

**Mss Eur E300/1A**

1st volume pages 1–113; 2nd volume pages 114–220

pages 1 – 2 [*Elizabeth to her sister in law Mrs Lydia Falconar in Scotland*]

Vizagapatam 1778

Dear Madam

I am quite ashamed of myself for having this long omitted acknowledging your very polite and affectionate letter received. I blush to say it, is some year since – I do assure your Madam, my silence has not proceeded from the want of inclination or friendship for my affectionate husbands sister – but various things intervening together with ill health, have been the sole causes of my seeming want of attention; However, on promise of future good behaviour, I hope your generous heart will forgive any negligence and admit me once more into your good opinion. I shall flatter myself with the pleasing hopes of your accepting of this apology, and at the same time of receiving a few lines from you by the next ships, granting me your forgiveness.

I shall not till I am pardon[ed] by you [*next couple of words illegible*] to vindicate your Brother's conduct only [*page then torn*] us I must say for him eighteen years abode in India have not the least diminished his love for you and yours.

We are blessed with four girls two of them are at home under the kind care of Lady Grant the other two we shall send to England sometime next year. Their names are Elizabeth, Margaret, Lydia and Mary, the eldest is named after Lady Grant, the second after M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's sister M<sup>rs</sup> Grant, the third after yourself and have also made you her God–mother and the fourth after a cousin of mine formerly M<sup>rs</sup> Waller, but now M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner. This is all the family we have at present. In May last year I had the ill luck to miscarry – and after a three years respite I am now again very near my time.

I shall defer saying any more till I am favored with a few lines from you assuring [*damaged page*] of which I hope [*torn page*] will not be disappointed.

[*damaged page*] bless you my Dear Madam wishing you health and many years of happiness to you and yours –

I remain your much obliged and very affectionate sister Eliza: Davidson

I request you will remember me particularly to M<sup>r</sup> Falconar and to your dear children for me.

pages 3 – 12 [*Alexander Davidson to his wife who was in England*]

Fort S<sup>t</sup> George [*Madras*] 31<sup>st</sup> January 1784

My dear Elizabeth – My last letter went only last month the 4<sup>th</sup> December is the only letter I kept a Copy of which accompanys this. I am just recovered from four or five days illness caused by cold. The only disagreeable symptom was the first morning an oppression on my Lungs; which however went immediately off on my taking evacuant medicines. You will tell me – "for God's sake my Davy, take care of yourself – your life is very precious to your family". Well do I know it my dear Girl, and I shall take care accordingly. Major Sydenham is ill of the same disorder at this moment. One task I have found more easy than I thought possible. I do not find it so difficult, thank God, as I thought I should, keeping my body pure, undefiled, and unpoluted.

I find I shall not please myself, nor perhaps satisfy you, unless I keep a kind of Journal which more less I intend to do after this Dispatch. It will admit of multifarious little matters such as You and I should chat over were you present. May it not here, my dear Woman, be proper to mention my idea of the Time of you remaining in England, for your Approbation You must

stay eighteen, or twenty months in Europe to be of any use to our two eldest daughters. Suppose then you take your Passage in the Winter of 1785, and leave London about February 1786, on a China Ship. I have been looking at the Bible – Elizabeth was born 17<sup>th</sup> January 1769. Margaret 15<sup>th</sup> May 1770. At your departure from England, according to this calculate, Betsy will be going into her 17<sup>th</sup> and Peggy into her 16<sup>th</sup> year.

If Fortune smile at all we shall, I hope, be looking homeward before Lydia is seventeen. As I said before I mention this Arrangement for your Approbation, and Approval. Every passing year you may be sure I shall be more and more anxious to see you and my daughters.

James Johnson died the beginning of December a Slave to Intemperance – M<sup>rs</sup> Johnson has not appeared since – It is supposed M<sup>r</sup> Welch has a regard for her.

Poor Capt<sup>n</sup> Lysaght, after making a Fortune, and being on the point of resigning the Service died about the middle of December of the Cramp.

M<sup>rs</sup> Tanner and M<sup>rs</sup> Bromley have been brought to bed of Daughters – M<sup>rs</sup> Garrow is I understand \*dangerously ill of a miscarriage: I fear she and her husband are not happy.

(\*since better). The tall Balfour still talked of for Miss Mackay. General Burgoyne for his strange and unaccountable conduct has been suspended General Allan Campbell commands the King's Troops. M<sup>rs</sup> Hastings is gone home and I suppose will be arrived before you receive this. M<sup>r</sup> Macpherson is at Ganjam for his health: he has been rather dangerously ill with an Asthmatick complaint. We have not heard a syllable from Misse<sup>ss</sup> Sadleir\*, Staunton, and Hudleston these fifteen days at which we are not a little uneasy. \*have since heard they are well. The Busbridge will not sail these five or six days should news arrive I shall not fail to acquaint you: it is supposed by some Politicians that a Revolution is likely to happen, as has happened, in Mysore.

I must now descend from Politicks to Chat.

On new year's day all your female Servants came about me, and I assure you I was affected – I gave them as p<sup>r</sup> enclosed Memorandum. The middle of December M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Sylvester went to live in the Black Town, expecting their Mother & other Relations, having no accommodations in the Fort.

Nonnia has had Betsey married to a M<sup>r</sup> Lewcock head writer to the Mayor's Court. The marriage happened soon after your departure; the bride lived with her Sister in law till the beginning of this month when the Young Lady blossomed and was delivered in form to her husband, who is an amazing stout well looking fellow.

The old Mallay man's daughter, little Sarn interprets, is arrived at the maturity \*of a Woman; the old man is making a feast, and has asked for some Brandy.

The old Ayah, is frisky, she has been asking me for a Pig, and four bottles of Madeira; I am in doubt whether I ought to have complied with her request, but I could not refuse the poor old Woman.

\*Notwithstanding the Climate, you, no doubt, have blossoms in Your Family.

I paid poor Betty a Year's Pay, and have shipped her off for the Northward. She told me at Parting that she hoped to get her son well married; and that he had fixed his affections on a young Woman at Vizagapatam. I was ill just before she went away – poor Girl she offered to attend me – so did your other Servants, but I declined it. Even M<sup>rs</sup> Sylvester came from the Black Town, and said she would have come, in consequence of your Commands, had she known of my Indisposition.

Dick is to be married in ten or fifteen days, I have never seen his Bride – I suppose I shall be invited to the Wedding: he is to take a House in the Black Town and being a Prudent young man I suppose he will do very well. I have given him the same I did to John Leonhard. – Five hundred Rupees, and Star Pag<sup>s</sup> 10 monthly.

Goursay the French man still lives with me, and has behaved very well since you went away: I shall keep him on for your sake and because of the Young Ladies.

This brings me again to speak of them – You will find out and Consult M<sup>r</sup> Pigou who are the

Properest persons to leave Lydia, Mary, Harriett, and Aleck with: they ought to depend on more than one Person, incase of Deaths. M<sup>r</sup> Turing talks a great deal about M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar, an Apothecary, who I believe has the care of his Children. M<sup>r</sup> Menzies who gave you a letter to a M<sup>rs</sup> Bell, married to a worthy man, and Insurance Broker now a man of Good fortune, M<sup>r</sup> Menzies he has mentioned you very particularly – that M<sup>rs</sup> Bell has brought up a large family with Economy: and is as capable as any woman breathing of giving you good advice. As to great Ladies I suppose there are some in Lady Grant's circle – Lord Macartney says he has mentioned you very particularly to Lady Macartney. Several of our Friends here on your departure & particularly M<sup>r</sup> Sullivan & M<sup>r</sup> Stephenson &c. &c<sup>a</sup>. sent you Letters to their Connexions: honest Dobbyn among the number. Poor little Aleck – how I shall long to hear of thy welfare! – Not, my dear Woman, but I have Religion and Fortitude to bear like a Christian, and a Man, any bad news, or change of Fortune.

Lady Coote embarks in a day or two on the Belmont, Capt<sup>n</sup> Gammage: she has had the late General Coote's body taken up to be magnificently interred in Europe. She has never stirred out. Col<sup>l</sup> Owen – the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Hulse – and Miss Basset, with old Capt<sup>n</sup> Clarke of the Earl of Hertford, go home passengers on her. On board the Busbridge, besides Capt<sup>n</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Todd – Major Johnstone that was once with us at Vizack – M<sup>r</sup> Barlow as far as the Cape – our friend M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Pringle from Masulipatam &c<sup>a</sup>. I have given him a line to you. I suppose M<sup>rs</sup> Wynch & M<sup>rs</sup> Darvell will be glad to see you.

I continue my hodge podge Chat – Do you choose a little Scandal Betsy? I never knew a Woman that did not like it – “en passant”. M<sup>r</sup> W–y–ch drives M<sup>rs</sup> B–re–ly into M<sup>r</sup> De Castro's Bamboo Walks after Dark.

M<sup>rs</sup> T–nn–r is said on a penitential fit to have told her husband the last child was not his, but M<sup>r</sup> Alexander C– th– rts. That T–nn–r in his first emotions of anger, and jealousy, said he would go home, and go into holy orders: it seems there is a gift in his family – But enough of Scandal, I like not the subject.

I have sent you by Capt<sup>n</sup> Todd all the Bengal Papers since mine by the Crocodile. M<sup>r</sup> T. Graham married to Miss Paul. M<sup>r</sup> Nicol Mein, Surgeon of Tanjor, to M<sup>rs</sup> Boyd of Tranquebar – she is a natural daughter of Doct<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Wood of Edinburgh: They either are married or to be married.

To shew that you are in my mind I have sent by Cap<sup>t</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Todd, of the Busbridge, a lock of my hair very prettily set by M<sup>r</sup> Durand. Please give my miniature by Imhof to Betsey – and I enclose a very small Miniature, done from memory by Baron Reichell, and thought by my friends to be like me but too young; be pleased to have it set, and give it with my love to Peggy.

I have received some letters lately by a M<sup>rs</sup> Fladd arrived at Bengal by a Dane; Betsey in her letter begs to leave off Musick – tell her she will oblige me very much by renewing it – tell her Miss Cuthbert who disliked Musick, and is now one of the first Performers in England – of M<sup>rs</sup> Lysaght also who is a good performer, Musick is very much admired in England as well as India. I shall send them by the Ships now under despatch to little letters under Your Cover.

M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour is arrived from Bengal, and looks very well; she lives at present at Jack Snows. I asked M<sup>rs</sup> Sydenham last night what ladies were in a fair way; she could not tell me, except M<sup>rs</sup> Burgoyne Johnson near her time, and she believed M<sup>rs</sup> Ross.

I can have no objection to Your taking the two Young Ladies to Paris, and Brussels – take good advice – [*be*]ware improper expense, and being imposed upon. Should You go, make Yourself known to M<sup>r</sup> Law, and get letters from M<sup>r</sup> Pigou, and to a Banker.

Enquire for M<sup>rs</sup> John Powney's Children: I should think you would be desirous to observe the difference between your own girls, and them – between a french and English Education. I expect amazing difference in the Young women after your arrival – Your constant care will free them from Chilblains &c. &c. &c<sup>a</sup>.

I enclose a Bill on the Company in favour of Capt<sup>n</sup> Patterson's Boys; reimburse yourself on discounting the bill; and the difference pay to Jacob Wilkinson Esq<sup>re</sup> a Merchant in London, taking three Receipts of the same tenor and Date: two of which send to me.

It will go hard with me but I shall send you a handsome Remittance in the course of the year. I expect Masulipatam in April, or at worst Vizagapatam on the promotion or removal of M<sup>r</sup> Russell. Lord Macartney has mentioned me by this Dispatch with the highest honor; I send you enclosed an extract of his Letter to the Secret Committee of the Directors of the India House. You will please shew it to Lady Grant, M<sup>r</sup> Pigou, Sir Hector, and to my other Friends. Turing, Dent, and Barclay were lately in a Majority against Lord M<sup>r</sup> and me: Sadleir – Williams – Saunders – Maunsell, and Crawford absent. Maunsell arrived a few days ago, and will be taken into the Select Committee, in the Room of M<sup>r</sup> Williams: I hope Maunsell will be on our side. Hide no India secrets from Lady Jane Macartney – she bears a most excellent amiable character.

The Pigot, Capt<sup>n</sup> Morgan, is expected from Bengal on his way for Europe from this place; if the China Ships arrive I must see and send Lady Grant, yourself, and the Young Ladies something.

If you go to France it ought to be for a Season, after visiting Bath &c<sup>a</sup> – You must learn to Jabber french. If You can draw on me for four or five hundred Pounds a year, besides my Remittance, do so. I know you will not spend a single guinea foolishly.

Grant is perfectly recovered. George is just about taking the Field with General Lacy, under the command of the brave Capt<sup>n</sup> Muirhead, commanding the most active Battalion in the Service.

I have given him a complete equipment, horse, watch &<sup>a</sup>.

Do not try to get George a Writer, he is too lazy. Exert your interest for my Sister Lydia's eldest Son.

M<sup>rs</sup> Davis, M<sup>rs</sup> Sydenham, &c<sup>a</sup>. sup with me tonight. M<sup>rs</sup> Davis and George send you Letters enclosed. I turn not over – May the Supreme God sustain You in Adversity and prosperity. I am with attachment Your most faithful friend and Husband Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson

pages 13 – 24    [*Alexander Davidson to his wife*]

My dear Elizabeth            Fort S<sup>t</sup> George the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 1784

Lord Macartney having suddenly come to the Resolution of sending his confidential Secretary M<sup>r</sup> Staunton to Europe, by the way of Pondichery, I lose not so favourable an opportunity of communicate with my wife. I intend to write two or three sheets at least, yet I do not yet know what they are to be filled with. I am, thank my stars, too fannatical a man to have neglected my dinner and supper Journal – it is interesting to no body but you – and I think it interesting to you, not only because it its written by your husband, but it shews you what acquaintances I keep up; Also the Deaths, marriages, and sometimes, as I am in the humour, I introduce Chat in it. I say I think it must be interesting, because such a Journal of yours would be interesting to me.

Not that I wish you to take that trouble, but the idea to me, that knows You, of having long letters to write sometimes delayed to be written till very late must, I should think, to You, who are not in love with epistolary writing must overwhelm You. I do not mean to insinuate that I have not your love, confidence and affection to stimulate you, but that long letters are really a task to most people who do not love scribbling. I am sure I have not, nor I hope never shall have reason to complain – you dealt nobly by me at the Cape, and no doubt will frequently write me fully from England.

I am still at Madras owing to the want of decisive orders from England – Party runs high here between Calcutta and Madras; but for your sake as well as all our own sakes I shall

endeavour all in my power to avoid at least suspension. M<sup>r</sup> Hastings must be elevated by the turn India Measures took last January in the House of Lords. Lord Macartney must always be happy in the consciousness of his own integrity, and the general rectitude of his Conduct: indeed I believe he is well with both parties; M<sup>r</sup> Pitt I am informed has as good an opinion of him as M<sup>r</sup> Fox.

I remit a second bill for £500 lest Col<sup>o</sup> Malcolm should not have arrived with the first.

Our house goes on very well. I told you Stowey promises an elevation of it which will be sent home in October. Some people are I believe envious in my having got leave to build such a place & term it a castle in the Air, only think of the Southern Veranda 2<sup>nd</sup> Sheet above Stairs being 36 feet long, & 20 broad. The Pillars below carried out to the Street – the third flight of steps taken away, the veranda thereby squared and all the Windows turned into doors.

Upstairs there is an elegant drawing Room, or bed chamber, with a boarded hall fifty feet long – a narrow North Veranda, and an elegant covered Stair Case. In short I think it will be the most favorite house in Madras; but I shall never live in it till you and my daughters return. Appropôs my daughters – I hear favorable accounts of them; but am not to be deceived, I shall trust no accounts but Yours: You have good sense enough, and impartiality sufficient, to distinguish their merits and their defects – If they deserve admiration we are fortunate – if deficient, we must make the most of them. I have found out from M<sup>rs</sup> Davis Peggy is Sir Henry Cosby's favorite. Betsey excels I suppose in domestic accomplishment at the same time she is not deficient in personal grace. Peggy excels in dancing, musick, french, and in life and spirit.

Betsey is soft, tender, and affectionate, Peggy smart, quick, and lively. Betsey from nature reserved, and grave – Peggy, spirited and engaging. Betsey secures attachment after a knowledge of her sweetness of temper – Peggy attracts friendship by her exertions of vivacity and Humour.

In the above traits I judge from their tempers in this, and from what I have heard of them since their arrival in Europe. If the colouring is defective You will put me right.

What would you say my dear M<sup>rs</sup> D in our having Mary and Harriet educated in France on the Plan of the Miss Laws, and Miss Powneys: perhaps M<sup>rs</sup> Peacocks favorite Brussels might be a good place: I should keep them abroad till the age of Miss Peacock. M<sup>rs</sup> Davis was educated in this manner – writes pleasingly, and is well accomplished.

The Expense of an English education is very great; and our India Service, I am afraid, almost ruined. The greatest risk would be the chance of their becoming Roman Catholicks; you may, if you please, take advice on this; I know it is more calculated for foreign families: but in this, as in everything else, I put no restraint 3<sup>rd</sup> Sheet on you.

We have had only a day or two notice of M<sup>r</sup> Staunton's going, and yesterday, at the Governors, he told me M<sup>r</sup> Staunton went away this morning, instead of after supper tonight, this will hurry me a little; not that I have much to say, referring you for changes to my Journal.

I shall proceed to give you some Chat – The beginning of this week a duel happened between the second Mate of the Middlesex Indiaman, M<sup>r</sup> Hankey, and the Surgeon's Mate of the same Ship, a M<sup>r</sup> Mayne; in which M<sup>r</sup> Hankey was shot dead; the ball went through his heart: it was M<sup>r</sup> Mayne's second Shot. He & the seconds have absconded.

I have mentioned in my daily Memorandums a talk of Marriages; I know of none at present; Miss Ogle, Miss Mackay, &c<sup>a</sup> are still single. Miss Ogle seems by the Gentlemen to be preferred to any Lady that has come out this Season.

Thank God I know of no scandal at present in Madras – Lord Macartney comports himself with propriety, and sets a good example. It is said Capt<sup>n</sup> Trapaud, now at Bengal, is going to be married to Miss Wroe, who came out at the same time with M<sup>r</sup> Wynch.

Our Ball and Concert are kept up with Spirit, and I believe, will be lasting – The new Ladies excel the old so much in dancing that they do not exhibit, except M<sup>rs</sup> Floyer, who taking

advantage of having been in England introduces, as you have seen, some medium graces. – Sam is just come from the Fort brings me word M<sup>r</sup> Staunton does not go till the Evening – Hura! boys, shall have time to write as much as I please – but where is the subject – never mind – you will say, you know, your good man, has a never failing fund of Chat and conversation. – We were talking of dancing – pray which dancer is best Betsey or Peggy? I think, from guess, Betsy must at least be equal to Peggy in the Minuet, but Peggy excels her in the Country dance I dare say in liveliness and spirits. Do you not think, My dear, that Lydia will in a twelvemonth dance a minuet as well as any of them? Pray would there be any impropriety in using Betsey and Peggy to dance a Minuet de la Cour together; at Madras they will not get a Partner worth a Pice: therefore the most elegant 4<sup>th</sup> part of their dancing, as any accomplishment, if they excel, will be lost. In my flimsy Journal I frequently do, and shall continue it, mention what is uppermost – I there touched on a hint of Miss Colman’s; I think she told me our daughters played and sang Duets together on the same instrument; if this is true, I rejoice at it, as I think nothing can be more elegant and becoming as such performances between two Sisters. I should be happy, as far as possible, that they went hand in hand in all their Learning.

I hope my Dear Betsy, Peggy, Lydia, Mary, Harriet, and Alexander are well. You’ll wonder I have not mentioned Alek before; I am certain if any misfortune happens to him it will be the dispensation of God, and not for want of your utmost exertion of maternal care. Poor little unfortunate squinting fellow, God preserve him. I for some months to come shall be at the highest pitch of expectation to hear of, and from you: I have given you several hints on this subject in my Journal. I do not, even if you are so fortunate as to get a letter overland, or under Lady Macartney’s cover, expect to hear before Christmas. If her Ladyship encloses a letter for you, in case of Lord Macartney’s absence, I think her letters, sealed separately, ought to be directed and enclosed to the Military Secretary of Fort S<sup>t</sup> George.

I have mentioned to you the pleasing prospect of my perfect reconciliation with the Admiral – you shall hear from me on the subject. He is just gone on a Trip to Conjiveram, and Velour, &c<sup>a</sup> and has taken only M<sup>r</sup> Arthur Cuthbert, and M<sup>r</sup> De Souza with him. M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Cuthbert is expected next month from Bengal – M<sup>r</sup> Tanner has taken his wife back again, and resides contentedly with her at Chingliput.

M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar wants to send her eldest Son to India, and I must own I wish it: though I am aware of the passage money, and outfit of a Young man – A Cadet is the most you could do for him, & a difficulty in getting that done. George and Grant have already been a considerable expense to me. The door to Cadetships 5<sup>th</sup> is shut in this Country; and I know not of any other genteel livelyhood.

Well done! I did not know what to write when I began, and lo! I am in my fifth sheet – but I write wide I shall fill this sheet with something or other and then relieve you.

How ended the Voyage, and how did you part with the Inflexibles – God forbid otherwise than well – Was the amiable Murray pleased with the Ring – Langley with the Watch – and the Doctor with the Note? I shall be highly satisfied, and gratified, if all ended well: indeed I have every reason to expect it.

Your particular friend M<sup>rs</sup> Davis is very well, and soon going with her husband to Arcot. She is subject to violent headaches, and ill health, and talks, in a year or two, of returning to England.

M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour is married to a sensible man, but he never speaks in Company, and is the derision of the Men – M<sup>rs</sup> Pemberton lives with her – they stay at M<sup>r</sup> Plummer’s Superb House – I go seldom there, indeed I ought to go oftener.

Your husband, my dear Woman, is received most welcomingly at a great many places ; – among which I number M<sup>r</sup> Floyers – M<sup>r</sup> Maunsells – M<sup>r</sup> Oakleys – M<sup>r</sup> Davis – Col<sup>o</sup> Ross; (there go seldom) though M<sup>rs</sup> Ross is very agreeable – M<sup>r</sup> Balfours – Major Sydenhams – Col<sup>o</sup> Nixons \* &c. &c. &c<sup>c</sup> I attribute much of my Reception to Station; but perhaps it is fair to

allow something, modestly, to good humour and under a great appearance of gravity, a cheerful Temper and good humour, and under a great appearance of gravity, or cheerful Temper, and good humour.

\*I do not mention the Governours and many Batchelors I might go to I own I prefer the Company of the Ladies.

Do, my Eliza, describe your house – your way of living – your son and daughters. You cannot to me be too minute.

Respect and be grateful to Lady Grant – M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant – and all my relations. Study with your best penetration with whom you must leave the Charge of your family, when you quit England, and even when you quit London. Would it not be prudent and right to pay proper attention to M<sup>rs</sup> Morcant. M<sup>r</sup> Turing talks a great deal about M<sup>r</sup> Farquhar a Surgeon; during our two girls being in England his fees came to 60, 70, or 80 Guineas. I hear much 6<sup>th</sup> & last I think, a Doctor Smith of Hatton Garden employed by M<sup>r</sup> Bouchier and M<sup>r</sup> Pybus; I believe my old acquaintance Doctor William Grant, Physician, is a clever man.

All your Servants are well – poor Proomirty, Chillnmiah &c<sup>a</sup> are northern Servants I agree very well with; this I mention because you I thought seemed to doubt it. Vera Sawmy,

Sawmy, Sam, the Chubdar, and Son, we jog on very well. I was obliged lately to flog the Chubdar's son, and to Chaubuc the Baker, which has been of great Service to them both.

The Ayah, poor Woman, sometimes comes to see me, and Noniah; but I have never seen Riccta's daughter. M<sup>rs</sup> Lewcock, Nonia's daughter is very well – so is Dick and his wife, and M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Sylvester and Child. Paunchu de Cruz Betty's Son is courting a Widow, wife to a late Writer of M<sup>r</sup> Crawford's, whom you may remember was dying of a Consumption.

Ramah seldom comes to see me, but has behaved very well – I have always a basket of Greens – he has this year given me a great many fine Melons, and our Rabbits are increased to 40 or 50.

I have let my Garden House to Capt<sup>n</sup> Moorhouse, and a friend of his, for seventy Pagodas a month – Moorhouse has got the nominal Rank of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel for his gallant behaviour on all occasions; particularly quelling a Mutiny at Arcot, among the Light Infantry, and Artillery belonging to the Cavalry.

And now my Elizabeth we must part – and I am sure you cannot be sorry that I release you as I must have convinced I write to you without restraint – I know not whether I succeed, but I endeavour to put my heart and Soul in my Letters – Happy, happy, happy, will that day be when I meet you and my daughters!!!

I conclude with my Blessing. – God preserve You, my dearest Woman, and Your fine family – may you and they be the solace and comfort of my grey hairs – I am past my meridian and with such a wife, and such a family, cannot fail of being the contented, the Happy, the Comforted as well as Your affectionate and unalterable friend and Husband, till Death do us part witness my hand and seal Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson P.S. I shall not have time to write fully by this Dispatch to Lady Grant

pages 25 – 26 [Alexander Brodie in Elgin Scotland to Elizabeth]

My dear Madam

By a letter just rec<sup>d</sup> from George Ramsay – I have the Satisfaction to know, that your good M<sup>r</sup> Davidson was left in the Government of Madras in the month of June last – I take the earliest opportunity of Felicitating you on this Event I most [next word illegible] trust & [next word illegible] peace in Every shape honorable [next word illegible] I take shame to myself may I feel the [next word illegible] of Ingratitude strongly upon me for having so long omitted to pay my respects to you by Letter but the truth is I have been quite a wanderer & tho' I often thought of this duty my disinclination to write has hitherto prevented the wish I had to pay you attention in that way – but for this omission I hope soon to receive your pleasant

forgiveness this will be delivered by M<sup>r</sup> Alex Falconar who goes to put Himself under your protection I can venture to say that if the many who have had the good fortune to Enjoy M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons & your own liberal patronage there was none more truly deserving [*next words illegible*] honorable dutiful & as a Brother [*next few words illegible then a hole in the page*] his parents for [*next word illegible*] Instruction & Protectors of [*next words illegible & hole in the page*] the family – all of whom have been his Scholars & made good progress under his Tuition – his Understanding is Excellent, & his temper amiable in Short my Dear Madam he will do Credit to his Patroness.

You will probably hear before this reaches you of the fate of my Political undertaking – The first for the County of Nairn for which I am [*page torn*] Role takes place in eight days, & [*page torn*] the fate will be known [*page torn*] whether I shall party fast as I [*next few words illegible*] offer my feeble assistance [*page torn then a couple of illegible words*] he Employ'd [*next words illegible*] usefully to you & yours.

I beg my Love to [*next words illegible then page torn then illegible word*] in particular [*next few lines illegible*] My Dear Madam [*next words illegible*] Oblg'd & faithful Humble Serv<sup>t</sup> A Brodie

Elgin Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1785

To M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson

pages 27 – 28 [*William Falconar to Elizabeth, his sister in law, in London*]

My Dear Madam

By this time, I hope, your young Gentleman is Safelie indeed, under your Protection where I consign him, and think him as Safe & more happy, than by my Parlour Fire. I only Fear too much Indulgence.

I supersede mentioning our invaluable Obligations to you. My dear Madam, as Such are generally grateing to the noble Soul. only you have our Prayers – and I find you have those of some others, whome I have Cause to esteem. And what united Petitions, will be continued for your Safe and happy Transportation & Reunion w<sup>h</sup> your dear Partner thro the perrilous Paths of the immeasurable Oceans.

I have communicate Some Family Circumstances, to my Son, which I have taken the Liberty, to desire his Explanation off to you, in case you think it advisable to express your Sentiments therein to the Gentleman most immediately concerned, and who if He will, can of Himself do me Justice, without the Interference of any others concerned. I forebear what may hurt your delicate Feelings on so interesting a Subject.

There is one particular Favour, I woud entreate, and if denyed, it will make me Somewhat unhappy, and that is that I maybe priveleged with a Copy of your Picture – and could I be favoured with one of your amiable Daughter, Miss Davidson, I cannot express what Satisfaction it would give me, M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar & all my Family.

I have yet one more Request, My Dear Madam, and from which I See one Gem more arise, to decorate your unsullied Reputation. The matter Stands Thus. – M<sup>r</sup> Robert Davidson of Fortrose, in Ross Shire, late a merchant, and Trader by Sea, full Cousine to John Davidson Esq<sup>r</sup> of Drumhall, your father in law, deceased; a man once in very great Circumstances – and could have commanded a credite of £5000, on the change of London, is now reduced in his Circumstances, by an attachment, I must say an imprudent foolish attachment to the political Interests of the deceast Sir Alex<sup>t</sup> Grant of Dalvey, our Friend. M<sup>r</sup> Robert Davidson is a most worthy good man – it has hitherto past my Power to get any thing comfortable done for him –. The adherents of Sir Hector Munro have hurt him, tho indeed Sir Hector knows nothing of the matter – What I propose is, That you would be pleased to make a Point of it, with any of the Honb<sup>le</sup> Directors of the Honb<sup>le</sup> E:I: Comp<sup>y</sup> with whome you are connected. That they may forthwith apply the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>bl</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Pitt, First L<sup>d</sup> of the Treasury, for a Treasury Warrant for M<sup>r</sup>



Davidson as a Tidesman in the precinct of Inverness – Its al the best, but one matter of £18 p annum – I shoud rather it proceeded thus from you, and not any Parliamentary Scots member – The Favour is but insignificant from M<sup>r</sup> Pitt. And what he woud or could not deny a Director – He and all concernd would think this a Victory, coming by you, thro an independent channel, & that preferable to any other method – tho the matter is Smal, yet the good Man woud enjoy it, as comeing by you, with much more Comfort than a more considerable Promotion by the Intervention of a Stranger. – Let me intreate my Dear Madam, you may take this Matter to Consideration – Hes the only remaining, dependant Person living of that Generation, and not an Old Man – He has a Sister still living independent, and one of the most eminent Christians of any age – you and yours have her Prayers – M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar, and our young People, wish you and your lovelie Family, with the Complts of the Season, all manner of Happiness. And I ever am My Dear Madam your most obliged most affectionate and most obedient humble Servant W Falconar.

Kildrummie 12 Janu<sup>y</sup> 1786

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Davidson had no motive to stick by Sir Alex<sup>t</sup> Grant, further than by Sir Alex<sup>rs</sup> Connection with your Father in Laws Family

page 29 [*this is part of the letter beginning on page 33 & bound in the wrong order in the British Library*]

page 30 is blank

page 31 [*Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London*]

My Dear Madam

I have been too too long of inquireing after your welfair, but this was owing to my ignorance of your Arival in Europe, till the other night, Miss Grant of Dalvey haveing called on me, acquainted me therewith – I rejoyce and desire to bliss God that you and Dear Children have come Saife – I exceedingly long to hear how you all do, since your Residence in London – I hope you left Mr Davidson well, from whome I have not heard these Four Years – it woud contribut much to my Happiness, woud you let me know how you all do – with a proper address for you – I have been ailing much for some time past, but I think I have revived on the account of your being saife in Brittain – mr Falconar joins me in our Love to you and your young people and I am

my Dear Madam your most affectionate Sister and most obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

Lydia Falconar

Killdrummy Near Nairn 19<sup>th</sup> July 1784

PS the Death of a very Dear Friend Brother in law of mr Falconars occasions my using black wax. [*this was Thomas Fyers, husband of his sister Elizabeth*]

pages 29 & 33 – 34 [*William Falconar to Elizabeth in London*]

Dear Madam

That I shoud have So long delay'd my congratulations on your Safe Arival in Europe, with your Family, may Seem not only Strange but unnatural, and ingrate – Let me assure you Madam, no Friend on Earth rejoiced more in the Goodness of Providence vouchsaf'd in your Safety, and that your Family, from the Perrils of So long a Voyage, However defective I may appear, till this Explanation, in my Duty – About the 15 July, I was favour'd with a Visite from Miss Grant of Dalvey, whome, or any of that Family, I have neither Seen, or had

Intercourse with These Fifeteen Years. She acquainted us of your Arival, as having had the Intelligence from her Brother Ja<sup>s</sup> Grant – and intreated that when we wrote, it should be given her to forward, and that she would get it frank'd – Accordinglie on the 16 of that month, M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar wrote you – which she dispatched by Express to Miss Grant – The Elementary Part of the Education of my Family confined me to a Town: fond of Retirement now that years advance, I have betaken myself to the Country, The Drudgery Part of the Boys Education being over, and the Superintendance falls now more immediatlie under my own Eye – and which is completed for Setting them out in the World – Thus, I have had little access to know much of publick affairs since the Month of May, further than what a Country Journal affords – On Acco<sup>t</sup> of my Sons, as well as out of choice, I had one English and a Scotch News Paper; but now have of Necessity circumscribed myself – The Severity of the Times, by a Three years Famine, Subjects to a Parsimony and the Strongest Economies – Thus I was precluded from the Knowledge of the Arivals from India – Till Sir Hector Monro's Arival in this Country, I was out of Franks – not knowing your Address. I have obtained a Frank for this and Curr<sup>ly</sup> directed for M<sup>r</sup> Davidson of Tulloch: and I hope This will not share in the miscarriages of many of our Letters – Being a Man of old fashion'd Principles, now on the wrong Side 50, Permit me to assure you Madam, That ever since I heard of an Intention of your Return to Europe my earnest & constant Prayers were for Your Happiness & Safety; and now continue for your Prosperity & the Welfare of your Family, a happy Reunion with M<sup>r</sup> Davidson – in one inalienable comfortable permanent British Settlement, So that often along a happy & well spent Life, when Providence is pleas'd to call you to a better, you may have Comfort, Peace & Solid Joy in your Resignation of this, And Entrance to a new everlasting & glorious one.

Thus Madam, I have explained the Cause of Procrastination, as to our Writeing. Tho in the Infancy of Corrispondence, I cannot help expressing a Wish, which has at Times been the subject of meditation with me, viz That it might please the Almighty Disposer of all humane Events, M<sup>r</sup> Davidson should purchase the Place, now cal'd Dalvey, as the Situation is Salubrious, the Place agreeable, and the Prospect from it, the best in the County of Murray: Situate twixt two royal Burroughs – I coud advance many Reasons not proper at this Time – From the present Conduct of the Trustees by takeing an expensive Sworn Rental They have made it obvious to the World That they intend bringing all Sir Alexander Grants Scotch Estate to a Sale – and there is all the Reason in the World to believe that Period is not distant – Pity it shoud not fall into the Hands of some of the Connections of the Family – it is the Wish of many, shoud such an Event take Place, M<sup>r</sup> Davidson Shoud be the Purchaser. – I am the only One have Suffer'd most from the mismanagement of Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Grants affairs – His Design with Respect to my Family is frustrate – Had I less Delicacy, I woud have at least equal Success with my Sister in Laws Family. They received £200 – And I have never received 6<sup>d</sup>. – My Eldest Son, now in his Eighteenth Year, a Man, educate as well as my uninform'd Judgement coud direct, for India, a very promiseing handsome young Man, lies in a Manner buried – And Shoud I have been inclined to volunteer indelicatlie, by Sending to his Uncle uncal'd for, I have been disapointed & totally deprived of the Fund left for Him, And the Rest of my Children by Sir Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant – The Truth is, unless M<sup>r</sup> Davidson had cald for him, I coud not with Confidence have sent him. I have at the Same Time a nephew a very promiseing Youth, had these Gentlemen done me Justice, whome I intended also for India – Other Two of my Sons are qualified for Business. My Eldest Sons Ambition was ever for getting into his Uncles Service, in the Business Line: He inclined not the Military Department of Choice. And I find he wrote and forwarded a Letter Himself to his Uncle Five Years agoe – neither of my Sons affect the Military Life. My Fourth Son seems to turn out the contemplative man, and of an Extraordinary Capacity. – The Fifth Son is too young to decide. As Alexander the eldest cannot be put off Thoughts of getting to his Uncle in India; The 2 & 3<sup>d</sup> Peter & Lewis wish for Jamaica: And I have very latelie had a Letter from a Gentleman of

Fortune in Jamaica, Son to a neighbouring Gentleman in this Country, acquainting me, That my Brother in Law M<sup>r</sup> Peter Davidson was to call for These Two Lads – This Gentleman was latelie in this Country, and it Seems gave Him Some accot<sup>s</sup> of Them. – But I depend litle on this, as I never heard from M<sup>r</sup> Davidson nor has M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar his Sister – I had but one Letter from your M<sup>r</sup> Davidson about 18 years ago – in April 1780, He wrote his Sister, & mentions having wrote me, by the same conveyance, but it never came to hand – He said he might expect to heare regularlie from Him yearly by the Successive months of October –, but neither of us have heard from Him, or of Him, ever since, all we heard of your happy arrival, in the manner I have represented. During the Life of the valuable M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant, There was access for a Corrispondence – His Death was an unspeakable Loss to my Family – my youngest Son is named for his Lady and Him – My Second Daughters Name was intended for you – I have been in some Paine forever about her name, as I feared the Quarter whence I obtained my Intelligence – her name is Pegue – If you put me to Rights, I can still as yet availe myself of the mistake, if there is any.

A Letter Simply addressed to Will<sup>m</sup> Falconar Esq<sup>r</sup> Kildrummy by Nairn. N.B. will find M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar or me in Course of Post.

I will hope to hear from you Dear Madam, in Case this or M<sup>rs</sup> Falconars former Letter, has come to your Hand, with a Direction now to write you.

I have the Honour to be Dear Madam, your most obedient and most humble Servant Will<sup>m</sup> Falconar.

Kildrummie by Nairn 7 Octo<sup>r</sup> 1784

page 35 [*Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London*]

My Dear Madam

I had the pleasure of writing you the 16<sup>th</sup> Jully under cover to Lady Grant forwarded by miss Grant of Dalvey and I have been ever since, longing for a retourn – I now become most anxious to hear how you and the Dear Children are, and how you left my Dearest Brother from whome I have not heard these several years – woud you favour me not a Letter on resepet [*receipt*] of this it woud be most obliging, and let me know how your Healths are. I have wrot Lady Grant Several times beging to be informed conserning you and Family but her Ladyship has not wrot now for a long time, which makes me apprehensive she is not well, as I understand mr Falconar has wrot you Largely. I shall say the less at this time, but begs to know your address –

and I am Dearest Madam your most affectionat Sister Lydia Falconar

Killdrummy 8<sup>th</sup> Octor 1784

PS my best and Dearest Love to the Children may everlasting airms Suround you all.

pages 37 – 38 [*William Falconar to Elizabeth who is at 17 Cavendish Square London*]

Your most affectionate, indulgent and all respectable Letter, My Dear Madam, of the 9 curr<sup>t</sup> thro' an oversight at the Office, came not to Hand till last night – And I now embrace the first Opportunity in my grateful Acknowledgement of your Benevolence & Goodness to my Family

The young man you are so kind as patronise is by your inexpressibly Kind Letter to his mother, now all Life and Spirites. – I have done Him all Duties, in a domestick Education: and I flatter myself, my Care & Diligence, on an acquaintance with the young Man, will meet with your approbation – Tho' I never coud submit to the Drudgery of a Pedagogue, I look'd on my own Method, by a Subordinate Teacher, preferable to what I have observed among the Schools – and some attention alone had to the Belles Lettres. – I have the vanity to think, my young men exceed those, who have what we call in Scotland a Colledge Education – The

Advantage in Particular of uncorrupted Principles, & unculeation of Morals. – I should be happy if I had it in my Power to have the same oportunitie of being aiding in the Instruction of yours.

Such My Dear Madam, as you'l find Him, I now with unbounded Cheerfulness, & Gratitude, resign Him over to you, and his Uncle, to use Him as you shall think proper. – He ever was brackable & dutieful and Since He was capable of Reflection gave invincible Proofs of an Attachment to his Uncle In India, with an unintermitted Predilection of Any Employ under his Eye, to any other office whatsoever. And expressd his Wonder much at his Cousine's Choice. – To participate with his Uncle in the Cares of Life, I have reason to believe is no how elective with Him, however mightie the Temptation – I am confident hitherto, He woud put no Department in Life in competition with an attendance on his Uncle. – But My Dear Madam, Henceforth, He is Yours, entirelie yours – And on the shortest Notice, will be readie to attend your Commands.

I have at this Time to add no more, than my most affectionate compls to your very Amiable Daughter Miss Davidson – Her Merit as an excellent & an elegant Writer, has captivate my Attention From Such a remarkable Profiliencie in that Respect, I'm confident She has made equal Advances in all the other Branches of female Accomplishments.

M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar will have the Honour to write You by next Post, under S<sup>r</sup> H. M.<sup>s</sup> Cover – An unconquerable Paine at the Breast, & kind of Rheumatick Disorder distresses her much – the least Hurry of Spirites give these a redoubled Vigour.

I have the Honour to be My Dear Madam your very much obliged, Affectionate, and most humble Servant W<sup>m</sup> Falconar

Kildrummie 1 June 1785      This letter is uncover'd on Acc<sup>t</sup> of high Postage

pages 39 – 40 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London]

my Dear Madam

Your Letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> curr<sup>t</sup>, made me very happy indeed, as it did us all of this Family – and now how and in what manner shall I Express my Gratitude – words are wanting, you have been the happy Instrument of filling my Heart with Joy and Gladness my Satisfaction is every way Hightened – mr Falconar never could volinter in sending off his Son at Random – and now he is called for, by whome, one trust, a parent whose benign Eye, will look over his tender youth, derict the maternal advice, and Counsel – the parents mind Eased at parting with their first Born; in whose Hands next to their own alon, they could trust him with freedom – and now my very dear and amiable Sister, I do with as much Chearfulness, resign him over to you, as I received him, from the Almighty, the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1766 the day he was born – your Engageing and endearing Character, my Dear Broy<sup>r</sup> let me into, Some time agoe – often Since, has the repeated approbation of others confirmed that attachment my Soul bore you, and none more Strongly rivetted by that Sweetness and goodness of Heart, so ellegantlie and affectionatly Express<sup>t</sup> in your tender Letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> Curr<sup>t</sup> – at the Same time that in Humble Adoration I gratefully acknowledge the unbounded Sovereign goodness of my gracious God, may I be enabled to Supplicate continual Blessings on the Happy Instrument of my present Blooming prospect respecting my poor youth now going into better Hands than mine – may the Choicest Blessings Heaven bestows Spiritually and temporallie be multiplied on you – my ever Dear Brother and your Dear and Lovely Family – I can not truth say that on such occasions, you have been for years continually on my mind, and now my gracious God, has returned these prayers into my own Bosome – in the happy offer you have made in taking my Son under your protection – your goodness it Seems is unrestrai<sup>n</sup>d unconfined to Single objects – the picture you mentioned is one of the most valuable cou<sup>d</sup> be conferred on me – to gaze over and recognise the much Loved Countenance of a Brother So Dear, and whose Features from so earlie and long an Absence must have been long Effaced in my Imagination

but my Dear Sister has not indulged our additional Request, I meane her own many Dear picturs accompanying the diser [*desire?*] of her Eyes – yet let me observe with unbounded Gratitude you also mind my Girls – Showe your Liberality keeps pace with the goodness of your Heart – they too must have their Share in the General Satisfaction of the Family – my Ealdest Daughter Elizabeth born 30 Decr 1768, is now a woman on my Hands – her Sister Jess Pegue Claimes her title, she was born 21 Aprill 1774 and a Smairt Damssel she is, reads and writs leck [*like*] a woman – my Ealdest Daughter Naturallie does all the millenary and mantua makeing work of the Family, tho never from under my own Eye – in Short my ever Dear and amiable Sister your unbounded goodness and generosity has loaded us all with your munificence – but my goodman will not be Satisfyed, till he has your picture. The Situation of my Health is such, that but to you and Lady Grant alone, the best of wemon, who has ever been a most tender mother to me, I coud Sitt so long at writing – a sever paine at my Breast not the Stomach not very little Intermission with Rhumatick Complaintes distresses me much with alacrity I begine to prepare for the young man, so that he may not appear unworthey your Notice – tho still decent his Father says he must Furbish him a little better – he never has the S – h [*Scottish*] Fidle a phrase you may be unacquainted wit, the J– M – I have certainlie tired you, and indeed my Spirits woud have by this time entirly faild, had you not been the object of my Correspondance.

my best Comp<sup>ts</sup> to my Lovilie Niece, and all your Dear Flock, let me Sincerely assure you my Dear Sister that I am your ever affectionat Sister Grateful and Humble Servant Lydia Falconar

Kildrummy 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1785

*pages 41 – 42 [Alexander Falconar to his Aunt Elizabeth Davidson in London – noted as being his first letter to her]*

Honored & Dear Lady

On the general Satisfaction diffused among this Family by your unmerited Benevolence and Eternal Goodness to me, my ever Honourable Dear Aunt, (an endearing appellation you have now graciously privilegd me to adopt, & in which I glory more, than in the Richest Pomp & Luster of Asiatic Magnificence); Permit me to expose my unveiled Heart to your View. Words fail, & my Pen reluctantly discharges its Office, as the grateful Soul is too big for uttering its genuine Sentiments on so critical an Occasion, as the having in Prospect, the Object ever most immediate to my wakeing & sleeping. Thoughts & Wishes, the Privilege, the mighty Privilege of a personal Attendance on, & yielding an implicit & faithful Obedience to the Commands of my ever favorit & Dear Uncle, and most amiable, benevolent & beneficent Aunt.

Long, very long, may you, united in Love & Esteem of each other, shine in that Splendor & Benevolence, you have so liberally bestowed on others – and Transmitt your Virtues, to a numerous and happy Progeny.

I will, However impatiently, – await the happy Hour, may waft me to prostrate myself at your Feet, in Contemplation of so enduring a Character; – When, I shall also be bless'd with an Introduction to a lovely Groupe of Cousins – dear very much to my tender and affectionate Heart.

Its rebounding Throbs, may on this Occasion, have laid & expos'd me to too theatrical Discharge of an overflowing Soul –,

Forgive me, my ever honord Aunt for my Weakness – ‘ And, with the warmest Gratitude permit me the inestimable Privilege and Honor of subscribing,

My Dear Madam, your ever affectionate Nephew, and obliged, grateful humble Servant.

Alex<sup>r</sup> Falconar.

Kildrummy 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1785

pages 43 – 44 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London]

my very Dear & amiable Sister

The Box you sent me came safe to hand, Saturday last – but no Letters from you, or my lovely niece, previous to its arrival – I hope you receive my Sons Letter and mine of the 2<sup>d</sup> June, forwarded under Sir H: munro's cover – mr Falconar wrot you the post before. these conveyed our most Hearty and cheerful Resignation of our, now your Sandy to you, with most grateful thanks for your goodness, so Sweetlie so tenderly and elegantly expressed in your much valued Letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> May – now I am again loaded with multiplied obligations – what a rich well stored Box of most valuable and useful things you have sent me – useful indeed they will prove, both to myself and my Girls – they will tourn out to various uses for each of us – Some of them indeed, in their original State, tho in a publick Line of Life, and much exposed to Expense in Suport of Rank, and Inconveance attending a Military [*page torn depa?*] rtment, are above our Small Fortune – our Lott is to be much more in publick than we woud choose: this Subjects to the utmost Stretch of economy my Family have found a mother indeed in you, my most amiable, considerate, & condescending Sister – may the generious nobly generious Benefactorix be rewarded an hundredfold in this life, with never fadeing Glory in that which is to come – the much Loved Miniature has revived me – I must wear it Constantly in my Bosome – it has Sett me a panting for a Sight of the original – the Features are Sweet, very Sweet – the Forhead and mouth, I think, I retaine Some Idea of my Second Son and fourth are Striking Resemblances mr Falconar is much more anxious now than ever for your picture I have not observed so fervent a desire in him for any thing in Life – he is determened he Says to have it Shoud he employ one to get a Stolen glance that so benign a Soul, must have a Lovely Countenance – we have not seen mr Brodie – Sandy went to Brodie's House to wait of him, but he was at Elgine with his Sisters – I am busied preparing Linnens and Stocking for the young man, who is all on wing, to be gone I long much, very much, to hear how you all do – and as you will have accots from India, I am impatient to hear of your dearest friend Broysr Health – coud not my lovely Niece favour me with a Correspondence, to me so Sweet, and that, at any rate once a month – I have been now of a long time distresst with a paine in the Breast – mr Falconar has made Tryal of many things – he has obliged me to drink porter – it has done me Service – I now begine to try in againe, but the Season is against it – or our traders keep it not good as it Sowrs [*sours*] – I hope good Lady Grant is well long has she acted the mother to me, her valuable Correspondence has faln off a little from a perod of Some years ever since my youngest Cousine was at London – but I meane not this Shoud be observed to her – she, Miss Grant, is not married, not dose it Seeme very likele, from what cause this missfortune is Sprung, I know not but it makes prodigious Noise in the Country and very disagreeable to Connections I ever am my most amiable and very dear Sister your much obliged and ever affectionate and most Humble Servant Lydia Falconar

Kildrummy 8<sup>th</sup> August 1785.

Remind me to my Lovely Niece and the raist of the Dear Children.

pages 45 – 46 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London]

my ever Dear Madam

I was last post favourd with your Dear Epistle – how happy to find you wer all well, I lickwise got yours wrot from Marget, but good mr Brody has been twice here and told me you was to Cheange your Lodgings on your return to Town So that I was at a loss where to derict for you – this has been the cause of my haveing been So long unwrot, mr Brody has been on your account whome he Admires greatly, most polite and kind to

Sandy had him for Some days at his House – where he used him with the utmost Sivility, we have him now almost redie, and he if Spaird will soon attend his ever Amiable Aunt may Heaven pour down its best Blessings on you and yours for your unmerited goodness to us all – I thank you for your kind intelligence where I may inquier for the Dear Family – I feel for you on parting with them, but I trust Almighty God will Suport you on that occasion and preserve you on your Voyage – and bring you saife to the airms of your Dear Husband when I hope you will both retourn Soon again to your Dearest Family – what dose he not owe to So good a wife – Shall I presume to ask if Miss Davidson gos out with you, we hear by report that Miss Grant of Dalvey was married last Saturday to Macintosh at last – we have little or no intercourse with that Family, so cannot give particulars at this time – may our poor youth prove grateful for such distinguished obligations as he lys under to you – words are wanting to Express what I feel for so much goodness – but my gracious God will make it up to you – mr Falconar Expects to procure a Frank or two from Genneral munro – when we intend to writ you more fully – I ought indeed to have wrot good lady Grant, who I hope is well. I also must writ my beloved Niece – my Health thank God is better these few weeks past – our Second Son has got a call to Jamicia by a Cousine of mr Falconars, against the Spring could we get him Ecquiept – their uncle peater Promised to call for too of them but has not yet done it, but the Lord lives and Blessed be our Rock mr Falconar joins in Love I remaine my dearest your Lydia Falconar K Drummie 8<sup>th</sup> Nover 1785

page 47 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London]

my Dear Madam

May the bearer of this prove Grateful to the instrement of his present Happyness I have joy mingled with my panting Lungs to think he goes to such a Friend – may the best of her Sex find him ever Dutyfull on all occasions – and may Heaven pour down its chocest Blessings on her who has so genorously provided for our Dear Youth with sincer Love to you and your Dear Family

I am ever my Dearest Madam your most affectiond sister Lydia Falconar  
Kildrumy 17<sup>th</sup> Decemr 1785

page 48 is blank

pages 49 – 50 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London]

my very Dear Madam

I had the pleasure of writing you the 28<sup>th</sup> last month – my thoughts indeed are much taken up about you, on this critical occasion that you may be suported and assisted by Divine Strength, Strength infused by the Almighty God in parting with your Lovelie and dear Children, but I hope, soon to see them againe, in Health much Comfort and Happiness – I am bound by many very many Ties, and obligations to pray for you, while I draw Breath – and now, and for Some time in a more particular manner, and that with Earnestness and uninterrupted perseverance – I will not be at Ease, I fear, till I have heard if spaired till then, of your saife arival to the arms of a longing and Loveing Husband – you have been a blessed Instrument – of conveying much goodness to my Family – your unbounded generosity to my Son, whome you have now made your owen by a Costly adoption, added to your kindness to my Girls. Excite a Gratitude, a Love, too big, for utterance may the multiplied Blessings of the God of their Fathers, (they are the Seed of his pious progenitors) be plentyfully poured upon you, and yours – a double portion, – may your Bow abide in Strength, and the arms of your Hands be made Strong, by the Hands of the mighty God of Jacob while seeing his wonders on the deep and mighty waters – and he will bliss you, with Blissings of Heaven above, Blissings of the

deep that lieth under – unto the outmost Bounds of the everlasting Hills. thus my ever Dear and amiable Sister. I commend you to the protection of my God, and I trust your God. – may your Dear and Lovely Daught'r, as well as my Son, now yours, and all your Retinue as also your Effects be under the Same protection – you'll have dally accompanying you, the united prayers of this Family, and the called for aid in these Solemn Duties, of others, who really walk near the Lord – and I hope my Lovely Sister, will at the proper Stated Seasons, add her own prayers to those so as we may become the Violent who take as it were the Kingdom of Heaven by Force – Math 11<sup>th</sup> 12. I know not if I may have the opportunity of writing you again, when in Europe – therefore O God of Abraham, God of Isaac and the God of Jacob, this is his Name for ever, and this his Memorial to all Generations – the God of our Fathers, the God that fed us all our lifelong till now, and the Angel that redeemed us from Evil, bless my Amiable my Lovely Sister according to the unsearchable Riches of thy Grace in Christ – in whom all the promises of God, are true and confirmed – great Jehovah Father Son and Holy Ghost, Lord God omnipotent, hear and Grant my Request – May the Eternal God be her Refuge and underneath the everlasting arms – may this be her protection and [*illegible word*] such as accompany her – and those she has left behind I am Fatigued – but whelple of Breath. I am my ever dear Friend and Sister your most obliged Faithful Humble Servant

Lydia Falconar

Kildrummy 11<sup>th</sup> Febr'y 1786

I have taken the liberty to trouble you not a few lines to my Dearest Brother (I ought to have wrot my Dear Niece) god Bless you. L F

pages 51 – 52 [*Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth in London*]

my Dearest Madam

We received a Letter last post, from Sandy, acquainting us of your and Dear Family's wellfair, which greatly rejoiced us – words are wanting to Express the sence we have of your generous goodness to our Son – he is truly Senceable of it may Heaven reward such acts of Benevolence and unmereted goodness – which I trust will be the case to you and yours, here and hereafter – we have great reason to be thankful that he got saife, the mother being so very daistrous [*this word unclear*] – a happy prelude I hope to a longer voyage – you will be supported I trust, in parting with your dear Children and protected to reach the armes of your Dearest Husband – soon I hope to retourne together to join your Family – but I am some how sorry that Miss Davidson goes as I fear she will stay in India – Sandy's short description of you all is most delightful to me – I believe the Halfe of my Heart Dwells amonge you – I have ordered Sandy to send me a proper description for the Lady the Children are to be with that I may have the pleasure of hearing often of the lovely Creatures – O my Dearest Madam, I hope you and my ever Dear Brother soon retourn to them again – I hear he is now Governor of Madras – on which I congratulate you – may providence continue to pour down its Choicest Blessings on you and Family.

I have wrot Lady Grant to thank her ladyship for her kindness to Sandy – it seemes he trembled when he missed the Family from Cavendish Squier, he flew to her Ladyship who kindly directed him to your Lodgings – I hope she will acquaint me when you set off my prayers is all [*hole in the page*] I can retourn for the load of obligations laid on me – with sincer Love to you my amiable Niece and all the Dear Family I am ever my Dearest Madam your most affectionate Sister Lydia Falconar  
Kildrumy 28 Janury 1786



*pages 53 – 54 [Alexander Falconar to his aunt Elizabeth, both are aboard the Vansittart – noted as being his second letter to her – the beginning of the page seems to be missing or torn]*

Opress'd with a Sense of your Favor & more uneasy to have caused such Uneasiness in the most amiable of Women, than by the Pain I suffer, I can hardly now address you –

My Heart was ever susceptible of Friendship – how much have you won it, most Dear Lady, by your unlimited Kindness – your unbounded Care?!

No sensation affords greater Pleasure to the distressed nor tends more to alleviate their Affliction; – than a Participation of their Anguish – than the Hand of a Friend, willing to relieve: This, my Dearest Aunt have met with in You, – and more than any external Application has it helped to remove that Pain I suffer'd –

I should think myself peculiarly a child of Providence; – I have met with Kindness from many, – but my Dearest Aunt's exceeds all: The anxious Concern of an affectionate Mother seems to be transfer'd to an Aunt – and to have been rather augmented by the Change! The most distant connection with M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson I'd be proud of; – how much more so, being look'd on by her as a child?! – Assist me Heav'n to merit her Care, or if I cant deserve it, not to be unworthy of it –

Whether has my Heart, in the fullness of its Gratitude guided my Pen before I was aware?

If I had transgress'd your Goodness, I hope my Dear Madam, you will not misconstrue the Cause: I tremble least you should think me guilty of Flattery; lest my Gratitude should be deem'd Adulation – No, my Dear Madam, I spurn the Idea: Your real Goodness attracts the one, as it precludes the other.

Be assur'd I am greatly better; – I was once very sick, now much mended: I'm to endeavor to get out of Bed this Eveng for an hour or so, tho' it will give a great deal of Pain but I am heartily tir'd of Bed it is so intolerably hot –

I beg respectful Compliments to Miss Davidson and I'm much obliged to her for her kind Enquiries to Miss Bruce M<sup>rs</sup> Darval, Miss Humphrys & Miss Kennedy, I beg my kind remembrance. may Belville's Invocation be answer'd, and may each "Lovely Face, slate the anxious Expectants" –

I have the honor to be My Dear Aunt your most affect<sup>d</sup> Nephew or honored "child" Alex<sup>r</sup> Falconar

Vansittart 15 March 1786

*pages 55 – 56 [Elizabeth to her husband on her arrival back in India]*

Ship Vansittart Madras Road 22<sup>nd</sup> June

With joy inexpressible my dearest friend I take up my pen to acquaint you by the returning Cattermaran of our safe arrival here – Your Daughter Betsy and your Nephew Falconar (a most amiable youth) are in good health they join me anxiously to see you – I long with great impatience to know how you are – may the Almighty grant I may find you Equal to my fondest wishes.

I had the happiness of leaving my sweet little Girls, and Darling Boy in charming health, under the kind care of my Dear Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, who I am confident will be to them a tender mother. I had the pleasure also of leaving Lady Grant well.

I have brought under my care three young Ladies – M<sup>iss</sup> Bruce, M<sup>iss</sup> Humphries, and M<sup>iss</sup> Kennedy – M<sup>rs</sup> Darval likewise is on Board the latter Lady and Miss Bruce I have (with your permission) promised to accommodate, till their friends fetch them.

We left Gravesend on the 12<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> for the Downs from, which place we sailed on the 18<sup>th</sup> of the above Month, and reached Johanna on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May – our passage has been remarkable

short and very pleasant – Captain Lewin is a most deserving worthy man – as, much as, it has been in his power, he has rendered my situation very comfortable and happy. –

If you my dear Davidson mean to come on Board the Vansittart, let me request you to leave the Shore before the Surge rises high – and if the weather any way proves boisterous, for God sake do not come off. – Though the happiness of seeing you, will be one of the greatest events of my life, yet, as your Existence is very precious to your family, I would wish you not to run the smallest hazard.

Besides the accommodation boat I would be obliged to you to order two boats to convey my Servants and Baggage on shore – if my poor favorite Ramah is still with you, permit him to come on Board to take charge of my things in the Cabin – I have a large family with me – my Servants consist five in number, four Maids and a Coachman, a most worthy creature.

Tell young Corbett that I left his dear Father and his family in great good health. When we left England no Governor General was appointed to Bengal – the Candidates for the Chair were mentioned to be Lord McCartney, M<sup>r</sup> Hastings, and Governor Campbell. I herewith enclose a list of the Passengers on Board.

Captain Lewin begs to be particularly remembered to you, he always mentions you with respect and esteem. M<sup>rs</sup> Darval and the other Ladies compliments wait on you. Betsy and your Nephew write with me in Affectionate remembrance. – I shall eagerly expect to hear and to receive a few lines from you – Adieu, and believe me sincerely I am your most Devoted, and Affectionate, Eliza: Davidson.

Be so kind as to forward the enclosed letters as P<sup>r</sup> direction, particularly Colonel Bruce's and M<sup>rs</sup> Oakeleys – I shall require ropes Gunies, &<sup>c</sup>, for packing my things, let them be sent by Ramah in the Baggage Boat.

pages 57 – 58     [*James Whyte to Elizabeth*]

I had the honor to receive your Letter yesterday by M<sup>r</sup> Falconar, and I hope you will believe me when I assure you, that it will always afford me much pleasure to have it in my power to oblige you –

Independent of your recommendation M<sup>r</sup> Falconar himself would attract my notice and merits every attention, and having heard before of your great regard for him and finding him such a sensible, polite, well bred young Gentleman, I shall esteem him a great acquisition to our society here.

You are pleas'd to express yourself as under obligations to me, however, that proceeds from your politeness, and benevolence, and the reverse, would be the true state of these matters – I shall always remember the attention and friendly reception I had at your House, both from you, and M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, and I don't recollect to have enjoy'd so much chearfull conviviality since – you know Madam, that I am not addicted to flattery, or paying Compliments. I shall therefore tell you, that I have not been so acquainted with so pleasant a Family as yours was at Trichinopoly – I am much honor'd by having Compliments from Miss Davidson, and if I was a young Man it would be very flattering indeed but I dare say, she would scarce deign to be acquainted with such an old Fellow as I am, with grey or rather white Locks – I recollect her appearance when she was little Betsy – and would then take the liberty to Kiss her, but now I suppose that would be near to high Treason. I assure you Madam, your letter has given me much pleasure, by reviving an acquaintance I valued so much and if I have been too familiar in this, a hasty reply to it, I hope you will pardon me. I beg to return my most respectfull Compliments to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and to Miss Davidson I remain with the utmost esteem ~ Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Whyte    Warrior 30<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1787.

page 59 [E Tanner to Elizabeth]

My Dear Madam

I have been favor'd with your kind Letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ultimo and beg leave to assure you that I must ever retain the most grateful Remembrances of yours and M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons friendship and attention on every occasion; that I shall experience a particular pleasure in showing M<sup>r</sup> Falconar every civility in my power, more particularly as I have reason to believe him to be a very meritorious Young Man, and have no doubt but he will prove himself an attentive good Officer.

I have the pleasure my Dear Madam to reply to your friendly Queries concerning my little folks, by informing you they are both happily situated in England, and from the satisfactory Information I have received of and from them I have reason to flatter myself they will partake of every Improvement and Advantage I could probably wish them.

Permit me to request of you to present my kind and respectful Compliments to M<sup>r</sup> and Miss Davidson, and to believe me to be with great truth and Sincerity – My Dear Madam Your obliged Friend & Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant E Tanner  
Warriore 2<sup>nd</sup> Septem<sup>r</sup> 1787

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page 61 [Alex Watson to Elizabeth]

Dear Madam

I have receiv'd your respectable Letter in favor of M<sup>r</sup> Falconar, which I cannot but esteem a flattering mark of your attentions, and one that is most unfeignedly grateful to me. M<sup>r</sup> F's sweet disposition, good Sense and accomplishments can't fail to secure him the regard and esteem of all his acquaintances – and those alone (without the aid of so powerful an advocate as M<sup>rs</sup> D.) would prove sufficient motives for my attachment & friendship to him. It is with real regret I reflect, how little he can benefit by them; but such as they are, you may be assured, I shall be happy in exerting them to the utmost in promoting his welfare.

Gratitude, veneration and the most perfect esteem for M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson and their family, have long had full possession of my breast – and these are founded upon too solid principles not to gain Strength with & be as permanent as my Life.

I must ever reflect with gratitude and Satisfaction upon the disinterested friendship and numberless [*next word illegible*] Shown me by you & M<sup>r</sup> Davidson; and if I know my own heart, it is deeply impressed with a Sense of its obligations to both, & would prompt me to something beyond mere professions, were its dictates Supported by ability.

I have received no Letter this season from either M<sup>r</sup> or M<sup>rs</sup> Scott, a circumstance extremely mortifying to me, & that I own [*next word illegible*] to the dangerous & long protracted illness of the latter; of which I had particular accounts from my Brother. However, thank God, She had pretty well tho' not perfectly recoverd her health. Scott himself with their family were well – and I shall not fail to remember you to them as you wish in my next letters. If there is any thing in this quarter you wish for & that I can execute it for you it will be conferring a particular happiness to employ me. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson I have always ranked among the few, who deserv'd the name of sincere friends to me, and as such I wish you to convey my grateful and warm regards to him – I must likewise request my best respects to your amiable Daughter. With the utmost wishes for the health and welfare of yourself and family I remain Dear Madam your obligd friend and very kn<sup>d</sup> Servant Alex Watson  
Warriore 2<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup> 1787

page 63 [*Captain J J Stevenson to Elizabeth*]

I am oblig'd to You, my dear Madam, for the favor You have done me by sending Your Nephew to my Reg<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Falconar is a genteel amiable Young man, and from my Short Acquaintance with him, I am assur'd he is deserving of the kind and affectionate concern which You and M<sup>r</sup> Davison express for him: his manners and behaviour will be sufficient to secure my Friendship, and my respect for You and the grateful sense I have of the essential Favors confer'd on me by M<sup>r</sup> Davison will be additional motives for my paying particular attention to Your Young favourite.

I have appointed him to a Troop with a Gentleman who is very capable & I am convinced will be very attentive to instructing M<sup>r</sup> Falconar in riding & every other part of his duty & from his known intention to do evry thing that is right, a Short Time will make him an expert Cavalry Officer.

Accept my best thanks for Your Friendly offers and good wishes which are too flattering not to have the immediate effect of adding to my happiness: I beg leave to present my due respects to M<sup>r</sup> & Miss Davison and remain –

Your most Devoted & Obed Serv J J Stevenson

Warrior 4<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1787

M<sup>rs</sup> Davison

page 64 is blank

page 65 [*a short odd bit, looks like the end of a longer letter – re–appears on page 69 in a letter to Mrs Devaynes*]

Nephew I have forgot myself to you, my most amiable friend, make my Peace. Kiss my little Charge for me, and believe me with a keen remembrance of you particularly for me Your faithful affectionate

page 66 is blank

pages 67 – 68 [*Elizabeth to William Devaynes*]

William Devaynes Esq<sup>r</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> December 1786

Dear Sir

I do great violence to myself in writing the following letter, which nothing could have induced me to write but the greatest friendship for the party Concerned. I beg to promise I am well aware of the magnitude of the Favour I am about to solicit, and should I be successful in it, I shall most gratefully acknowledge it to You and Yours not only by letter but essentially by deed if it ever lies in my power.

I am told it is an old usage, which I hope in God has not fallen into disuse, that an Indian Governour has the Nomination of a Writer, especially if he has friends to make the Plea for him. Now though my Good – Man was not appointed by the Company, you know he was in the Chair here near twelve months, preceding the arrival of General Campbell. It is understood here You will be Chairman next Year; if not at any rate in the Direction – if my good Genius should prompt you to assist M<sup>r</sup> Davidson to get M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Falconar his Nephew now appointed in the Civil Service at Madras now here you would make many families happy, and promote the welfare of an amiable Young Man whom I love like my own Son. I fairly tell you I shall put my worthy friends M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes and Lady Macartney on your back; and on this occasion to render the Pen of friendship more propitious you will allow it

fair that I muster all the pettycoat interest in my power to accomplish one of the most darling objects I was ever interested to establish. Let me beseech you treat not this application coldly, but for the sake of the Ladies I have mentioned, particularly your own, do me the honour of adopting it with the warmth it is written.

Your goodness will be remembered and her for ever gratified, who is, with respect Your obliged and obedient Servant.

reverse of page 68 [Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes]

Madras 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1786

My Dear Madam,

I this Season wrote to you fully – to enclose under a flying seal a letter to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes which pray deliver to him when in his gayest humour. If in the ardor of my friendship for my Nephew

pages 69 – 70 [Elizabeth starts the letter to Mrs Devaynes again. Also one to Lady Macartney]

Madras 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1786

My Dear Madam

I this Season wrote to you fully – This serves to enclose under a flying seal a letter to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes which pray deliver to him when in his gayest humour. If in the ardor of my friendship for my Nephew I have forgot myself to you, my most amiable friend, make my Peace. Kiss my little charge for me, and believe me with a keen remembrance of you particularly for me Your faithful affectionate Eliza: Davidson

To Lady Macartney –

My dear Madam

I this Season wrote to you very fully – These lines are to inform you have taken the liberty to mention your name to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes in behalf of a Nephew of M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Falconar now here, to have him nominated in the Company's Civil service – May I my dear Lady Macartney supplicate your friendly aid in this important affair? Your kind assistance in promoting the welfare of this amiable youth, and one I really love as my own Son, would be the greatest act of friendship you could confer on me – Your goodness of heart, and Benevolent disposition, I know will pardon the freedom of this request – and when you see M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, let me entreat your Ladyship to use your prevailing rhetoric to accomplish this darling object of mine –and I will promise in future not to be troublesome to you – I enclose a copy of my letter to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes.

I have not been able to get M<sup>r</sup> Davidson to mention this subject to Lord Macartney from a motion of delicacy, I sincerely hope therefore having your Ladyship's forgiveness there being no alternative: Your ineffable courtesy of manner joined to you known desire to serve the deserving, have encouraged me to encroach on your esteem for me.

With united Compliments and good wishes to yourself, and Lord Macartney I remain respectfully Your Ladyships most devoted and affectionate Serv<sup>t</sup> Eliza: Davidson.

pages 71 – 72 [*Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth*]

My ever Dear Madam

I was favored with your most comfortable Letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ocoter – when we had the unspeakable joy – to find you all saife Areaved and in Health – my Dear Brother’s comfort on the occasion be bouned to be great – Blessed be God for his goodness may Mercy and truth ever attend the worthyst of her Sex – we cannot express the sence we have of your goodness to our poor Youth – to ennumerate the many instances he lets furth of it, would be impossible – they indeed seem to be depthly Engraved on his Heart – I trust the Almighty will spair him that he may live to teastfy unbounded gratitude to such valuable Conexons – I am in trouble my Dear Madam Thretened wit the Loss of a most tender and affectionate Husband – he has been ill since Novembr last and his trouble Hithirto still increases thus imbarassed and taken up – cannot writ so fully at this time – but will if spaired imbress Some Futture peirod to do so – I have found a most valuable Correspondent in your worthy Cousine mrs Chitty – is mead happy from time to time, in hearing of the Dear Children – and my Dear Niece Lydia writs me preatly herself – I hope they will be spaired for Blessings and comforts to you – what a Happiness that they have a careful friend to care for them in your abesence – my Dear distressed mr Falconar joins me in Love to you and my Amiable Niece and I remain my Dearest Madam wit grateful and unbounded affection your obliged Sister Lydia Falonar.  
Kildrummy 14<sup>th</sup> Aprill 1787

pages 73 [*Lydia Falconar to her brother Alexander Davidson*]

my Dearest Brother

yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> Octor with a Duplicate of the Same came all saife to Hand – as did mr worrands wit the Bill – which has been accepted, and payed, and my Blessed Brother what shall I say – but that you have been Gods instrement in reliveing the Family of your ever Loveing and ever obliged Sistr – from the dipthest Distress – and I will repay you how soon the Childrens Intriest is given me – and the most High will restore to you and yours one Hundredfold but their is no pleasure in this world without pain – my present Happieness is greatly Dashed by my Husbonds bade State of Health – he has been ill since Nover last – and now his situation growes more Alarming a Swelling in the Leggs and Body may God preserve him to me he has been a tender affect Husband – he cannot writ you at this time and my mind is so unhenged and conserned about him that I cannot properly delever the Sentements of a Heart Bigg with Gratitude to the best of Brothers – and to your Blissed Lady for her unparralled goodness to our Son – and you my Dear Brother say that he will be your care also – O Blessed God give me a thankfull Heart – We are at this Term to move from this place, the Lady whose property it is wants it – and we stier our Course to Inverness – on account of the Eudication of the younger Children – my Distressed Husband joins me in Love and Gratitude to you – and I remain my Dearest Brother with the truest affection your Grateful and obliged Sister Lydia Falconar  
Kildrummy 14<sup>th</sup> Aprile 1787

page 75 [*Elizabeth to Lydia Falconar*]

28<sup>th</sup> May 1787

My Dearest Madam

Accept these few lines of enquiries after your and your family’s health for the present, I shall most assuredly address you fully by the next dispatch.

Your Dear Son I know has written you very satisfactorily and has also given you an account of his present situation – he is a charming young man by his amiable and affectionate conduct he has won my heart for ever – were I to say all that is due to his merit my pen would fall far short of his praises – suffice it then that he is a great favorite of mine, and I hold him high in my estimation. I hope my actions will prove the truth of what I say – and happy shall I be if ever Providence puts it in my power to serve him essentially –

Your kind Brother is greatly improved in his health, country air and exercise have been of the utmost use in promoting his recovery – tho capable, he is very Lazy in the Epistolary way – nevertheless he is not wanting in affection towards his Dear Sisters: He joins his daughter and me in kind remembrance, to you M<sup>r</sup> Falconar and family – wishing you and them a large share of health, united with every other earthly blessing –

I remain with sincere attachment your very Affectionate E D

M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar

page 76 [Elizabeth to Captain Cox]

M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson presents her Compliments to Captain Cox – M<sup>r</sup> Davidson having the pleasure of his acquaintance, induces her to take the liberty to request his care of the accompany letter and little Packet to her friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty in Gower Street Bedford Square – M<sup>rs</sup> D hopes Captain Cox will excuse the freedom she has taken – and tho, unknow, she begs to offer her best wishes for his safe speedy voyage, and a happy meeting with his friends in England.

pages 77 – 78 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]

By the Ravensworth 13<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 87

My Dear Cousin, and friend of my Bosom –

My good man having addressed you in an interesting Allegory which concerns us all, more particularly Betsy I cannot allow him to send you the little narrative without a few lines from myself – What he has written is true, that I esteem my Nephew approve of him for my son in Law and that my Daughter loves him too is likewise very true – Betsy told me lately she liked her Cousin the first moment she beheld him in Gower Street – and in her mind she is resolved never to have any other – M<sup>r</sup> Falconar as well as Betsy are young three or four years in their Lives make a period of little account for them to wait for each other – especially as the later had her dear Parents arms open to protect her – the young man she has made her choice of, is possessed of every virtue, and is really a charming youth – the only objection at present is the want of fortune – and that, if it pleases the Almighty God to restore my husband it will I flatter myself be in his power to push him through life – I wrote before I knew anything of this attachment, (having ever entertained a friendship for my nephew) to England to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, Lady Macartney, and M<sup>r</sup> John Sullivan requesting their assistance in getting him appointed in the Company's Civil Service at Madras – Could this be accomplished, how supremely happy would it render this family – I have ever mentioned this amiable young man frequently in my letters to you my friend, to be acquainted with his virtues and Disposition and not to regard him, is impossible – you see even his Generous, worthy, Uncle allows him merit and Loves him as a tender Father – Thus situated can you be surprised at the young Eliza's having lost her heart – she says she is sure he has a sincere love for her, but that his duty and gratitude for the best of uncles would not allow him to trespass the bounds of hospitality to say anything to her – on so interesting a subject – Betsy means to write to you fully on this subject. To see my Daughter married and happy would render me Supremely blessed.

The young men here in general live very free lives; as for fortunes, you know they must come here to make them. Would you my friend have imagined Betsy would have lost her heart to her Cousin which you and Miss Hancock used to laugh with her about him? How strange things happen in this world sometimes – Do you think my good Uncle (as his family are provided) would lend the assisting hand of friendship to promote the happiness of my daughter and his grand niece? tell him my dearest cousin, it may perhaps be the last favor I shall ever ask of my poor Father's Brother – it would cost him nothing, and would enrich us greatly – to have M<sup>r</sup> Falconar in the Company's Civil Service is all I wish – you must here my friend exert your all powerful influence with your friend to accomplish this business – I know from my childhood upwards your heart is noble, and when in your power have always infused comfort in the Breasts of the poor and worthy – In this instance I am confident you will not be inactive. I long for the Ranger and Swallow as by them I expect letters concerning M<sup>r</sup> Falconar, heaven grant they may bring us tidings of joy and Comfort!

Betsy has been, do you not think, very sly to keep the Secret so close, and for a twelve months locked in her bosom? she tells me nothing but her fathers intreaties and promising to procure her the Man of her heart, could have we induced her to have disclosed her mind to him till such time as M<sup>r</sup> Falconar was in a situation to have married her – a mind so engrossed, no wonder she kept aloof all other swains.– She tells me she is sure you will smile and tease her about her love concerns – and she has not to this day forgot the hearty Laugh she had with you and Miss Pigou going to see M<sup>rs</sup> Landale at Prospect Place Kingsgate – she means as I said before to address you on this subject I must not hide from you that my good man hath not given his assent to what he seems, (as you will see by what he has written) an imprudent Match; neither hath he dashed his Daughter's Hope. He would not wish, on the one hand to ally her to Riches to make her unhappy – nor on the other does he think it right that she should wed Poverty to be miserable.

*pages 79 – 83 [Alexander Davidson to Mrs Chitty, an Allegory about the family & the relationship of their daughter Eliza with her cousin Alexander Falconar]*

Scotins and Benigna are a married pair, blessed with four daughters, and a Son living. Destiny placed the Fate of Scotins in the East Indies. He has been married to that amiable and best of Women Benigna, near twenty years; and though by the Changes and Chances of this transitory mortal Life they are Poor, yet they are at present as happy as falls to the general Lot of humanity.

Their first born a Daughter, Innocentia, is now in Asia with her Parents, a most amiable, affectionate, good girl as ever breathed; the other Children are in England for the Purpose of being bred, and accomplished. Innocentia on entering her eighteenth year accompanied her mother to India. Benigna returned to the East Indies with Innocentia her eldest Daughter, after having carried to England, and leaving there, three girls and a boy, the offspring of Scotins and Benigna. The Education of Innocentia though not very successful was in an high style, and expensive. Scotins very naturally expected to strengthen his family interest and his connexions by alliance, as his Daughters particularly Innocentia promised by appearance and natural accomplishments to be everything he wished. Innocentia, for what the father knew to the Contrary, arrived in India apparently perfectly disengaged in her affections; and her Mother near a twelvemonth after her arrival wrote her bosom friend Materna, who had the care of Benigna's Children, that Innocentia seemed hitherto to have had no predilection for any Favorite: adding that, matrimonial views were time enough Some Years hence.

Innocentia said one day to her Father with a timid, but an interesting air– "My dear Father, if you please, I shall make an Agreement with you; if you will never use your Influence with me to induce me to marry a man I do not like; I here most solemnly promise and vow never to wed a man my Father does not approve of". I most willingly agreed, and we sealed our



Covenant with a Kiss. As interested, mercenary and sordid matches frequently occur in this Country, I thought Innocentia's guarded, and early saving precaution very proper. It is necessary to note the Reflections I have just made of the Apparent disengaged state of Innocentia's heart, by her Mother's writing to England on the subject; and Innocentia's cautioning her Father not to endeavour to engage her affections against her Consent: nor that she would dispose of her Heart, but with the Approval of Scotins.

In coming from England on board of Ship young Ladies frequently engage their affections to young men; these entanglements are the reasons why the Parents of Young Ladies going to India are desirous of sending them under the protection of married women of good charas. Benigna, beside her daughter, had the care of several young Ladies whom she delivered safe to their respective friends.

Modestus a Nephew of Scotins a young man invited to India by him to be provided for accompanied his Aunt in the Voyage on board the same Ship. I am now coming to the interesting part of this little narrative. Scotins' Nephew Modestus is a son of a Captain in the King's Service. The Father has a large family, of which Modestus now arrived at the Age of one and twenty is the eldest. The Family of Modestus are in such distress, and so overwhelmed with debt, that Scotins was obliged to make remittances to save the Father old Alexes, and the good, the Virtuous, the Pious, Lydiana from destruction. Modestus the Son of Alexes taken by the hand, and promoted by the Influence of Scotins the Parents consider Young Modestus as the prop, the Comfort, the Hope of the family. Very deservedly, for he is really a fine Young man; although at present, unknown to himself, he is rather dogmatick and pedantick both in style and manner; yet having been well and carefully educated, and strongly grounded in most honorable principles, these will be easily rubbed off by his intercourse with Society, and in fact, may serve to polish him.

But to the Narrative. After a Residence of upwards of twelve months while Modestus remained in the Family of Scotins, during the early part of which a lowness of spirits, or rather a melancholy seized him, which induced his Friends to recommend to him to sleep at the Garden House of Scotins; afterward to make a distant Tour for the benefit of his health. Modestus returned to all appearance better. I say after a residence of upwards of twelve months it became necessary that Modestus should join the Corps to which he had been appointed.

It is very proper here to mention that Modestus very deservedly is a great favorite of his aunt Benigna, and of his Cousin Innocentia. The Uncle, Scotins, has that manly Friendship for the youth which becomes an Uncle; he is ready to support his promotion – to bear his expenses – and to receive him into his Arms as a favored Nephew. Ready to be his Companion, his Friend, his Father. Would the Friends of the Family imagine, on reading thus far, that Modestus had gained the Heart of Innocentia? She modestly avows this to her Father. I am afraid that her Mother, Benigna, without declared intentional connivance has actually, from her Love, for Modestus, tacitly promoted without her husband's knowledge, the Daughter's passion. At least the state of this Adventure is at present a mystery to Scotins. Innocentia says her Attachment to her Cousin commenced in England, about two years since. Young Modestus as far as has come to my knowledge, I must do him justice, hath not by word, or deed, encouraged this growing passion in Innocentia for himself. But still there is mystery in the present stage of the Business. For it would appear Innocentia stands forward without Encouragement as favoring the Views, if he have any, of Modestus. It must be here remarked that Benigna, before her Daughter, encouraged her in the Romantick idea of the Cottage – Richness are not necessary to Happiness – That many young people in this Country who have married without fortune, have in the end done very well. Innocentia in Benigna's opinion, she says, between jest and earnest, that Scotins ought to be obliged to his Daughter for shewing him her private letters addressed to Modestus: Letters written in a more glowing style, than letters ought to be, unless an Engagement actually existed, between the Cousins. Scotins

altered an Epithet in Innocentia's last letter to Modestus as being too ardent – she nevertheless restored the Expression, adding, additional strength to it. She had said – "yours eternally". I obliterated, eternally, and substituted Yours "ever". She in the fair copy by way of improvement, and because I suppose it suited her own mind inserted and finished with, I am Yours ever, and eternally – and this went; If Modestus had Fortune, as he has merit, his being the Cousin of Innocentia, would be a recommendation. She says he has her Heart – she will wait for him – she can love none other. The Mother approves, where there is merit, of giving way to Attachments. The last evening of Modestus stay at Madras two Carriages were ordered for a Party to take an Airing Benigna and Modestus went in one carriage Innocentia and a young officer Bronzins, a natural son of Scotins, in the other; on their return this Arrangement was changed, Bronzins returned with Benigna; and the fair Innocentia with Modestus. I questioned Innocentia on this point, she said the change was by her ordering. But to conclude, and to sum up this little History – Poor Scotins is not only – not clear, but unfortunately deeply involved in his Fortunes. The Father of Modestus not less so. Scotins doats on, and loves his Daughter – Benigna is prudent and honest – Innocentia in her Heart reveres her Father – Modestus is as virtuous, as Innocentia. But Modestus is a young Soldier, his Aunt has hope of getting him appointed a Civilian; in the present state of Affairs at home, I am fearful of it's being a visionary hope. Should the Connexion take place, and a numerous family follow – Good God! Where is the Establishment? – What becomes of the prop, the support, the Remittances to the brave old Alexes – and the more to be pittied Lydiana! with her Sons and Daughters unprovided around her!!!

Scotins has another nephew older and better placed than Modestus, who I verily believe would refrain from Marriage in order to be enabled to support his aged Father Clericus, who has still a Wife and many Children.

In this situation of things, is it Right– is it Just – is it Honorable with ones Eyes open to encourage a passion in the Minds of Innocentia and Modestus? I dearly love my Child, but if she broke her vow to me I should think in such case I had lost her, and treat her Memory as that of a departed Shade.

I should be happy to appeal, and to refer this Essay to the amiable, the worthy, the invaluable Materna.

page 84 is blank

pages 85 to 93 are a repeat of pages 79 to 83

A Family Case written at Madras in Sep<sup>t</sup> 1787

page 94 is blank

page 95            [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth]

Most Dear and Amiable Sister

I know you woud condoll and feel for me, on account of the most murnfull cheange that has happened me. I have been deprived of my greatest Earthely comfort, and a Dubhell task put into my Hand – a task which nothing but Devine power allone – can Enable me to get through – and can say with truth that hithirto I have been most grateously helped – Sandy was Fond of his Father. I have at last wrot him of his Death but I greatly fear it will bear hard on him – he was a most tender and Aentive parent – the younger Children have Sustained one irreperable loss – as to Sandy, you Dearest Madam have been, and is, all in all to him. and I know you will comfort him on this occasion – what a friend I have found in your Amiable Cousine mrs Chitty – I heard from her Lately – she and her Dear Charge wer all well – and

informed me that you wer all so, Feburery last – which much rejoiced me – Next to my owen Children my prayers are for you, and the best of Brothers – and Family – I ought to have wrot miss Davidson, but time will not at present allow me, but I beg her forgiveness – that to hear from you will be indeed comforting – alas I need Comfort – but my wound has been from the Almighty Hand – to him then I desire to look – may Heavens choisest Blessings be the portion of the best of wemon, wit Love to Miss Davidson I remain – Dearest Madam your much obliged and most affectionat Siser whell] Lydia Falconar  
Inverness. 27<sup>th</sup> Nover 1787

page 97 [*Patrick Cooke Falconar, probably staying with Mrs Chitty, to his brother Alexander in India*]

London 17th January 1788

I eagerly embrace this opportunity of writing a few Lines to my Dearest Brother, who, I'm sure, by this time, has received the melancholy intelligence of our worthy Father's death, what a happy change did he make, my dear Sandy! – I was by, till the last, shared all his difficulties, after you left us – never man suffered more – trial's & difficulties than he did. I'm sure you have heard of all from my Mother, who, poor Woman is [*unclear word*] w<sup>t</sup> her Family in a helpless state; but our consolation is, that fact is all sufficient. I'm at last, my dear Sandy, provided for. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson – Jam<sup>a</sup> [*Jamaica*] has ordered our Un: Falcon [*Uncle Falconar*] to write for me; he has sent nothing to rigg me out, but pays my passage – all that I have liberty to write, as it's under M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's cover & she's in haste, is, that its our duty to remem<sup>r</sup> our poor Mot<sup>r</sup> & fam: who has no one to depend on but you & your most aff<sup>r</sup> B<sup>r</sup> Pat: Cooke Falco [*the writing is all jammed up at the bottom of the page to avoid turning over*]

reverse of page 97

P. C. Falconar London 17<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1788 M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Falconar [*next words hand written later by Alexander Falconar*]:– A valuable fragment the only shred I possess of my poor brother Peter

pages 98 – 99 [*Elizabeth to Lady Macartney. This appears to be a draft as there are many words crossed out*]

Lady Campbell for Lady Macartney The Grove near Madras 21<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1788

Dear Madam,

I am favored with your kind and most acceptable favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 87, also the duplicate by the ship Lord Macartney –

It is needless I am sure to inform Lady Macartney that the reorganising her well known hand in this distant clime did not a little flatter my vanity and gave me that degree of satisfaction which it will ever afford me, to be honored with your notice and friendship –

I am now to offer you my dear Madam my grateful acknowledgement for your attention to my little family in Gower Street; your pleasing accounts of them yielded M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, my daughter, and me pleasure inexpressible. Your amiable condescension in giving so pleasing and [*next few words illegible*] mentioning so [*next few words illegible*] all their improvements does not a little heighten that respect and veneration I have ever entertained for you, from my first knowledge of your Ladyship – Sir John Menzies who is going home on the Manship will; I hope do me justice by telling you my uniform sentiments of you, which I have not here

mention –

I did not fail to snatch the first offered opportunity to write you, to return to you and Lord M– my best and warmest thanks for the exertions his Lordship made in behalf of his friend M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, who, as well as myself are very sensible of his manly and generous conduct – By his means principally we expect to derive comfort and Happiness by the Packet which we are anxiously looking for by the Swallow she having sailed the 22<sup>nd</sup> August is hourly expected. Sir Archibald Campbell with his suite embarked on the Manship the General wished much to appoint M<sup>r</sup> Davidson to Ganjam before his departure, but the Council requested the nomination might not take place until M<sup>r</sup> Russell sends in his resignation consequently it is deferred – and M<sup>r</sup> Russell, it is imagined will arrive here early next Month when this business will be arranged.

As my Daughter has addressed you very fully with the news of this place I should only trespass on your time to add to the length of this. But before I conclude allow me my kindest Madam, to join my request with my gentle Eliza's for you interest and support in the Behalf of my nephew whose establishment is ever uppermost in my mind – and the completion of this object would not only render me happy, but be a blessing to a most meritorious family, were the Mother of my nephew known to your Ladyship I am confident you would admire her numberless virtues; If my dear Lady M– would permit to say, she is really the Counterpart of herself in goodness. When her husband died last year he left her with eight fine children with the best and sincere wishes of this family to your self and Lord M– I remain your faith  
[incomplete word & no signature]

pages 100 – 101 [Elizabeth to A (Alexander) Brodie. Possibly a draft as many words crossed out]

M<sup>r</sup> A Brodie Esquire M.P. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1788

My Dear Sir

The receipt of your esteemed favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July by the Ranger gave me real pleasure. Is it necessary for me to say M<sup>r</sup> Brodie's friendship and attention to us here, and to my friend, and little ones in England are most flattering to me – I – have I assure you a just sense of your goodness of heart and I shall ever be ambitious of retaining your good opinion. M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty repeatedly mentions you in her several letters, and speaks of your friendly conduct in the highest terms – To experience acts of friendship from the amiable and worthy must ever prove grateful and pleasing to feeling minds – Your actions have been such towards this family that I shall ever reflect on them with heartfelt satisfaction; I hope it will be found that they have not been unworthily bestowed.

I had a few lines from you by Miss Powson who gave us the pleasure of her company for near a fortnight when Captain Dundas took a passage for her on the Princess Amelia for Bengal and saw her safe on Board. M<sup>r</sup> Coutts as well as yourself may rest assured due regard shall be paid to friends you introduced while I am here.

I know you will not recommend any from form – none except those for whom you are interested. – Some few weeks past I had a letter from the young Lady who is perfectly happy with her Father.

I was sorry to find by M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's letter you had hurt your Arm – but as you make favorable mention of it to M<sup>r</sup> D– I flatter myself long are this Period you have the perfect use of it. Many Marriages have taken place here in the course of last year, among others M<sup>r</sup> Pancher to Miss Burnavy M<sup>r</sup> Chase to Miss Rand Miss Sydenham to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Bell M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> C. Jackson to M<sup>rs</sup> Stuart, and M<sup>r</sup> Keating to a Miss Campbell – the later on the part of the Lady not at all a suitable match for him.

You have I make no doubt heard of our Female Asylum instituted by Lady Campbell for the

Benefit of the Soldiers female Children, Orphans &c, at the expence of the Publik – for this purpose upwards of twenty five Thousand Pagodas have already been collected, the Nabob subscribed fifteen hundred Pagodas beside purchasing! General Lang’s garden house – for the use of the Charity. Do not you think if we succeed it will be to the credit of Madras? Lady C– has the sole merit of this Benevolent and praiseworthy institution – We have now upwards of 60 Girls in it the best part of them have been Inoculated all except one child are perfectly recovered.

I have no news worthy your attention – the Society here are larger and gayer than it used to be when you were here – we have dancing once a week, Concerts once a fortnight – By Lady C–s exertions our Ladies have been induced to tread the Stage, for which purpose Lady C– has had a temporary Randal erected in the Governor’s Garden – M<sup>rs</sup> Oakely and M<sup>rs</sup> Moorhouse are our heroines. The Padlock and the Author are to be performed before the departure of the Henry Dundas – The honble Capt<sup>n</sup> Anstruther to do the principle character. I have the pleasure to tell you your friends Colonel and M<sup>rs</sup> Burrowes are well Col<sup>o</sup> Burrows on being appointed a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col is removed from Madura Chord in Command at Trichinopoly. M<sup>rs</sup> B– will soon increase his family – I had a letter from her a few days past – We accommodated them on their arrival at Madras.

M<sup>r</sup> Falconar M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s nephew took the Liberty of addressing you on a subject that concerns my peace of mind greatly, he is a charming young man and next to my own children he is the highest in my estimation if you my kind friend could forward his views and my wishes your exerting with Lord Macartney would indeed be a great consolation to me – You can be no stranger, my dear Sir, to the loss M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar has experienced and you are not Ignorant of the largeness of her family: your homage and Benevolent heart will well incline you to assist in having my nephew appointed in the Company Civil Service at Madras: it will be more essentially rendering the whole family happy. Excuse my dwelling on this Subject: But I know your manly mind will plead for my feelings on this occasion M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has addressed his friends and I have written to Lady M– and to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes from the former I have some hopes, but low for the latter two will aid my Solicitations I am as yet quite Ignorant – M<sup>r</sup> John Sullivan also I have addresses. And my Daughter Betsy has petitioned Ld Macartney

M<sup>r</sup> D– will reply to your kind letter – I beg you will do me the favour to remember me particularly to the Coutts to my worthy friend Sir Hector Munro – M<sup>r</sup> D– and Daughter join me in good warmest wishes for you. Since M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s Retirement from Council to the Grove, (formerly M<sup>r</sup> G Smiths) he really looks young and enjoys a perfect state of health and happiness. With innumerable blessings from this Family I have the pleasure of subscribing myself with sincere regard and friendship Your greatly obliged E D

pages 102 – 103 [Elizabeth to Lydia Falconar in Scotland]

M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar            The Grove 16<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1788

My Dear Madam

I have taken my pen to address you on the Subject of your dear Daughter Lydia – but first I cannot allow myself to pass in silence your late unhappy loss – the knowledge of which grieved me to the very Soul – but at the time I most felt for your affliction I could not but admire your fortitude, and calmness of mind – May the all Gracious God protect you and your amiable children to be a constant source of comfort to you – may he support you through every difficulty is my most hearty wish – more I will not add as it will only tare open a wound that I am otherwise anxious to heal –

You have a kind and affectionate Brother my dear Madam who I am sure will do all in his power to render you assistance –

I have the pleasure to acquaint you your amiable Son is well as I know he has given you a full account of himself in his letters and Journals, I shall not here intrude on your time by a repetition, – I am trying all in my power to have him appointed in the Company's Civil Service here if I succeed I shall esteem myself most fortunate. Join your prayers with mine my dearest sister for the accomplishment of our wishes: For next to my own children he stands highest in my estimation, he is indeed a dear young man and worthy of every good fortune that the Almighty may be pleased to bestow on him

Now I am to resume the theme of my Neice Lydia – Some few Months ago I desired my nephew Falconar to address you regarding his sister; long before this time you must have got his letter – now my good Madam if you approve, and will consent, to your little Girl's coming out to me, with her Cousin Lydia Davidson, need I say she will give me pleasure – I have mentioned this affair to my dear friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty who I am certain will take care of her for some few months till she comes to us – It will be highly necessary for her to be in London to learn dancing and writing, as well as among Company before she makes her appearance in this part of the World – after she leaves your parental arms she becomes a charge of ours – Should it please God to establish her there favorably, I make no doubt but she will be the means of proving herself useful to her sisters: – I shall anxiously await your determination. We are well. My Daughter means to address you – I am pleased your God Daughter has acquitted herself so well in writing to you – M<sup>r</sup> D– and Betsy join me in the kindest remembrance to you and to your Dear family – wishing you all every earthly Blessing united to a large share of health – I beg to remain yours sincerely affectionate E D

M<sup>r</sup> Colin Macaulay nephew to M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Macaulay has under his care a Small box containing four Books of your Son's Journals which he has obligingly promised to deliver personally – M<sup>r</sup> C– Macaulay is well acquainted with us all M<sup>r</sup> Westcott has under his care some gold chints for you, Lady M and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes any expense he may at [*word seems missing*] pray defray it on my account.

*pages 104 – 105 Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes*

My Dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes' favor by the Ranger's packet I have been duly honored with. How could you imagine my good friend I should be forgetful of you and yours – what a poor opinion you must have of me. Since I have been here I have done myself the pleasure of addressing you several times and also have wrote to your dear Governor.

To show you how very sincere I am, and how much I covet your friendship I have again resumed my pen to make my enquiries of your health, and that of M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, and family – Every one of you I hope are well, and in the perfect enjoyment of charming health.

I felt most sincerely for your late cruel loss – But God's will be done – We poor Creatures must patiently submit to his all wise Decrees with humble submission – I will here drop this melancholy Subject, and shall flatter myself tho this unfortunate in my charge I shall not experience any Diminution of your and M<sup>r</sup> D–'s good opinion and esteem – which I shall ever be ambitious of retaining.

You do not mention Miss D and your sweet Boy I hope they are well remember Betsy and me to the former, and kiss the latter for me. I made many enquires of your family of the Miss Blunts to all which they gave me very favorable answers.

I have addressed you on the subject of M<sup>r</sup> D's removal from Council. My good Husband has also written to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, by those letters, and by his statement of his conduct to the Court of Directors I hope he will be found innocent of the Charges made against him and obtain an honorable Acquittal, and Reinstatement.

Give me leave my Dear M<sup>rs</sup> D– to notice to you, that by the Swallow I took the freedom of addressing to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes and you on a subject that my peace of mind is much interested in not having had a line in reply to my letters I own to you has greatly grieved me – May I

Augur from both your silence a propitious answer to my Sanguine hopes? – Do my Dear Lady – let me have your interest and kind aid in this business – Do unto me, as I would do unto you if I had the means you are possessed of – When I took my farewell of you your kind heart offered me of the services of Friendship – at that period I had none to request of you – but as to now, stand in need of your Assistance and Friendship do not withhold it from me – You shall find me, and my family grateful to you for this great favor; – and I shall not again trouble you in haste with my other request. – You see by my hard pleading how much my heart and mind is fixed on my success – M<sup>r</sup> Davidson is an old Company’s Servant of near thirty years standing and a faithful one too – ~~has never asked the favors – my poor father lost his Life in their service thus situated~~ Altho he has been in the Chair of Madras he has never solicited Favors for others; in granting this it will if successful make us all very happy – Excuse my being so urgent and attribute it to the best of Motives. – Betsy is made vain by your particular mention of her – tho somewhat chagrined at your not noticing her petition. Before I conclude I Cannot pass in silence your kind attention to my amiable and valuable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty – who frequently mentions you and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes in her letters and Journals: she as well as myself are thankful for your Friendship. M<sup>r</sup> D and Betsy join me in re[*page torn*] you to offer our best wishes to the worthy Governor; and do you accept the same – with ten thousand other blessings, none I am sure more fervently wishes you health & prosperity than her who has the honor of subscribing herself Your affectionate and much obliged E. D–

pages 106 – 107 [*Elizabeth to P (Peter) Corbett*]  
P Corbett Esq<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1788

My Dear Sir

Your favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> July by the Ranger Packet I have received – many thanks for your kind information of my amiable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, and of my dear Children – When such pleasing tidings as your letters contain are conveyed by the hand of friendship they cannot but prove Salutary to my most anxious mind.

You are indeed very considerate by informing me from time to time of the welfare of my family – Heaven will bless and reward your goodness of heart tenfold. Your Son Vincentio will tell you how often you are mentioned at the Grove, and frequently we toast New Street and Gower Street – no absence can I am confident obliterate your attention from my memory. In all M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty’s letters and Journals you are particularly spoken of – I have a just sense of her attachment and worth I assure you: May the supreme Being lengthen her days and confer on her blessings innumerable, for none I know more deserving of his goodness than my valued Cousin.

Your approbation of M<sup>rs</sup> Davis made me smile – her poor husband has been long confined – and is still very ill, he himself thinks he cannot long survive, he is greatly Emaciated, he is so thin that his Bones it is said appear as if they would come through his skin – poor man! He suffers much and if he recovers it will be a miracle he has lived during his illness about 15 miles from Madras – We have not seen him nor can he bear any one to visit him, but M<sup>r</sup> D– now and then has a few lines from him. I believe I shall not address her until he is better, and do you my kind Sir take notice of her husband’s unfortunate case.

I have written you lately twice which letters I hope will reach your hands safe – M<sup>r</sup> V– Corbett is still with us his spirits and Health are perfectly restored – he is a great gardiner, in his hours of leisure the garden serves to amuse him, and indeed I cannot but think his living here has in a great measure been serviceable to his health and peace of mind. M<sup>r</sup> V– Corbett will no doubt give you a just account of his Brother who is still Northward.

I am really and sincerely concerned for the mild and gentle Miss Falconar [*his niece Faulkner*]. If she should be worse. You must summon up my worthy Sir, to your aid all your Fortitude and Religion to bear the Stroke of Providence – her poor Mother will require all

your assistance, and Brotherly support, to cherish and calm her mind – Remember me kindly to your good family, the young Lady (if my wishes and prayers could be of any avail) she has them most fervently.

M<sup>r</sup> D– has written you lately ere this reaches England you will have received his Packets. I am vexed to think you should have duties to pay for the Curry Stuff – your Son Vincentio promised to manage this trifling business for me, therefore I must lay the Blame on his Shoulders.

Captain Clarkson of the Oysterly has got for my Cousin a small Bale and a Box containing things for the little ones – May I request your assistance in this Business? Honest Clarkson would not allow me to mention this circumstance to you – as he kindly said he would contrive this business for me for fear of giving you trouble.

M<sup>r</sup> D– and dear Betsy join me in wishing you every earthly comfort – and that the Almighty may long preserve you is the fervent prayer of your faithful friend and most obliged [*nothing further written*]

page 108      [*Elizabeth to her children in London*]

By M<sup>r</sup> Macaulay Grove 21<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 88

My dear Lydia, Mary, Harriet and Alexander, these lines are merely to ask you my dear Children how you are, and to remind you all of your duty to the Supreme Being your respect obedience, and duty to our best friend and dear Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, your Governess Masters and Parents – I hope you are attentive to your Learning for without it you will but make a poor figure in life – your father is as good as indulgent you will therefore no doubt use your best endeavors to make yourselves, and him happy by your exertions and good Conduct – This goes enclosed with my Cousin's letter which will be delivered to her by my friend Lieut<sup>t</sup> Macaulay when you see this Gentleman may I request of you my Dears to make your best Courtesys, and Alex<sup>t</sup> his graceful Bow, perfectly a la mode Slingsby – M<sup>r</sup> Macaulay will tell you all about us.

I have enclosed you five Guineas which you will accept from me one each, the fifth my Dear Lydia will present to her Cousin Juliet with a fervent kiss for me.

Write your Aunt Falconar in Scotland my Lyddy and tell her you will be a sister to your Cousin and namesake Lydia when she comes to the Amiable M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty.

We are all well – Your Father, Sister, and Cousins Grant, and Falconar join me in wishing You all manner of happiness – Adieu, my Darlings may Heaven bless you all for our future [*next word illegible*] Prayes your &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup>.

[*at the side has been added in a different hand*] The Children 21 Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1788

page 109 [*Elizabeth to Mr Corbett*]

22nd February 1788

My Dear Sir

Allow me to introduce to your friendship the Bearer of these lines. Lieut Colin Macaulay – you will find him a very sensible conversable acquaintance; the want of health obliges him to visit his native clime, any attention you are pleased to shew him will be doing him a favor – Your Son Vincentio to whom M<sup>r</sup> M– is well known will more fully mention his Merits – he really is a very agreeable, as well as a well informed Man.

I am with [*incomplete*]



page 110 [this and a few other pages are bound out of sequence but transcribed correctly  
110 is a continuation of the letter to Mrs Jackson, see below]

reverse of page 110 [Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes]

By M<sup>r</sup> Westcott Jan<sup>ry</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 88

My Dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes

M<sup>r</sup> Westcott the Bearer of these lines has in charge for you a patch of gold Chints which you will do me the Honor to wear for the sale of the Donor –  
M<sup>r</sup> W– is returning to England with his wife and Children;– they are amiable persons and much respected in this Country – May I request of you to introduce him to your worthy Governor and at the same time, any attention you shew M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> W– will greatly oblige me. I have written you often since I have been here – all my letters I hope have reached you. When I have the happiness of hearing from you I shall write more fully.  
Adieu, my dear Madam, with united [*incomplete*].

page 111 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty

My Dear friend

M<sup>r</sup> Westcott Bearer of these lines has kindly promised to call on you and on your charges – he is returning home with his Lady and three Children – M<sup>r</sup> Westcott is an old Friend of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and mine and also little Harriot's God Father. He carries home some Chintz the Expense of which please to defray on M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Account he has got a batch of shirts. I send you the receipt of the thing on board the Osterly.  
Let the little folks make their best courtesies, a la mode Slingsby – Lydia must have some recollection of him – M<sup>r</sup> W– is going home with a large fortune, tho, I believe if he can come out again in high station he will do so: he is a genteel good tempered man and much of an Indian in his Ideas.  
Remember me to all friends not omitting to embrace and kiss my Darlings, and little Cousin – God Bless you my Cousin I beg to remain your own utterably affectionate E. D.  
I have written you by the Busbridge and by the Henry Dundas I will write you very fully.

reverse of page 112, including page 110 [Elizabeth to Mrs Jackson]

M<sup>rs</sup> Jackson 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1788

My Dear Madam

Your obliging favor by your Cousin Keating I was duly honored with – I only lament M<sup>r</sup> K–s stay was so very short at Madras as to put out of M<sup>r</sup> D–s and my Power to show him the attention I wished for after the second or third day of his arrival in this place, he embarked for Bengal; on his return from it he immediately set out for Vizagapatam – where he now is with your Brother and both are well.  
But should your Cousin at any time require our assistance to show him civility, or render him service, you may rest assured of M<sup>r</sup> D – and myself doing what lies in our power to him. I am greatly obliged to you for your information concerning my Children – my kind Cousin has written me Volumes about them. I hope my good Madam you, M<sup>r</sup> Jackson and your little ones have enjoyed perfect health since I left England – the continuance of your happiness none more sincerely desires than the friend now addressing you.

Some time past your Brother visited Madras, he is grown very lusty and looks healthy, when we meet, our conversation was ever & anon concerning Bedford Square. He has got his picture done by Smart to send you, which is a fine resemblance of him, his enquiries of me concerning you and M<sup>r</sup> J— and the Children were numerous – it was indeed pleasing to see his solicitude for them he so entirely Loves.

Sir Archibald Campbell's family and the Chamiers are well – M<sup>rs</sup> C— lately had another daughter and Miss Burnaby her sister is married to a young man; a nephew of M<sup>rs</sup> Du Prées (M<sup>r</sup> Porcher) – they both seem perfectly happy. I have not heard from George Forster this age, but am informed by his brother he is well and appointed to some post in the high Northern Latitudes of Bengal.

M<sup>r</sup> D— though unknown joins Betsy and me in best wishes and Compliments to you and your worthy Husband.

I beg to remain with esteem dear Madam your Most sincerely obliged E. D.

pages 112 – 113 [*Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty*]

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1788

These lines my dearest Friend will be presented to you by Major Jourdan a very worthy little man – he has been long known to us – shew the Major Civilities on acquaintance I am sure you will like him much – You must have a large acquaintance among the India folks, for as to Gentleman, I have introduced several to you.

I have addressed you by the Company's packet fully, and have answered paragraph of your letters which came by the Ranger. The Henry Dundas is to sail for Europe on the first of next Month, she is a full ship, crowded with passengers from Bengal and Madras.

I have written you by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Macaulay a friend of ours, and fellow passenger with the Major, he has in his charge a few trifles for you, and a small box for Lady Macartney – the latter he will I believe deliver personally to her Ladyship.

By the next dispatch I shall address Lady Grant &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>,–

God Bless you my heart's dearest friend – Kiss my children all and my little cousin – kind remembrance to Miss Hancock., and to all other friends.

Yours most affectionately &<sup>c</sup> E.D.

The Major has a small parcel of squirrel skins and a bundle of Madras Couriers any expense he may be at I beg you will defray.

reverse of page 112 [*is the same as the reverse of page 111 with no date & not known who to*]

My Dear Madam your obliging favor by your Cousin Keating I was duly honored with – I only lament M<sup>r</sup> Keating's stay was so very short at Madras as to put out of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's and my Power to shew him the attention I wished – for after the second or third day of his arrival in this place, he embarked for on his return from it he immediately set out for Vizagapatam where he now is with your brother and both are well (*incomplete*)

**2nd Volume**

page 114 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1788

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther, my Dearest Cousin, has kindly promised to deliver these lines personally to you – This lady, her husband, and two charming children, a boy and a girl, are from Bengal, on their way to England – The Henry Dundas being ordered here for the Company's Bales – The Family for the short time they remain here have been accommodated by us – they are agreeable and amiable. M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther, formerly Miss Donaldson, is well known to Lady Grant; and they will of course tell you a great deal about ourselves  
M<sup>rs</sup> A– has obligingly taken one p<sup>s</sup> of Bengal Muslin made into a petticoat for you, which I beg you will keep for your own use, the enclosed is a sample of it. Half a piece of striped muslin with half a piece of thick Hond<sup>r</sup> I shall also trouble this lady with, it is from Betsy to her friend Miss Hancock to whom she means to write.  
I have written you a few lines by two of our friends Mess<sup>r</sup>s Jourdan and Macaulay I troubled them both with trifles for you [*incomplete*]

page 115 is blank

page 116 [Elizabeth to Mr Devaynes]

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1788

Dear Sir

Will you allow me the freedom to introduce to your acquaintance the Bearer of these few lines the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Captain D. Anstruther (Son of Lord Newark) a gentleman from Bengal – he is returning home with his wife and two fine children, they are very amiable, on acquaintance I am sure you will find them deserving of your attention –  
Cap<sup>m</sup> Anstruther is a most lively member of Society; is possessed of a great share of humour and sociability: he is likewise well connected, in Europe. If M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes will do me the favor to visit M<sup>rs</sup> A– she will confer on me a favor: – she will find her a well bred and polite Gentlewoman –  
[*added in a different hand underneath*] M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes

page 117 – 127 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]

P<sup>r</sup> Henry Dundas from 1<sup>st</sup> Feby to 1<sup>st</sup> March 1788

My Dearest friend –

I have written you lately by the Busbridge, and also gave a few lines to my friend M<sup>r</sup> Westcott with my Journal who is gone on the Eenrom Captain Greenway, a Dane, all of which (with a small Box of China paper, such as you wrote for working flowers for the little girls, M<sup>rs</sup> Westcott has in charge). I hope will reach you safe.

The Henry Dundas being now under dispatch I have taken up my pen to reply your favors by the Danish ship Cap<sup>m</sup> Greenway.

I am happy to find the good Corbett does not lose sight of you, and your dear charges – he my friend I am sure is an everlasting source of Comfort to you, may he be long preserved for the sake of his sons as well as for his friends – he certainly is a valuable member of society – and a dear old man he is.

You say you have written me volumes indeed you have my Cousin – Heaven bless you for them – your letters and journals are the most dear Books I ever read – so far from trying my patience I now often take them up and peruse them as if I had only received them the other

day – continue then my friend to give me that happiness I so highly prize – Your account of my girls, Boy, and friends are charming – and while I am reading your favors I cannot help fancying I am conversing with you in Gower Street Parlour with my little Angels round us.

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>

Thus far I had written when the Salute this morning announced the arrival of the long expected ship Ranger after five months and three weeks passage – Your letters of the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 29<sup>th</sup> June, with your dear Journals of March, April and May are all safely received – I have not withal words my friend to express to you my gratitude and my pleasure for your unbounded goodness – When wilt thou my gracious God put it in my power to acknowledge to the best of my friends the obligations I owe her – for then only can enable me to convince her of my respect, attachment, and unbounded gratitude for unlimited favors – But my dearest Cousin why do you think in writing to others I forget you, Indeed you are wrong to think so – for many causes I am under the necessity to attend to others – but I have not upon every thing that is Dear to me once omitted writing to you since I have parted with you – by our ships, as well as by the Foreign ones, I have always addressed you – never my amiable friend again harbour such an Idea to the prejudice of friendship of your Elizabeth (as you used once to call me)

I am glad you like M<sup>rs</sup> Davis she is a very engaging woman tho in respect to keeping my letter from you so long was really unkind – but in future I will not give my letters in to private hands but direct them to the care of Corbett M<sup>r</sup> Davis has been for this month past dangerously ill his recovery is still doubtful but do not notice this to her –

Poor Slingsby I am very sorry for his failure but I hope he will soon get matters accommodated to the satisfaction of his peace of mind – I lament the children are prevented going on with their dancing and yet I shall be greatly mortified if they had any other Master but himself – My best wishes and compliments wait on him –

I am concerned for Miss Falconar poor girl – M<sup>r</sup> V– Corbett has lived in our family ever since the later end of August last, his health and spirits are remarkably good I have written the old Gentleman so, I mean again to give him a few lines by this conveyance – The eldest Corbett has a few days ago resigned his post of the Paymaster of Ellore

How good and truly kind you are my beloved friend to give yourself so much trouble about M<sup>r</sup> D–'s business, he is very sensible of your attachment to him, and ever mentions you with sincere regard and Friendship he wishes much for you, and often asks me if you will visit India – He has not heard either from Lord M– or his friend Brodie by this packet. His spirits are very good, and never has he been in better health than he has since our residence in the Country – The statement of his Conduct he has sent by Several Conveyances but particularly by the Ravensworth – which I hope will reach England in the next Month: Do not therefore be uneasy about us, we are as happy as this Sublunary World will admit of.

You give me pleasure by your communication of my Cousin M<sup>r</sup> Chitty's good fortune may this Almighty long continue to bless his family and prosper him in all his undertakings: remember me to him, tell him, my friend none will rejoice in his welfare more sincerely than myself.

I am made proud by my Dear Saucy Boy's letter – tell him pray that I have written him and enclose some trifling token of remembrance in my letter – also to my sweet girls – you flatter my good Cousin by your account of the former – I cannot agreeing with him, that you spoil the little rogue but to be with Alex who can help spoiling him, for really he is a Charming Boy not with standing his squint? He is yet too Young to give advice.

I have in a former letter very particularly mentioned my Idea of your Lydia, Juliet, and Lydia Falconar – therefore till I hear from you again I shall not move – M<sup>r</sup> D– means to write you on the subject of my boys going to School – Alas! I pity you that day – for I am sure you will suffer on parting with the poor Dear little fellow –

My dearest Lydia's conduct pleased me greatly – I only wish, if it were possible for her to

love Musick, she will then render her Father happy – I know her heart so well, I am sure she will do her utmost to give satisfaction to all around –

Mary, my Sweet child, why do not you exert your talents and recompense your beloved cousin Chitty, your Governess and Masters, not to mention your absent parents by giving them pleasure in attending to your Learning – you must know Mary If you were a Beauty it is not worth a Sixpence if you do not at the same time shine forth an accomplished young Woman – I well know you love admiration, and will no doubt gain that point if it pleases God to spare you, if you attend to your accomplishments – therefore my Dear Mary do your best endeavor to accomplish yourself and do not give unnecessary trouble to the amiable and benevolent M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty who is one of the best women existing.

My Dear Harriot why are you giddy and thoughtless my love? Did not you and Sisters promise to be good and attentive to every thing that was recommended to you by our Dearest Cousin, miss H- &<sup>c</sup> what a shame will be for you to be a Dunce – I shall henceforth flatter myself you will exert your self to make all your friends Governess and Masters happy by your strict adherence to your Learning, and make yourself beloved by your Cousin and other dear conexions – Will not you my dear Girl mind your absent Mother? Yes, I am sure you will. Juliet I am sure is too good a girl not to pay due attention to every one of her kind Aunt's requests she must be sensible the good Counsel given by her, by so near and dear a friend is with the best motive in the world, therefore I am confident you will be a dear girl and endeavour to do Your utmost to improve Yourself with all expedition.

I am vexed to find your house is in such bad condition, but the Houses in Gower street are all too Slightly Built to be of long duration – if Afferton was a generous being, he would repair it for you, but you, nor I cannot I fear expect such a favor of him.

Many thanks for your goodness to the Pattersons, I hope they will prove grateful to you hereafter – their Parents are very thankful for your attention to the Boys – by the Last dispatch I enclosed a letter from M<sup>rs</sup> Patterson to you –

As my friend Corbett refused to take the wine I am happy you are to give it to the Devaynes but I should like to know in whose name you have presented it. I did myself the pleasure of addressing M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes by the Swallow on the Subject of my Nephew Falconar – to which letters, I have not been honored with answers – now, my dearest Cousin, lose no time, nor leave no stone unturned to accomplish this grand object of my heart – Tell my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes one of the greatest acts of real friendship she can do me, will be to grant me this most particular favor – If she loves me, and my Daughter, as she told me she did and repeated the same to you, tell her to convince of it by her kind assistance in the grand affair – Tell her the grateful heart will not be silent – she will find us firmly attached to her and hers – She has written me a few lines, but they were not satisfactory to my peace of mind – Tell the worthy governor to be to me a generous friend – and to do by me, as he would have done to himself – Tho, their dear little Angels being no more – I hope will not be any [*next word illegible*] to the friendship commenced between us I can assure them on my part neither time or absence have any effect in diminishing it –

The Muslins and a Shawl Handkerchief I sent was for my little God Daughter Devaynes – M<sup>r</sup> Stables faithfully promised to take care of them – he being an intimate friend of the Devaynes I trusted the small parcel to his charge – I hope M<sup>rs</sup> D- has got them, else I shall be most cruelly disappointed – Betsy has also sent a token of remembrance to M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes by Captain Munro of the Houghton – the above Gentleman has likewise got from me a parcel for you. – Captain Clarkson of the Oysterly has under his care a large parcel of things for you all – I pray God they may reach your hands safe – tell Corbett of them, perhaps he, with Clarkson's assistance, may get them for you. In a former letter I sent you the list: I herein again enclose a duplicate. Should you get them distributed then as directed –

Dear Lady Grant – I am happy any little attention on my part pleases her – the trouble she has had with my dear great girls cannot, nor shall not be forgotten, where she did not pen errors

proceeded more from prejudice of former times, than any thing else – God bless her, may she live for me to see her once again – you, my invaluable friend, tell her all that is kind of me. I beg you will put the charges of the pipe of Maderia to our account, the curry stuff they have carried to the India House they say – Merciful father! I have a great mind to send a Box of brick dust and garlic that they may demand duty also for them –

I am glad your Servants behave themselves well – It is a pity the cook is obliged to leave you – you know how particularly unfortunate we used to be in this class of Servant – you afford me pleasure – by telling of Dennis’ attachment to my dear Boy – in one of my letters I begged you would mother her and Frost for their goodness to him.

Miss Hancocks kind attention to your charges I shall greatly remember – I have written her and have sent her a p<sup>s</sup> of silk and a beautiful red Shawl, I hope to God she will get them safe. Remember me to her kindly and to all the Masters.

By my kind shipmate M<sup>r</sup> Johnstone I have received the four Boxes you sent me, the things were in charming order, the Hats not so well packed as usual – M<sup>r</sup> D– is well pleased with your taste in choosing his clothes – the silk stockings for him are not come – the Plaid Ribands is elegant, but we have not enough of them. newspapers of as late a date as possible will always be acceptable to my good man who from his former Stations he now is a great politician – the papers you sent are not regular in their dates – Let Lydia my friend collect them for you and file them daily your hands must be I well know fully employed to allow you to attend to newspapers – anything dressy dress that is most fashionable do not forget to send my Dear Betsy, I mean in way of Hats or Gauze – &c<sup>r</sup> &c<sup>r</sup> Dress or Undress Gowns for Dolls will be sufficient patterns for to go by –

I must now tell you how I recoverd Alex<sup>ts</sup> Picture from Capt<sup>n</sup> Buchanan indeed it was recovered with much difficulty – for when we applied to him for it, he flatly denied having ever received it you will see by the enclosed Copy of a last Appeal to him from M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, kept to show M<sup>r</sup> Johnstone how anxious the Father was to be possessed of it. The Captain on further examination with M<sup>r</sup> Johnstone’s assistance found my Sweet Boy’s resemblance in a Drawer of his Bureau which not being directed he did not know (as he said) to whom it belonged, luckily for us my shipmate J– was standing by him who on perceiving it was a Picture exclaimed “that is M<sup>ts</sup> D–s child’s Picture the very thing they have made such enquiry after” – Well my Cousin the dear miniture was brought on shore by Buchanan and carried to M<sup>r</sup> D–s office in the Fort & delivered to one of the Black servants at noon; nearly about two the Captain’s note came to the Grove and lo! no picture – this was a fresh cause of disappointment to the whole family, for you may be assured every one was anxious to see little Master’s Picture – from that period till five oClock, every person we saw running fancied they were bringing us the picture. We dined out, on our return I took M<sup>r</sup> J– to the Fort with me and went hunting after the Captain whom we found at the Governor’s gardens, on mentioning my cruel case he declared he had given it to M<sup>r</sup> D–s Black writer upon his honor he replied he had given it to the man in M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s Country House he said it was in a shaving Box – this chagrined, again after thanking Buchanan, I dispatched a messenger to the Servant in the Black Town to enquire further about it – At 11 oClock at night the man I sent returned and told me the Box was put in a Basket of china ware that it came at the same time with the Captain’s note, but the Servants here seeing a shaving Box, paid no attention to it – Thus my friend we were for two days tantalised with procuring a prize I so much wished for The sight of the Dear Boy’s face gladdened all our eyes, and hearts but not any more than his dear kind father D–s – Having a few friends at table they proposed to drink a full bumper to the sweet little fellow’s health – I admire the Picture extremely and I see a strong likeness of my Alek – the painting M<sup>r</sup> Smart admires and says it is neatly finished – The Back part being mouldy, Smart has got it to clean the Hair – In a few years I must indulge my self with another of a larger size – the pearl Initials are beautifully executed but when I want another I will write to you more particularly respecting it. Having my Boy’s picture has made me fancy

I have my sweet child with me – and tho but a Picture yet since Smart has got it I miss it greatly – Your kind promise of giving me my darling girls pictures will rejoice me greatly; – by the Vansittart I mentioned this circumstance to you –

Poor M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar's unfortunate situation makes my heart bleed for her – but she has a benevolent Brother who will do as much as he can for her assistance – her Son here is well – he is a fond child, and an amiable young man; he will suffer greatly by this change in his family. When this reaches your hands, you would make me supremely happy if M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar will allow of it, to take my Niece Lydia Falconar under your Wing – until she accompany's my Lydia, and Cousin Juliet. If you can assist M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar with any of the little girl things that they or you have no use for will make her [*word illegible*] comfortable.

Why do you say you much doubt of Juliet's coming to India? Send the dear girl I beg – she will I dare say do as well [*as*] many others: as for fortune, you must not look for – there are few at present but she may get a man to make her happy and to assist her sisters – and wh[*page repaired, word illegible*] I am here she shall want a good friend.

I was concerned [*next word missing/illegible*] find the late M<sup>rs</sup> Barton was become the Wife of Captain Pocock – I think she might have done better he is a man of no character, and one that never was liked in this Country – what could have induced the foolish man to tell you we were at Ganjam? if that Chiefship had been vacant I dare say if M<sup>r</sup> D– liked it, he might have had it – at present there is no prospect of its becoming disengaged in less than a twelve month as M<sup>r</sup> Williams will reman there for some time to come – I in Justice to Sir Archibald Campbell must say, if it was in his power to serve M<sup>r</sup> D– Essentially he would do it with the utmost pleasure – Both the Governor, and his Lady have been kindly attentive to us M<sup>r</sup> D– now holds the post of Military and Civil Paymaster General as Garrison Storekeeper which next to Council is the Second best post at Madras – Military Storekeeper is the first next to Council – which M<sup>r</sup> Petrie was appointed to, previous to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's removal from his Seat at the Board. But your letters and Journals are so full of Ganjam I shall really let you to fancy we are actualay there. As to M<sup>r</sup> D–'s having made his fortune when acting Governor – I wish to God it had been true – no my friend those advantages he might have procured and perhaps others would have reaped, and been rich, he scorned – M<sup>r</sup> Pocock from the first to the last misinformed you in every point – Duce take him for it –

Ganjam is a charming Country and every thing is reasonable there – the only reason I should wish to remain here, is on account of my Children coming out in 1790 and the pleasure of hearing sooner from you, and being ready for any conveyance that may be had this part of the world, by which I can the oftener address you – But in this World we cannot have every thing as we wish – therefore if Ganjam is offered I dare say M<sup>r</sup> D– will accept of it – The removing of M<sup>r</sup> D– from his high Station has not in the least made him less esteemed on the contrary he is more popular and more respected – which circumstance must ever afford pleasure to his friends and connexions: and most fully evince to others the fairness of his character and the goodness of his general Conduct. But the Gentlemen here of Administration as well as M<sup>r</sup> Brodie and Yourself have no doubt but M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Bars at least will be taken off

My dear Children's remembrance of me makes me happy – and my saucy rogues's compliment of his Mother is flattering (Jolly handsome Woman) kiss him my friend heartily for me tell him I am afraid when he next sees me he will find me an old and toothless woman – You give me great pleasure by assuring me of the good health of your little flock – and of your self – May the Almighty God long bless you all with a long continuance of health and happiness, the knowledge of which you can have no doubt of being an everlasting cordial to my Mind and Body.

The only reason M<sup>r</sup> D does not address Lady Grant is at present he cannot give her satisfaction regarding the account between her and him – but as soon he finds he can afford her pleasure – he will fully acquit himself to his Aunt with credit and honor – I cannot but

Smile at your hiding from Lady G– when you hear from M<sup>r</sup> D– tho at the same time you do certainly very right, as you would otherwise, for ever be teased about his want of regard and friendship. M<sup>r</sup> D– will ever pay due attention about Money matters, so do not be uneasy – If you could get Tom Hunt in the Blue Coat Hospital it would be a great thing for the poor Boy – What does Robertson say? will he take him under his care when he has a ship? he promised you to do so – I have not heard of George Forster but once since I have been here, Betsy was favored with a few lines from the unfortunate Antony.

Really glad you are to pay your Annual visit to the sea side – I most sincerely wish you all may bring to Gower Street a Large stick of good rosy health – How truly considerate and kind you are my treasure of a friend in all your movements – you will have your reward I am confident in the next world, for all your beneficence and goodness in this. If you have not I am sure none else will merit eternal Happiness.

The attention of the Luards to you gives me pleasure. In my box by the Osterley I have I think sent Miss Luard a china fan I will send her hereafter a p<sup>s</sup> of silk or Muslin – Indeed your party to the Luards must have been gay and charming my Cousin, I should not have had any objection to have added my self to the agreeable number in one of the Post chaises –

M<sup>r</sup> Falconar is in the Country appointed a Cornet, he often mentions you and has requested his best wishes to you and to his little Cousins – Should M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes interrogate you about him, and how long he has been here do plead Ignorance, only say he is M<sup>r</sup> D–’s nephew and everything else that is kind of him, for he merits all you can say of him –

Well, my best loved Cousin – are you not tired of so much reading? – I think now I have answered every thing in both your letters – I shall look over your Journal, If there is any thing more that requires reply it shall not be forgotten by the next ship – I hear we are to have a Dispatch in March the Princess Amelia Capt<sup>n</sup> William: an amiable good man Betsy is busily employed in writing to you and Miss H– and others – Remember me affectionately to Lady Grant, my Uncle, M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan, M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner – my best remembrance to all kind and dear friends –

Tenderly, and affectionately kiss and embrace my Dearest Lydia, Mary, Harriot, Alex<sup>r</sup> and Juliet – Tell them to keep in their little minds their generous Father, Mother, and the amiable gentle Eliza their Sister – for we all dearly love them and their Cousin Chitty too – their foster kind Mother.

I will now take my leave and yet I do not know how to leave off but not before I wish you all a multitude of blessings, – accompanied with uninterrupted health and peace of mind – Farewell my friend my cousin, my heart goes with this letter – Adieu, Adieu – yours most affectionate and attached Cousin – E D

Compliments of kindness to Grubb Hardy Cely Frost, Denis, &c &c

page 128 is blank

page 129 [a list of passenger names written by Elizabeth]

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Captain & M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther and their two Children: General Lang and Lady with their Son two Daughters: M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Palk and their Children: Major Jourdan: M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Macaulay: Lieut Collin Macaulay: Doctor Whyte: Major Loyd: M<sup>r</sup> Hanworthy: Miss and Master Popham: Miss Johnstone; Two young Sulivans: Captain Fenwicke: An Hanovarian Captain:

page 130 – 133 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]



March 25<sup>th</sup> 1788

My dearest, kindest friend – I did myself the heartfelt satisfaction to address you very fully by the Henry Dundas, which ship sailed from hence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> instant – The Princess Amelia being our next and last dispatch this year I have again resumed my more willing pen to acknowledge those parts of your Journal by the Ranger that require a reply –

You say my Packet by the Ranger received by you on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 1787 – gave you all pleasure – this intelligence made me most happy – Indeed my Cousin, the satisfaction you always express in receiving my letters ever makes my eyes sparkle with joy; and my heart feels a kind of united sensation of pain and pleasure. – My Alex<sup>r</sup>'s being disconcerted at not hearing from his old Mother, did not a little flatter my vanity – Dear Boy! – if his sisters would promise not to be jealous, I would when addressing you, slip a very little letter in yours for this saucy rogue of mine. The Black Boy and girl not turning out so well as I expected I thought it best not to trouble you with them – I think in a former letter I mentioned this circumstance. Dear old Corbett, I am glad my letters gave him pleasure – he is a treasure to you my friend; he will I am sure be always attentive to you and the children – his Son V – has been part of our family ever since his return from Bengal; he is greatly recovered, indeed, I cannot help thinking, his living retired here has much added to the reestablishment of his health and spirit –

Your information of M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes and Lord Macartney's friendly zealous behaviour, is a great comfort to my mind – I hope they will not slacken in their friendship – be mindful of them my sweet friend; and say ten thousand kind things of me – of us – to them not forgetting the amiable Lady M–y.

I admire my Alek's taking his oil so manfully – what a dear fellow he is grown my cousin! I am sadly afraid though he will get the length of your foot, before you know, where you are – his claiming of Dennes the promised reward was Heroical – Kiss him for me, my friend, heartily –

Poor M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes! she has been peculiarly unfortunate with her children – the loss of my god–daughter did not a little Grieve me – But I hope the friendship between us will not suffer on that account, at best on my part it shall be permanent –

M<sup>rs</sup> Strakey's conduct is as curious, as it is ridiculous – she could not suppose I would wait on her first – as a stranger, and an old friend, she should surely have called on me – I would have been glad to have seen her altho, I could never have pardoned her ungracious behaviour to you. I am sorry for Captain Cummings – what is the matter with him? remember me to good Miss Commings kindly, tell her Betsy and I frequently talk of her. Your kind exertions in behalf of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, I am more obliged to you for, than I can express. My Cousin, in what shape shall I convince you of my never failing gratitude; I am at present at a loss I hope, the time will come, when I shall have it in my power to show you my attachment, and the grateful sense I bear of your unbounded goodness –

I believe I told you the three Miss Blunts lived with me – they are fine agreeable girls – I am told the Father is a perfect Cynick; he has disgusted the people at Bengal by his austere & even rude manners. It is reported here Lady B– means to accompany her other daughters to Bengal – is true my Cousin?

The Hughes are well, M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes since the warm weather has commenced is far not so hearty as before – she is resolved to proceed to Europe this Season how happy you will be to see her – as she is well known to us, she will give you a good account of this family. – Did I tell you M<sup>rs</sup> Darvall has got a little girl only think of this Phenomenon my Cousin do pray tell this news to my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner; she, you know, thought M<sup>rs</sup> D– too old, to return to her Husband.

But I hope this new innocent charge of hers, will change and meliorate her temper, to make her think of others as a christian ought to do.

I say nothing further on this subject regarding myself except that M<sup>rs</sup> Darvall has the

advantage of: and that if it please God to spare my little Alexander I have Family sufficient.

March Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Alas! the Princess Amelia is just arrived from Bengal – I hear her Saluted – and must abridge this my friend as she is going to be despatched almost directly – I shall go on with acknowledging your dear Journal by some French conveyance I dare say before the Year is out I shall have it in my power to forward you my letter by some French Conveyance – By way of Pondichery I have addressed you frequently – I hope you have got all my letters. Besides writing by the packet of the H. D–, I have written you introductory letters by my friends Lieu<sup>t</sup> Macaulay, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Captain and M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther and Major Jourdan. By Macaulay I have sent you a Box of Curry Powder, and a box of Pickles, and a little token of remembrance from Betsy to Lady M–y which [*he*] may well deliver in person – the Boxes are for you. M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther has in charge a p<sup>s</sup> of Muslin for you: half p<sup>s</sup> of Muslin and half a p<sup>s</sup> of Muslin neck handkerchief for Miss H– from Betsy – Major Jourdan has also taken the trouble to carry for you the Madras Couriers and a parcel of Squirrel skins for muffs – do you like them? the Squirrels were caught in our Garden.

The charming and delightful news of Peace has inspired the whole Country with joy & pleasure – had there been a War I am sure India would have greatly suffered – Every Individual trembled with apprehension of this shocking calamity – God be praised for his goodness in delivering us from its ruinous Effects.

Remember me affectionately to my Uncle, and Aunt – to M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner I [*am*] sure you will not omit mentioning me – To good Lady Grant my best and kindest wishes await – To the noble Macartnays, Devaynes & Daughters, Grants, Pigous, Luards, to Sir Hector Munro Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brodie, Corbett, Robertson, &c, &c, &c, &c, present them with my most respectful remembrances of Friendship – tell M<sup>rs</sup> Pringle her Dear nephew is well and likewise my good friend gladden the heart of the revered M<sup>rs</sup> Craig, with the agreeable tidings that of her son H's being appointed Chief of Cuddalore – Tho no very lucrative Post with attention and prudence he may soon acquire a competency – M<sup>r</sup> Craig succeeded to the chiefship from M<sup>r</sup> Lewins sudden departure to England – her son is perfectly well.

M<sup>r</sup> D– is thank god well – I never have seen him look better – his health and spirits are extremely good – he desires his kindest remembrance to you with love and fatherly embraces and kisses to his Children.

Betsy has written you a long letter by the H. D– as also to Miss Hancock – she further desires me to remember her very affectionately to you and ever speaks of you with tears of affection. – She begs you will make peace with her sisters for not writing to them the short stay of the P. A– is the cause of her silence.

Remember Betsy and me to Miss H– and the Masters particularly Betsy's favourite Slingsby. Do you ever see Captain Murray, and M<sup>r</sup> Langley? Are they well? – I have not written M<sup>rs</sup> Davis, Indeed I have not the heart to do it till I see how the Doctor is who is still very, very poorly – he lives and that is all – her Brother is well – attends on her husband – Should she notice my silence, tell her I mean to address her by the next dispatch; say all that is handsome of me to her – my love to Dear Juliet –

Remember me to my Dearest Girls, and Boy, with kind affection – Embrace each of them my friend with the ardent tenderness of a Mother – tell them not to forget to love their absent Father, Mother, and dear Sister Eliza – and above all to adore their Creator, and to love, respect, and reverence their amiable Cousin Chitty – Adieu my friend, my C– Adieu, I remain with confirmed attachment your Devoted affectionate and truly faithful E. D.

Remember me to all your Servants – also to Hardy, Grubb &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. – Ours are well – James has been very ill, but is now perfectly restored –

M<sup>r</sup> Falconar is well tell his Dear mother of it he has not written by this ship.

*page 134* [Lydia Falconar to her brother Alexander Davidson]

my Dearest Brother

I received from my Son a few days ago, Letters Deated from Trichinopoly the 17<sup>th</sup> Sepr last, he had not then heard of his Father's Death how shall I Express my Gratitude to you and your most Amiable Lady, for your goodness to my Son, in haveing provided so gentilly for him. he is most senceable of it, and may he live to showe that he is so. I suffered much for fear of you all, being 16 months unheard, after Heavie and sever afflictions – I still Exist by the wonderful goodness of God – my Broy<sup>f</sup> in the west has taken my Son patrick of my Hand if you writ Sir Hector munro, at any time be so good as to thank him, my dearest Broy<sup>f</sup> for his goodness he has got fower of my Children one allowance of five ponds a year Each, my three Daughters and Son John. I have not yet got Nottice what time they will begine to draw it – Sir Ludovick <sup>1</sup> has not aided me in the least dureing all my trials – his Daughtr Lady Glengarry<sup>2</sup> distinguishes her self and was most friendly tho at a Distance – my Hard Hearted Uncle lives veary near me, wit his Daughter Lady Macintosh. the brack of all my Furniter and the Death of my ever to be lamented Husband at once – on my coming to this place was peculiarly Sever wit such a Family. the Staff officers wives being Entiteld to no pention – provost macintosh <sup>3</sup> is most friendly to me. his Lady <sup>4</sup> is a first Cousine of my husbands, as is mr Thomas Worrond, too whom I have been much obliged – I hear mr James Grant, is to keep the Estate of Dalvey – he has got rich since he went last to your Corner, but they do not move to pay me the childrens money left them by Sir Alexr <sup>5</sup> – of course poor things their Education must now be Crampt five of them being yet mostly to finish of – but the Lord lives and blessed be my Rock – may he reward you an Hundred fold for your goodness to my Dear Son – I remain for ever yours my most Dear Brother whe – Lydia Falconar  
Inverness 8<sup>th</sup> May 1788

1[Grant] 2 [Marjory née Grant wife of Duncan Mcdonnell. Macdonald 14<sup>th</sup> of Glengarry] 3 [Phineas Macintosh/Mcintosh] 4 [Barbara, née Hossack, daughter of the brother of William Falconar's mother] 5 [Sir Alexander Grant]

page 135 is blank

pages 136 – 137 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth]

Inverness 8 May 1788

my Dearest Madam

Last post brought me a Letter from you, covering a few lines from my amiable Niece which has been just a year in comeing – how did my Heart Leap for joy to find you was all well, and that my Dear youth meets still your Approbation. its impossible for me to writ how senceable he is of your goodness – I have had at last, after as I thought a Sillence of 16 months several Letters from him – when I begane to fear his constance, but he was not Sillent. had I got them duely as I find by their dates – how happy woud I have been their are many pages wrot in the praises of his Dearest his inesteamable his Darling Aunt as he calls you now in my most murnfull and Sollatry Situation how pleasant are such Letters to me – and the Amiable mrs Chittys good offices affords me daly comfort – how fortunat that you introdussed me to such a Lady – you seem to have Sister Hearts. ever overflowing with Human Kindness and Benevolence – Sure Bountyfull Heaven will reward your goodness to my Son I was allarmed at the reflection of my Brothers being tender mentioned in your Letter but God be praised that you say he is now well – may Almighty God long preserve in Health and Happyness – the Family of goodness honour and virtue – blessed be god that Sandy is so gentilly provided for, and I understand their has been interest used to get him in the Sivil line which indeed was ever his inclineation – may he live to be gratfull to such generious Benefactors – I will be still

unisie till I hear how he will sustine the Shock of his Fathers Death. as he was Exceedingy Fond of his Father and indeed good reason had he to be so – the Children in London improve much. my Dear Niece Lydia writs me pretty Letters – and my Son patrick stayed at good mrs Chitty and them, Some little time on his way to Jamiacia – he wrot me a most pleasing account of them. and that good Lady could not be fonder of them, wer they her owen Children – my Dearest Brothers multiplicty of Business must Excuse him from writing me. but you my Dearest Madam makes up for it by writing me so kindly – inclosed is a few lines to my Dear Niece – and a short Letter to mr Davidson. and that you may be long preserved to Bliss and comfort him, and all your Dear Family is the prayer of my Dearest Madam your much obliged and ever affect Sister whell Lydia Falconar.

page 138 [Elizabeth to Miles Peter Andrews]

Grove 30<sup>th</sup> July 1788 the way of Bengal  
Miles Peter Andrews Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir

Will you allow me the freedom to introduce the Bearer of these lines Captain Stevenson, a particular friend of M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons and mine, to your acquaintance and friendship – you will find him an amiable character, as such he is much beloved and respected by all who have the pleasure of knowing him – He had the honor to command a Regiment of Cavalry on this Coast till by the late Arrangements the Company made in their Troops he was at once deprived of his Regiment and Rank: he now returns to his native clime, not only to recruit his constitution, but to pass a few months with his friends. Any civility and attention you are pleased to shew him you will be conferring on us a particular favor.

As he is still next in Rank for a Regiment of Native Cavalry on his return he no doubt will succeed for the Command of a Corps.

I shall not detain you further as I am sensible Captain Stevenson's own merits and appearance will indicate the rest. Hoping you will pardon the liberty I have taken I beg to conclude, with united family complements. Your most obedient and obliged Serv<sup>t</sup>

reverse of page 138 [Elizabeth to Thomas Coutts]

Thomas Coutts Esq<sup>r</sup> Grove 30<sup>th</sup> July 1788 By the Bengal

~~My Dear Sir~~

Shall M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson take the freedom to introduce the Bearer of these lines to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Coutts; Cap<sup>m</sup> Stevenson, a particular friend of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's and mine – and well known to Sir Hector Munro and to M<sup>r</sup> Brodie. You will find him my Dear Sir and Madam a polite, sensible, amiable man – he is much esteemed by all who have the pleasure of his [ac]quaintance here – The late arrangement of the Company's Troops have deprived him for the present of the Command of a Regiment of Cavalry and likewise of the rank he held in the service – Captain. S-'s stay will be short in England as he will succeed to the next vacant Regiment: any attention you are pleased to shew him will be conferring on us a favor.

M<sup>r</sup> D– my Daughter and I, hope M<sup>rs</sup> Coutts, Yourself and the young Ladies are well, and in the full enjoyment of a large portion of health, with best wishes and Compliments for your every success and happiness I beg to remain my dear Sir and Madam with Regard Your most obliged and most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

Since finishing my letter Cap<sup>m</sup> Stevenson for reasons of Duty, has changed his mind and does not proceed to Europe as he intended

page 139 [Elizabeth to Peter Corbett]

Peter Corbett Esq<sup>r</sup> Grove 30<sup>th</sup> July 1788 By way of Bengal

My Dear Sir

Your kind and ever attentive favor by the Ceres is now before me – and I cannot permit my friend Captain Stevenson to quit India without giving him a few lines to you in reply, as well as to introduce the honorable amiable man to your friendship. Captain S– is a Brother of M<sup>rs</sup> Haffey's who is well known to you – after mentioning his connexion – I am confident he requires no further recommendation to procure him your politeness and hospitality.

Your pleasing tidings of my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and her charges are no small source of Comfort to me particularly when conveyed by the kind hand of a worthy friend – I am, my good Sir infinitely obliged to you for your great attention and friendship to my absent family – I really do not know what my excellent Cousin would do without the aid and advice of such a friend as you – she never forgets to mention your attention in every one of her letters – she is all gratitude; a heart like her's cannot be silent to the merits of others

I have the satisfaction to tell you, your Son V– is still at the Grove in health and spirits – Considering all things much better than You could have expected – yourself, and family with those Dear Beings in Gower Street bear frequently a great part of our conversations.

It has given me much concern my letter to M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and my Daughters to Lady Grant by the Talbot's packet are lost – I am sure the letters were put into the Company packet here– how they came to miss my friends hands I cannot divine, unless by the carelessness of the people at the India house.

pages 140 – 142 [Elizabeth to George Murray also to Mrs Chitty]

George Murray Esq<sup>r</sup> Grove 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1788

my dear Sir

As I have every reason to think you have not received my letter by the Talbot's Packet, I have enclosed a duplicate of it in this – and give me leave to assure you, that your kind and friendly attention while in the Inflexible, as well as afterwards, are too deeply imprinted in my mind not to allow me ever to be ungrateful – Your saying to my Cousin “I imagine I did not deserve to hear from M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson” – you cannot imagine how much it has vexed my feelings had not my time been limited for this dispatch I should most assuredly have called you my good Sir to a severe account –

M<sup>r</sup> D– and Daughter are well, they join most heartily for your success health and happiness – I beg to remain my dear Sir with regard and with a just sense of our friendship your ever obliged and Faithful Friend E: D.

[then starts a letter to Mrs Chitty, some of this has been written by Alexander Davidson, as the writing changes]

my Dearest Cousin I have taken out my pen which is ever ready in the service of love and friendship to return you my unabounded thanks for your letters and Journals by the Ceres, General Coote, Barnwell, Carnatick and the Albion in reply to all of them I shall write fully – these lines are to inform you of a few circumstances that you may wish particularly to know. In the first place I am most happy to have an opportunity, my amiable friend, to show you, M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons and my gratitude for your unlimited goodness to us and the poor Parents Children (for in a manner they are so) the expence of your living can be no great object to us – but your friendship is of the utmost consequence – therefore I am desired by my good man to tell

you to make yourself easy on that subject – and render us happy by being our Guest and giving us your company –

Lydia you say, wishes to go to France – her Father has no objection and if you think it can be done with ease to yourself, he thinks it would be a good plan for one Season, – but then what will become of Slingsby and how manage their dancing and drawing? you will likewise have my Niece with you – But my dear Cousin if you can manage this business as M<sup>r</sup> D– has given his consent I must have the trust to you to act, as you think most fit, and proper. what do you mean to do with my saucy Boy? – must he be left at School. Poor Alex<sup>t</sup>, his little heart will not allow him to part with you.–

In one of my letters I mentioned the time my three charges should come here – I think Feb<sup>ry</sup> was the month I fixed on, but as I find the ships that leave England in March and the beginning of April have as quick passages, as those in Feb<sup>ry</sup>, I should prefer their coming out at the latter period. In this also you must be the best judge and shall leave the arrangements of the grand business to your judgement. Colonel Capper, who is now here, has a wife in England, this Lady and her Daughter are to return to India either next year, or the year after – M<sup>rs</sup> Capper is a sensible well informed woman and if it could be managed their coming out with her, it would be comfortable to all parties – But remember I do not wish to see my girls till the year 1790 – so that if M<sup>rs</sup> C– comes out next year they cannot attend her. I enclose you Colonel Capper's letter to me on the subject – that my sweet girls, Lydia D–, J. Chitty and Lydia F– may not be troublesome to M<sup>rs</sup> Capper and daughter – their Cabbin ought to be apart but next to M<sup>rs</sup> C–s and they must also have their own Servant. – This will be a most unwelcome letter I am confident in Gower Street, and I, my dear friend, feel as much for you, as if it were myself – But what can be done, Lydia's Father wishes much to see her here.

The Hooker board is very pretty and most exceedingly admired – I do assure you M<sup>r</sup> D– has carried it to the Governors and to several of his own friends to show them it, indeed I must say, it does my Lydia great credit the samples of writing are very pretty my great girls do wonders – Harriets for the time she has learnt is very pretty, but I know she will do a good deal better. Alex<sup>ts</sup> is curious – and afforded us much merriment.

I have written very *fully – page torn* by the H. D. and to my Children which letters you will get ere *[page torn]* reaches you– should this packet call here from Bengal on her way to Europe. I shall be able to write you again.

Alas! Poor Doctor Davis is no more – he died a sad object. Miss Humphries is married to M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>t</sup> Montgomery Campbell Secretary to Sir Archibald. Miss Bruce is well but single and with her friends up the Country at Trichinopoly. M<sup>rs</sup> Darvall again pregnant and with her husband. The hats and Ribands brought by M<sup>r</sup> Robertson are the prettiest I have seen here I shall recommend M<sup>rs</sup> Ollivier to Robertson:– by the by, I have mentioned her to several of my friends, and given them her Card, and also Grubb's – Betsy again requires a pair of stays and some shoes, but let them be leather cloged mostly. M<sup>r</sup> D– will requires his hats and stockings as usual never send us more than you have done by M<sup>r</sup> Robertson.

I have given your Cards to M<sup>rs</sup> Davis, M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther and M<sup>rs</sup> Wescott – but my friend these people have their conexions who are ever ready to recommend their own people – However you may rest assured I shall never slip an opportunity of proving my self useful to you I am honored with Mary's letter which I shall reply to hereafter. I herein enclose you Captain Murray's letter [*the following is written by Alexander*] which I beg you to do me the favor to forward it to him. How is M<sup>r</sup> Langley? do you ever see or hear from him? The enclosed letter I meant to have given to Captain Stephenson who since a few hours has changed his mind and does not proceed to Europe as he intended. I have sent you duplicates of some of my letters by different dispatches, particularly the one by the Talbot, which you will do me the favor to *[space left blank]* it over as *[space left blank]* have added some line towards the end of it that the other had not.

Now my amiable friend I must conclude, but not before I request you to kiss every one of my

dear Children, and Juliet my sweet Cousin – tell them all over and over of my affectionate regard and attachment if Lydia Falconar is with you include her in the above List Remember me to Lady Grant most kindly I have not written her this time – But Betsy has. Forget me not to my Uncle, Aunt, Cousin and my beloved M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner to all other dear kind friends also mention me to Miss Hancock and the Masters present my best wishes and thanks for their attention.

Adieu adieu [*Elizabeth now writes*] I am love, friendship and gratitude your faithful and most obliged.

page 143 is blank

page 144 [*Alexander to Peter Corbett – almost exactly the same wording as Elizabeth's letter to Peter Corbett on page 139*]

Peter Corbett Esq<sup>r</sup> Grove 30<sup>th</sup> July 1788 By the way of Bengal

My dear Sir

Your kind and ever attentive favour by the Ceres is now before me – and I cannot permit my friend Captain Stevenson to quit India without giving him a few lines to you in reply, as well as to introduce this benevolent amiable man to your friendship. Captain Stevenson is a Brother of M<sup>rs</sup> Haffey's who is well known to you – after mentioning his Connexion I am confident he requires no further recommendation to procure him your Politeness and hospitality.

Your pleasing tidings of my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and her charges are no small source of Comfort to me particularly conveyed by the kind hand of a worthy friend – I am, my good Sir, infinitely obliged to you for your great attention and friendship to my absent family. I really do not know what my excellent Cousin would do without the aid and advice of such a friend as you – she never forgets to mention your attention in every one of her letters – she is all gratitude; a heart like hers cannot be silent to the merits of others

I have the satisfaction to tell you, your son Vincentio is still at the Grove in health and Spirits – considering all things much better than you could have expected. Yourself and family with those dear Beings in Gower Steet bear frequently a great part in our Conversation.

It has given me much Concern my letter to M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and my Daughters to Lady Grant by the Talbot's packet are lost. I am sure the letters were put into the Company's Packet here, how they came to miss my friends hands I cannot divine unless by the carelessness of the People at the India House.

page 145 is blank

page 146 [*Eliza Falconar, niece of Elizabeth Davidson's, to Mrs Chitty*]

Inverness 12 D<sup>r</sup> 1788

I am extremely Sorry that you my Dear Madam should have had so much trouble wit my Sister, much indeed are we indebted to you. You have put us under inexpressible obligations. Mamma and all my Friends agree that I ought to go up to you. I once was very keen to go. Your Amiable Character has drawn me. – I know you will have the goodness of heart to make allowances for the unpolished maners of a Scoatch Girl. And I hope you will find in me a disposition tractable, and a genius Docile. – one who will study to imitate so noble a Pattern as will be set before her by one of the best of Women

Belive me my Dear Madam your Letters to Mamma have excited in me an Affection

bondring on that due to a Parent. And after leaving Mamma I think I could not be under a more bening and Amiable tuition than M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty. with love to you and my Dear Cousins I am Madam Your much Oblidged and very great Admirer Eliza Falconar  
M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty  
P: S: be so kind as forward the inclosed

pages 147 – 148 [Lydia Falconar to Mrs Chitty]

Inverness 14<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>mr</sup> 1788

my Dear madam

I was favourd wit yours of the 15 Novr. and which is most amaising it came not to my Hand till the 9<sup>th</sup> Courrant, by the Frank it came in course its deat was the second Decemr it seems it has line some time after being writ, unfranckt – I am sory Janet, has behaved so foolishly, and occasioned you so much trouble – I hope she will arave saif – I will not say it is unhappy – because sometimes what we think bitterest tours out in the issue Sweetest – you are kind indeed Dear madam in haveing taken so much trouble as to writ so Explicitly – and argue so preetly and maternaly respecting these Girls – Eliza has not altered her mind she still wishes to go – and indeed it was my wish from the begining tho it did not in such a case, become me to prescribe – she is perhaps not so well looked as we woud wish, but is most senceable, and of a quick capassity and I am persuaded from the advantages she would reap by being a little wit you – she would greatly improve – she is not pitted by the Smallpox – is of the middle sise and I imajene will yet growe taller – Holds her self preety Easie – thrists after knowledge and improvement which was not in my power to affourd her – is rather fair than Broune – and Dear little Lydia may have still have her Chance, if you Dear madam – and her Friends at Madras are spaird – Sir Hector told me mr Davidson had got a good appointment – and would get the first vacant Chiffspip – spock of geting Somphing done for the young Hector – but that he was yet Young – my Son Leowes goes out the first of Febuary to Jamaica wit Capt Kitterow – I am just now bussie prepairing him – and if you think proper that I should send Eliza, which I realy think is the fittest, I will prepair her also as soon as I can – though I fear it will not be wit her Brother he must sett off in about a month, for fear of lousing his passage to Jamaica.– I have taken the libberty as usual Dear madam to trouble you wit some Letters for my Dear friends – my Nice will forgive me at this time also for not writing her – I only satt this fornoon to write all my Letters and must finish them this Night. I fear I have been too long – of sending them. I am Hurried wit Leowes things, not haveing got Nottice to make him redy till last week – with Love to all the Family. I evere remain my dear Madam yours most affectionally whell Lydia Falconar.

pages 149 – 150 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth]

Inverness 15 Decmer 1788

my ever Dear madam

with unbounded Love and Gratitude do I take up my pen to acknowledge your most comforting Letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> Febury last – and my Amiable Niece what a Letter – wit respect to my self they wer most Suthing – in my mournfull Situation – and regarding my Dear Son most reviveing – and in giveing a call to one of my Daughtrs how bountifull – give me a Heart o my god to be truely thankfull – and your being all in Health how refrashing – my Son's Bounty I got saife also his Journals – how sweetly gratiefying you my Dearest madam have been made the Spring of all this joy I have expeared – its you that has been instremental in giveing the Son such ability, your generosity and goodnes to him has been unbounded – your attention to him inexpressable – never did I hear of maternal care, that could surpass what you have done for him – record it thou Adoreable Majesty of Heaven –



and return it, I mean Such goodness – wit a double portion of all Blessings Spiritual and temporal – thine happy Son – whose Heart will ever flowe with unbounded gratitude to the best of women – you are good Dear madam to take care of my Daughters also – I most gratefully accept the offer – and will soon send one of them to London, Lydia is the best looked, but of such a Small Growth, and is rather young fears she might prove Childish and give trouble – thinks it best to send the eldest who is a good Girl and I hope will turn out well – by the time she is a while with your Amiable Cousine – what a pretty woman – how much I am endeared to her – her Correspondence is a fund of Comfort to me – may Almighty God long spare Such Dear friends – I had a visit of Sir Hector Munro lately he asked if I had any commissions for India – that he would forward them – said Mr Davidson would be made up, for the unmerited Treatment he had met with – how my Heart leaped for joy – his dismission from Council gave us all great pain – but the God of all goodness will restore Comfort and Blessings I trust to you my Dearest Brother and Lovely family [*page torn*] that speedily – I shall write againe soon and give you a short account of what the rest of my Children are doing – at least what God has done for them – tell my Dearest Brother I shall write him also – ever my Dearest madam your most affectionate and obliged Sister when Lydia Falconar.

pages 151 – 163 [Elizabeth to M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty]

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty Grove 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1789

My Dearest Cousin, and the best of friends

I am now sit down with a large bundle of your most affectionate and dear letters before me to reply to, and according to their diligent dates shall I answer your every line –

Your favor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> by the Barwell is first on the list, in which you say you have received my letter by Captain Mitchell, and complain of the length of time it was reaching you. Captain M – my friend intended to go to Europe over land, but had the Misfortune to die on the road, which event I imagine caused the delay of my packet. However late my letters are reaching you, I am happy to find my Epistles give you all pleasure; many thanks to my sweet Boy too for the joy he expressed on hearing of our welfare. Your plan of giving little Alex<sup>r</sup> the horse when he can read is very proper, and my dear fellow I am sure would not accept of the gift unless he could receive it, as a man, and a Scholar – What say you my Aleck? is it not so? –

What regards the silks, the cloths, coffee, you will be acquainted with long ere this period – therefore I shall not trouble you on that Score herein.

My worthy Uncle's attention and his conduct gives me much pleasure – I hope the Dear old man will be spared to me, for some time longer, that we may all benefit by his society and friendship: give him, my dear Cousin, my hearts best and affectionate regard – Tell him to bear me in kind remembrance, and to assist me as my Father in the wish next my heart regarding my nephew Falconar. Before this salutes your hands, M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's situation will I sincerely hope be finally settled.

I was glad to find Huddleston had called in Gower Street, he is a fine gentleman in his own opinion, his Idea of things in general and of women in particular, are very refined, and delicate: he sings well at least he thinks he does. Tho a genteel man, he was not much a favorite here. In short, my dear Friend, he has too good an opinion of himself.

As for the three shawls I recollect my having written to M<sup>r</sup> D – when in England to procure for me two or three shawls – but on my asking him about them, he did not seem to remember the circumstance: however as you have purchased them it matters but little who they belong to, as you certainly have the best right to them: and I hope you have charged the Amount to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Account.

Your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1788 was delivered to me by Captain Corner – I was sorry on

finding by it my sweet naughty Boy makes such a conspicuous figure how could he be so ungracious to the Miss Wittals; I had flattered my self that he was grown a manly fellow; and above crying and exposing himself, particularly before young Ladies: I hope, my dear Cousin, he never will permit it to be said of him again that he A. H. D. had behaved so unlike a Gentleman

Miss Wittals are fine little Girls – they being under size are styled by the Beaux “The Chickens” – They are good girls – had I not a large family besides expecting Lydia, Juliet, and my Niece I should have offered to have accommodated them for the sake of Lady Gordon. Poor things they had no one to go to on their first arrival, nor did they bring a single letter of introduction to any family here. They are now settled at the Garners. The Lady of the house is a worthy good woman, where they are very happy.

The things you sent by M<sup>r</sup> George Robertson came safe. The Bonnet, Hat, and ribbons are pretty – many thanks for your kind attention. The samples of the Gowns were very acceptable as I have already made respectful mention of the hooker board I am sure my dear Lydia will not be angry with me if to save repetition I pass over the subject – this however I must again say that all who see the dear girl’s Performance always speak of it with much admiration. I pray, my beloved Cousin, you will never more apologize for not sending me any thing in the way of gift – have you not done enough for me? and are you not still by your Friendship, and Maternal care of my children giving me all my heart can wish? for goodness sake then never give me pain, my kindest friend by wishing and or sending to me any thing at your own expense.

It gave me much satisfaction to find Peter Falconar passed the time he remained in London under your hospitable roof – his amiable Mother I am confident will be greatly obliged to you for your attention to her son; all her letters mention you most kindly. My Nephew Falconar here, poor fellow! has suffered greatly in his mind, not only for the loss of his worthy Father, but for the distressed situation of his Mother, and her family.

I ardently pray ere this period is [*illegible word*] that her Grief may be assuaged and her peace of mind restored.

I shall hope to hear shortly further concerning the over Land post; could so fortunate and so happy a mode of frequent intercourse established from England to India, how truly pleasant it would be to us all – The mode we are now obliged to adopt of corresponding with our friends is very tedious, as well as perfectly galling to friendship peace. – The Present horrid War between the Turks and the Russians aided by the Emperor has interrupted for the present the interference by Bussonn

Your letters dated on the 9<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March by the Ceres are now to be acknowledged. You say therein you have written a great deal to me – Indeed my charming Cousin you have really done so: But I am so unconscionable a creature, that were you to write as much again I should still wish for more. If I do not receive a letter by every ship from your kind, generous hand, my jaws immediately fall, and I feel so poorly, that for some days I am as dull, and out of spirits as if I had been ill. A lassitude seizes me, and I moop like an ancient Tabby like a poor morteless Dove. This Year, your letters did not come regularly sometimes three or four ships arrived without my getting a packet – Oh! how mortifying was this to poor me – But when your Dispatches did at length come how joyfully do Eliza and I receive them, we always sit up on our beds till past 2 oClock in the morning perusing, and reperusing them, with the greatest pleasure imaginable till at length we have devoured every syllable: nor is my own good man less anxious. Before we lay ourselves down to rest we do not fail in offering up our Fervent Ejaculation to the Almighty for having bestowed on me such an inestimable friend as you

I am truly vexed and mortified to find that Lydia and Mary are necessitated to wear the Irons – I think Lydia, when I was in England, had one shoulder rather more out than the other but I imagined she would have outgrown the defect. They are fortunate girls, to be under your care

for with your unlimited attention and with Farquhar's advice and skill I am certain they will secure and recover their wanted shape. The expence tho great, yet it must not be put in competition with their health and appearance. Give them my friend my kindest love, and tell them I admire their good sense in complying to wear the Irons with so much pleasure and willingness and I shall hope long are this period that they have cast their confinement away. Since M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's dismissal Lord Macartney has not wrote him one line, we imagine his silence proceeds from his wishing to give M<sup>r</sup> Davidson the joyful news of his Reinstatement. I am however pleased and flattered that both Lord and Lady Macartney are not unmindful of the children nor of us –

The Pattersons are very grateful to you for your kindness to their Boys; I mentioned the few circumstances regarding the children to them; I imagine Colonel Patterson will write to old Wilkinson at some length about the business, and will recommend more attention to be paid to Aleck Patterson.

You may friend rejoice me exceedingly by assuring me of the good health of the Children, and of no material difference towards augmenting Farquhar's bills. – Farquhar's goodness of heart, added to his well known fine benevolence and generosity, will not, I am sure allow him to take any mean advantage of his business – therefore any amiable friend, if you are able to discharge the obligation, you ought to do it soon, and make him such necessary present that you and Lady Grant think most proper. I shall indeed, bear ever a constant remembrance of the unlimited and Parental attention he paid to every one of my children, and particularly, while I was in England, to my poor Peggy!!! and little Alex<sup>r</sup>. On the scene of giving Farquhar a present I mentioned to you a long time ago M<sup>r</sup> Carr – By the Purser of the Albion ~~General~~ Elliot I have sent to your care two pieces of fine Long cloth for M<sup>rs</sup> Farquhar – any expense attending them I shall be obliged to you to defer M<sup>r</sup> Carr. You will do me the favor to present the Cloth to M<sup>rs</sup> Farquhar with my best compliments.

I am glad to find Mary improves with D<sup>r</sup> Arnold, I hope both she and Lydia will pay attention to Music, especially Lydia, as she will leave England so much sooner than her sister; therefore she must snatch every opportunity of benefiting herself while under your Maternal care.

Harriot's change of conduct you may imagine does not a little please me – I shall flatter myself she will shortly prove herself to be a clever little industrious girl and above all, give pleasure and satisfaction to you my friend and to her teachers.

The dear Aleck's wit and good heart make us all happy sweet fellow, I hope he will be spared to us – I shall now flatter myself that his health with that of Harriots will be in a short time perfectly reestablished. I owe you much, my kindest of friends – But when I shall be able to repay you the Lord above only can tell – were you to see my heart and read the Sentiments recorded there, you would then be evinced of my affection my gratitude; in short of my every endearing Image that a humane Breast can be possessed of to wards so invaluable a friend – If you do not hear from me by every dispatch from Madras, do not I beg of you, think it owing to my neglect but to some unforeseen accident – you may rest assured I should not be so unpardonably remiss to you –

You notice that our India friends “slight you all rudly”. Except Mess<sup>rs</sup> Brodie, John Sullivan, Sir Hector Munro, Lord M– and poor Captain Robertson. I care not as much for any one else – and it is not worth your while to give yourself a moments pain about them – The Devaynes old Corbett, with a few more of our worthy English friends do not slight them and always try to keep them in good humour with us – for I wish to have their interest and support.

The Hughes are well; the old people sent out this year the pictures of the three little ones, the Parents are made perfectly happy in having them; if the children resemble their Pictures they must be much grown. M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes means to leave this Country the end of next year. She often tells me that she shall not be a stranger in Gower Street: she admires you greatly, and is eternally thankful for your speaking of her family in your letter me.

You so frequently deplore my lost letter by the Talbot that it grieves me to think that you my sweet friend was deprived of it – However, as I have sent you Duplicates of it, as well as of several of my other letters by the way of Bengal, I shall now hope they will in some means appease you for the loss you have experienced by the Talbot's Packets. –

You satisfy and ease my mind greatly by giving me so flattering assurance of good Miss Hancock's behaviour and treatment of my Dear children – Should Providence ever put it in my power, I shall take every opportunity of shewing her, how sensible I am of the attachment and the attention she has payed her little Pupils. Give her my friend my best wishes and thanks for her exertions and goodness to her amiable Scholars.

I am concerned the good Lady Grant should think she has cause to be a moment vexed at not hearing from either Eliza or me – We have both upon my honor, addressed her ladyship alternately and if we are so unfortunate as to lose our letters, we are to be pitied and her ladyship would not accuse us, till she is convinced of our Ingratitude – Do my dear conciliating friend make our peace with her, and enforce conviction in her mind of our affection, obligation, friendship and Duty.

Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> Feby 1788 by the General Coote likewise came duly to hand – give me leave to thank you again, and again, for the things you sent under the care of Robertson – They are genteel and fashionable. Except shoes, Ribbons and a fashionable hat or two, do not send any more, for here, we are obliged to purchase millanery of our friends the Europe Captains, and you know how ill it is, to be opening both ends of the purse, at the sametime. If we should go to Ganjam or any other out Settlement, we shall require less embellishment than we do at present.

I cannot enough admire the conduct of the Masters (Slingsby, Munn, and Chinery) tho, I think it is what they ought to do, yet, we seldom in this world obtain a return. Juliet, will I am sure exert herself to improve, to reward your kindness, and to do credit to her Instructors. Your short kind letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March is now to be acknowledged. In it you say “By favour of M<sup>r</sup> Pearson I shall send a few lines to say we are all thank God in good health”. M<sup>r</sup> Pearson is not yet arrived at Madras; but I am told he will be here in the course of next month – I do not you may be assured, anticipate a little the pleasure of seeing the good little man, and of the many inquiries I have to make of him, regarding you all.

The account book is received. Your description is pleasing of Peter Falconar– I shall hope the amiable young man will benefit under his uncle's kind Auspices, who, I am told is a worthy good man and in a favourable way in Jamaica.

In the end of your letter you say, “I, shall not teaze you with any more writing, for I think I have scribbled so much you will think it a bore”. Why are you so cruel my friend,? as to imagine your dear letters can ever be received, or so unkindly thought of by me – or rather I must think your judgement to be founded on my want of affection and gratitude towards you – For God's sake never harbour an idea of the like again for such an expression vexes me most heartily.

Now to reply to your kindly affectionate and interesting favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> of April in answer to mine by the Ravensworth –.

In what language can I paint to you, my loved my invaluable friend – the sensations I felt on perusing your letter. How sweetly you express yourself by saying “Every thing that concerns you, M<sup>r</sup> D–, or my dear Betsy – meets with its advocate in my breast”. How soothing, how flattering is such amiable friendship – I could for ever dwell on your worth; but were I to communicate all I feel you would perhaps think me a gross flatterer – It must be only by my deeds to shew, how repleted my hearts gratitude and affection.

You say you have delivered my letter to M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, and that you had an opportunity of saying a few words in favor of the favoured young man. You further say “I am to dine shortly with her and to discuss this matter more fully & you may depend I shall enforce the argument with the warmth of friendship”. How extremely good you are –I long for the Swallow to have

your Dear comforting letters! Indeed my anxiety increases as the time approaches for her arrival. I am sorry M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes is not the Deputy Chairman however, his being in the Direction is almost as good; for if he has a mind to assist us like a generous friend, he can easily do the business – Tell my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, that for the happiness of my Eliza, I must depend on her affection and cordial friendship. I shall address her by this dispatch she has kindly sent Eliza and me a Cap a Bonnet, two watch chains of steel beads and a p<sup>r</sup> of Earrings, all of which I shall in due form notice to her.

Lydia Falconar is the girl my dear friend that we are to have in India, her brother here thinks her the prettiest of the sisters, therefore he wishes for her to come out in preference to any of the others. But if you think Lydia Falconar is too young to accompany Lydia, and Juliet, it would be a thousand pities to have her one with them therefore, I think, it would be better for her, and Mary, to come together in the year 1792 – do not you think this is a good plan? as then Mary will have her cousin and Dear friend with her – their situation will render both happy as well as making their voyage pleasant.

After your great girls leave you my Cousin you will be left with Harriot and Alex<sup>r</sup>. How would you like to visit this our Eastern Climate? Do you think you would have the courage to venture on ship Board? – I think, nay, I am pretty sure, if you and my children were here however much I admire that delightful Country England, I should be satisfied to pass the remainder of my days in India –. If we are so unfortunate as not to quit this Country before Harriot is Eighteen, I think, I may give over all thoughts of ever seeing England more – and then, what comfort, and satisfaction it would afford us, to have you here – by all the Power above it would be a charming circumstance! Alex<sup>r</sup> by then will be a great Boy and will not require that maternal attention that he now stands in need of. – God only knows, how he is to be disposed of – were I to determine the choice of his establishment, I think I should fix him in England – the Country is not what it used to be.

We are in daily expectation of the Swallow. By her my dear Cousin I expect grateful tidings. M<sup>r</sup> D–’s situation has been very unpleasant ever since his dismissal, however his letters by the Bridgewater from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, Coutts, Brodie, Pigou and Sir John Dalling are very satisfactory, they mention their satisfaction and entire conviction of his Innocence, and expressing themselves confident of the goodness of his Cause: I must do for M<sup>r</sup> D– the justice to say, that from the first instance of his removal and his consequent unmerited disgrace he has shewn a greatness of mind and Resignation that would have become a Roman. Sir Archibald Campbell being a friend of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s and wishing to serve him before he leaves India he is now premeditating to appoint him to Ganjam; appointment is expected to be made in the Course of this month – Should this affair be accomplished as above mentioned, M<sup>r</sup> Davidson means to take his departure almost immediately and, we are to remain here till July next, and then to proceed. – If we are all well, and alive, on the year following Eliza & I shall come down to Madras to receive my dear Children – It is yet a long period to look for, but for all that, I cannot but anticipate the pleasure I am to experience. Little Chesbarrow Falconar you say is to go into Christs Hospital, what kind of School is it? Are gentlemen’s Sons brought up there? – Tell me my kind friend all about it, and of its institution – M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar will I am sure adore you as long as she lives, for your attention, and kindness to her and hers. If ever there was a Saint, she must be one, for her Piety, and virtues are unparalleled

How is little Tom Hunt? I hope you will not spoil him, and shall flatter myself he will be grateful to you for all your care of him.

I read you letter to Betsy when I came to that part of it where you say “ Dont let my dear Betsy think her affectionate cousin severe my eyes are wet with tears for you all” she exclaimed “how excellently amiable is my poor Dear Cousin, and how dearly I love and respect her” – she then wept – She will certainly address you, and will tell you all her little heart feels she is impatiently waiting for that cordial comfort, you wish to send her – You

know not how much you are adored by us – while I am speaking to you with my pen, I feel a kind of thrilling sensation, and wish not to be told of being with you all in dear Gower Street – Oh! my Cousin, my poor heart sickens at the Idea of our long separation.

James is thankful for the things you promised to send him, he has been very ill, but with proper care, of a worthy medical man M<sup>r</sup> Duffir, he is set on his legs again, he, his wife, and son are well and hearty.

Reata I have placed with a worthy family just arrived from Bengal, a Major and M<sup>rs</sup> Cairnes – they have five children, Reata attends them in the capacity of Nurse – she desires her affectionate duty to you all, but particularly to Harriot and Alex<sup>r</sup>

By the next arrivals I shall hope to receive my little girls and Boy's pictures – Indeed I am very desirous of having them, and could you give me your dear picture, done by the same man (Doleman or Downman) that old M<sup>rs</sup> Casamaijor's was painted by how highly you would gratify me – The cost is only three Guineas – Do my dearest friend indulge me with this request – the one done by Watson is not at all to my fancy – the shabby fellow, has not done you justice; do not refuse this small boon – let Lydia and Juliet be the Bearers of it. I am not at all surprised at your liking M<sup>rs</sup> Davis, she has many requisites to render her an agreeable acquaintance and companion – But – (hang these Buts and Ifs) to proceed then – tho, I have had pleasure in her society, I must say she is a great Courtier, and on further knowledge of her you will find the truth of what I assert – M<sup>rs</sup> Davis writes me about you, and the children, she says – “I have seen your dear children – M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty is quite a Mother to them, and I am certain does them every justice” – and then speaks of the children, Lydia, she says has the “same face as when she knew her at Madras, Mary is the Belle, Harriot is as saucy as ever, Alex<sup>r</sup> grown prodigiously and has a fine healthy bloom – but I cannot flatter you as much as to say he does not squint, for he certainly does”. After mentioning my children she says of her Boy “My Charles is a prodigious favorite with your Alex<sup>r</sup> and indeed with all the Young Ladies, for wonder, for tho, he is my own, I must do him the justice to me he is a delightful Boy” – M<sup>rs</sup> Davis goes on by telling me that the little girls all write and dance well “but to speak candidly I do not think they will be good Musicians &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>g</sup>” – Now my dear Cousin, I know as well as my friend M<sup>rs</sup> Davis the abilities of my children, and from you I have a just and impartial account of their merits, and demerits, therefore I am sure there was little occasion for her to be so precise, however, had her accounts of them not proceeded from Envy I should in that case have been obliged to her. Her Brother showed me a Journal of hers wrote for her husband and received after his Death wherein she notices your charges being all very plain children – To me she praises Mary's Beauty to the Skys. Let me beg of you to be silent on this subject to her – In our acquaintances in this world we cannot always find what we wish. It is expected that M<sup>rs</sup> Davis will return as soon as she hears of her husband's Death. M<sup>r</sup> Davis died greatly involved, tho in paper in the Nabob's Bonds his fortune amounts to a great sum: but it is thought she will not be able to recover one third of it, if any. The Bonds are those of the eldest Son.

I am glad you are acquainted with M<sup>rs</sup> William Wymark she is an amiable character, ere this you will have seen her giddy husband – tell me how you like him – remember me kindly to them both.

You are not enough particular about the Powney family M<sup>rs</sup> Powney was a particular friend of ours – what do you think of M<sup>rs</sup> Vansittart? She was entirely Educated at Madras: remember me to all their family and to the good old Ladies in Queen Ann Street West. The Casamaijors here are all well.

Corbett's and Robertsons's friendship I value highly – you must say many handsome things of me to them. M<sup>r</sup> Vin<sup>o</sup> Corbett has lived constantly with us ever since his return from Bengal. Our house has been his home these seventeen months. It is wonderful to tell, how soon he has forgot his unfortunate loss – I think Corbett and Robertson could assist me greatly with their interest in behalf of my Nephew Falconar: You cannot think how I wish for the completion of

this business, for after M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons establishment, M<sup>r</sup> Falconar is next my heart. – Tell the Devaynes if they but assist me in this business, this grand object of mine, they will find me more than grateful to them. Your assurance of the Devaynes good will towards me is flattering, I hope they may grant this which will fully convince me of the sincerity of their friendship.

I have sent by M<sup>r</sup> Westcott some pretty gold chints for you, M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, and Lady Macartney, I hope you have got them safe. Eliza means to present Miss Devaynes with a piece of silver Muslin for a dress, I too shall sent M<sup>rs</sup> D– some token of my friendship, you my best loved Cousin shall not be forgotten. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson is going to send by Lady Campbell his picture done by Smart to Lydia, and one to Mary, which was painted by Scooler, Harriet must have one likewise, but it must be a Copy taken from Smart's, to be painted by Sherrif – I think then they will all be set up with their Father's pictures.

We are going to lose many of our Ladies – for your amusement I shall send you a list of them. In the Manship Sir Archibald's and his whole family embark, I believe they mean to leave this about the middle of next month. You will see Lady Campbell, she has promised me to call now and then in Gower Street to see the children, as also M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Oakely. I shall say nothing of them in this, but shall wait for your account of them, M<sup>rs</sup> O– was a niece of the famous M<sup>rs</sup> Read the paintress – she is blessed with the most kind husband and Six lovely children.

I have had a very friendly letter lately from M<sup>r</sup> George Forster – he made very kind and particular enquiries after you and all the children – Poor fellow a few weeks ago he had the misfortune of breaking his Leg – but is now perfectly well: his brother James was here in his way to Bengal –

We have been very gay here, the accounts of which I shall leave Eliza to tell you. I am glad Dennes behaves so well, and Alex<sup>r</sup>'s fondness for her is a sure sign of her having been kind to him – I think to the best of my recollection I sent her a token of my remembrance.

If I am able I shall address all the children by this opportunity, if otherwise I shall by the next, which will be shortly after this. To Lady Grant, M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes Lady Macartney I shall endeavor to write: to the rest of my friends also I shall not be unmindful.

Do not you think it is now necessary to conclude this long narrative? I am sure your patience will suffer in perusing this – By, the by, I must add a few words more – when Lydia and her cousins come out, let them have but two dress gowns each, and either Italian nightgowns or fancy dresses, those most in fashion – a few patterns of dress and undress Gowns will be acceptable – for to wear on Board of ship let them have six dresses each of Cotton the same as Eliza had. One dress each ought to be habits however, I shall enclose you a little list of a few trifles and leave the rest to your Judgment.

Permit me to request of you to make particular mention of me to M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan, Grants, Gardiner, M<sup>r</sup> Chitty the Pigous, my Uncle, the Farquhars, Pringles, Luards in short to all and every one of my friends and Relations: – but I repeat my Benefactress M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner. Tell my dear friends that they are never forgotten – and that I wish them many returns of this day added to every desirable blessing.

Kiss and affectionately embrace Lydia, Mary, Harriet and Alexander, likewise my two adopted children, Juliet and Lydia Falconar, – tell them all my friend that I love them with tenderest affection that I love them ardently and to deserve a continuance of that regard they must obey, respect and Love you most dearly –

To Miss Hancock Messr Slingsby Nurse Arnold, and Chinery offer my best compliments and thank them in the most particular manner for their attention and exertion in behalf of my dear children.

To Grubb, Hardy, to your Servants &c &c remember me kindly –

I enclose nine months of my Journal but in truth I can make it so little interest I do a violence to myself in sending it.

Eliza is addressing Lady Macartney and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, she means to send you a Copy of her letters. To you likewise she means to write. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson desires his affectionate love to you, and the Children, he ever remembers you with affection and gratitude. God bless you my dearest Cousin – and judge of the extent of my affection by the length of my letter – I am with sincere gratitude, your devoted and faithful

Febry 1<sup>st</sup> 89

P.S. By M<sup>r</sup> Welch, son to the old Welchs, and brother to M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes, I shall send a small parcel containing five pill Boxes all of which you will do me the favor to distribute as directed. I have got a piece of Bengal Muslin for you, if I can get some kind friend to take care of it, I shall send it. Lady Campbell has in charge M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Pictures for Lydia and Mary – As the girls have got the Miniatures, I beg you will do me the favor to present Alexander with something he admires most. In the course of next Month M<sup>r</sup> Davidson is to be appointed to Ganjam. My poor Nephew Falconar has been very ill with the Liver – But thank God, he is now much better – do not notice this to his mother, or to any of the Family. No day fixed yet for the departure of the Governor and family.

pages 164 – 165 [*Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes*]

Grove Jan<sup>ry</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1789

My Dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes –

By Captain Corner I was favored with your polite letter accompanied with a fashionable pretty Cap and Bonnet; for which accept of my best thanks – the Bonnet being too Smart for an old woman, I gave it to your young friend Eliza, who, for your sake, accepted, and wore it with the greatest pleasure. It was much admired for its taste, and neatness.

I have done myself the satisfaction of addressing you, my dearest Madam, several times since my arrival in India; I hope you have received my letters. I would not have my amiable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, imagine, that ingratitude ever harbored in my breast from the instant you think me remiss to you, from that moment erase me, and mine, from your mind. –

From my kind Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty I hear frequently of you, and of the good Governor; she speaks of your kind attention to her, and her little Charges, in kind terms – I feel myself much obliged to you, for this mark of your friendship. Be assured I shall ever bear in grateful remembrance the flattering notice you have ever taken of me and family.

I did myself the pleasure of sending you this piece of gold Chints, by M<sup>r</sup> Westcott which I hope will meet with your approval – they are the best I could procure on this coast. M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty will deliver to you a Box containing a pair of pearl drops for Earrings they are much esteemed here by our Ladies, and your wearing them for my sake will not a little gratify my vanity – I shall likewise enclose you a little trinket of gold Philagree executed at Bencoolen, the workmanship is reckoned very curious.

My Daughter writes you by this despatch fully and Miss Devaynes – she ever speaks of you with great warmth of heart and hurries me to tell you that if you love her as she Loves and admires you, you will not one moment hesitate to render her happy.

I have often written to you on the subject of my nephew Falconar. I hope you will not be displeased with me for introducing this topick again to your notice from my estimable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty you must know a good deal of our family matters; therefore, you cannot wonder at my anxiety – But my dearest M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, your friendship is now put to the Test – and I shall rest on your benevolent aid for the accomplishment of this business. You must not my friend, think me bold and presuming – I know well the favor of such an appointment – but then my dear kind Madam, you shall find me grateful and sensible how to Prize so great an act of true Friendship. Do in your next give me comfort – for believe me, what with my poor husband's situation, and that of my nephew, I have little peace of mind.



You never mention your dear children to me – how is Miss Devaynes is she likely to be soon settled? Is dear Billy grown stout, and communicative? I hope when I have the pleasure of hearing from you next, you will be more particular regarding M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, your Daughter, and Son, To your worthy Governor remember me most kindly, tell him I do not despair to hear from him, embrace and kiss your sweet children for me. I shall now take my leave; but not before I wish you and yours Many, many happy returns of this Season, crowned with every blessing this world can afford – the knowledge of which will ever give much satisfaction – your faithful and affectionate E.D.

page 166 [*Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty*]

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> – 1789

my dearest friend –

this will be delivered to you by a young friend of mine, Miss Ann Maria Knophart, the youngest Daughter of a very worthy and particular friend of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's and mine an Armenian Gentleman who wishing to have his children brought up in the English style four or five years ago sent to England to the care of a M<sup>r</sup> Bohem his two eldest Boys, this young lady is also to be under the care of M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Bohem. I have recommended M<sup>rs</sup> Olier's School for her, M<sup>r</sup> Raphael has promised to have his daughter put there.

I have now my friend to beg of you to show this young Lady kindness and attention and my dearest Cousin will I know have her in Gower Street as often as you can – may I also request of you to mention the improvements she makes at School – she being the darling of two affectionate Parents, of course they will be very anxious to hear of her – recommend to M<sup>rs</sup> Olier to pay great attention to Miss Raphael in every respect as it may procure her more Scholars. You might mention her also to Slingsby and the other masters who teach at the School.

pages 167 – 169 [*Elizabeth to Mr Corbett*]

M<sup>r</sup> Corbett

Grove, nr Madras 6<sup>th</sup> February 1789

My Dearest Sir

By the Packet of the William Pitt I did my self the pleasure to address you, indeed it was more an introductory letter to Major Stevenson than a particular one to you. However, as I had mentioned other circumstances therein I let it go –

I am now set down pen in hand to endeavor to reply fully to your favor by the Bridgewater dated 4<sup>th</sup> of April 1788 – The first Paragraph of it, being on an interesting, and heart rending subject, were I to touch on it now at this distant period, it would only rip open a wound, that I would ever strive to close – Suffice it then to say my dear Sir, and to assure you faithfully your favored Son Ven<sup>o</sup> is perfectly recovered, and is in as good health and spirits as I have ever known him to be.

Your Son ever since his last arrival from Bengal has favored us with his company; I must say his living at our Retreat, being at perfect ease with friends who are free from form and ceremony, have greatly assisted in the reestablishment of his peace of mind. He now visits his friends, dines and sups out, and frequently goes to the Publick Rooms – in short you would be highly pleased with him were you now to see him.

A few months ago by the request of M<sup>r</sup> V– Corbett and my good man's advice I addressed your eldest son, and said every thing to him that I could suggest to induce him to visit Madras – but to this letter written many months since I have never been favored with a Reply. He is at Maddapolam, in himself it is said happy but if you would use your Parental prevailing influence to visit Europe, I think it would aid greatly towards making him a New Man. The

heat of this warm climate has bene very hurtful to his Health.

I must now thank you for the kind and active part you meant to take in behalf of my good man – who I hope will meet with his reward by the Swallow Packet – which is anxiously looked for – The Swallow having left England on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August last we have every reason to expect her hourly.

Sir Archibald Campbell, with his Lady, her sister M<sup>rs</sup> Malcolm and suite embark on the Manship as also do M<sup>r</sup> Oakeley and family. The General intends to appoint M<sup>r</sup> Davidson to Ganjam as soon as M<sup>r</sup> Russell sends his resignation which he is to do so as soon as he arrives at Madras. M<sup>r</sup> Russell is expected from Vizagapatam in the course of this Month. M<sup>r</sup> Williams is to be appointed to Vizack and M<sup>r</sup> D– to Ganjam. I shall subjoin a lot of the families going home for your amusement.

I have now, my dear Sir, to make one grand request, it is of the greatest consequence to my peace of mind – I have that opinion of your goodness of heart and tenderness of mind that I am confident you will feel for me, and will exert yourself to shew me that [*first letters unclear*] nted friendship you have hither done and I so highly prize and hope ever to deserve a continuance of.

Permit me then my kind Sir, without any further preamble to solicit your interest in a business which engrosses my whole thoughts – It is to assist my Friends to get M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Falconar my Husband's Nephew, now here, and one that is not entirely a stranger to you appointed a Writer in the Company's Civil Service at Madras – In doing me particular favor, you will confer on me the greatest obligation imaginable. I have already written M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes Lord and Lady Macartnay, M<sup>r</sup> John Sullivan and M<sup>r</sup> Brodie on this subject but if you likewise would give me the assisting hand of friendship – need I assure you it would render me happy – Let me beseech you not to treat this application coldly – My kind Sir, Do me the honor of adopting it with the warmth it is written. Your known generosity and the desire you have always shewn to assist and serve the virtuous, the amiable and the worthy will I flatter myself prove propitious in promoting the darling wish of my poor heart. M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty that amiable benign friend, that Providence has blessed me with, will shew you the different copies of letters I have written to my friends in England on this subject – Pardon my urging you so earnestly – but my regard for this amiable young man, joined to my affection for my husband and for his Dear sisters family – all combine in my considering this point one of the greatest Objects of my Life.

I shall now take my leave, but must first request of you to remember me kindly to M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Falkener and Miss [*illegible*] wishing every individual of them as well as yourself a large portion of health and happiness I remain your already much obliged Friend. I beg my dear Sir you will style me anything but “Madam”.

pages 170 – 171 [*Elizabeth to her son Alexander who is with Mrs Chitty in London*]

My Dearest Alec

I cannot allow the Manship to sail without sending you a few lines to inform you my sweet fellow your dear commical letters gave you Father, Sister Cousins Grant, Falconar and Mother universal pleasure and merriment –

Your favorite “James with his Black wife” are well and as yet they have not “affronted each other” Reata, I have put her to serve a very amiable family Major and M<sup>rs</sup> Cairnes she always speaks of you and little Harriot, and also of Lydia and Mary – she desires me to present her affectionate duty to the best of women, M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and to you all.

Martha is married to an Englishman, your Father's Postillion tell this anecdote to your good friend Captain Robertson. James' Son is grown a fine Bamboo coloured Boy – in a few years will perhaps be your Coachman – he is the picture of his Mother.

Lady Campbell with many other of our India friends mean to call to see my cousin and you

all – I hope my Alec will make his best Bow and behave himself to these great Nobles and Noblesses like an English gentleman of true breeding and politeness.

The enclosed letter is from Major Cairnes to his Son and Nephew at Harriot School – he has introduced you to their acquaintance. Give the letter to M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and be advised by her – my good Cousin after reading it will have the goodness to seal it.

Your Father has given your sisters each a Picture of his – I have desired my Dear friend and Cousin to present you with any thing you like best.

I beg you will kiss Cousin heartily for me and embrace and kiss your sisters affectionately not forgetting Juliet. Eliza, your Father join me in kindest love to you all, and I request to remain your Devoted and affectionate Mother

1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1788 E. D.

My best compliments to your [*illegible word*] Pigou to Corbett and Robertson. Have you seen Master Boyd how do you like him tell me all about your School.

pages 172 – 173 [*Elizabeth to Lady Grant, her husband's aunt*]

The Grove 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 1789

My Dear and Honored Madam –

Your favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1788 is now to be acknowledged. In the first place permit me my dear Lady Grant to convince you on my word of Honor, that I have not been unmindful of your Ladyship since my arrival in India. By the Ranger and the Ravensworth I did myself the pleasure of addressing you, Eliza likewise, wrote by the Ranger, the Talbot, the Henry Dundas, the W. P. and now by the Manship – If our letters do not reach your hands, we are very unfortunate, and you certainly my Dear Madam from appearance, have cause to be justly offended. But I cannot help thinking your kind anxiety for your absent friends, makes you imagine that there are more frequent opportunities of writing, than in fact there are. Some years ago there used to be two Dispatches in the Year; an October and a Jan<sup>ry</sup> Ship – But of late except chance conveyances we have only had one dispatch, and that generally in Jan<sup>ry</sup>, or Febery. Therefore, the length of time between each Dispatch must appear to you long. Since the Henry Dundas, which sailed last March, we have not had an opportunity of writing from Madras, till by the Manship, which only sailed on the 7<sup>th</sup> instant –

How can you my good Lady Grant, possessed as you are of generous and liberal sentiments; conceive we should be so ungrateful to the attentions and kindness you have ever shewen me and mine – may I request of your Ladyship, that in future you will not be so cruel to us, Indeed the simple Idea of your being displeas'd with Eliza and me is alone sufficient to depress and damp our spirits. Rest satisfied my good Madam, nothing shall ever induce either my D–, or me, to omit writing to you as often as occasions offer.

I have read your letter to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, he is as much concern'd as any of his friends can be regarding the situation of his, and his Uncle's affairs – Were it in his power to have discharged the obligation he would long ago have cheerfully done so. – It is not for want of will, but the means to do it. As you have thus long had patience to bear with him, I shall flatter myself, your Ladyship, and the rest of the Executors will still have the goodness to give him time to recover himself, when that is accomplished, you and them, may rest assured M<sup>r</sup> D– will repay you gratefully and most thankfully. – Had my good man been of loose Principles and a Rogue he might now, as well, as many others have rode in his gilded Coach –

The Swallow arrived at Bengal on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of last Month – we have not yet received our letters – It is imagin'd the Madras packet will be sent us by the Phoenix Indiaman, which is to call at Vizagapatam on her way to this place to carry M<sup>r</sup> Russell and family home. The Packet I am inform'd has not brought any thing regarding this Government, but it is expected the Ariel Frigate which was to sail soon after to bring our dispatches for this Coast will bring

later Advices. As soon as M<sup>r</sup> Russell resigns the Chiefship of Vizagapatam a M<sup>r</sup> Williams is to be appointed to that place and M<sup>r</sup> D— to Ganjam in the room of M<sup>r</sup> Williams. So my dear Lady Grant whether your poor nephew is reinstated, or not, he will have a respectable appointment – by which I doubt not, if it please God to prolong his life, he will acquit himself with honor and honesty towards all his friends.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> official Accounts from Guntoor that the Chief of Masulipatam were received then in service at Guntoor M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir had been seized with raving Madness. He appeared stark naked in presence of his Servants, and in the presence of the Troops. He some time before was subject to Phrenzy, and outrageous Passion – opened indiscriminately private letters – imagined himself Lord Cornwallis. M<sup>r</sup> Scott and a Nephew of M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir's were obliged to have him tied to a Palenkeen and then sent by an Escort to Masulipatam. He would not permit any clothes to be put on him. This unfortunate miserable Wretch, is so hated and despised, there is not a person here who laments or feels compunction for his Misery – Indeed, my dear Madam, if ever there was an atrocious Villain Sadleir is one. –

My dear amiable Cousins charming conduct, is far and near spoken of I am afraid it will never be in my power to make her amends – I am happy to hear you say my Boy is improved – he will give us much pleasure by always behaving himself with that propriety and modesty that denote goodness and Virtue. You have mentioned my Alec, my dear Madam, but omitted saying anything of my poor Girls.

You have given me great satisfaction by informing me your health is better, may your Ladyship long, very long, enjoy so great a blessing, so requisite to render our Existence comfortable our prayers shall not be wanting for its continuance.

As Eliza has addressed you my dear Madam very fully by the Manship, I shall not at present add to the Length of this – I beg therefore to take my leave – wishing you all manner of felicity I ever remain your grateful and sincerely obliged Friend.

Lady Grant

*pages 174 – 175 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]*

The Phoenix Madras 24<sup>th</sup> February 1789

The Phoenix is at last arrived my dearest Cousin from Bengal with the Swallow's Packets – She anchored in the Road on the 17<sup>th</sup> at night; and on the 20<sup>th</sup> we had the satisfaction to find the Cruel Bar that was most cruelly laid on my poor husband – removed – So thank you merily and the rest of our friends for their kind exertions in M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Cause is far too insignificant. And yet how else can I express my gratitude to you and them? My pen is ready to obey my commands but I cannot find words strong enough to convey & enforce to you all the warmth of my sentiments . Let me therefore assure you my beloved Cousin, our hearts are replete with gratitude towards you all, for your active friendship on the score of my dear good Man – I am afraid the shortness of the Phoenix' stay here will not allow me to thank M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, M<sup>r</sup> Brodie, Corbett &c – but I hope by the Dublin I shall have it in my Power to do my duty as I wish.

M<sup>r</sup> Russell's going from Vizagapatam, and M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir's Insanity will make probably two vacancies by which M<sup>r</sup> D— stands a certain chance of being appointed to one of them. The following is M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir's present situation – extracted from my letter to Lady Grant which goes under cover to you.

I have been duly favored with your three Months Journal, and likewise your letters of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, and the 14<sup>th</sup> of August – with those of Lydia's, Mary's and Juliet's all and every one of them shall be punctually attended to by the next dispatch. Your kind letters overwhelm me. Your friendship and Attachment my dear friend are envied me by all who have the knowledge of your goodness to me and mine – It is no wonder, God grant I

may always prove deserving of it!

Having written very fully by the Manship I shall not enlarge this – especially as I am anxious of writing a few lines to those Ladies whose husbands have shewn M<sup>r</sup> D attention to his business – and I am confident you will approve of my doing so – I hear thirty writers are to be appointed this season for this settlement I shall hope my amiable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes will not be silent in the cause of Friendship – from her, and her, only I expect comfort for my Favorite.

page 176 [Elizabeth to Mr Pigou, her uncle Frederick Pigou]

M<sup>r</sup> Pigou 29<sup>th</sup> February 1789

My Dearest and Honored Sir

I cannot permit the Phoenix to take her Departure from Madras without offering you my worthy Uncle the grateful thanks of an affectionate heart, for your kind Exertions in behalf of my Husband – In causing the Bars to be removed. I cannot enough express to you our sense of your goodness. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and self shall ever hold in dear and due remembrance your benevolent and generous conduct: I shall flatter myself you will find M<sup>r</sup> D– deserving the continuance of your friendship and good opinion –

The cruel impediment being removed M<sup>r</sup> D– now stands a certain chance of being appointed to either Vizagapatam or Masulapatam – M<sup>r</sup> Claud Russells going home and M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir’s Insanity, will probably make two vacancies the enclosed abstract will inform you of M<sup>r</sup> S–s present unhappy situation. –

reverse of page 176 [Elizabeth to Mr Peter Corbett]

M<sup>r</sup> Corbett 24<sup>th</sup> Febry 1789

My dearest Sir

Your acceptable favor of the 26<sup>th</sup> July by the Swallow Packet has safely reached me. But the short stay of the Phoenix here will not permit me to address you at length and yet, I cannot reconcile myself to her departure without tendering you, my kind friend, my hearty and grateful thanks for the good offices and exertions, you have used in the behalf of my worthy Man. M<sup>r</sup> D– as well as this family are sensible of your friendship, and we shall ever recollect your zealous conduct with due gratitude.

The enclosed Extract will shew you M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir’s present situation which with M<sup>r</sup> Russell’s going home will secure M<sup>r</sup> D– either the chiefship of Masulapatam or Vizack.

page 177 [Elizabeth to Lady Macartney]

24<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789

My Dear Madam.

I have snatched up my pen to return you, and your dear Lord my warmest acknowledgements for your friendship, to M<sup>r</sup> D–, who, as well as myself are sensible of Lord Macartneys exertions towards having the cruel Bars removed – I request to assure your Ladyship we shall ever gratefully acknowledge your amiable conduct to us; and I shall flatter myself we shall not be underserving of the notice you have ever been pleased to take of me, and mine. The shortness of the Phoenix’s stay will not allow me to add more. M<sup>r</sup> D– writes Lord M– with the sincere and fervent prayers of this family I beg to remain

reverse of page 177 [Elizabeth to Mr Coutts]

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789  
M<sup>r</sup> Coutts

My Dear Sir

By M<sup>r</sup> Brodie I am made acquainted with your kind exertions in the cause of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, in having Cruel Bar removed – permit me to offer you, my sincere and tenfold thanks for your friendship to us – M<sup>r</sup> D–, as well as his family are truly sensible of the support and good offices you have rendered to us – our grateful hearts shall at all times be ready to acknowledge your generous conduct –

The Phoenix's Packet being on the eve of closing I have only time to add my best and kind remembrance to the amiable M<sup>rs</sup> Coutts and family.

page 178 [Elizabeth to Mrs Cheap]

24<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789

Dear Madam

From M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and other friends, I am made no stranger to M<sup>r</sup> Cheap's good offices towards M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's in having his Bar removed and Give me leave, my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Cheap, for old acquaintance sake, to use this friendly style, and to thank you and M<sup>r</sup> Cheap from my heart most sincerely for your Exertions in my husband's cause. I shall ever retain a proper sense of your friendship, and with pleasure reflect on your kindness to us –with united best wishes for the happiness of yourself M<sup>r</sup> Cheap, and family. I remain with regards your greatly [page ends there]

reverse of page 178 [Elizabeth to M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes]

24<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789

My Dearest M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes.

These lines are to offer you and your kind and generous Governor my grateful thanks for your friendship and exertions in behalf of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson in causing the cruel Bar to be removed which I presume to say so was unmeritably laid on him. I hope you will find him deserving of the continuance of your and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes' good opinion – and that through your means I make no doubt he will now do well – when in a few years he will be able if it please God to spare him to thank you both personally.

I have written you at length by the Manship so has your favorite Eliza, who adores her Dear friend M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes – with numberless kisses to sweet Billy with the kindest wishes of this family to M<sup>r</sup> D, yourself and Daughter.

page 179 [Elizabeth to Mr Brodie]

M<sup>r</sup> Brodie 24<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789

My Dear Sir

Your favor of the 18<sup>th</sup> July by the Swallow, I am favored with. – The shortness of the Phoenix's stay at Madras, will not allow me to write to you at large – and Gratitude likewise will not permit the Phoenix to sail without my tendering you my best sincere thanks for your unlimited exertion in favor of your old and worthy friend M<sup>r</sup> Davidson – who, as well as my self, shall always remember M<sup>r</sup> Brodie's friendship with sincere affection –

The Cruel Bar being removed M<sup>r</sup> Russell's going home and M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir's Insanity will make probably two vacancies by which M<sup>r</sup> D– stands a certain chance of being appointed. to Vizack or Masulipatnam –

I beg leave to enclose an Extract of my letter to Lady Grant respecting M<sup>r</sup> S–'s situation –

The list of the families that are gone, and are agoing home I send for your information. Madras has never before lost so many of its Inhabitants in one season – Excuse the brevity of this, I shall address you soon more fully – with united best regards I remain with truth your faithful and gratefully obliged E.D.  
page 180 [Elizabeth to Mr Loughnan]

M<sup>r</sup> Loughnan 24<sup>th</sup> Febry 1789

Dear Sir.

From my amiable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, I am made known of your kind exertions in favor of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, in having his Bar removed. Allow me, as an old friend, to tender you, my sincere acknowledgements of the kind and active part you have taken in his cause – M<sup>r</sup> Loughnan's goodness is so strongly imprinted on my memory as not to [be] effaced: I retain a due sense of your Friendship. With the best wishes of this family to yourself, your Lady and children I remain M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Corsar are well

page 181 [Elizabeth to unknown ]

24<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789

My Dearest Sir

The enclosed letters being left out of the Phoenix's Packet – You must permit me to trouble you with the charge of them, and shall be obliged to you, to forward them to my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, who will have the goodness to distribute them as Directed.

M<sup>r</sup> D– and I have written you at length by the Manship – we have likewise addressed you by this conveyance – with [end of page]

page 182 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]

The enclosed four letters My Dear Cousin are of thanks, you will do by them, as by those I send by the Packet – Eliza's letter likewise have I sent within this. Remember me to Miss Hancock by the Dublin I shall address her. Kiss all my darling children – By the ships of this year I shall hope to receive good and flatter accounts of my favorite. God in heaven bless you, and all around you – praise your most affectionate friend and Cousin Eliza. Davidson.

Let the Pictures

page 183 is blank

pages 184 – 191 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty]

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty Grove near Madras 1<sup>st</sup> March 1789

By the Phoenix My Dearest Cousin

I had just time to tell you of the Swallow's Packet having reached us and to thank you and my other friends, in as few words as possible for your, and their, kind exertions in my good man's cause. The Court of Directors have not hitherto done M<sup>r</sup> Davidson that ample justice, which their harsh conduct towards one of their most upright and faithful servants merited; yet their removing the Bars, and thinking him eligible to any of the chiefships are grateful circumstances. Should M<sup>r</sup> Davidson be appointed to Masulipatnam, if it pleases the Supreme

Being to spare his Life; I shall flatter myself a few years will bring us together in that Dear Country, when only we can pass the remainder of our days with comfort and satisfaction and enjoy the society of our dearest Connexions and friends.

I shall now see if I can acknowledge your favors of the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, and the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. By the Dublin which ship is daily expected to touch here from Bengal on her way to Europe. In your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> June you say – “The Swallow, my ever dear friend, has been detained long enough for some to congratulate you on the removal of the Bars to the chiefships” – By this Paragraph, I should imagine you had written me more letters than those I have noticed above, if you had, and I have lost them – I shall not lament enough at my ill fated things, for having deprived me of such a source of pleasure and comfort as your every letter affords me. But this surmise of mine must be cleared up by you when you return an answer to this.

I was glad to find Captain Munro of the Houghton had behaved so prettily, concerning the things I sent you, and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes he is really a Gentleman, and much admired here for his good conduct. He is a worthy man, I dare say if possible he will recover your chints, which is a difficult article to smuggle. The Swallow is expected here from Bengal, when she comes, I shall hope to receive your Box for James.

What an immensity of trouble have I occasioned you – not only with the care of the children, but in the cause of my Husband, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. It is difficult to say, whether admiration, gratitude, or love, at this moment predominate in the agitated Breast of your friend – but all, all, unite to assure you, while I live I shall adore you with never ceasing affection.

I am happy you have got my letters thro by Pondicherry, the Busbridge, the Dam, and the Henry Dundas – you must have soon after the receipt of the above mentioned have received the Journal by M<sup>r</sup> Westcott and likewise my letter by the Princess Amelia, all of them will inform you of our situation and welfare.

I have written letters of thanks to several of my friends thanking them for their kind exertions in my good husband’s cause, which letters, with those of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s to the same purport; as they were too late for the Phoenix’s Packet; I sent them under the care of M<sup>r</sup> Claud Russell: directed to our good friend Corbett who is requested to forward them to you –

M<sup>r</sup> Cheap’s and M<sup>r</sup> Loughnan’s conduct cannot be enough admired, at present I have only my grateful thanks to offer them, and to assure them I shall bear in strong remembrance their kindness.

As I have already communicated on the subject of my little Lydia Falconar, and her Brother having written to his Mother particularly about her – mentioning his reasons for wishing her to come to this Country. I shall herein touch no further on this topick, but shall wait to hear more from you hereafter.

I am rejoiced to find the Irons have been of such service to the children – I hope as they gather strength they will the less require such supports – Eliza still frequently complains of a pain in her back; she cannot with any comfort leave off her stays for half an hour in the day, she often says to me, “Do, Mama, let me lay down a little to rest my Back” – not withstanding this unpleasant ailment, she is to all appearance in good health. Betsy is grown taller and rather stouter than she was in England, in every other respect she is as good, and amiable, as ever: Lydia, and Juliet, will I am sure experience in her society, and friendship, all their little hearts can desire if they but follow her footsteps, they will be as much approved. By your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> July I find you were all safely landed at the Isle of Wight – enjoying the pleasures and delights of that charming little spot – Your exertions, make Eliza and me long to be of your parties. O! Heavens! what would we not give to have been with you all at Cowes – Sailing, fishing, and passing our time in the company of those we so dearly love. As, my friend, these wishings and longings only help to render our minds sad, and melancholy, therefore I shall bid a truce to grave reflections hoping henceforth for the enjoyment of better days.



Lydia's apprehensions of the sea are wonderful! After voyaging as she, and I have, I expected she would have made a bolder sailor – Tell, her my cousin, in one of our Indiamen, with a careful good Captain, the passage to India is perfectly safe; And of late years the ships have not been more than three Months, six or ten days coming here. After she leaves her Angelick Materna who, has treated her as tenderly as if she were her own child; when her spirits are calmed, she must then turn her thoughts towards India, reflecting that she has only left one dear Parent, to return to the protection of another, who, as well as her Father, will receive her with extended arms. My Lydia will then, I flatter myself, in some measure reconcile herself to an India Voyage. Which with agreeable companions it is not a very unpleasant trip.

My good man on this occasion has been very good; he has not omitted returning his thanks not only to all the Directors generally, but has written particularly to the two Chairs, and to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes and M<sup>r</sup> Cheap: Also fully to M<sup>r</sup> Brodie, Lord Macartney and the worthy Corbett: nor has he omitted M<sup>r</sup> Pigou nor M<sup>r</sup> Coutts &<sup>c</sup>.

I am happy that you and Peter Falconar correspond with each other; from time to time. let us know how he is going on at Jamaica – he seems to be an amiable young man your interesting yourself in the behalf of the Falconars is extraordinary, our hearts seem to have been composed of the same materials; they are even in unison with each others feelings and sentiments. Towards the Falconars, not to mention my partiality to my Nephew here, my poor heart is always warm and active in their cause – I never regretted the want of fortune so much as I now do – with a few thousands I could, I think render many happy that I Love and respect – But alas! I am afraid so great a blessing will not be my portion. Here again I am grave. But I cannot help it – whenever I talk of my dear friends, and of their situation, it always makes me grieve. – Adieu – I am called away to dinner.

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March 5<sup>th</sup>

I have not been able to resume my pen till now, having been interrupted by various trivial events – when I am occupied in chattering with my friend I cannot tell you how mortified I feel myself, when I am obliged to forgo so great a satisfaction, for things of less moment. But to proceed – So my saucy Alex<sup>r</sup> is grown and Adept at fishing? Did he ever catch any? I am afraid your kindness to him will make him poor fellow! loath to part from you – Your partial attention to him, I shall always pray may make him grateful, and mindful of you. You have said so much about this Dear fellow that his father will think him a Prodigy – he often asks me questions about him of his humour, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. – God spare him to comfort us.

By your favor of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July I was rejoiced to find you had got my letters by the Henry Dundas – and the satisfaction you derived from the perusal of them, faild not to render me highly gratified. On your return from West Cowes, I shall flatter myself those friends I had introduced to you will call on you: from Lieu<sup>t</sup> Macaulay and the Anstruthers, I expect to learn fully of your health, and that of my sweet children. I am glad to hear the Anstruthers are to take [*coals?*] of your House – I have given your cards to the Oakeleys, the Russells and Sir J Menzies Maunsells and M<sup>r</sup> Petrie – they have promised me to pay attention to my recommendation. I hope they will not prove themselves Blackguards by forfeiting their word. Your disposition regarding my sweet Boy's schooling entirely agree with my sentiments; I ever thought my Alex<sup>r</sup>, not calculated for Harrow, I mean at his present Infant years – M<sup>r</sup> Boyd, over persuaded M<sup>r</sup> D– saying his son who was of the same age was to go there. However M<sup>r</sup> Davidson is now well convinced of your powerful arguments, and by the Phoenix has written to you fully on the subject.

If you find any difficulty in sending us things by the ships of the Season, let me beg of you to desist – a few pairs of shoes for Eliza, is all I shall wish for yearly, and if that could be sent, we must compound [*page torn*] the rest. Desire the heels of her shoes should be a [*page torn*] You tell me my beloved Cousin “I never let slip mentioning and pushing your favorite as

much as I dare but on that subject I cannot falter – time will I hope do all that you wish” – You are more than good my friend, I pray your kind, and generous exertions may not be thrown away. In this Cruel World nothing can be obtained without trouble, and pain – and even then, we often miss our aim – By M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes letter to me by the Swallow, I have reason to expect comfort and yet, I shall not Busy myself up with false delusion, for fear of experiencing disappointment. I shall herein enclose you a copy of M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes last letter for your perusal.

I am told writers and Cadets were to have been appointed in December last – God grant I may have the satisfaction at seeing poor Falconars name in the list of the civilians. But my amiable friend, if we should be as unfortunate as not to obtain our wish in procuring the appointment of a writer: In that case only, as it is feared from a late order received by the Swallow commanding all the young men appointed to the Army since the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1785 to be reduced should this Cruel Arrangement take place M<sup>r</sup> Falconar being one of those in this predicament in such case let me request of you to have him appointed a Cadet in the Company’s Military Service, which is easier to be procured. But remember my best loved Cousin, this only as a last resource in case we are disappointed in the Civil – we must make a hard push, before we lose sight entirely of the Company’s civil Service.

I have read your request to Eliza contained in your letter – she listened to your kind expressions and wishing to give her comfort with tears in her Eyes, and after a moment's pause, she exclaimed – “Yes my dearest Cousin, with the assistance of my God, I shall hope to gain my wish by your, and the amiable M<sup>rs</sup> D–‘s aid and friendship”.

Had M<sup>r</sup> Davidson been in Council, he could have done many but many things for the benefit of his nephew – However, I shall flatter myself all will yet be well.

Only imagine my friend, if my good man had been reinstated, he would now have been Governor a second time – Alas! what has not envy, and Malice, robbed him of – May those that have sported so illiberally with his fortune, and family, experience the same reverse of fate – but I forgive them tho it will be a long time before his unmerited injury can be forgotten.

I have not written M<sup>rs</sup> Davis since her husband's death, the subject I found too unpleasant to be communicated to a wife's eyes; besides, as is expected here in the course of this Season, my letter would probably not have reached her. I hear she is much admired – and I also heard an anecdote of her, and General Dick Smith, not much to her advantage. I hope however this is without foundation, as I should be sorry if it were otherwise. Tell me of her, and of her children, and how they are all getting on: If she be in England remember me to her.

I am happy to hear Lydia, my sweet girl, has taken up Musick so earnestly, her Papa was much pleased to find she had made so great a proficiency, he being an Amateur of Harmony consequently devoted to Euterpe, Perpsichore, and Erato: my good man is not you may assured a little delighted at my Liddy’s goodness and exertions. Go on my child, and prosper – you can never do better, than by improving those talents you are blessed with.

Ennore ~~Febry~~ March 10<sup>th</sup>

Ever since the 5<sup>th</sup> I have been prevented from proceeding to reply to your letters – This is the third day of our being here, on a party, given by my Nephew Grant, and Major Stevenson, Brother to M<sup>rs</sup> Haffy. This is a small spot situated on the Banks of a fine River, it abounds with very fine fish, and Oysters – owing to the soil being sandy, we have no walks or drives, but having a very large fine Boat, we amuse ourselves each morning and evening with sailing on the River. In a few days more we shall return to the happy Grove.

I now must go on to acknowledge your last letter, dated on August the 14<sup>th</sup> – The Pattersons you say were well, and the eldest son is to return to India this year. I have communicated these circumstances to the Parents, they have not heard from their Boys by the Swallow, which has been to them a sauce of unhappiness. It is cruel old Wilkinson does not desire the Master to cause the children to write to their Father and Mother. From what you say, I am

afraid Colonel Patterson will not be satisfied with the Education of his eldest Boy. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson having already addressed you on the subject of Money Matters I shall not herein further trouble you on that head. As the Bars are now taken of, I hope there will not now be any impediment my Dear Friend to his doing well for himself and family.

I should like Maria Harwood much to accompany my children, I believe she is an honest creature. Should Lydia and Juliet only come, do not you think my friend one servant is enough; however, you had better consult Lady Blunt, on this business, for she you know sent out three Daughters tho they lived with me; I do not now remember whether they had one or two Servants to attend them. I should like my good Lydia and Juliet when on ship Board to keep themselves in their Cabins except at Meals, and in every respect to follow the example of the Amiable Miss Blunts. Should the young Ladies accompany M<sup>rs</sup> Copper, they I imagine in every respect must be under her guidance; and yet, I should wish they did not walk on Deck. But I forget, I am talking to a Dear Friend who so well knows how to direct and advise Guileless and unexperienced Innocence. It is not that I think my sweet girls would behave unbecoming themselves, but it prevents them from falling into numberless errors which every body would wish them to avoid.

Eliza and I have written Lady Grant as for M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's writing to her Ladyship at present he cannot bring himself to do so – But as soon as that fickle Goddess Fortune smiles on her, he will address his good Aunt with the utmost pleasure, and at the same time give her all the satisfaction her heart can desire.

I shall wait impatiently for the children's Pictures, if you have not sent them on this, I shall be glad if you would cause them to be framed and packed up in flannel and put in a Tin case; otherwise the Sea air damps the frames, and makes the gilding come of. The frames made in this country are heavy and the gilding very different not to mention their being costly. Should any thing have delayed the execution of them do not you think Doleman is an elegant as well as cheap Artist: for Aleck I think Biggs in oil colours small life clever. I have now answered your dear letters and every thing you wished to be informed of. I have only further to say that I was in expectation of my good man's having the chiefship of Masulipatnam, owing (as I told you by the Phoenix's Packet) of M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir's Insanity – but within these few days he is so well recovered that he is gone for a little time up the Country for the sake of the change of him. If M<sup>r</sup> Sadleir is able to retain his station, M<sup>r</sup> D– in that case, will have the chiefship of Vizagapatam, which is the second best Post under Council on this Coast. In a few days more our fate will be decided.

The Swallow is arrived, when I return to the Gardens I shall hope to find James' Box. I heard this day the Swallow is to be dispatched from Bengal in July, if that be the case, you shall hear from me again before Lydia leaves you.

Kiss my Dear sweet children for me, my loved Cousin, and fold them in your kind affectionate Arms – Tell them night, and day, you, and them, are constantly on my mind. If I have time I shall address my Girls and Miss Hancock by this opportunity. If Captain Smith of the Dublin will take a Box for me, I shall send one to you, it contains three china & Ivory work Baskets, one for you, one for M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, and the third for Lady Macartney – I wish my Lydia would paint each of the Lady's Initials on the little Round blanks on the top of the Baskets, each basket has two blanks, one will do for the letters the other for sprigs – I think the Initials and sprigs will be great improvements to the appearance of the Baskets. When they are done, after you have made your choice, will you do me the favor to present one to each of the Ladies above mentioned with my best regard: I think they will admire the workmanship.

M<sup>r</sup> D–, Eliza, Falconar and self are all well as is Grant also, we all join in Love and affectionate regard to you all. With thousands of good wishes to every of you I remain my dearest Cousin your more than Affectionate E.D.

P.S.

Remember me kindly to all dear and much esteemed friends. Tell them I shall always bear them in grateful remembrance for their friendship and recollection of us. To all the Masters and Servants likewise make my compliments.

24<sup>th</sup> March 89

I have the pleasure, my dearest friend, to inform you M<sup>r</sup> D— was app[*page torn*]  
Vizagapatam – We are now to hope by the blessing of our God for a long prolongation of his Life to enable him to render himself and others happy – M<sup>r</sup> Davidson will leave this in about eight or ten days for his new station – about June or July we shall follow him – Separated from our dearest friends and children we are now as comfortable and as happy as this world will admit of – If my Nephew was but appointed in the Company's civil service at Madras, I should then indeed be truly happy.

M<sup>r</sup> Hughes a few days ago was appointed also the Collector of the Guntoor Circars, a most excellent post, a few years will carry him home with a genteel fortune. M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes is to join him about the same time I mean to leave this – They are all well. Tell M<sup>rs</sup> Craig her Son is well. Do not you think, my loved cousin, Lydia ought to have a second hand Piano on Board – Kirkmans I think is the Best. The one I got for Eliza is in a dreadful condition perfectly unfit for use – The land or hot winds at this Country unless the Instrument is prepared on purpose for India crack, warp, and in a short time are entirely useless. Your letters must now be directed for Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson Esq<sup>r</sup> at Vizagapatam to the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Chase & Parry at Madras – If it please God I live till next year, I shall come to Madras to receive my Lydia and Juliet.

The Box you sent for James on the Swallow was opened on Board and the things sent separately, by which means poor James is a great loser, he has not got half of the things mentioned by his letter of advice. Our Stays, Lavender water, Smelling Bottles, and watch chain are received safe.

I shall be much obliged to you to forward M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar's letters to her as usual – Franked my poor Nephew is called on suddenly to join his Reg<sup>t</sup> which is going on Service. O! would he were otherwise situated.

God bless you, again adieu, and rest assured my dearest Friend I will always be your Devoted and affectionate [*writing ends here however lower down is written*] By the Dublin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty

pages 192 – 193 [*Elizabeth to her daughter Lydia at Mrs Chitty in London*]

Grove near Madras 12<sup>th</sup> March 1789

My Dearest Lydia

Your kind and affectionate letter by the Swallow I am favored with Indeed my sweet girl, I am made happy by your tender expressions, and by the joy you expressed on the receipt of the Ring, and Guineas. You estimate my little tokens of remembrance too highly; however, if they give you pleasure it is all I wish for – my intention is fully answered.

When you receive this you will be in the middle of preparing yourself for an India voyage. I hope my Lydia you will pay due attention to all my beloved Cousin's admonitions, rest assured, if you follow her advice, you cannot do wrong: But at the same time I know my Lydia is so very able, that her own good sense, and prudence will direct her footsteps, and secure her the Love and good opinion of all her friends.

You should not think a Sea Voyage so dreadful, as you have imagined; you will come out in a fine time of the Year and in an excellent Indiaman – I shall pray that some amiable gentle Being may have you under her protection, when she knows you and Juliet, she will without doubt be kind to you. Keep up your spirits and courage my dear Lydia – after the severe parting you must necessarily experience in quitting our dearest friends, remember my Lydia you will be bending your course to those all of whom will joyfully receive you with open

Arms, and try to soften the pangs of cruel separation from our more than dear Cousin, and from your Brother and Sisters.

I am happy to find you have made so great progress in your Musick, and in every other branch of your Education I make no doubt you have made proper, and requisite improvement – your good father has been at great expense for you all; and our benevolent Cousin has not spared any pains to see justice done her Charges – therefore, it will be all your fault, if you do not make that figure we wish you to do in the Mondel.

I hope you had much pleasure at the Isle of Wight – I shall not I imagine hear from you again, till, I have the supreme pleasure of seeing my Lydia, and her cousin Juliet, at Madras. God of Heaven grant you a safe and prosperous Voyage – You can easily suggest what I must feel when you are on your way. Be good and kind to Juliet, tell her my good Lydia that she is coming to your Father, Mother and Sister, all, and every one of them will love her not only for her own sake, but also for her dearest Aunts. I do not herein mention your little cousin Lydia Falconar as I imagine she will not be with you when this salutes your hand.

Kiss and tenderly embrace my sweet Cousin and beloved Mary, Harriet, Alex<sup>r</sup>, and Juliet, for me, tell them, they must, as well as yourself love me; for I love and adore you all most truly – God bless you, my dearest Lydia – may the Almighty guard and defend you to be the comfort and happiness of your devoted and affectionate E: D.

My kindest remembrance and wait on the worthy Miss Hancock. The Masters &<sup>c</sup>. Your Father and sister Eliza send affectionate love and compliments to all around you: Eliza means to address you. Miss Whittall the youngest was on Monday last married to M<sup>r</sup> Grunhill a Civil Servant in the Company's Service, he is a young man of about two or three and twenty years of age.

pages 194 – 196 [Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes]

17<sup>th</sup> March 1789

My Dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes

Your much wished for favor dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1788 I was duly honoured with, and should have acknowledged it by the Phoenix but it reached me at the moment of the closing of her Packet your letter came enclosed in M<sup>r</sup> Devayne's to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson by the Calcutta Post.

Previous to the receipt of your letter, I did myself the pleasure of addressing you by the Manship, and also sent you a few lines by the Phoenix to return you and your Dear Governor my sincere thanks for your active friendship in the Behalf of my Husband – I have now again resumed my feeble pen further to offer you both my hearts best acknowledgements for your kindness to us. Be assured, my amiable Friend we shall ever regard M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes and you among the number of our best Friends. My prayers will ever be, that no busy Friend envious of our having your good opinion, may never disturb that pleasing harmony that subsists between us – It will always be a source of great mortification to me ever to be deprived of your friendship and confidence.

Now permit me to thank you with a heartfelt of gratitude for your kind and flattering mention of my nephew Falconar – I have agreeably to your request delivered your message to your favorite Eliza. In case you have forgot it, I am desired by her to quote it – It is this “Pray my best love to my sweet Betsy, and tell her I will not forget any commands she favors me with, but I hope she will not think of her Cousin, as it will put it out of her Power to return to England as soon as I could wish”.

Thus encouraged by you my dear friend what must Eliza and her Mother think? I shall leave you to judge of our feelings – I shall now only say further on this subject; that your sweet Betsy and I shall wait with great patience to receive that consultation, and happiness from your next, allow us to hope tho we have not been too Sanguine.

You have commanded me not to send you any thank in future – I hope in this article, you will

pardon me, if I now and then forget your Embargo – The trifles I have taken the liberty to forward to you are merely to shew you my dear M<sup>rs</sup> D–s how strongly you and yours are always imprinted on my mind. As I have a supreme pleasure in sending you the token of my regard and friendship, I pray you may not be so cruel as to deprive me of so great a satisfaction.

I hope your Excursion to Margate has proved of use to you, and the children – you have not mentioned them. I shall flatter my self Miss Devaynes and your sweet Boy Billy are well: do me the favor to remember me kindly to them – Eliza is writing Miss Devaynes: kiss Billy for us heartily tell him I shall soon hope to see him a great man – If he copies his worthy Father and his amiable Mother’s conduct, he can not but in every respect be admired and respected. The Bars on M<sup>r</sup> Davidson being removed M<sup>r</sup> Russell’s going home will make a vacancy for M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and he will shortly be appointed to a Chiefship. There was once a prospect of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s getting Masulipatam, owing to M<sup>r</sup> Robert Sadleirs Insanity; however, since the Rhama’s departure, he is said to be much recovered. At all events M<sup>r</sup> D– will soon be genteely provided for. Trusting to have good and pleasing accounts of yourself and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes and family. I beg with sincerity to subscribe myself your greatly obliged and affectionate

P.S.

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and Eliza desire their best and cordial wishes for all your happiness. On looking over my papers I have found to my utter astonishment the letter I m, in his hurry of sending away our Dispatches, had mislaid my letter – I hope you know me better than to imagine I had been remiss in writing you, on so particular an occasion as the subject therein contained required – I should detest myself were I wanting in gratitude to you and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes – I beg leave to inclose you my letter again Adieu E: D.

page 197 [Elizabeth to her sister in law Lydia Falconar]

M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar      1<sup>st</sup> April 1789

My Dearest Madam

Your Dear Son being suddenly called to join his Reg<sup>t</sup>, has prevented him addressing you by this conveyance The Dublin – He has desired me to tell you, and indeed I can assure you he is very well. I hope he will soon be able to write you fully regarding his situation. To his sister he has sent his dispatches, which with these lines my good Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty will forward to you.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March your worthy Brother was appointed Chief of Vizagapatam – To which place in a very few days he means to proceed. In about two Months Eliza, and I shall join him. Wherever I am my dearest Madam, be assured your darling Son shall be my constant care; on his account be you not unhappy. Excuse the shortness of this Address; As my time is limited. With all our Love to you and yours – I remain truly and affectionately

page 198 [Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes]

2<sup>nd</sup> April 1789

My Dear Madam

The Bearer of these lines is M<sup>r</sup> Johnson late Chief officer of the Ranger Packet, one not entirely unknown to you – But he fearing you should not recollect him, has requested [a] line of introduction to you. He is an honest good man, and I am sure will not be ungrateful for any notice you may be pleased to take of him. As I have written you by the Manship, Phoenix, and the Dublin, I shall not now further trouble you. With the united love and compliments of this family to you, the excellent Governor Miss D– and dear Billy, I remain –

reverse of page 198 – 199 [no date] [Elizabeth writing to an unknown person, perhaps Mr Johnson]

Dear Sir

I have been duly favored with your kind letter – and agreeably to your request I have sent you enclosed a few lines to M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes – I wish most sincerely the introduction may be of benefit to you.

I do assure you, I lamented much I had not the pleasure of seeing you before your departure from this Country. However, I shall flatter myself when next I hear from you to have good accounts of your success in life, the knowledge of which will always afford me great satisfaction.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of this Mo[nth] M<sup>r</sup> D– was appointed Chief of Vizagapatam, I know this piece of intelligence will give you pleasure. in a few days he leaves us for the Northward to take charge of his Station; about June or July we shall leave this to join him.

We are well, I have no news to communicate to you from this place. M<sup>r</sup> D– and Eliza, with Grant and Falconar unite with me in kind remembrance to you wishing you all manner of happiness I remain your ever

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Falconar wishes to be appointed to his former Regiment the 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Burrowes. Many thanks are due for your kind Attention.

reverse of page 199 [Elizabeth to His Highness the Nabob of the Carnatick]

M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson's most respectful Compliments await on [all confusing as she has inserted various words ] takes the L of acquaintance to His Highness the Nabob of the Carnatick on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this Month M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson had the Honor of sending His Highness by the Bearer M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's principal Servant, a Petition for the success of which she is most sincerely and earnestly interested. M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson has again taken up her [word missing] imagining His Highness has forgot her Petition to remind him of her request in behalf of [word missing – her?] nephew M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Falconar – M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson hopes his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatick will not after so many years of friendship discontinue that regard he has so often expressed for her Husband M<sup>r</sup> D– and his family.

page 200 [Elizabeth to her daughters Mary & Harriet at Mrs Chitty in London]

4<sup>th</sup> April 89

My Dearest Mary and Harriot

You must not my sweet Girls be offended with me for not writing each of you a letter, which indeed, upon my word and honor, I fully intended to have done. But your Father's immediate departure for Vizagapatam, and with your poor Cousin Falconar's being suddenly called to join his Reg<sup>t</sup>, all combined to prevent my fulfilling my wishes – However I shall (if all be well) make it up handsomely to you by the next dispatches.

Be good girls, mind Reverence your Creator, to love, honor, and respect our Dear Cousin Chitty. Remember your absent Parents love your Brother and Sisters. Be attentive to Miss Hancock and the Masters kind to Servants, you will not fail to oblige and render her happy who has the satisfaction to subscribe herself

Your

page 201 is blank

page 202 [*a list of passengers on the Dublin April 1789*]

Families and Passenger returning to Europe

Lady Campbell; Sir Archibald Campbell and Suite: M<sup>rs</sup> Maleslon: M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Oakeley and five Children: M<sup>rs</sup> Montgomery Campbell M<sup>r</sup> Campbell and Miss Grace Campbell: Major & M<sup>rs</sup> Dugald Campbell and four Children: M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Claud Russell and five Children: M<sup>rs</sup> Daniell Russell and Child: Col<sup>l</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Buck: M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Maunsell and four Children: Colonel and M<sup>rs</sup> Edington and Child: M<sup>rs</sup> Overend and Child: M<sup>rs</sup> Baker: M<sup>rs</sup> Stone: M<sup>rs</sup> Oakes and two Children: M<sup>rs</sup> Monson: M<sup>rs</sup> Ruddiman: <sup>x</sup>M<sup>rs</sup> Nixon has changed her mind to next year: Countess Loy: <sup>x</sup>M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes: <sup>x</sup>M<sup>rs</sup> Vigors: <sup>x</sup>M<sup>rs</sup> Bromley: <sup>x</sup>M<sup>rs</sup> Willis: <sup>x</sup>M<sup>rs</sup> Lucas: M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Floyer.

page 203 [*Lydia Falconar to her brother Alexander Davidson*]

my Dearest Brother

You will pardon the present intrusion – I came here a few days agoe to wait on my valuiable and much beloved Cousine, Lady glengarry, who has done more for me, than any other Relation in this Country – aided me beyound Expression in the time of my greatest Extremety and has often repeeted her goodness since – she now Solists me to writ you in favours of Lieut Hugh Buchan 10<sup>th</sup> Batallion, Madras – whos [*M*]other has been my beloved Cousins best friend and whos Eldest B: is now Housband to the Lady in whos House I am told you was married – his Father was a man of Family and Fortune but had Sixten Children to provid for – if you my ever dearest Brother can be of use to the above mentioned Gentleman it will add to the obligations [*I am*] under to you – the Lady says she has wrot you on [*this*] subject her self, and I trust you will pay regard [*to*] it – and oblige your ever affectionat Sister whell Lydia Falconar present my hearts Love to my Aimable Sister and Lovely Niece, I meane to writ you all soon – haveing Lately received different Letters from my Son Alexr and one last post from the Dear mrs Chitty informing me of your Healths, and of my Son's good Fortune in being a writer – my Heart is too big to utter what I feel on this joyful occasion – may Heavens Choisest Blissings be the portion of the best of Brothers and the most Aiomable of Women for your unremeeted goodness to my Dearest Youth L F.

Glengarry House 14<sup>th</sup> Jully 1789

page 204 is blank

page 205 [*William Devaynes to Elizabeth*]

Gower Street 29<sup>th</sup> April 1789

My dear Friend

I was yesterday offered an oppportunity I could not reject of sending you a few lines by the way of Ostend. I embraced it with more eagerness that I might send you the Copy of a letter M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes brought to me from him on Sunday last.

Dear Madam,

I am sorry I have it not in my power to do so much for young Falconar as I could wish, however I will appoint him a Cadet if you think that will be of service to him, in that case I must know his Christian Name & his Age. I would wish you to consider well before we appoint him whether it is a thing M<sup>r</sup> Davidson would like him to enter into the Military. You must be the best judge decide & let me know. Also his Christian name his Age & where he was born. I remain Dear Madam yours – W Devaynes.



reverse of page 205 & on 206 [*Mrs Chitty to Elizabeth – start of the letter appears to be missing*]

I sent what was desired my good friend & by the advice of M<sup>r</sup> Corbett accepted it tho not what you wish'd they assure me if any thing offers that he likes better it can always be thrown up, much has been my uneasiness on this subject particularly as it was left to me to decide – as he has mark'd. it was the line his Father was in – & why? should he not succeed positively these Directors tho great Men – & are so subject to greater that they have not much in their power.

This day your dear Boy went to D<sup>r</sup> Thompsons to school. Miss Hancock, Lydia & Miss Falconar was of the party. I really found I must not pretend to undertake it, nor could I quite conceal my tears tho' I did all I could, he behaved manly & well & told Mary & Harriet they must comfort me, all the House adore him & most justly for he is a sweet Boy how often my dear friend did I call your great Heroism to my mind & implored the assistance of Almighty to strengthen me, with the same but the tears would fall whether I would or not, but now this over I take reason to aid & thinking & hoping I have acted for the best will recover my spirits. Slingsby at taking leave yesterday told him if D<sup>r</sup> Thompson loved him as much as he did – which from his goodness & attention he was sure he would be a happy Boy – these things I comfort myself with & flatter myself I shall see him a great man & a good Scholar. We are all thank God well, & I have written to you all so frequently I have nothing new to say I wrote M<sup>r</sup> D– a few lines by the Houghton since I heard M<sup>r</sup> Coutts had received an account that the 1000<sup>d</sup> is coming. I inclose you a letter for M<sup>r</sup> F– from Scotland. Miss Falconar is well & improving – but it must be a little time, her health is much mended & of course her spirits. I have a few ribbons to send made in Honor of his Majesty since his recovery but by this conveyance I have no opportunity to send more than a letter. Pray give our kindest love to the dear Eliza Duty to Papa & Mama – Miss Hancock's Comp<sup>ts</sup> added to those of the Masters & believe me with true affection ever yours H Chitty.

[*on the bottom of the page is written*] Gower Street 29<sup>th</sup> April 1789 M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty received 8<sup>th</sup> March 1790 Vizagapatam By the Way of Ostend – Answered

page 207 [*a certificate from Surgeon William Ruddiman, for the purpose of removing Alexander Falconar from the army*]

A True Copy

These certify that Cornet Alex<sup>r</sup> Falconar of native Cavalry in the Service of the Honourable East India Company; Has for many months past laboured under liver and other visural obstructions, accompanied from time to time, by a slow fever and general debility with relaxation of the whole system; for which he has been repeatedly under my care:– And I am of opinion, in order to save him from falling a Victim to these very serious complaints, He must be under the painful and disagreeable necessity of quitting the military line, which I am fully convinced, is not at all calculated for one of his weak stamina and very delicate frame. (Signed)

William Ruddiman  
Surgeon

Fort S<sup>t</sup> George June 17<sup>th</sup> 1789

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page 209 [*Elizabeth to Alexander Falconar*]

The Grove 28<sup>th</sup> June 1789  
Sunday noon 12 oClock

I am this moment favored with your few lines enclosing a letter to your Uncle.  
You say I have given my sentiments on the Occasion and to have them acquiesced in – or laid aside – In short I shall be decided by M<sup>r</sup> D–.  
M<sup>r</sup> D– then shall my friend determine your fate and situation – I own, I am vexed the perusal of your letter has given me more pain than I can well express with my pen –  
You tell your Uncle you will endeavour to obtain leave to go to Madras for the present to bid an affectionate farewell to my &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>.  
If your coming to Madras is merely to afflict two Hearts that have a sincere regard and friendship for you – We can easily anticipate the pangs of a long separation without having the smallest occasion to Rehearse the Scene.  
Agreeably to your commands I shall forward your letter to M<sup>r</sup> D– by this Post  
I remain yours &<sup>c</sup> – Eliza Davidson  
Cornet Falconar

page 211 – 212     [*Mrs Chitty to Elizabeth*]

Gower Street 3<sup>d</sup> July 1789

My dearest friend,  
What would I give to be present at your perusal of this to see the joy – kindled eyes in that dear placid countenance when you read first that your darling treasures are thank God in good health, & next that the favorite of favorites is really appointed a Writer on the Madras Establishment. Yes my friend the deed is done. M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes came to tell me she had carried the point. Your last letter by the Manship open'd her eyes & her heart, involuntarily I fell upon my knees, kiss'd her hand & burst into tears I know my friend the joy that would be convey'd to your anxious mind – & mine was equally affected, what would I have given for wings to have flown with this intelligence, & yesterday Capt Macaulay call'd & told me he could send a letter by the way of Ostend – I immediately resolved to send you these few hurried lines – & defer answering your kind long letter & nine months journal till another opportunity which I trust will soon offer – as they talk of taking up a Ship to send, with the appointment of a new Governor & then Capt<sup>n</sup> Maucaulay will take his departure – I believe unwittingly – remember he has under his care M<sup>r</sup> Falconar's Seal, & a trifling token for Betsy from me. I have seen Major Louis Grant S<sup>r</sup> John Menzies Lady Campbell & M<sup>rs</sup> Malcolm – M<sup>rs</sup> Oakly I have not met & M<sup>rs</sup> Montgomery Campbell I have not seen or heard anything of – the others gave us very pleasing accounts of you – & with some years of health & life I trust I shall yet live – (tho perhaps toothless) to see you return with ample fortunes. The Anstruthers have left London & they seem unsettled people – she has got another Son. The presents are all arrived safe & deliver'd & tell my dearest Girl she has my thanks for her pretty keepsake which I shall hang at my watch while I have existence. I shall observe all your orders about Cloaths & wish as other circumstances rise to your remembrance you would help me with them I shall be very attentive to the circumstance of the Capt<sup>n</sup> they go with & may possibly have it in my power to know more of their real character than you infer in England. They are not always as in Madras – and perhaps if Modestus & Innocentia are settled at the Fort it may save you a journey down – but as to that matter I am only speaking at random – all I say is I wish this may find you at a good settlement call'd by whatever name chance has given it – as that possession fills my heart with hope then I may one day see you here my good friend but not there.  
M<sup>rs</sup> Pringle her Husband & darling well – she has had a letter from her Nephew so full of your praise that the dear man burst into a flood of grateful tears. M<sup>rs</sup> Welch & the children well, Lady Grant also for her just now quite hearty. M<sup>rs</sup> Craig very much obliged to you for thinking of her & being to be remembered. The ever good Corbett – made happy by all the

letters received from the Grove, but otherwise rather out of spirits the situation of his Eldest Son – hangs heavy on his mind – & by his account it is dismal enough for the Father's peace of mind I don't wish him to return for if the mind is deranged the constant scene under his eye I should fear will hurt his health & if indolence alone is the cause, to an active busy mind like the fathers, how much will it distress him, little Sally Corbett came from school ill they [*page torn*] she was threaten'd with a consumption, but he [*torn again—says?*] he has cured her with asses milk, his Niece is but a poor subject in point of health & lately he has been very lame & I have not seen him so often Capt Robertson is well & gave me a Coat for Tom Hunt who is at present at home for his Holidays – but I find I must not enter into family particulars for I shall insensibly get to voluminous – Miss Falconar is well & made happy by her Brother's appointment to the Mother I wrote directly. I will prepare letters & Journal & hope shortly by a Ship or Packet will be taken up, – over-land conveyances I seldom know when sent & have not Interest to send a line by them, or would not miss it – .

Now my dear friend – with the Duty of your Children & the love of your Niece – Comp<sup>ts</sup> of Miss Hancock & the Masters – I must break of the pleasing task of subscribing more than to assure you I am most sincerely & affectionately yours H Chitty.

page 213 [*Mrs Chitty to Elizabeth*]

Gower Street 2<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 1789

Tho almost all your children my dear friend write by Capt<sup>n</sup> Macaulay they are not content without I send a few lines tho it is only to say I will endeavor to send you some journals & letters by the packet of the Ship he goes by which is the Vestal – I can truly say – the bearer of these letters has been much more attentively polite than any other of your Madras friends – I wrote by [*torn page*] from Ostend to congratulate you on M<sup>r</sup> Falconars appointment as a Writer on the Madras establishment & hope nothing will prevent its going in due form from the Court of Directors, by this conveyance.

At present I am hurried as we go to the Sea Side on tuesday & from thence I will send all particulars & will now only add I love & adore both you & yours – & am with their Duty & love most sincerely yours. H Chitty.

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page 215 [*W Devaynes – appears to be to Alexander Davidson*]

Dear Sir

I have only time to Say (the Packet closing) that I have appointed your Nephew M<sup>r</sup> Falconar as a writer on your Establishment. My best Comp<sup>ts</sup> wait on all your family I remain with wishing you Health & Happings

D<sup>r</sup> Sir Yours very truly W Devaynes  
London 21 August 1789

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pages 217 – 219 [*Alexander to his wife*]

Waltire, – near Vizagapatam 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1790 8 oClock Morning

Writing to some people is irksome; in such case it must proceed from the Subject, or, perhaps, want of regard or respect for the person we write to. Now in regard to Yourself, my Elizabeth one would imagine I had a never failing fund of ideas to Communicate to you; for from the moment I sit down, till I rise I never stop; but after all what is it, without novelty? for after You know principally that Betsy and I are well the rest is little better than Rhapsody. Betsy told you I was in a grave mood when I wrote last; I was so: I shall now endeavour to be more lively. But before I proceed, I must tell you the oddest thing! Betsy has made a Conquest of Todd Lowry. It is not at all odd his falling in love with an amiable Girl – but his mode – I shall just touch on the subject, the young Eliza herself will give You the particulars. I was about after breakfast, Betsy was going to the Godowns, M<sup>r</sup> Todd stopt her and he said he wanted to speak to her: and after some time Stammering, and humming and Hawing – he fairly popt the Question. Betsy did not choose to tell him she was engaged – but told him it could never be – O! he said he would speak to her Father. She told him, when he wanted to speak to her, she thought it would be about M<sup>r</sup> Falconar, or her Mother's health. She left him by telling him again, what he had proposed could never happen. Good Heaven! only think of asking a girl to marry him on a ten days acquaintance, unprovided for, and without a Pagoda in his pocket. Or could he suppose a Young lady of Miss Davidson's figure, could be near four years in this Country, without serious Admirers. He has since looked gravey and awkward. He has not had courage to mention the Subject to me. I hope if he has any prudence he will drop the matter for ever. As my Betsy has lost her bedfellow, I have directed a Peon, by turns to sleep at her door.

Pope in his Essay on Man says –

“Lust, though some certain strainers well refin'd is Love”

Gentle Love, he calls it – Now I call it Lust, an unbridled filthy Monster! capable of degrading Man into a beast: Mankind all therefore sometimes represented half man, half beast, as in Young's Centaur not Fabulous.

We had a pleasant day yesterday at the Prendergast's. In the Evening there were two full parties – Cribbagers, the Colonel, M<sup>r</sup> Whyte, M<sup>r</sup> Miller, M<sup>r</sup> Kennett and M<sup>rs</sup> D. Lovites – M<sup>rs</sup> P. M<sup>rs</sup> K. Gordon, Keating, Todd and Miss D. Miller and Whyte sang humorous songs at Supper: M<sup>rs</sup> Keating warbled. To day the Colonel and M<sup>rs</sup> P. dine with us to meet M<sup>rs</sup> K. probably the last day this Season of her being a Widow bewitched. I conclude you and Keating will meet.

I was happy to learn from M<sup>r</sup> Whyte you and Falconar bore the first long stage so well. To day you are at Flayer's: he no doubt will exert himself to entertain you. Betsy though diffident conducts herself with great propriety. So unused is she to take charge of the head of the Table, that the first night in her little embarrassment, she was going to sit on one side. Tonight we are to have nearly the same party as last night at the Colonel's. Tomorrow we are to be alone, as I am going to have the new windows put into the Cook – Room.

I shall obey your directions about your letters. I shall remember you to Jongy & Ramnapah. We go on well with our Repairs.

Put down in my List Two Quires of marble coloured paper.

In continuation past seven in the Evening

To day no tappals have arrived from the Norrard; in general they arrive in the Morning; This gives me time to mention its arrival at ½ past six in the Evening of your packet to Bessy.

We are happy to find you and Falconar well so far.

The Madras Tappal is come in (past 7 in the Evening) I have had many private letters these three nights which is unusual!

M<sup>rs</sup> Keating did not come to dinner, we had M<sup>rs</sup> Miller in her room, but wrote Bessy she will join our Party in the Evening.

You are now fairly launched on your Journey; and may God in heaven spare you, to preside over Your Family; and to live to see the prosperity of your Husband, or to cherish him in his

Adversity. Whatever may be the Destiny of Fate, he will never fail to study the happiness of his Family, and the Peace of his Elizabeth, who he knows respects her Davidson Bessys Love & mine to You & Falconar.

End of both volumes of Mss Eur E300/1A