities for collecting information. My friend Finlayson arrived in Ceylon soon after I did, and, having like tastes, we assisted each other in our inquiries. He left Ceylon before me, having

received an appointment to a Cavalry Regiment in Bengal, from whence he went with Mr Crawford to Ava, where he contracted the disease of which he died. We never met again.

Of the various excursions which I made in Ceylon, an account will be found in the work already referred to. – This work was written at home during the autumn and winter after my return, while I was on half pay, and in an infirm state of health. It was published by Messrs Longman, and I received for the Copyright £500. I have mentioned that I accompanied the Governor

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[[?Home] 1820 AT HEAD OF PAGE] on his returned after giving up his Command in Ceylon. He chartered a ship for the voyage, and a very pleasant voyage it was. None but his own party were the passengers, besides Sir Robert and Lady Brownrigg there <were> her brother <the Rev:> Mr Bisset, Lt Colonel Hardy, Captain King, and Captain Page. We each had a cabin. Great was the contrast in point of comfort between the return and my outward voyage. We embarked at Colombo on the 1st Feb: 1820, and reached the Cape on the 18th of March; – tarried there until the 20th of April for the purpose of refitting, – our vessel having having [SIC] received some damage in bad weather when rounding the cape. From thence we proceeded to St Helena that island, then the abode of Napoleon, being in our way. During the few hours we anchored there, – on the 5th of May, we landed and visited

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the spot of the Ex Emperor's imprisonment. We reached England and landed at Gravesend on the 24th of June. Of this homeward voyage I also made pretty copious notes & the journal containing them is preserved. Many extracts were made from it, and published in the "Edinburgh Quarterly Journal of Science" edited by Sir David Brewster.

I remained only two or three months on half pay. The Director General offered me the Surgeoncy of the 15th Regiment, then in the West Indies, with the assurance that as soon as possible, I should have a staff appointment. This offer, I accepted, but did not join the Regiment. Shortly, I was promoted according to promise to a Staff Surgeoncy, and proceeded to Fort Pitt, Chatham, where I had

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[1820 AT HEAD OF PAGE] charge of the Medical Division of the General Hospital. This was early in May 1821. On leaving home I took leave of my dear Mother for the last time. She died in September 1826 in her 73^d year. – She had the gratification of witnessing the progress of her eldest son to the attainment of honours more than she could ever have hoped for, with the assurance at the same time that she retained his love and respect. Never was there a Mother who deserved more of both from her

children. – Sincerity, strict integrity, absence of all affectation with a loving gentleness and sound sense were her characteristics.

With the exception of a little tour which I made in Ireland in July 1821, as far as the Giants Causeway, I continued at Fort Pitt in the same charge until the advanced Autumn of 1823, – when I proceeded to Edinburgh

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[1823 AT HEAD OF PAGE] to perform the duties of Principal Medical Officer in Scotland.

The tour just mentioned as to agreeableness, had only one drawback which was my feeble state of health. We posted the whole way, spending the second day in Derbyshire on the banks of the Dove – in Dovedale. It was the Coronation day (the 19th July) of George the iv. My Brother left London purposely to avoid being present at the ceremony. We crossed from Port Patrick. – I remember at Coleraine where I purchased some little article and presented a sovereign in payment, that <that> coin was ignored by the shopkeeper, it being the first he had ever seen.

After visiting the Giant's Causeway that remarkable pavement, as it were of truncated basaltic columns I left my Brother, and crossed the Channel to Liverpool in a small

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vessel conveying Salmon, packed, in ice, for the Liverpool Market, – and from thence I went by coach on a visit to my friend Mrs Fletcher who had taken up her abode for that summer in a Cottage belonging to Mrs Smith of Tent Lodge on the banks of Coniston Water. – I spent a week there renewing an acquaintance begun while I was a student, and ever after most highly valued. My health was then wretched, and I believe the impression my appearance produced was, that my days were numbered and that I had not long to live. Margaret and Mary Fletcher were then both with their Mother. I remember one little incident regarding the former, denoting her kindly nature. In a short walk we were taking together we met an old woman carrying water, evidently tasking her little strength. Margaret

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without hesitation offered her <help> aid [*SIC*] and carried the bucket for her. Afterwards I often thought of the little occurrence and it was a fond and endearing recollection, though the event which was destined for me never then crossed my mind.

I remained in Edinburgh the whole of the winter of 1823-24 until the May following. That is of 1824, when I was ordered to proceed on duty ~~on-duty~~ to the Ionian Islands. It was a winter most agreeably spent, affording me an opportunity of renewing many old acquaintances formed while a student, and of forming some

new ones. Sir Thomas Bradford was the General Commanding in North Britain. From the nature of my appointment, I was much at his house, – having to report to him

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[1824 AT HEAD OF PAGE] regularly on the state of health of the Troops, and I often dined at his table. It was at a dinner party at The Dean (the name of the house he occupied) that I first met, and was introduced to, Sir Walter Scott, and had an opportunity of witnessing the charm he exercised over Society by his cheerful unaffected manner and agreeable talk, abounding in anecdote. Great was the contrast between him and his wife in every way. I remember her entering the room after him, – She was somewhat fantastically dressed, – & his saying to her, “How you are bedizened! how fancy like you are my dear”! It was then, just before my leaving Edinburgh that I took my last leave of M^r Fletcher, and Mr Henry Mackenzie, both in advanced age and both very feeble,

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but with intellects unimpaired. The former was confined to his bed room in Castle Street owing to temporary ailment. I had his blessing, and also that of the “Man of feeling” whom I found in his own room alone, with his black velvet cap on, a sign in

the family of a state of depression rendering it doubtful whether he could see me. When asked however, he graciously assented[.] His parting words, with his “God bless you” were, We shall never meet again,” – a sad truth applicable to many friends of whom I then took leave.

My scientific labours during these last three years were not many. They principally resulted in three papers which I contributed to the Royal Society, and which were published in its “Transactions[.]

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[1824 AT HEAD OF PAGE] My health whilst I was in Scotland greatly improved; – indeed from this time I enjoyed year after year of almost uninterruptedly good health. To my preceding delicate state I owed my appointment to the Mediterranean, – for Canada had been the Station to which in regular course I should have gone. It was on the 9th of May 1824 that I embarked at Gravesend for the Ionian Islands. The vessel – the “[?Aurora]” was a Brig of small tonnage. Besides myself there were only two passengers, one a very intelligent and agreeable man a M^r Briggs a [?pautener] in a mercantile house at Alexandria. We parted at Malta, I leaving him to continue his voyage. A Transport conveying a detachment of the 18th Regiment took me to Corfu. The voyage was throughout very agreeable, – the weather

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fine, the sea commonly smooth and objects of interest often in sight. At Gibralter [sic] we stopped for a few hours, and I dined with the General whose name I now forget. I found there an old acquaintance, a Colonel <Rennie> Kennie whom I had known in Scotland on the staff of Sir Thomas Bradford. At Malta also, I had a like honour. – The Marquis of Hastings was then Governor, a most courteous Man, with a very amiable family. I remember well the youthful appearance of all of them, – and their simple graceful manners, of which they have an excellent example in their Mother.

Leaving Malta, on the 19th June with a servant, – a Maltese whom I had engaged to accompany me we reached Corfu on the 25th of June. I remained at Corfu

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until the 2^d July, when I reembarked, and proceeded in the same Transport to Zante where I was to be stationed. We arrived there on the 4th of July.

After spending some months in this beautiful Island, where my duties were chiefly of superintendence, [sic] – and making a very agreeable tour through the mountainous district, – an account of which is given in my work “on the Ionian Islands & Malta” – I proceeded to Cephalonia, where I remained ~~too~~, only a few months but long enough to see the greater portion of the Island and its most remarkable antiquities[.]

Previously to my finally quitting it I paid a visit to Ithaca and explored most parts of it. My companion was a gentleman of Cephalonia who had a relation residing at Vathi the principal town of Ithaca, by whom

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we were very kindly received and entertained. I remember well the hearty welcome, the embraces of the kinsfolk, and the kisses they exchanged[.]

In connection with the Odyssey this ~~was~~ is the most interesting of all the Ionian Islands. We were taken to the site (so called) of the Palace of Ulysses; – to his garden, – to the fountain of Arethusa, and other spots of Homeric fame, which had their names <as given> by Sir William Gell, and, as according with the poet's description, – probably correctly. For ages the classical names had given place to others, having been forgotten in barbarous times.

Whilst I was in Cephalonia an Earthquake occurred which was very destructive in Santa Maura. The shock extended to Argostoli and excited much alarm. I was with the then Resident, Sir Charles Sutton at Government House.

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The sensation experienced was as if a gigantic being had taken up the building bodily, and was shaking it. We expected every instant a collapse of the walls. At

Zante which is peculiarly subject to earthquakes and which had suffered much from them, I experienced many shocks, but no one so severe as this.

The Lord High Commissioner Sir Frederic Adam, who had received me very kindly at Corfu, was desirous that I should see as much as possible of these Islands, and afforded me every opportunity of examining them. After I had in a manner satisfied my curiosity about them I was ordered to Corfu which was afterward my permanent station. I spent the first week after my arrival at the Palace, where I formed the acquaintance of Colonel Charles Napier who afterwards distinguished himself in India. Then he and Sir Frederick

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Adam were the best of friends, and I could never have imagined that the former would or could act as he did, a few years later, in attacking in pique the character of the latter in a volume of some five hundred pages, written much after the manner of Swift in his most acrid mood. Colonel Napier in conversation was animated, and nowise common place; in all things good and evil he was energetic. The dinner hour at the Palace was five oclock, commonly after dinner we took a walk together, and had some very pleasant talk. – I saw him once again; – Sir F Adam <hearing> that he was unwell at Cephalonia. of which Island Col: Napier had the appointment of “Resident” requested me to go down by the Steamer to ascertain his state about

which he was anxious. On my arrival at Argostoli I learned that he was at some distance

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[1824 AT HEAD OF PAGE] inspecting a road in progress, – so little did he ail. This was shortly after his return from England with a wife, a lady then well advanced in years, and an invalid from gout. It was an early love renewed, after the marriage of the lady and the death of her husband. – I mention the incident of this visit, in proof of the regard Sir F Adam felt towards him.

Before settling down to my regular staff duties in Corfu I made a tour of the Island on horse back accompanied by a guide, and a very agreeable tour it proved. It was on the 1st of April 1824 that we set out. There being no Inns in the Country, I had to put up for the night at the house of the chief man of each village we reached after our days journey, thus ~~having an~~ having an opportunity afforded me of seeing a little of

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the domestic manners of these persons denominated primati. This excursion occupied a week, – I returned on the 7th. – notes of this short tour are to be found written in pencil in two little red covered speckled books, and in that marked No 2,

is an account of the ascent of St Salvador the highest hill in the Island. It was made in the company of the Austrian Consul General Sir J [?Haumenschild] and his lady wife.

On the 13th and 14th August, we slept on the top, to witness sunrise. We had a room assigned us in a rude building connected with a Chapel, dedicated to the tutelary saint to whom the mountain owes its modern name. We had to sleep on some boards which were laid on the damp floor. My provident friend had brought some pillow cases, which, filled with fern, answered well the

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purpose of pillows. One amusing anecdote I remember of this worthy man. His acquaintance was very large, and he specially prided himself on the many Savants, and persons of distinction he knew. – Thinking that as an Austrian he might be able to give me information respecting a fish, which my brother took an interest in, the Huco (*Salmo Huco*) I asked him if he knew it. His rapid reply was “Oh yes very well, he is a very distinguished Man. –”

Whilst stationed in Corfu I made some other excursions, one in a small government vessel we had the use of, with Captain Harper R. E. round the coast of Corfu and to the several islets adjoining the coast, the principal of which were Fanno, – (the isle of Calypso) & Paxo. Our chief object was the study of geology, and the localities.

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We had fine weather, saw much that was interesting in points of scenery, and in the habits of the people [?&c][.]

Another excursion was to Santa Maura and Ithaca, and the Islets between the two, in the inland sea between these Islands and the Mainland of Greece. Santa Maura I explored on horseback accompanied by a guide. It was shortly after <an> Earthquake which had levelled almost every house to the ground, and occasioned considerable loss of life. The wild scenery of Santa Maura is very beautiful, indeed I hardly know any thing finer in the way of scenery than the view from the Lencadian Promontory – (Sappho's leap) where there are still the remains of a small temple which was dedicated to Apollo.

I remember on this journey an

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incident of a curious kind. In a distant spot many miles from the garrison we heard martial music, as if a military band was playing not very far off. How the effect was produced I was perfectly ignorant. – It may have been a day dream, for I do not now remember whether my companion heard it also.

From Santa Maura, I went to Ithaca in an open ~~boat~~ row boat a Scampavia, belonging to the Gov^t well manned and very sea worthy. We were two or three days on our way. The weather was rather stormy, and the sea rough, and yet in navigating that very beautiful sea there was enjoyment. We landed ~~with regret~~. each night in the classical way; once in a small desert Islet overgrown with Arbutus myrtle and other shrubs. We made a rock our table, and I had a comfortable bed made for me under an awning on deck. The other night was passed on shore at [?Maritanapi/?Maritanassi]

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[1827 AT HEAD OF PAGE] where there was a small detachment of troops. The few inhabitants were an example of a people leading a most simple kind of life. In my note books an account will be found of this excursion, and also of two others, and more distant, one to Cerigo in July 1827, the other to the Dardanelles, in the early spring of the preceding year. I shall make mention of the latter first. – I owed it to having medically ~~to~~ attended Lady Canning, during an attack of scarlet fever, which she had whilst ~~she had~~ at Corfu, on her way with her husband the Ambassador, to Constantinople. After entering the Archipelago, we spent a few hours off Hydra, and saw Admiral [?Mioulis] Mioulis (who so honorably distinguished himself in the war of Grecian freedom, –) and also Mavrocordato. They had an interview with our Ambassador on board “the Revenge.” The same

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evening that we sailed from thence we were overtaken by a storm most unexpectedly when in full sail. The "Revenge" a 74 lost all her sails, the top mast, and main yard; a ten gun brig, the Algerine was capsized and every soul on board perished, – a crew of about 70 men and a fine frigate the Cambrian also in company sustained ~~the~~ [?some/?same] serious loss. On the following morning we were driving before the wind under bare poles. – I well remember passing Cape Colonna, and its awful appearance in the Storm, – its white ruins strikingly contrasted with the dark sky and sea. We took refuge in the Bay of Smyrna. – Landing I saw a Turkish town, with all its many peculiarities, for the first time. Afterwards we touched at Ipsara, an Island little more than two years previously one of the most flourishing in the Archipelago, then

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a desert, having been devastated by the Turks in 1824 and all its inhabitants either slaughtered in its defence, or made slaves with the exception of those who escaped in their shipping. The town in ruins was a most melancholy sight. In one spot we saw some three or four hundred bodies lying where they fell in gallant defence of the Battery where they were stationed, and so little were they changed, that the

solitary inhabitant, who acted as our guide could name them individually. Before reaching the Dardanelles we anchored first off Cape Baba on the Asiatic shore, and next between Tenedos, and the Troad. I landed with an officer of the of the [SIC] “Revenge” and went two or three miles inland through a wild country very partially cultivated. Camels the most

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stupid looking of animals browsing in the fields, though the ground was not quite free from snow.

In turning an abrupt rock, an Eagle wide of wing, – a noble bird sprang up within a few yards of us. We turned back, after visiting a rude village. At the coffee house of this place where we halted a few minutes and where we found some men assembled, we excited their curiosity[.] They seemed surprised that we had come amongst them unarmed. They pulled at our walking sticks as if as if [SIC] they supposed that these contained swords. We experienced from them nothing but civility. Whilst at anchor off the Troad waiting for a message from Constantinople, we landed daily, and rode over that remarkable and famous plain with its two rivers, small sluggish streams, to which poetry alone

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could impart an interest, and its several mounds or tumuli as they are called, which to me seemed rather the work of nature than of human labour. The quantity of game in the Troad was surprising, woodcocks, partridges, swans, hares [?&c]. Eagles were to be seen constantly soaring in the air, five or six at a time. When the marshes were disturbed such flocks of wild ducks rose as to ~~obscure the light~~ darken the air, and very remarkable was the sound of their wings. – The officers expended all their ammunition, ~~and~~ so great was their sport, and were compelled to get powder from the ships[.] At the Dardanelles, where we next anchored, the Ambassador received a message from the Porte, an officer of high rank welcoming him. There I had an opportunity

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of witnessing the animated game of the Jerried, played by Turkish horsemen, which since has been prohibited, from the danger attending it. – It is a mimic war. The same day we dined with the Pasha. I was one of four who accompanied our Ambassador, – a luxurious repast it was, and entirely after the Turkish fashion, using neither knife nor fork.

At the Dardanelles I left the Ambassador, not being able to accompany him on horseback (he rode to Constantinople) – owing to the illness of my servant whom I did not like to leave behind. I returned in the Admiral's Tender, – of which Slade, now himself an Admiral in the Turkish Service was then a midshipman, a very

clever and agreeable person. Before we left the Dardanelles we made two or three excursions to the villages

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bordering on the desolate Troad and slept ~~that~~ one night in the house of a Greek, – a farm house with many comforts, though its inmates made many complaints the burden of which was, – referring to the Turks, that they were their slaves, in too strong figures of speech.

At a Coffee House at the Dardanelles, the [scribe] of the place seeing me using a thermometer, begged to look at it. The first thing he did when he had it in his hand was to put it to his ear, fancying, I infer that it would tick, – that it was some kind of watch, – the only instrument of Science the common Turks are acquainted with.

On our way in returning our vessel was hailed by a boat crowded with armed men, seemingly with piratical intent. This was off a Headland of Negropont. They presently

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came along side, and learning what our vessel was, – a ship of war, – they made off. Fortunately they were not aware that our guns were in the hold, placed there on

entering Turkish waters. How well I remember the confusion ~~and~~ <in> the hurried attempt to repel an attack, – had they thought proper to board us, – the rushing about for swords and pistols and other small arms. – I was landed at Zante, and had to pass some days there at the Lazaretto in Quarantine where at my leisure I wrote an account of this excursion which remains. – My recollections of our Ambassador ~~were~~ are none of them agreeable. Talents he has undoubtedly, but I saw nothing noble in his character. His temper was remarkable for irritability. He seemed to me, a most unsafe man, so much under the influence of feelings, not of the best kind and

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[1827 AT HEAD OF PAGE] so ready both to give and take offence. Had a man of more judgment and better temper been at Constantinople before the Crimean war, that war would probably not have taken place. The Emperor Nicholas hated him personally, – and he personally hated the Russians. Lady Canning was as distinguished for amiability as he was for the reverse. She was young, and they had been lately married.

My visit to Cerigo in the ~~following~~ year <1827>, was made in a Government Schooner, in which I ~~afterwards went~~ <had before gone> with Sir William Forbes to Naples. Sir Frederick Adam was at Cerigo at the same time. He went there in Admiral Codrington's ship which as we learnt entered the Archipelago fully prepared for action. Shortly after, in command of the allied fleet he attacked the

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Turkish fleet at Navarino. We saw on the shore the Egyptian army of Mahomet Ali encamped, as we passed Navarino.

Cerigo was at the time of our visit in <but> a little advanced state, though the Resident, Major Macphail, had done much to improve it. – The first bridge that was built there was by masons ignorant of the principle of the arch, and having no confidence in its stability, the first flood that occurred after its erection excited the master mason's fears. Major Macphail found him the following morning on his knees by the bridge supplicating the Madonna to protect it. The most interesting sights that I saw at Cerigo were the schools which had been opened to educate the children who were sent there, as a place of safety during the war then raging in the Morea.

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There were several hundred boys and girls, and the advances they had made in a short time were remarkable. I never saw children display more animation and intelligence. The female teacher taught the girls sewing, and she had taught herself, by means of "the system of needle work," which had been translated for her use by a Greek Judge. –

This part of my life, that is while I was in ~~Corfu~~ the Ionian Islands and especially in Corfu was a very agreeable one. There was so much there to enjoy. – A fine climate, most beautiful scenery, pleasant society, and no over pressure of duty. Indeed I had ample leisure for any pursuit I liked to engage in. Almost every day, I was on horseback, and most charming were the rides through olive groves, – often

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with an underwood of myrtle, with varied prospects extending beyond the green hills, and blue sea, to the mountains of Greece, – for a good part of the year capped or covered with snow. –

Before I was finally removed from the Ionian Islands on promotion to the higher grade of Physician to the Forces, – I had leave of absence* from Sir Frederick Ponsonby, then acting as Lord High Commissioner, – Sir Frederic Adam being absent in Scotland. Two motives induced me to ask for it, – one a desire to be in England, another to oblige a patient in whom I took much interest, then in the advanced stage of consumption, whom his Father Sir William Forbes had come to see, bringing with him a physician Dr Ferguson, – from London[.] Sir W^m Forbes's wish was to take his son to Italy, – but he would not consent

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* This was in the autumn of 1826.

to go unless I accompanied him. Lieutenant Forbes was a very amiable and engaging person, and his Father had been too long ignorant of his state, indeed he only learnt it from a letter which I wrote to Sir Frederic Adam. He was devoted to his son when he knew his real danger. – He was allowed the use of the Government Schooner “The Bathurst,” and had a cabin fitted up on deck for the invalid. – We embarked at Corfu on the 28th of August 1826, and reached Malta not till the 8th of September, where we were put into quarantine in the harbour of that name. My young friend’s case was hopeless, but he bore the short voyage well, and was always cheerful when I was by his side, – yet he rapidly became worse, and while still in quarantine he expired. During the last few hours, he was in

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in [SIC] a state of unconsciousness. After the fatal event we left the vessel and continued our Quarantine at Fort Manuel, where we had spacious apartments. – A most melancholy place it was, and my position was not less so. On one side of me was a Father overwhelmed with grief; on the other the corpse of my friend. I am thinking now of the place I occupied at night. Our quarantine expired on the 24th of September, and the same day, Captain Forbes, – (he had been promoted just before [SIC] his death) was buried in the English burying ground of Valetta.

A few hours after we got under way and crossed to Girgenti. We left in the Quarantine harbour Lord Cochrane who was then on his way to Greece to take a part in the war. – His schooner was very like our vessel, and from its likeness, brought us into

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trouble at Catania. As we lay at anchor we were sufficiently near to watch him when on deck, and often he was to be seen walking, with a vigorous step, backwards & forwards. At Girgenti we landed at the mole, visited the noble remains of the ancient Temples in the neighbourhood of the town, passed the night ~~and~~ in the Town, after visiting the sulphur mines at a short distance. The heat of the day was oppressive and I felt very unwell from diareha [SIC]. At our late supper at a very dirty Inn, there was iced water on the table; – suffering from thirst I could not resist the temptation it offered. – I drank of it freely, slept well, and rose in the morning quite well. Reembarking at the Mole about three miles from the Town ~~of~~–[?Catania], we proceeded to Syracuse where also we landed

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and spent a few hours. There was little to remind one, in our days, of its ancient glories. We descended into a bath room excavated out of the rock, of ample

dimensions where during the heat of day the air was delightfully cool. We visited too a little Museum of antiquities belonging to a gentleman of the town, where amongst other things more deserving of attention, we were shown a pair of English fire tongs which had probably belonged to a ship which had been wrecked, but which the Collector valued as being Roman. We next cast anchor in the little port of Catania. Here we were received in very hostile manner, the inhabitants <(the Police)> having taken it into their heads that the vessel was Lord Cochrane's, and that, were he to land, there would be danger of the people's rising and proclaiming him

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King, knowing how dissatisfied they were under an oppressive Government and severe taxation. Guard boats were stationed round our little vessel and sentinels on the jetty, threatening to fire, if we left the vessel. By means of an intelligent Inn keeper, who was allowed to come along side, we sent a message to our Vice Consul at Syracuse, begging his aid. The message brought back was sufficiently satisfactory to allow of our landing, but this only after two or three days' detention. Our object chiefly was to ascend Etna, and we lost no time in accomplishing it. We left the Town in the evening, travelling in the night in hopes of seeing sunrise from the Summit. The several regions we passed through had each its character. – As far as Nicalosi the last village, the country is

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highly cultivated, – vineyards and gardens abounding. After Nicalosi we entered on a bleak declivity of ashes in which fig trees here and there were planted in earth brought for their support. – Beyond this was a region of great Volcanic slags, through which we had to wind our way, – a scene of utter desolation. From this we suddenly passed into a forest of old oaks with luxuriant ferns underneath. – From this we emerged into another region of great slags which continued to the Casa Inglese, – at the foot of the crater where we found the ground deeply covered with snow. Here we stopped, – the cold was considerable. The wind had been high, – a lad the son of one of the muleteers felt it so much that he was crying from ~~cold~~ his suffering. – A glass of acqua ardente

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was given him, which changed his crying into merry laughter.

Sir W Forbes did not attempt the ascent of the cone, above the Casa Inglese. I scrambled up amongst great masses of lava and scoriae, but owing to clouds had not the satisfaction of seeing the sun-rise. Yet the immense crater, – perhaps three miles in circumference edged with a border of snow and its profound gulfs sending up clouds of vapour was worth the labour of the ascent.

Catania is one of the best Towns in Sicily; it has been several times destroyed by earthquakes, and after such, it has been rebuilt as if in defiance, with houses loftier and larger, and more exposed to danger. I received during our ~~one~~ short stay there a visit from a monk of a great Monastery of the Benedictines [*SIC*],

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who presented me with a book in which he flattered himself that he had proved Sir Isaac Newtons theory to be unfounded. – At Nicolasi on our way up Etna, where we stopt for a brief time, a little incident occurred ~~a little incident occurred~~ which impressed me at the time, and which I have not forgotten. Whilst I was standing at the door of the Inn, looking up at the great mountain surrounded by its hundred hills, the Landlady spoke to me saying, “Do not look there, look here,” and she directed my attention to a pink in flower in the window a pretty carnation, she adding, “Is it not beautiful?”

From Catania we proceeded to Messina and from thence to Palermo. – At the former, we saw marks of the terrible effects of an earthquake in some trunca<ted> buildings on the [?Marino/?Mareno]. The country

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there about, bears in its broken up character very much the aspect of having been the scene of subterraneous violence. The prospect across the narrow strait to Calabria with the Town of Reggio in sight, – a hilly broken and wooded country is not without interest. The whirl of waters, – the Charybdis of the ancients is still active in the Channel, and we felt it in our ~~Channel~~ vessel, but it is no longer considered an object of danger and horror.

Palermo is a city of many charms from its fine situation and many picturesque buildings of Saracenic style, – The plain in its rear bounded by lofty hills is richly cultivated. We crossed it to visit a church of some celebrity on one of the lower hills of which I have but a very vague recollection. Leaving Sicily on our way to Naples, we touched

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at some of the Lipari <Islands>, Stromboli Volcano, and Lipari. – At Stromboli the mountain ~~which~~ is in an almost constant volcanic activity, – indeed when it ceases, as it occasionally does, the inhabitants become alarmed. There is an eruption almost every minute, red hot ashes being ejected with an explosive noise, and the trembling of the mountain. The sensation produced by the latter was singular. The view from the summit about 3000 feet, – of the surrounding sea, was if all was air and as if the ships seen were floating in air. The colour of the two, – of the atmosphere, and water being identical at that height. The inhabitants of the Island, about 1000, seemed in

easy circumstances and a happy race. They depend chiefly on their vineyards. I was told that there was no medical man amongst them

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[~~nor Lawyer~~] nor Lawyer and only one priest. – I asked one of the people at whose house we stopped what he did to preserve health. – his only precaution he said was, – after working in his vineyard to change his shirt.

Volcano is remarkable for its crater a deep hollow of easy descent where now, as more than two thousand years ago, from the noises you hear and the jets of smoke you see, you might imagine the caverns below to be the forges of Vulcan. – Recently Science has turned it into a Chemical manufactory. The vapours are condensed by appropriate apparatus, and various valuable products collected[.]

Lipari is the chief of the Islands which bear that name, and the seat of the Local government. We were there only a few hours, and had

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a striking instance of the loose manner in which the business of Quarantine is conducted. When we landed, our Vice Consul came down and received us, warmly shaking hands with us. Presently the Quarantine master was seen approaching; – that instant the Vice Consul stepped back, making demonstrations that we must

keep at a distance, until our papers were examined; these being in order we had pratique; – he advanced again congratulating us on the occasion. – We landed at Naples on the 22nd of October. During the time we remained there, – six days, – I saw in hurried manner the principal objects of interest. I ascended Vesuvius and visited Pompeii and Herculaneum, the solfaterra [?&c &c].

One night I slept in the house of my brothers friend Monticelli, by whom I was very kindly received.

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Our journey to Rome, posting in a light carriage, occupied two days. The second night we slept at Albano and the following morning we reached Rome where ~~we had an affectionate meeting~~ Sir William Forbes had an affectionate meeting with his children, of whom James, the afterwards distinguished Professor, was the youngest. After spending a few days with this agreeable family, and after seeing some of the most remarkable objects of this most interesting City, I set out alone on my way to England by way of Florence, Bologna, Parma, Milan Turin, Mont Cenis, Lyons, Paris, Calais, Dover, where I landed on the 9th of December. From London I went to Penzance to visit my sisters, and from thence into Northamptonshire to meet my Brother then on a visit to Mr Watts Russel,

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[1827 AT HEAD OF PAGE] and from thence into Monmouthshire on a visit to Sir Robert and Lady Brownrigg at Hilstone House. There I received an account of my brother's failing health which alarmed me. – I soon joined him in Town, and on the 22nd, January – 1827, he being recommended to make trial of the climate of Italy, we set out together. I accompanied him as far as Ravenna where he halted for a time, having quarters most courteously offered to him, – <in> the Vice Legate's Palace with the pleasure of Monsignor Spada Medici's friendly visits. From thence, having to return to Corfu, I proceeded to Ancona where I embarked on the [?1/?2]4th of March in a Trabaccolo, and after a stormy voyage, touching at several places on the Dalmatian Coast, reached my old station on the 27th, where with the exception of of [sic] an excursion

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to Cerigo formerly mentioned I remained until I left it finally in March (the 2nd) <1828> for my new Station at Malta. Some details of these several voyages and excursions are to be found in my note books which are preserved, and also of a second voyage [?to] which I made to Naples from Malta ~~to Naples~~, commencing on the 8th of March 1829 to join my brother then seriously ill at Rome, and my return (after his death at Geneva) sailing from Marseilles on the 19th of June 1829, arriving at Malta on the 29th of that month. One more voyage I made from Malta before my

marriage. This was to Genoa on my way to England on leave. I embarked on the 3^d of October 1829 and reached Genoa on the 20th. I remained in England until the early spring of 1830. – After our marriage[×] we went through

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[1830 AT HEAD OF PAGE] France, spending a few days in Paris, embarked at Marseilles on the 21st of April and reached our destination on the 28th. Whilst I was in the Ionian Islands & at Malta, I ~~did~~ <was> not altogether idle in the way of research. I laboured a good deal on the blood, and contributed several papers on that subject, and one on the biauricular structure of the heart of Batrachians, before supposed by the highest authorities in comparative anatomy to have a single auricle. Most of these papers are to be found in my “anatomical and Physiological Researches”. At Malta too I made many experiments on the Torpedo, and obtained some new results, shewing a certain similarity between the effects of its electrical organ, and that of other forms of electricity, – such as its power of decomposing water, <fragmenting steel> and

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its’ producing heat. These results were communicated to the Royal Society, and were published in its “Transactions,” as were also the observations which I had an

[×] on the 8 of March 1830

opportunity of making on a volcano, which burst out in the sea off the coast of Sicily in the summer of 1831. My chemical enquiries while at Malta were chiefly confined to an examination of the several combinations of ammonia with Carbonic acid, and of Phosphorus as influenced in relation to oxidation by different agents and physical circumstances. The results obtained were published in Jameson's [?Edn°] "Phlosphical [SIC] Journal," as was also a short paper on the combination of silicated fluoric acid with a union accompanied by ignition[.] I may mention one other paper, – one on atmospheric electricity which was published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

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I should not omit mentioning that some of my leisure whilst at Malta was given to the looking over my Brother's note books, and making extracts from them, which were afterwards of use in my writing the memoir of his life, [?whi], that which was published by Messrs Longman in two vols 8^{vo} in 1835. Those extracts are to be found collected in several M. S., and in your Mothers clear & excellent hand writing, who took an interest in the task not less than my own. These M. S books six or seven in number, I hope will be carefully preserved.

As a ~~Member~~ <President> of the Medical Council of the University of Malta I hope I was of some service; – at my suggestion and urging, a theatre was built for

anatomical instruction and I had the satisfaction of seeing a Dispensary established in Valetta

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for administering medical and surgical help to the poor, the funds for the carrying on of which, were supplied by the Government. The other Members of the Medical Council were Maltese, and were often too indulgent to the students in their examinations. I recollect one striking instance; it made the greater impression on my mind in connection with the ballot. On one occasion, not a single student passed his examination in a manner creditable to him. When the ballot box was brought to me (thus the opinion of the Members was declared) all the balls but one were white, – mine was the only black ball! – As *viva voce* they had expressed their great dissatisfaction, I inferred that there had been a mistake, and had the box handed round again. The result was the same. On

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my expressing my astonishment to the Professor of Chemistry of whom I thought well, a D^r Aquilina whom I had recommended to the chair. He said that he was ashamed of himself and of his Colleagues who had not the courage to do their duty

because by so doing they would have gained the displeasure of the friends of the youths, if they – the latter, had been rejected.

The time we spent at Malta was on the whole a happy one; there was an agreeable society there, – the climate suited us pretty well, though I occasionally suffered from attacks of lumbago, and with the exception of one severe illness after her third confinement, your Mother's health though never strong never was a cause of alarm. The greatest anxiety we ever had there was on account of our first born Grace, whom we

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nearly lost owing to the misconduct of her Maltese wet nurse, who concealed the failure of her milk so that the child was nearly famished. She rapidly became emaciated and there was at the same time a great abdominal distention from air in the intestines accompanied with diarrhoea. She owed I believe her life at this time to the eating of quails; – they were then happily in season, and finding other kinds of food not to answer, a roasted quail had a trial. She liked it, ate it with avidity, – in a few days on this diet she speedily improved, and ere long quite recovered.

The leisure I had at Malta was great in comparison with that which I had at the Station to which I was next removed, viz. Chatham where in fact I had no leisure. At the

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foreign stations my duties were mainly those of inspection of the Hospitals, which occupied a very small portion of the day, – with the office work chiefly relating to the Economy of these establishments, and correspondence with the authorities. At Fort Pitt Chatham, as Principal Medical Officer of the Garrison of the General Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, my duties were many and heavy, – especially that of the examination of invalids, all of whom from the army, both on home and foreign service, including India had to pass through the General Hospital and to be reported on, as to fitness or unfitness for future service by the P. M. O. Whilst at at [sic] Fort Pitt, viz from 1835, to 40 <39>, by making the best of my time, especially at night, I was however able to continue some original enquiries, – chiefly on the blood

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and on animal heat and to publish three works. These were my “Anatomical and Physiological Researches” in two volumes 8^{vo}, – Memoirs of my Brother in two Volumes of the same size, and a shorter Life of him, which was prefixed to his collected works. These I edited, – they and my “Researches” had for their Publishers Messrs Smith & Elder. – From the Memoir I derived some pecuniary profit, and should have had more, had I not been obliged to relinquish further profit from the sale of remaining copies, for the sake of giving the abridged Life, to which Messrs

Longman objected. The Collected works which were given to the world at the risk of the publishers, brought me nothing, but the satisfaction of a duty performed, owing to the comparatively little demand. They were a serious loss to the enterprising

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and liberal Publishers. I call them liberal for they allowed me to have 25 copies, and never made complaint of the loss they sustained. I may mention also that whilst at Fort Pitt, I edited a new Edition, accompanied by notes, of my Brother's "Agricultural Chemistry" – The success of this book was eminent, owing to its subject and popular character; – 50 guineas were paid, according to original agreement, on each new Edition and for the copy right its Author had received £1000. The only vacation I had whilst at Fort Pitt, was about a month in the summer of 1835 & when there was least pressure of duty, & when I was able to go with my family to the Lake district on to the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, to your Grandmother's – And very pleasant holidays these were.

I left Fort Pitt to proceed to Constantinople

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[1839 AT HEAD OF PAGE] on special service in the early winter of 1839. I owed the appointment to Lord Fitzroy Somerset, and I had then two steps of promotion, one

of Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, the other of Inspector General whilst serving in Turkey. – How well I remember my parting from you all. – Our drive to London in one carriage your Mother and five of you all then in health, and my seeing you on board a steamer at the London Docks for Edinburgh. – The offer of this appointment had much to recommend it, immediate promotion, – an opening for usefulness, and perhaps ~~promotion~~ <distinction> and increase of income. I had to go in charge of a party consisting of two Medical Officers with the rank of Deputy Inspector's General. – Drs Robertson and Dawson, who had served under me at Fort Pitt as Staff Surgeons and a Deputy Purveyor and Purveyor's

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clerk, Mr Rayford and Mr Collier. The party was under the orders of the Foreign Office, at the head of which then was Lord Palmerston. The object of our going[?,] was twofold, – one to form a Medical Staff for the Turkish army at that time engaged in war in Syria, against the Pasha of Egypt; – the other to improve the Army Hospitals supposed to be in a very defective state. Preparatory to embarking, I had to wait on Lord Palmerston. He was very courteous, – and left me to furnish memoranda from which our instructions were to be drawn up. – In parting he shook hands with me, and thanked me for accepting the appointment. His Lordship's intentions were undoubtedly good, but emanating from himself alone, with

defective knowledge of the people, and its Government, the undertaking proved a failure. I embarked with my party at Falmouth

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in one of the great Steam packets of the Oriental Company, then recently formed. We landed at Gibralter [sic] and again at Malta, where we remained a few days, and I had an opportunity of renewing acquaintance with the few of that fluctuating society of English which remained. – From Malta we proceeded to Constantinople, in a French Steamer of very inferior construction, especially as to boilers, which were not steam tight. Our progress was slow, this voyage ~~was~~ was a pleasant one, – & especially as compared with a former, that which I made in company with our Ambassador as far as the Dardanelles, when every circumstance was adverse, at least as regards the agreeable. –

On arriving at Constantinople we took up our quarters at a Lodging house in Pera, kept by a Greek widow, Madame [?Jusippini/?Jusippina]. There

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I found Sir David Wilkie and M^r Woodhouse on their way to Palestine. Their sojourn was of about a month or more, – and as we met daily at meals, I had the opportunity of a good deal of conversation with this distinguished Artist and worthy man. Our

Ambassador resided at Therassia, the Palace, the Ambassadorial residence not having then been rebuilt after its destruction by fire a short time previously. – The same day that we landed I waited on him, going and returning in the charming caique the ordinary water conveyance, – a boat of elegant construction in which recumbent at perfect ease one can best enjoy the beauties of the Bosphorus a great salt water river flowing rapidly from the Black Sea into the sea of Marmora, skirted by shores of Endless variety, and of great attraction, partly from the configuration,

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of the land, and more from the objects which in succession meet the eye, – palaces, gardens, – minarets groves [?&c &c], the dark Cypress in ~~grove~~ masses, and the noble platanus, – these the most conspicuous trees. In colour, – its blueness, – the Bosphoræus surpasses even the Rhone as it flows out of the Lake of Geneva; and in its whole course it is a scene of animation, from the innumerable birds which ~~are~~ are in constant flight skimming <its> ~~the~~ surface one kind of which, from their restlessness have got the name of “damned souls” from the Turks. The birds being well protected – (all shooting on the Bosphorus is prohibited) pass close to the caiques as it were regardless of man.

My first interview with Lord Ponsonby was nowise encouraging. He said that our arrival was quite

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unexpected. – The letter I brought him was the first he had received on the subject; – He had never been consulted. – He added that from what he knew of the character of the Turkish ~~people~~ <Government> the undertaking would be a failure. – I replied, if that were the case had we not better return at once? This he negatived, saying that a trial must be made; he must comply with received instructions and give what aid he could. Owing to the distance from Therassia my communication with him was chiefly in writing. He was always courteous, and I believe always sincere, for as at first, the view he took of the result aimed at by Lord Palmerston was always desponding; – During my after visits to him our conversations were chiefly on metaphysical subjects, in which he seemed to have more pleasure than

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in the consideration of Turkish affairs.

Redschid Pasha was then Foreign Minister to the Porte. I had several interviews with him accompanied by Mr Pesø<a>ni, the Senior Dragonian or Interpreter to the Embassy, – a man of mean appearance and of somewhat crabbed and rude manners. The conversation was in french [SIC] which the Pasha spoke fluently, ~~Mr~~ Pesani interpreting for me, as from want of habit in speaking the language I felt inadequate to use it. The Minister was always courteous, and always

liberal in the opinions he expressed approval of, and seemed well disposed to the furtherance of the plans I laid before him, for the formation of a Medial [sic] Staff and for the regulation of the Army hospitals. He showed no marks of Turkish

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bigotry such as that of the old school, – indeed he belonged preeminently to the progressive statesman class. He spoke of himself as a citizen of the world, and of men of every country as his brethren. He looked forward to the time when the sciences would be cultivated in Turkey, and spoke of the capacity of the people and of the circumstances favorable for their improvement. He said that every little community had its Mosque, and to every mosque a school was attached; – so that the elements, as regards organization, were not wanting, only a change in the mode of instruction. – A favorable change was shown on the part of the Government in the formation of a Medical school Galata Serai, which under the direction of a German Professor Dr Hermann, Medicine in all its

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branches, including Chemistry was taught, – the pupils <mostly> Turkish youths, – in accordance with the newest lights of science. Even Anatomy was entered upon practically. I well remember going by night with the Professor, to witness his first

attempt at teaching, – not from plates of the human body, but from the cadaver itself. It was a scene of much interest. There might have been twenty Turkish youths present, & these evidently laying aside all prejudice and superstition, and dread of being defiled, took an interest in what was demonstrated to them. It seemed to me a kind of Era as regards [~~common~~]. progress, – and went far to convince me that the Turkish mind was not closed against the lights of Science, and that as amongst the Arabs in the mediaeval age of Europe, modern learning and

i, [n. pag.] [71^r]

Modern Science, might be cultivated by an Eastern & Mahometan people[.] Had Reschid Pasha remained in office, perhaps I might have accomplished something, – One thing I believe, I was instrumental in effecting a better treatment of the insane in Constantinople. The number of these unfortunates is, I believe, very small in the east, – those in the Capital little exceeding thirty, – were at that time confined in cells with barred open windows, opening into a yard. The cells were like the dens of wild animals, of which a certain number were kept in an adjoining enclosure, and like these animals the lunatics were chained and alike allowed to be exhibited as a sight, and to be tormented by mischief loving boys. This I represented to the Pasha, and after my return to England I

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had the pleasure to learn that more humanity was exercised in their treatment. I believe too that I was of use in pointing out to the Foreign Office, the bad state of the Sailor's Hospital in Pera. This little establishment was under the control of the Consul General, Mr Cartwright a hospitable man of convivial habits, much shrewdness, and much coarsness [SIC] with a soft voice, and soft manner at pleasure. I have no doubt that I made him my enemy, by the duty I performed.

Reschid Pasha was succeeded too soon for me, by Riza Pasha a Turk of the old school, ignorant bigotted [SIC] and ~~self-willed~~ strong willed. With him all chance of our success was at an end. At my first interview with him, he kept me waiting some time, whilst he was in conversation with the bearer of

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a sword, as I understood a present from the Sultan, the handle of which was richly decorated with jewels. He referred me to the Hakim [?Basha/?Bashi], the chief of the Medical Department. – He too was of the old school, thoroughly ignorant of Medicine, shrewd and selfish, and I believe thoroughly unprincipled. He spoke always plausibly using words, not to express, but to conceal his sentiments. Week after week, and month after month passed in vain efforts. These I reported in letters to Lord Palmerston, in which I entered into particulars showing the unwillingness of the Government to make any change. When in despair, – I received a letter with a

copy of a ~~dispatch to the Rais Effendi~~ <note to the Turkish Minister in London>
expressed in terms of such severity as I presume are rarely addressed from one
Government to another. This ~~letter~~ had immediate effect; – attention

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from the authorities came in place of neglect. I was invited to visit the hospitals and
barracks, and horses with an escort were sent for the use of my party. Even the
sentinels on duty had to turn out and present arms on our approach, – a
compliment, if ever, rarely indeed paid to a Christian Officer. Now I had a formal
invitation from the Hakim [?Basha/?Bashi] to meet him at his palace on the
Bosphorus to consider the objects of my mission. It was in the month of May, truly,
the poet's May; – He received me in his garden. There I found him seated in
luxurious ease in an arbour amidst flowers, – nightingales in full song around, as if
they enjoyed the beauty of the spot, and the profusion of roses which trained in
columns, and on trellises [SIC] scented the air and had a wonderfully rich effect to the
eye. Coffee and

i, [n. pag.] [73^r]

pipes, fruit and sherbet were served whilst we talked. I propounded to him my
schemes for improvement of the Medical staff [?&c &c]. To my propositions he

invariably gave assent and expressed approval of them, – saying “very good,” – but, & there was always a but, – “the difficulty is with our Government, it being averse from all change, regardless of posterity intensely selfish intent only on the present, satisfied if they can live at ease and enjoy their Palaces, horses, and Harem”; – he himself being a striking example of that which he affected to deplore. Whilst I was sitting with him, his Secretary came bringing a document requiring his signature. After it was read to him, he took from his bosom a little filagree [*SIC*] bag holding his signet. The Secretary was provided with a little cushion, and printer’s

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ink which he applied to the signet for impression on the paper, which duly made by the chief, his authority was given. Whether he could write I do not know; I mention the circumstance, I thus witnessed as showing how by means of a signet ring, writing may be dispensed with, and how in Turkey now, as in the Mediaeval ages in Europe, men ignorant of reading and writing might fill high Government appointments. I need hardly remark ~~that nothing~~, that nothing effectual followed these interviews. – What might have been done had Lord Palmerston remained in office I cannot pretend to say, with any confidence, – probably nothing, especially as the the [*SIC*] Turkish danger in Syria was over, after the taking of Acre and the return of the Turkish fleet from Alexandria, the Syrian war having been the

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cause of the aid which our Government afforded the Porte, of which the sending of our party formed a small part. On a change of Administration and Lord Aberdeen's becoming Foreign Minister, our case seemed thoroughly hopeless: – so it was viewed by Lord Ponsonby. I then thought it right to ask permission of our Ambassador, to return to England, which he gave me on his own authority, and which as soon as obtained I acted on. D^r Robertson had been detached into Syria; he afterwards on his way back visited Egypt. D^r Dawson accompanied me up the Danube <to Vienna> where I left him and Mrs Dawson. They preferred travelling slowly to hastening home. From Vienna, I went on by way of Salzburg, Munich, Lake of Constance, Strasburgh, – thence down the Rhine to Coblenz, where owing to dense mist

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on the river, I had to quit it & proceed by Diligence to Antwerp, where I embarked arriving in London October [SPACE LEFT ON MS] after an absence of nine months. I stayed a few days in Town having to go to the Foreign Office, and learn the pleasure of the Minister under whose authority I acted. From Mr Hammond the chief Clerk, (since ~~ass^t~~ <under> Sec^y) I was assured that Lord Palmerston fully approved of my conduct whilst ~~in~~ in Turkey and I received a letter to that effect from the office. Lord

Aberdeen I did not see; – I was told that he had nothing to say to me: – this certainly was a most ungracious and I apprehend too characteristic a mark of aristocratic official breeding. I had the comfort and inexpressible pleasure on joining my wife and children in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh at Mrs Fletcher's Murrayfield House, to find them all well a happy party, – your

i, [n. pag.] [75^r]

Grandmother and your Aunt Mary forming an important portion of it. To the months which I spent at Constantinople, I can look back with no satisfaction; – never on the whole was time more wearisome to me, never ennui more felt. At Fort Pitt, I had almost an excess of occupation, in the performance of duties congenial at least for the most part and not irksome. At Constantinople I had often day after day to seek occupation. My microscope which I had with me afforded me some, the examination of such fish as I could get from the markets, and observations with the thermometer on annual temperature. I remember a certain kind of satisfaction which I had in walking through one street in Constantinople, where the noisy workers in brass and copper carried on their trade. With too ample a leisure I made two or three excursions, – one

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with Colonel Upton a very agreeable man, who afterwards died in Jamaica where he was in command as Major General; this was to Belgrade, an account of which I believe will be found in my journal; – another also there recorded to Princes Island (if that be the correct ~~one~~ name) and a third to Penteraklia with Mr Anderson, one of the Directors of the Oriental Steam Navigation company, to see a coal field worked by the Turks in the neighbourhood of that Town, close to the Southern shore of the Black Sea, of which I made a Report to the Foreign Office. – Apart from the fineness of site in Constantinople, and the beauty of its surroundings, and the picturesqueness of its buildings, there is nothing to excite [sic] interest for a permanency. In this respect it is singularly contrasted with Rome.

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And as for Society there was a remarkable absence of anything deserving the name. The only families that I visited, were two I might [~~als~~] almost say, – one that of Dr Robertson an American Missionary, who had been some time resident in Pera with his family, and the possessor of the only tolerable library, there was in the place. He and Mrs Robertson were very worthy people, liberal and well informed; – the other family adverted to, of whom I saw less, was that of Mr and Mrs Redman, she a pleasant conversable woman, he a very intelligent Man, who had long been in the east, and had an official appointment under the Turkish Government. He was I

believe considered a Mahometan, – and my companions, those of my own party, did not compensate for the want of general Society. They led

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a perfectly idle life, and afforded me no help, – indeed occasion for their aid did not occur, and not one of them had any taste for Scientific enquiry or for enquiry of any kind. The manner of living moreover was anything but pleasant, – a common table, – restricted house accommodation, my bed room, my sitting room and study, – during the winter without a ~~fire~~ chymney [*SIC*] warmed only by a brazier and a charcoal fire, very apt to occasion headache. The climate too was, during a good part of the time trying, subject to great changes of temperature especially in winter, from mildness to cold, according to the direction of the wind, – and in summer from the heat, – the therm^r at that season occasionally rising to 90°. More than once I had an attack of influenza so severe as to confine me to bed.

i, [n. pag.] [Back endpaper]

On my return, having been placed on half pay, my future became most uncertain. The first plan formed was to settle in Edinburgh looking forward to the practising of my profession, and with the hope of obtaining a professorship in the University on the retirement of D^r John Thompson from the chair of pathology. With this intent I

bought and furnished a house in Charlotte Square, and on the vacancy occurring canvassed for the appointment in question[.] My testimonials from professional friends as D^r Bright D^r Prout Mr Gulliver Sir James Clark were all I could wish but my attempt was a failure. One who commanded local interest was the successful candidate[.] Not many months after we had taken up our abode in Charlotte Square, my children were all attacked

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with measles, or what was supposed to be this disease, but in the worst cases seemed like a complication of measles and scarlet fever. This proved fatal to two of our boys, Humphry and John, – Humphry a boy of noble promise, whose loss was almost more than we could bear, was indeed an indescribable affliction, far far more as regards our feelings, his mother's and mine, than could be well imagined. Such was the effect of these losses, that we resolved to leave Edinburgh altogether and to take up our abode in the Lake District, to which Mrs Fletcher and your Aunt Mary had retired having purchased a little property in Grasmere, and converted a farm cottage into a very comfortable house. We left Edinburgh

ii, [n. pag.] [1^r]

on the [SPACE LEFT ON MS] and posting in a ~~very~~ light carriage we reached Ambleside in two days. We found close to the village near the old Church a house very pleasantly situated, with a few acres of land attached to it, which suiting us well I took on rent, desiring to give the locality & its climate a fair trial before making it our permanent home. This trial extending over twelve months we gave it. – Finding it suitable to our tastes, and agreeing with the health of our children, and an opportunity offering to obtain a site for a house, I purchased the ground where our house now stands at Lesketh How, with altogether about nine acres of land and for the moderate price of £100 per acre. The building was begun in 1844 and finished and inhabited within

ii, [n. pag.] [1^v]

the year following.

During the interval of my return from Constantinople, and our quitting Scotland, I prepared and published two vols 8^{vo} on the Ionian Islands, and Malta, with some account of Constantinople. About the same time, I was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and I contributed two or three papers to it, which are to be found in the Societys' Transactions.

Just after we had taken possession of our new house at Lesketh How I was offered an appointment, by the Director General of the Medical Department, – of Inspector of Hospitals in the West Indies, which as it gave an increase of pay and

assurance <of retirement> after three years, with the confirmed rank of Inspector General, I thought it

ii, [n. pag.] [2^r]

right to accept. I left home on 17th June 1845 and did not return till 9th November 1848, Barbadoes being the head quarters of the Military Command, (composing the Windward and Leeward Islands, Trinidad and British Guiana); – that Island became the station from which I occasionally proceeded on Tours of inspection to the other islands, and the continent, all which in turn I visited. It was chiefly during these visits that I collected the information which I gave to the public on my return, in one thick volume 8^{vo} under the title of “the West Indies before and after Emancipation”[.]

The life I led there, though I was alone, was not unpleasant, – my official duties were easy, having in my office three clerks. – This number might seem to imply a great

ii, [n. pag.] [2^v]

amount of business, but besides the copying of letters they were mostly employed in the examination and verification of hospital accounts. From my situation I had access to the best Society the island afforded, and I experienced great hospilaity [sic] from the principal planters. – I was made an honorary member of their several

agricultural societies and was always invited to attend their meetings, ending invariably in a dinner. The Agriculture of the Country interested me, and I contributed pretty largely, to a periodical, then recently established under the title of "The Barbadoes Agricultural Reporter, a Planter's Scientific Journal," of which three volumes were published, during the time I was there; – and on my leaving the West Indies the general agricultural

ii, [n. pag.] [3^r]

society did me the honor of a vote of thanks for what I had done. I had also some satisfaction in aiding and establishing a School of Chemistry which was promoted by Governor Reid afterwards Sir William Reid a man who has left a lasting reputation, on account of his Observations on Storms, and his Theory founded on these, – and who as a Governor was always intent on advancing the best interests of the people and on improving their condition. The School of Chemistry was opened by a course of Lectures of which I gave one. – A tolerable apparatus was provided by funds raised by subscription. What this school might have accomplished had Governor Reid continued at Barbadoes, I cannot say – but on his leaving the island, – and I left it soon

ii, [n. pag.] [3^v]

after, – I learnt that it became neglected, and was turned to no good account. A tropical climate generally speaking is enervating [~~xxxvating~~], and not favorable either to bodily or mental exertion. – Unusual motives were necessary to insure either, and on the withdrawal of the exciting impulse, the tendency seems to be to fall back into a state of ease and languid indifference, and the quiet routine of life.

During the first years of my residence in the Islands were on the whole tolerably healthy, – no severe epidemic occurred, and I had scarcely an hour's indisposition. During the last year and half [SIC] it was otherwise. The troops at Barbadoes, were visited by yellow fever, which proved very

ii, [n. pag.] [4^r]

fatal. – At the same time I suffered from a severe attack of anthrax, endangering life, which began whilst I was on a tour of inspection in British Guiana, and which laid me up occasioning much painful suffering, for many months. It was accompanied by high febrile action, loss of appetite, emaciation, debility; – but without headache or impairment of mental faculties, and, in consequence, even when at the worst, I was able to dictate replies to letters, and to carry on, so far my official duties. During this protracted illness, I experienced much kindness attention, especially from the Governor who often paid me a visit, and also from the General in Command, Gen^l Berkely of the family of Bishop Berkely, an

ii, [n. pag.] [4^v]

excellent administrator, who succeeded General Middlemore, from whom when the latter then almost in his dotage, and owing it may be presumed owing to an impaired state of mind, – his staff experienced annoyances and trouble of no ordinary kind.

I made this voyage to the West Indies out and home, in the same steamer, – “the Clyde” a fine vessel belonging to the Royal W. India Steam Company. Her Commander was Captain Symons who soon after lost his life, on the sad occasion of the burning at sea, on her first voyage, of a new Steamer, of a larger size than the “Clyde”. A friend of mine, Mr Best the proprietor of a charming estate in Barbadoes, – (charming from its elevation and coolness)

ii, [n. pag.] [5^r]

perished at the same time. Many a pleasant hour I had passed with him under his hospitable roof at “Black mans,” where I was always a welcome visitor.

Both voyages were made under favorable circumstances as to weather and companions, and having a well aired and roomy cabin to myself with books, and objects of interest in the way of observation, I can look back on them not without pleasure. Two worthy men, Staff surgeons, Miller and Spence came home in the same vessel. The former, who was infirm in health died soon after; the latter a very

amiable man and good medical officer, lost his life in the Black <Sea> off Balaclava, the Transport on board of which he was, foundering in a storm. Their loss recalls to my mind how very few

ii, [n. pag.] [5^v]

of the medical officers who have served under me, the younger than myself are, – whilst I write this, – alive.

My career as a medical officer now terminated, – and I had on my return completed a period of 30 years active service. – Without my wishes having been consulted I was placed on the reduced establishment on the half pay of Inspector General. During the Crimean war I tendered my services but they were not accepted. Since my retirement from the army, my life has been one of little variety and few incidents. On the whole I have reason to be satisfied with the choice of our home abode. The beauty of the Country, its climate and the little distance of Lesketh How from Lancrigg were favorable

ii, [n. pag.] [6^r]

circumstances, as was also the state of Society in our neighbourhood, limited though it was to a very few families, – but one of these was that of Mr and Mrs Wordsworth [?to] have known whom intimately and to have been honoured with their friendship

was certainly no small privilege. Easy in our worldly circumstances, enabling us to make excursions now & then from home, we have three times made short visits to the Continent, and oftener <to> different parts of England & Wales and Ireland.

Our two daughters were educated at home. – Our Son at Rugby from whence he proceeded to Cambridge, after leaving which with the degree of M. A, he took orders in the Church.

Our second sad family affliction

ii, [n. pag.] [6^v]

was the death of our second child Elizabeth on the 21st of June 1857. She had been taken ill when from home in the April of that year on a visit to a young friend Miss Buckland then living with her family at Hastings. – Her illness was of a very distressing kind accompanied by mental malady, anomalous symptoms, and ending fatally. Other griefs we experienced not the least of which was the death of your venerated Grandmother in the spring of 1858; – The death of your Aunt Mrs Taylor occurred in the autumn of 1864, and the sudden death of Sir John Richardson at Lancrigg in June 1865. He was one of the best of men and his loss was much felt by us all. The loss

ii, [n. pag.] [7^r]

of our honored friends Mr and Mrs Wordsworth at Rydal Mont [sic] preceded by that of their daughter Mrs Quillinan, the death of Miss Wordsworth also soon after that of her brother were losses in our friend circle not to be repaired, – so also was the death of Mr Quillinan, a man of estimable nature and most pleasant neighbourly companionship.

My pursuits here, – for I had little practice as a physician, – and latterly I declined it altogether, were chiefly chiefly [sic] physiological, and my recreation angling. The results of my enquiries are given in one Vol 8^{vo} entitled “Physiological Researches,” which was published in 1863. It was <preceded> in 1862 by a volume on some of the more important diseases of the army in which were

ii, [n. pag.] [7^v]

collected and classified a large number of fatal cases which had come under my ~~experience~~ <care> during my period of army service. Three other volumes of smaller size were given to the public after my return from the West Indies viz Lectures on Chemistry which I had delivered in Barbados, and two Angling books, in the form of dialogues, – “The Angler and his friend”, and “the Angler in “the Lake district”. Another work published after these was the “Fragmentary Remains of Sir H. Davy which I prepared after Lady Davy’s death. It contained many letters of interest for which I was indebted to the kindness of her Executor D^r Ker. By means of these pursuits and labours, and the performance

ii, [n. pag.] [8^r]

[1868 AT HEAD OF PAGE] of my duties of duties [SIC] as a magistrate, my time generally has been fully occupied, and I would hope not unprofitably. The brightest gleams of sunshine we have experienced in our retirement have been the marriage of our dear Grace,* and the births of her ~~three~~ <four> children, – all children of good promise and thus far healthy and happy. Our son's marriage [~~?xxx-xxx-xxx~~ ~~during xxx-xxx-xxx-xxx-xxx-xxx-xxx~~]⁺ in the year 1864 has been unfortunate in the almost constant and often severe ailments of his wife, but his attachment to her has made him a faithful & excellent nurse. After a years suspension of clerical duty owing to illness of his own he has for the last year

ii, [n. pag.] [8^v]

[Jany [SPACE LEFT ON MS] 1868 [~~?xxx~~] AT HEAD OF PAGE] been enabled to return to parochial duty in a small parish Penketh by name near Warrington which seems to suit his taste & his wife's condition of health better than most others. They have one little girl born in february – 1866 is thus far a healthy child and very affectionate to

* in September 1861.

⁺ in 1864

her parents. ~~Our daughter~~ My wife has been much an invalid for the past year
consequent on a severe attack of erysipiles in face & head in 1867.