

**MSS EUR E300/1B**

1st volume pages 221 – 327; 2nd volume pages 328 – 442

pages 221 – 228 [Alexander to his wife]

Waltier, near Vizagatapam  
Sunday Morning 19<sup>th</sup> April 1789  
past 8 oClock

My Elizabeth – I have the pleasure of writing you in good health and spirits.

I shall begin my letter by giving you a Journal of a day at Waltier: You will make an allowance for Variations.

Rise a little after six – even then, hear the breakfast things putting on the table – make a convenient Dispatch – at half past 6 the old Vizack Barber is waiting to shave me – also the head Peon, a respectable looking fellow, before 7 makes a Salam, and reports Extraordinaries. A few minutes past 7, Sally forth to breakfast; have always found them ready, generally waiting. Have left off my milk. I now drink one Cup of Coffee, one of green tea, one of lemon grass, two eggs, and some toast. Bread here very good – butter can be improved. Cows here very small. At eight break up. I go to Town – or retire to my writing. At first I used to converse much with M<sup>r</sup> Maxtone. If I go to Town, I return a little after one. The Palenkeens in good weather return from Waltier in a little more than three Quarters of an hour. When Doct<sup>r</sup> Briggs and I in M<sup>r</sup> Gregory's Phaeton came from Town we were only 27 minutes from Vizack to Waltaire. If I do not go to Town I keep my Room till 1. At about ½ one precisely we dine, and sit nearly two hours. Since my Arrival, except the second day, we have hardly had any Company. A reasonable good table: I think my vigilant Housewife, Elizabeth, will improve it. Hearing me say I liked soup daily, but on account of the difficulty of getting meat at Madras, I could not command it, she orders soup every day; having plenty of greens, it is generally extremely good. It is the usuage here to stew a Brisket of Beef two days, or two forenoons, which makes it very tender. The beef here is small, and tender, but not fat: the Mutton and kid, and even fowls, come under the same description: but, I think, can be improved.

Capons good in common – Turkeys at present scarce: since I have been here I have not seen one. M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone says she has good Pork; I must take a look. This family is just now ill supplied with fish, which I am surprised at! Fine Crabs every evening. Elegant, sale, Teal. Yesterday Litternmrauze sent us a wild Hog.

From ½ past 3, to ¼ before six, including Dressing, all hands take a hearty Nap. M<sup>rs</sup> M. wearing no stays, or if anything of that kind; only Jumps, dresses as soon as the Gentleman. Edward Prentice, commonly called Edward, keeps her hair always tolerably well dressed: also Maxtones. At six, or a little after assemble on the North Terrace; M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone, M<sup>r</sup> Briggs, M<sup>r</sup> Thierry, and myself. Sometimes M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> M and Thierry (tho in a different direction) take a Walk: one Evening, I took a long Walk: but at present the weather is not sufficiently cool. We have had during the Full Moon some very warm evening and nights, but, at present, I believe Waltaire to be the pleasantest Residence on the Coast; the House being on a spit, or Point of Land, there is a Southerly sea wind, eighteen hours out of the 24.

At seven tea, and grass tea. Sit and Chat more than half an hour. Visitors, by turns, on different nights, some two, three, four, five, drop in. The Whist table is laid before eight, or sooner. About this time, sometimes eight, our letters from Madras come from the Fort. I play a Rubber, sometimes two: M<sup>rs</sup> M plays very prettily. No other table at present. M<sup>r</sup> M has not played since I have been here: he used to play. M<sup>r</sup> M's little girl very pretty, with one sweet dimple on her left Cheek. Briggs has two boys by M<sup>rs</sup> Lysaght that was, dark

and plain: the eldest seems a smart boy. At ½ past 9 we begin supper, and break up at 11. Here finishes the first.

Second Sheet. “But my dear Man, you write pretty entertaining Letters, and are able to write Journals; but you have not said one syllable about how you have found things there; nor have you touched in all your Letters on the main chance”.

Well put, my dear Woman, all I can say is that this is at present absolutely the cheapest Subordinacy on the Coast; that I do not believe I shall quit it. I have had a very polite, pleasing publick letter from VizeramRauze. – That my prospects, as far as I can at present see, are not bad. That I am respected by the Natives, and by my fellow Servants. I have as capable Servant, and good Bramins & Writers; Above all, tho possessed of a large family, I thank God I have an excellent, economical good Wife. –

But it is high time to reply to your letters of the 9th and 11<sup>th</sup> the last received last night. I approve of what you have done with Andrews. One thing I cannot understand how plate can at present be cheap, after the multitude of families who have returned to England! No, I do not approve of seven thousand Pagodas for the Grove. Considering the state of Repair I have put in, and the Additions I have made, he must have been a Jew who made the offer: I know it is at a distance from Madras, and it is not a new house; but still it is a pleasing Retreat in good Repair. Had eight thousand been offered down, it would not have been so bad. The case is, the house is mortgaged to seven native Merchants for Star Pag<sup>s</sup> 7,000 at, I think 12 P<sup>r</sup> Cent: upwards of Pag<sup>s</sup> 3,000 are due for interest. Corbett proposes raffling it for 10,000. The amount when settled must go to the Mortgagees; that is, my Creditors. They are the first Natives of Madras viz<sup>t</sup> Permaul – Chocapa Chitty – Singenah – Ranga Pillah – Sunca Kristinah Chitty – Moodoo Kristnah – Young Trevsngadiah. M<sup>r</sup> Corbett says Sunca Kistinah, or Kristinah, will take eight Tickets – Hamilton one – Corbett says he can get one disposed of, (meaning himself or Kistinah): Now if the six Mortgagees Permaul, Chocapah Chitty, Singenah, Ranga Pillah (for himself and Brother Narrnin) Moodoo Kistinah, and Young Blair, alias young Trevsngadiah, as they all are parties Concerned, and have a good deal of interest due; if they will take a Ticket each, their will be six gone: Sunca Kistinah Chitty's eight make fourteen – Hamilton's and Corbett's makes sixteen. Perhaps Raphael and De Souza may be induced by you to take two which would make eighteen; and my Son and I would stand for two, which Complete the 20 Shares. Capper, De Souza, Raphael, and Corbett, are very fit persons to advise you on this subject. But I shall not consent to M<sup>r</sup> Corbett's going to the Governors of the Council, nor any of our Particular Friends begging a Subscription of Five hundred Pagodas; subjecting himself to a mortifying Refusal: let me tell you, it is very high gaming, except to the Mortgagees. Corbett may have some proper person in view for more tickets I do not know. Having, my dear Woman, discussed the point, fully, I proceed.

As to the Books, my Elizabeth, you may sell every volume of them, Book Case and all: were I to gut, and cull, or pick them, it might have the Appearance of lessening their Value. I should just by, my Bessy, to rescue the Poets, in one case; not the Theatre, let it go (one volume is stole) from the general sale. I am in much the same temper in regard to the Pictures and prints. None of the Family Paintings are fit to carry to England. The only Pictures and Prints I wish to retain are Lord Macartneys, and Lord Pigots. The small picture of Garrick embracing Shakespeare. Sir Archibald's and Sydenham's of course. I shall not part with Brodies' Picture, my favorite Charity. Two Picture of Hodges of the Oahite' People &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> may go in the general Lumber. You may, perhaps, my Elizabeth, think I write in a kind of pettish despair: no! I do not: I write in cool Reflection. – When I consider the risque these things run on a voyage the expense of

Transportation – the difficulty of getting them to Europe; I say to myself, even let them go, as Rememberances of my folly, and Extravagance, in the days of my Prosperity!!! Raphael may have the Post Chaise as I promised: let him credit my Account for three hundred Star Pagodas. Entre nous, I have no great faith in Corbett's bargains of horses and carriages. depend on it, with new wheels, it is an excellent carriage, that at Flowers. Demand it from Flower, and ask Gill's opinion of it, I shall stand by that.

Let Corbett have the Chairs at the rate we paid the Chapault carpenter for the new ones. If the House is raffled sell the Furniture. and let Corbett have the two Glasses. If it is to be let, it ought to be rented furnished Pag<sup>s</sup> 100 monthly for six or twelve months: if by the year certain at only Pagodas eighty annually. I am wondering – I ought to have said at 100 Pag<sup>s</sup> a month; but 80 Pag<sup>s</sup> a month if taken by the year. prints only I have a particular regard for General Wolfe, and Garrick in Abel Drugger Jupiter and Semele – General Lawrence– All the Nabobs – Whitehills – The Capital

Your advice I take in the kindest manner, and what you say is entirely in unison with my heart and feelings. As we cannot sell our family Pictures, they maybe allowed to remain in the House. The Library and Paintings, might, perhaps, be puffed a little in the Courier. If Chase would permit the sales to be at his House in Town, it is a cool place. Being my Attorney you ought to ask him to dine; and to attend to M<sup>rs</sup> Chase; she appears to be a modest young Woman. I should like, for fear of bad Debts M<sup>r</sup> Clerk, the Sea Gate Registry, to make the sales. You call it in your letter to me Sails, which belongs to the going of a Ship. Your letters though, in general, are very correct; to do you justice you take a great deal of pains: let Bessy therefore take care.

Where you write – "When you are a Freeman, and above the world – then my good fellow, you can indulge yourself in anyway you wish to gratify your inclination: But just now let us live with prudence, and Aconomy, saving all we can. – It will be a prodigious satisfaction to us hereafter, when we know, we are eating our own Bread".

This is written like a Woman of Sense, of Spirit, and like a wife of ten Thousand.

Ramnapah will tell you I have made the same reflection I know not how often! To know ourselves, is a great and first point: tho there be much to do – let me trust in God – be industrious and I dare to say it – I do not despair. I hope the Supreme Being will be propitious: there is certainly no time to be lost.

I am happy you have at length heard from Falconar – should he be displaced from the Service – or should he, himself, or you choose he should not remain in it, I shall, as I told him, take him; he shall be my second self, and shall support and assist me in my business. He is bound as a man of spirit and a Soldier to see the present business out; God and Falconar's own good genius, will no doubt protect him.

I am rejoiced at what Ruddiman says, and shall be mum accordingly – but I want Faith; Falconar's Uncle is the only Man he can depend upon. Poor M<sup>rs</sup> Burrows! God help her! I am glad to find the Beaux do not neglect the Grove: Your circle of the 10<sup>th</sup> at night, was respectable, and agreeable.

Poor Lieu<sup>t</sup> Davison I shudder to think of him!, he is a melancholy example to Subalters entering the Marriage State without fortune, or even Connexion. I like not the Complexion of the Ennore Party – however the Battle is not always to the Strong: Where the Play is fair, C–h–r may win.

Good, Read, to think so generous of his old Friends: pray remember me with friendship when you write, and let that be when the Europe Ship arrives sending him then 12 bottles Porter, one new Cheese, and a Ham – he deserves it. Let muckle Andrew alone: as they say in Scotland, he is a canny hand. You must cultivate De Souza's \* friendship for my sake You make me laugh as you always call him Souse which reads the same as soused fish.

Ramnapah is much flattered by your remembrance and sends his Salam with both hands. I am glad of the Bramin's punctuality: he will be very useful. Hamilton has sent me his case by the Channel of Yeats; who says he will come to see you when you arrive: the Philoseph has really been very ill used. Does he ever call on you?

From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> we have had very blowing weather the Surff all that time impassable: very unusual M<sup>r</sup> Maxtone says this month at Vizack: Blowing weather certainly in the Bay.

The poor little Dragon has been surff-bound till yesterday: she has just weighed for Birnly.

M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone says she has written to you two or three days ago. I think as I believe I said in a former letter that piece of Silk at Adamsons would do for one dress. I have got to my fifteenth side, and if you are not tired, I declare I am not. Your old Friend Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson.

page 229 – 232

[Elizabeth to her husband]

The Grove 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1789

My Davidson

Your few lines of 14<sup>th</sup> acquainting me you had embarked some cloth on the Dragon, I was duly favored with yesterday. As this the Month of April; I shall not expect to see them this long while: however, I am not the less thankful for my dear Man's attention they will prove very acceptable whenever they arrive.

The Maxton's going home is no manner of secret here they design returning to Europe by the way of china: M<sup>r</sup> Porcher expects to see them at Madras, in June or July. It is reported M<sup>r</sup> Drake is also on the wing to England Corbett dined yesterday, talks of dining with you two days, one day on his way to Ganjam, and one day from it.

Last night we supped at the Governors, the Company about thirty, Ladies were, M<sup>rs</sup> Horne, Lady Jodrell, M<sup>rs</sup> Cairnes, M<sup>rs</sup> Taylor, M<sup>rs</sup> Harris, M<sup>rs</sup> Lind, Miss Cumings, M<sup>rs</sup> Greenhill, Miss Whittall, M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Davidson. Miss Whittall has left M<sup>rs</sup> Garrow, and entirely resides with her Sister. The general was absent, not being well – the company played at cards, and supped below stairs, everybody and everything round us, seemed too formal and regular to make it pleasant. M<sup>r</sup> H-d made up to me on our entrance, enquired after your health, chatted with me five minute, then retired to cards. At 11 oClock, supper was put on the Table, the Governor unperceived by anybody handed M<sup>rs</sup> Horne to supper, They were full ten minutes seated tete a tete, before the company either missed or saw them – was not this curious? Should not supper always be announced with an Audible voice to the Guests?

I must now tell you another odd manoeuvre of our Great Man's – which will make you smile – the supper over the Ladies all in motion and waiting at the usual place for their Carriages ; M<sup>r</sup> H-D saw M<sup>rs</sup> Horne off – he drew behind the Ladies, wished them good night and retired to his Bedchamber; leaving the company staring at each other with wonder and surprize – It is now time I think, for him to be put in the list of the G- s- Messrs Ruddiman, Mason, Roebuck, Duffin, and Doctor Earthway attended the Session, no one appearing against them, they were discharged the Court. M<sup>r</sup> Box's trial is to come on today, I am told it will be very intricate business.

I am this moment favored with a few lines from Falconar, he informs me, "I continue with the same unpleasant Complaints I had when I left you, I cannot possibly get them removed – I wrote Ruddiman a short Letter the other day – I am afraid the Death of the unfortunate Worley which will occasion his Elopement will also prevent his answering my letter thought it required one – and soon. Is my Uncle arrived, have not you learned

anything of him yet, Give him my heart's best affection" – Poor fellow – he tells me they are under Marching orders to proceed Southward on the 21<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday morning) – I long to hear from you on this subject, I wish you could see my heart how it is afflicted – next to you and my children, I love him dearly – He possess so much unparalleled goodness, it is impossible not to regard him.

John Balfour resigned yesterday his post of clerk of the Committee of Works, and Porcher is appointed in his place. It is imagined either Lind, or Gregory will succeed to Maxtone's place. No letter from you this day. Dick shall accompany M<sup>r</sup> Corbett with your Papers and riding tackles. Corbett gains Twelve hundred Pagodas by this jaunt, paid him by Government as a travelling Alderman.

I have much more to say, but shall post–pone till the day after next. tomorrow I shall be in town to draw of the Pipe of Madeira – Eliza, and Grant are well– the former desires her kindest and affectionate Love to her beloved Father – Grant, his best remembrance – Adieu my dear Davidson, I am your devoted and attached friend E: Davidson

P: S:

Ruddiman and Benny Breakfasted here this morning their Salaams await on you.

The Courier did not arrive here till past seven P.M. by which it was too late for last night's Post –

Alexander Davidson Esq

page 232 is blank

page 233 – 236

[Elizabeth to her husband]

The Grove 25<sup>th</sup> April 1789

My ever dear Davidson

After breakfast yesterday I posted to town to draw out the Pipe of Maderia which engaged me till four o'clock in the Afternoon. The Pipeman two and thirty dozen, and five bottles; which is more than any of the others did, it is excellent wine, and rather paler in the colour than that we are now drinking.

While in the Fort I had the comfort to receive your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> you therein say you are exact in your hour of meals and retirement, how can it be otherwise when you are living with an Invalid, who is obliged to attend to regular hours after living as we have at Madras, it will be difficult to bring ourselves to such Griffinish hours – besides my Davidson, we to sleep from, half past two till five o'clock in the evening? Good gracious! we shall by that means sleep half our Lives away – No, no, we must lead the Fashion there for credit of Madras we ought to retain our usual custom of dining at 3 o'clock. For goodness sake my dear man do not give in to the way of timing so early – it will be too bad really.

You ask me, if you have not been "Very good" in writing to us – Indeed my Davy, you have – and we have not failed in taking particular notice of your kindness, But my dear man have the young Eliza, and your old wife, been deficient in their attention to [page torn] I am happy the little [page torn] favorite Dragon escaped so well the tumultuous Surff God be praised you was not at that period on Board you were fortunate in your time of sailing hence.

Pray give my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone, tell her I am favored with her letter, and shall pay due attention to her commissions. We dined intirely infamille. In the evening we, attended by our bold Captain paid visits to M<sup>rs</sup> Moorhouser M<sup>rs</sup> Michell, M<sup>rs</sup> Porcher and M<sup>rs</sup> Chase, found only the later at home. I spoke to Chase regarding the house rent, which he has already drawn, but on my mentioning to him, to postpone drawing until my

departure, he very obligingly consented – and added he would return to your Braming the draw [*page torn*] On our return to the Grove we found here waiting for us Captain Allan Grant, and Arnschild who supped with us three Ladies we dropt Grant near Porcher's he being engaged to pass the evening and sup at Master and Miss Greenhills.

Box's trial continued all night, I have not yet heard the particulars of the event – Grant is gone to Town has promised to bring me news, it is now past 10, he is not yet returned. You will be surprised to hear Major Young has returned the Bays, after approving, and admiring, the Bargain. He is a fickle fellow Grant says – I have received of Grant two hundred Pagodas in part Payment on account of Major Younge. Grant will not allow me to take them back, he says the Major shall stand to the sale of them. William has mismanaged the horses by his bad horsemanship, broke the Major's new chariot Pole, this fatal accident has caused the Major to have a fit of the Bile: Indeed Grant foretold me, whenever Young had the blue Devils this would be the result – and so it has come to pass. The chairs for Mess<sup>rs</sup> Turin and Saunders are this moment brought, I have instantly dispatched them to the Gentlemen with a note. By, the bye they called here a few evenings past, as did M<sup>r</sup> Casamaijor.

M<sup>r</sup> Grant is just come home 12 o'Clock. He tells me Box is sentenced to be imprisoned for six months or until he refunds 3000 Pagodas which is it is supposed equal to a [*page torn*] imprisonment. The Sessions did not break up until past 8 o'Clock this morning. Grant had a glimmer of the Governor and M<sup>r</sup> Casamaijor, they both looked dismally ill. Eliza had not time to tell you yesterday some part of Miss Bruces and Falconar's letters – The former says "We all are here most anxious for some intelligence of the poor suffering M<sup>rs</sup> Burrowes from the circumstances of the last account not being as favorable as her friends could wish, however we heard no particulars except that she had a relaps, which occasioned of one of the Surgeons from Tanjore to be sent for express". Poor M<sup>rs</sup> Burrowes!!

The letter mentioned you thus "I had the comfortable and satisfactory Account by your sweet mammas letter received yesterday of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's safe Arrival at Vizack: Thanks to our good God! I shall endeavor, once we move from this ground to snatch a favorable Hour from the Noisy and unquiet Times of a Camp, for the agreeable purpose of affectionately presenting myself to his worthy Recollection; congratulating him on his Health and Safety and on the Prospect that there is of the favor of Providence, for the future comfort and Happiness of his Family!" Of his health he says "It is so, so, be not uneasy" – I am very unhappy about this amiable young man – George sends you his affectionate regard.

We had every appearance of bad weather this morning but it all blew over, we are in much want of rain the Country is much dried up. Eliza sends her duty and affectionate regard to her dearest Father. Grant desires his kind salams Remember me to all your Party.

Farewell, I am your True Eliza: Davidson  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson Esq<sup>r</sup>

page 237 – 240

[*Elizabeth to her husband*]

The Grove 29<sup>th</sup> April 1789 –

I have resumed my feeble pen as usual, in the service of Love and Duty – and to reply to your kind pleasing favour of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

In the first place permit me to thank you my worthy Davidson for your entertaining Waltier Journal – which tho, the perusal afforded me much amusement, yet I cannot help thinking the same routine of circumstances, from day, to day, all through the Year without

any variation must be a Bore. – However my dear D– when your family are all joined, I shall hope the place will become more sociable and far more agreeable: This you will say is vanity to perfection it may be so, you will I know generously allow it to be natural in one to think the best of ourselves.

I am sincerely glad you have so judiciously consented to the disposal of your Books and Pictures, I shall pay due attention to such of your Paintings, and Prints, as you have desired to be saved. I shall likewise pick out those Books you like sufficient two Book cases; I mean to sell our old ones, and purchase couple of neat Book cases out of the Europe Ships, ours being ancient servants are perfectly worn out.

As to our house being let ready furnished, is indeed my Davidson a bad plan, and every body here, I mean your best and particular friends all advise against it. In all probability the Grove may stand six, or ten Months empty, who is in that case to look after the things? If even otherwise your furniture broken and stolen, who, do you think my good man will replace them? besides many other unforeseen accidents may happen so the total Demolition of your Glasses, chairs, Tables &c, &c. By disposing your things, you will not be so great a loser, as by keeping them to be ill used. I shall flatter myself you will grant me permission, to dispatch every thing you do not require; and collect so much cash as I possibly can; as we are most in want to that precious ingredient, the more we have I think the better.

Now let me know whether I am to dispose of your new writing Desk in the Hall of the small house in the Fort. I shall be also glad to be informed if you require all your Braming's writing Desks? As you have now two Palankeens, Sir Archibald's, and M<sup>r</sup> Russell's, may I sell your old Northern green one? as also Dobbyn's Wigmalory [*whigmaleerie?*]. Corbett has offered to take his Bay horse back again, shall I return it? I am told the Ackiners and the Phaeton will not fetch more than two hundred Pagodas – but this is to be tried.

Corbett is so old a Man, I shall send Dick on a Vessel of M<sup>r</sup> Gregory's, which is to take her departure in eight or ten days time for Vizack, I shall charge Dick with your Saddles, Papers etc.

I shall not forget our friend Captain Read when the Europe Ships arrive. M<sup>r</sup> De Souza's is surprisingly recovered, Sir Paul Jodrell thinks he has a chance of living for some time. I shall ere long call to see him, I have not been sufficient in my enquiries. I have got the Dimmitties safe, what are they to be done with: they are to be made into Coats for you shall I have them made up, I shall not fail to pay attention to the Postage may we be as careful in every other respect. I have now answered all your letter, except that part of it regarding poor Falconar – Your mention of your amiable nephew has yielded me much comfort. In the first place my dearest Davidson let me tell you candidly he is not fit from constitution for a soldier, his disposition, nor inclination, was ever formed for the hardy, robust Military Life – Were he to hear me say this, he would not be pleased; his pride would be hurt at my suppositions – Yet, I must for his own sake declare my sentiments. What he is capable for a Merchant, I am very confident – he will give you pleasure and satisfaction, I am well assured of: your interest he will make his own – And after all, who, but an amiable virtuous, and principled Relative, like himself underscored, will do you every Justice. Therefor my worthy D–, to make his sweet Mother happy to save your mild gentle Nephew, Alas; perhaps from Death – And to give happiness to E – and me, withdraw him from a service, I have every reason to lament from my Infant years – We dined yesterday infamille, Ruddiman and Corbett were our guests, Grant dined with Neal Campbell. Had no visitors in the Evening. This morning Eliza and I went to the Asylum, it is much improved the people more attentive. Dined to day by ourselves, Grant gone to the Governors. The weather very hot from 6 till 12 oClock.

I am favoured with your ever kind letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Many, many things for your corrections – I shall endeavour to pay greater attention – You know I am always very thankful to be set to rights, therefore, there was no need of any apology, and I shall ever be pleased to have you continue correcting, and directing your wife sans ceremony. I am sorry for Maxton, the good people here have had bad opinion of his health, Eliza's and my best salams to them and to Ramnapah. Send me a list of such things you may want out of the Europe ships.

Eliza sends her most affectionate and endearing Duty – Grant his kind remembrance. Farewell my dear Man, your grateful &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup> Eliza: Davidson.

A Davidson Esq<sup>f</sup>

page 241 – 242

[Alexander to his wife]

Waltaire 11<sup>th</sup> May 1790.  
Tuesday forenoon.

You may suppose my dear Elizabeth, the gratification Eliza and I have received these two days from Europe letters. Till I received yours of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, I was angry you did not open my letter. Open all in future that may come.

There are no letters for Falconar from Europe under my cover.

You will see by the enclosed M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty was to pay Cap<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh in Europe. In November he was about to draw on me for Two thousand pounds; and the middle of next month December the Swallow arrived with a remittance from Bengal from M<sup>r</sup> Ferguson to M<sup>r</sup> Coutts for one thousand pounds. I have at present no funds to pay the two thousand Pounds she has drawn so suddenly and unexpectedly upon me. However it will so far answer that I shall not be obliged this year to remit. You have said nothing about the King, or about France. I suppose the Courier tomorrow will detail the Europe news. I shall write to thank Garrow. I told you he could be of use to us.

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's journal will be a treat. Lydia has put off the Mask, and put on the ?ock [*word unclear*]. She has quitted Comedy for Tragedy and it is really pathetick.

It's curious M<sup>rs</sup> Davis, turned of 30, swallowing M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiners compl. I think it was a witty turn. Falconar's Family misfortunes require, poor fellow, all his philosophy and Religious Fortitude – alas for M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar.

Our Evenings are full without the Keatings – M<sup>rs</sup> Lawton still comes. As to Grant, I never knew till his letter to Bessy that he was in love with her; he seems to me to be at present possessed by the opposite passions of Love Jealousy and Anger. I shall make his apology from Shakespeare first observing that his pride is at least Equal to his merit.

“Friendship is constant in all other things save in the Office and affairs of love”. I have no objection in writing to Lantour; but he has always used me coldly in Money matters.

The General's Note to you is gallant and I like the Military tenor and I like the Military turn he gives it. I should have been mortified had he returned it. Have you sent the Muslins to Turing? I expected to hear from him.

Turing must be secretly mortified at Williams so suddenly having topt him, very unexpectedly. Saunders I suppose, does not much care.

Col<sup>l</sup> Cockerell, next week, will be in the Musilipatam District. Some of the Gentleman have come in.

Alexander is still a favorite – M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty I think happy in her Portraitures of the young lasses: Lydia and Eliza F's Characters are to be admired.

2 oClock: after Interruptions

Here are M<sup>r</sup> Keating Junior and M<sup>r</sup> Bonnvie come to dine with us: I must therefore break off –



I long for the Evening. No news of Sir Archibald. of Benfield. I see M<sup>rs</sup> M Campbell called. I wonder how little Clive does: I hope this may be scandal.

Your Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson

What Funds Chase & Compa<sup>y</sup> have in their hands go to the Payment of my Debt to Versapallah. Has Gen<sup>l</sup> Meadows Dubash Permaul been to see [*page then torn*] does he accompany his Master into the Field. I sent you an [*page then torn*] Rhera [*illegible word*] Pelly he has got money AD

page 243 – 246 [*Elizabeth to her husband*]

The Grove 18<sup>th</sup> May 1789

My kind Davidsons very acceptable favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> May, I was honored yesterday after Church – On the 9<sup>th</sup> you will be acquainted with the arrival of the Valentine, and of the welfare of our dear children and friend. It is very odd my Davidson, we have not another ship, it is eighteen days, this day, since the arrival of the Valentine – Captain Lewes left the Nottingham at St Jagos, it is wonderful she is so tardy in her motions.

The comical description you give of your mirth, humour, and sociability, tho, very just, yet Eliza and I could not help laughing heartily – Betsy kept saying, while I was reading to her “you see Mama, how well my Dearest Papa knows himself” – “Yes my dear he certainly does, and yet, I don’t think he said so much as his merits require” thus we went on talking till we reached our small house.

I am really glad you have consented to part with the furniture – I shall adhere to your requests regarding the Books &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. I do not think the Whigmalary will suit Andrew Ross, little Acheeners, however, I shall make the offer to the old Gentleman when next I see him. Corbett now hammers and stammers, about taking the Bay back – he is surely a fickle curious fellow – However I told him I should sell the poor animal. –

I shall detain Dick till the arrival of another ship, when I hope to send you a good cheese, and some fresh Beer. Having paid James, and his fat wife, all their arrears, I have only the house rent to look up to for the Table expence, and Servants wages.

I have this day given the 8p<sup>rs</sup> Dimmitties to be made up into Waistcoats and Irresistibles, they make 22 of each sort, which will be a good stock.

Of Falconar you say – permit me to quote your words – “I never pass over any part of your letters where you mention Falconar”. I have told Betsy in my last of yesterday, if it pleases God he stands this Campaign; or whether he stands it or not, his remaining in the Army shall be his own choice. Or if you choose, he shall at any rate resign, I have no objection’.

Yes, my Dearest Man, I am infinitely obliged to you for leaving the choice of your nephew's situation to me – I most cheerfully embrace your kind offer – be assured when he quits the Army, I shall be exceedingly happy. He is my second Son as such I must regard him. I confess I never liked a soldier's life – and to tell you the truth it is a way of life that does not suit his own inclination – upon my word it is a fact. You must not say you will leave Falconar to “his own choice”. On those terms he will be very delicate – You must manage to remove him as by your wish or mine if you think proper when he is with you, your friend, and companion, what can we wish for more. Thus situated Eliza and I shall be as comfortable as we possible can separated from M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and her Dear charges – Indeed my good man, we shall all exert to render your time pleasant. My poor heart being lightened, will readily engage itself in all sociable pleasures with more alacrity than it would otherwise do.

We dined infamille, Grant dined at Martins where Major Stevenson lives. In the Evening we visited M<sup>rs</sup> Chamier and M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour and supped at M<sup>rs</sup> Hornes – the party were M<sup>rs</sup>

Chase and husband with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Robinson, Major Stevenson, Parry, Nial, Grant, Doctor Anderson besides ourselves, General Horne and Lady, the Gentlemen seeing Major Stevenson there left him to hand Betsy this was unpleasant but there was no help for it – This morning we went to the Asylum, on our way there, met Sir John Turing who asked us to go to breakfast at his house, which we accordingly did. Saunders and Turing enquired very kindly after your health. Eliza gave them Lydia's letter to read at which they were extremely well pleased.

M<sup>rs</sup> Sydenham is again in a poor way. M<sup>rs</sup> Judson is shortly to become M<sup>rs</sup> Tutt. M<sup>r</sup> Hickey is to Breakfast with us tomorrow when I shall ask him to value the Pictures. M<sup>rs</sup> Moorhouse with a party is gone to Ennore for to pass the remainder of this month, M<sup>rs</sup> Chase and family are to spend a few days with them. M<sup>r</sup> Grant and Stevenson are going there for three or four days also. M<sup>r</sup> Holland is something better today.

I am much obliged for Lieu<sup>t</sup> Read's Receipt for making the Chowder, I shall try to make the Dish. When the Miss Smiths and Miss Fisher arrive we shall go both the Rooms and the Concerts and shall give you an account of them and of the Ladies Dancing. I have not heard from Camp these five or six days.

I shall dispose of the old Grey and the sickly Dun at the Sea gate for what they can fetch, Story says the Dun never was nor will be a Sound horse. M<sup>r</sup> Burke is expected from Pondicherry soon accompanied by Chastell.

.Eliza is well requests her hearts best regard and affection. I remain by best and ever kind Davidson's unalterably, Eliza: Davidson.

P.S.

M<sup>r</sup> Ganis has sent me six of your Pamphlets neatly bound, he means to send you all excepting a few which he reserves for your orders, to be delivered to any of your friends at Madras.

Alex<sup>r</sup> Davidson Esq

*page 247 – 252 [ Alexander to his wife ]*

Waltier near Vizagatapam  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 1789

My Elizabeth's esteemed favor of the 18<sup>th</sup> I received last night, in eight days; the tappal, for these eight or ten days, has gained a complete day upon us. I suppose I shall get this altered; as I am going, on Monday, to place Sibbendy Sepoys as far as Maddapollam as a check on the public tappals.

For a few days the Sibbendies will bring the Vizack letters, and the tappals the publick packets.

You talk of the Nottingham being at Jagos you must mean the Rockingham as Bessy has a good memory I wonder she does not remind you; especially, as the Courier is so distinct on the Subject.

You are so good to give Comments on my letters; and by the time I receive your Replies; as I never, of course, have copies; I entirely forget what I said to you: but you do, as all Friends are want make too partial conclusions.

Corbett wants consistency, resolution and energy of character without these attributes a character, in the course of time loses its respect, and consequence.

Greenhill will sell the Gelding for you: you must be Jockey enough, though, not to mention his tumbling: upon my word, I think him a very good bandy horse for a light Bandy. When Corbett said he would take him back, he might to have him sent to Town next morning.

Dick will be too late for the Birthday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. There is no such thing as a ham here. I shall be quite set up in the small clothes way: pray let the Braming pay M<sup>r</sup> Craig's bill: has Major Young paid the remaining Pag<sup>s</sup> 200?

Falconar, when he returns, or when the Expedition is over, he must write in – that from ill health he is advised by the Faculty to quit his Military Profession, he requests therefore, leave to resign his Commission. By this step he will lose, poor fellow, his Pag<sup>s</sup> 500, for acquiring the Persian, he cannot, with any degree of propriety, claim it on quitting the Company's service.

You allow this darling subject to run away with you. You say with exultation and triumph – "When he is with you, your friend & companion what can we (with a dash) wish for more?" Why, I reply, very naturally, Fortune. If it please God to spare my life, I trust in the Supreme Being, we may do very well, but if I drop off, my amiable nephew loses present competency, and the independence of a gentleman; burdened with, perhaps, Incumbered with many embarrassments; beside his poor Mother with her large family. Prudence, my dearest Elizabeth, that it may rive our hearts, and bring bitter tears from us; yet prudence will look forward; you write, my amiable Partner as it there were to be no changes. I am obliged and naturally led to moralize in this manner, as you write as if you and your friends were in possession of health, fortune and unchangeable and replete Happiness. But altho I write in this manner, I am unchanged in my opinion; I trusting in Ruddiman's opinion, and in your confidential communication that Falconar does not like the Army; but above all, the pleasure and happiness I have in contributing to the earnest wishes of my Wife and Daughter, I repeat – 'he shall at any rate resign, I have no objection'. You must not be displeased with me, my dear, for these reflections, as they are the natural result if plain sense, on weighting and deliberating, not only on the subject now, but whenever the topick has occurred. I ought therefore to have more credit with your desire. No doubt innumerable have been the discourses held by You, Bessy and Falconar, on these subjects, for in what regarded the Young Couple I was long excluded as a Party. I never intruded on your tête à têtes, your Conferences, nor your private communications, because I had a high opinion of the contracting Parties. It was, and became a very easy matter, to carry them on, till they matured, without my participation, you, Bessy and my nephew, so far acted honorably, that I am sure, tho you might have been miserable, you never would have acted but with my final concurrence, and approval. I know too much of the world to suppose an amiable Wife, a lovely Daughter, and an honorable and educated Nephew: as matters were situated perhaps neither you, Eliza, or Falconar could have acted otherwise: I am therefore content. Whatever may come to pass, Happiness or Misery – if Happiness Victoria – If misfortune we must console ourselves and reflect with a great Judge of Human Nature – That

“There is scarce any lot so low, but there is something in it to satisfy those to whom it has befallen; Providence having so ordered things that on every cup how how bitter so ever, there are some cordial drops – some good Circumstances, which, if wisely extracted, are sufficient for the Purpose he wants them – that is, to make him contented, and if not happy at least resigned”.

Now my dear Elizabeth, it may be here necessary to assure you, on the word of a gentlemen, that this long disquisteon has flown from my pen without premeditation or any improper disposition: if I have, in speaking my mind, said anything that is not founded – that you will excuse me, as, perhaps I may have judged to strictly of the Cause, from the Effect.

I now go on with your Letter. You went to Hornes – poor Stevenson, poor Eliza –but her good sense would support her and enable her to act with propriety. You and Bessie always call the Generals A.D.Camp Robinson; He is the Son of the Historian, whose name is

Robertson. Turing is a good Member of Society: any news of the Eenrom, Capt<sup>n</sup> Greenway? My compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Sydenham's Big Belly – M<sup>rs</sup> Johnson's lank sides – and to Miss Bryan's Whiskers.

Since I wrote you about the Chowder I was very much surprised to find it in M<sup>rs</sup> Glasse! I am happy at your Resolution of going to a Concert and Rooms when the Young Ladies arrive .

Pray send me the Ladies letters to reply to – tho I think you did answer it by my desire concerning a sister of M<sup>rs</sup> Mason's, a miss brown. It is wonderful no news from the South; nor no Europe Ships! I approve of your Sales of the Dun, and old Grey. Perhaps, Chastelle will give a grin at Miss Raphael: what could M<sup>rs</sup> Burke be doing at Pondicherry? Send, if you please, the bound Books by Dick.

M<sup>r</sup> Maxtone last night received authentic accounts of M<sup>rs</sup> Casamajor's going home on the first Europe Ship from Madras; M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Maxstone wish to go by the same Conveyance; Especially, as Casamajor prefers, Monro, of the Houghton. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone proceed to Madras, (he told me to day,) the middle of September on account of the Sea Conveyance: he cannot bear the idea of going by land. He intends to write to Bengal to get a good vessel to touch for him.

I wonder who, in the name of goodness the brothers will take in on Casamajor's departure; Neal will be for somebody below himself. I am thinking, after the 4<sup>th</sup> of June making a trip to Coringa, and to Maddapollam; afterwards to Bimlepatam, and Chicacole; Cole; returning by Bony, where I shall expect to see the Rajah Viseram Rauze.

You know my dear, I am a little Weather wise; when you leave Madras let it be early in the second Quarter of the Moon: either the first or last week of July: I leave it entirely to your choice.

Ask Bessy, if this (letter) is not a Rowland, for your Oliver? or, to use her language whether it is or not an honest Shilling for your 10 pennyworth. I do not know how it is, but You, generally, without I am sure, intending it, jockey Bess of the news. But I must really write shorter Letters. Will You be contented with three sides?

You can richly recompense me when the March Ships arrive; Indeed there would be a good deal of novelty by those of February.

My love to Bessy, Friendship to Grant, Affectionate remembrance to Falconar Good wishes to George – My conjugal Duty, Soul, and Body, to Elizabeth, from her constant and faithful Alex. Davidson.

*page 253 – 260 [Alexander to his wife]*

Waltier near Vizagapatam

The last of May 1789 after breakfast ½ past 7.

Your Dear Letter, my Elizabeth of the 22<sup>nd</sup> is what Bessie calls a 10 penny worth you generally resolve on giving me at least quantity, for quality.

In yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> you say the present Government are called the Country Government: but you do not tell me that Paupiah is called the Black Governor. I do not know anything that will militate more against the Service than the on popularity of a Government, at the head of which one of our own Civil Servants presides: it gives the ministerial party great advantage over the Company.

On second thoughts best You not better order Your large Safe to be cased, with sheathing boards, and sent on board one of Ramaunadaunloo's returning vessels: I mean those belonging to the Chicacole Braming. Here they can be well initiated: I mean the Safes.

Hall off his own near motion has sent me one of the Valentines cheese is; It looked very well on the outside, but it is not C A P I T A L.

Your circle on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> very respectable: not one Shabroon among them: in the list, I miss Allan Grant: as Moubray was there I naturally expected to see his name.

Having such a Company voluntarily is not only an honour to you and Bessy; but each of the party must feel the happiness of being one of such a Society.

I am glad de Jony has made his way, by being sent on so honourable a Service. I have written a letter to Boyd, calculated to please him: my letter to Grant and A Ross were in the same key: friendship so perhaps they may mention to You their having heard from me.

I am happy you have heard from poor Falconar; and still more, poor fellow, that he is able to do his duty. What a disagreeable Situation George's must be, to be confined at such a time: I have had a long and distinct letter from him. I thank you for the full Extracts from Falconar's letter. In an alternative course Mercurial medicines are taken without confinement, and without any attention in Diet: alternative Medicines as such as have no immediate sensible operation on the Constitution, but generally and leisurely restore it. If it pleases the Almighty to support him, and I have no doubt of it, as I consider the Campaign as good as over; his hardships, fatigues, and dangers will prove of service to him. There is a great difference indeed between the hardy severe life of a Soldier at Camp, and the effeminacy and luxury of the Grove. Treble therefore is the merit of the aspiring, and brave Falconar, in performing his duty, with a disease in his bosom, on the one side: but on the other it is trebly imprudent keeping the Field if he feels himself afflicted with the liver.

I give you a Recent instance in the case of Capt<sup>n</sup> George Stewart supine obstructions were removed by severe fatigues on actual Service.

Take the black man's Pag<sup>s</sup> 200 Pagoda's; and I shall manage to pay the money here.

It is a good story the Dandy Gentleman that lost his supper is but selfish as he was the Company of Eliza's with their other guests would have added a relish to his calves head.

Corbett will get into a scrape by not commencing his northern Peregrination: keep me advised of his Movements. I delivered Your and the Young Eliza's Compliments to the amiable M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone in the very words of your letter. It will give you pleasure to be informed that either last night or this morning They went Ramnapaha has since told me yesterday Afternoon the 30<sup>th</sup> May at between 3 and 4o'Clock: a trusty Sepoy and an Upparah Cooly. a Convoy was dispatched by land to the Grove with two small parcels; containing, however, no less than twenty four (24) pieces of Muslin for you. Half of them are brown; the other half nearly bleached: these latter are the best, and most original Patterns.

I have taken great precaution they should reach you safe. In the first place they are well wrapped in wax cloth, and Gunny; and distinctly directed to M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson, Grove, near Madras. 2<sup>ndly</sup> you will see that a trusty Sibbendy Sepoy accompanys the Cowry Cooly – as p<sup>r</sup> enclosed note from Cha<sup>s</sup> MacAlister commending the Sibbendy Corps. 3<sup>rdly</sup>, I have sent a Certificate with them signifying – The Bearer carrys two small Parcels of Muslins for the use of M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson's Family; and I signed it. 4<sup>thly</sup>, I wrote a Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Dick of Maddapoltam begging he would manage to expedite your parcels by Masulipatam, against all Impediements: At these two last mentioned places M<sup>r</sup> and, I believe, M<sup>r</sup> Revell, also on large Juncans, usually. 5<sup>thly</sup>, I addressed our old acquaintance, and friend, Capt<sup>n</sup> Dunwoody commanding Ongole (or in his absence Sam<sup>l</sup> Young Esq<sup>re</sup> Paym<sup>t</sup>) a letter, telling him that, as I understood, there was sometimes trouble near Nelong, and Pulicat, requesting the Favour of his sending an additional Sepoy on with my people to

the Luz. Lastly, my Elizabeth, about the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, do you procure a Messenger and note from the great Nabob to his Renter at Pulicat to pass your two parcels.

Apply also to the Land Customers, incase of stop, to pass the things; as they are not for sale, but a present from me for Your own use. Savage was Land Customer; I do not know who succeeded him; but I believe, Joseph Shaw Esquire, is still Deputy.

It would be a pity to lose them, as they are worth six or seven hundred Rupees. I have, I hope, you will allow, done my Duty. Ramnapah is very sensible of Your and Bessy's kind Enquiries after him, and desires I would return his grateful remembrance to You both. John Halle has sent me by a Sloop called the S<sup>t</sup> Cecilia Bonnevie, for Jagnapooram, a Cheese which came by the Valentine; it was forwarded on by honest Parsons: but I believe I mentioned this before. Let Bell choose Your Cheese, Ham's, and Cask Porter; I mean, not bottled; – also Foregues, and a Scirte of Beef, and a Piece of Pork.

There is a Country Captain here of the name of Libby, a good decent looking man, he is, strange to tell, married to a daughter of Major Jourdans. M<sup>rs</sup> Lilly has made her Papa a grandfather; having a very pretty little Girl, fair. M<sup>r</sup> Lilly married her out of M<sup>r</sup> Garricke's family. Another Daughter of Major Jourdans a Sister unmarried, lives with them. The Major, on going home, left them Three thousand five hundred Pagodas each: which is the Cause of the eldest being so well married. M<sup>r</sup> Garricke wrote to me a long letter recommending M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Lilly.

M<sup>r</sup> Crawford & M<sup>r</sup> Suvas did not visit the Chiefship in the time of M<sup>r</sup> Russell; Thank God, I have managed to be on good terms with them both: and shall shortly return not only their visits but Col<sup>l</sup> Fraser's, who came, without fuss to see me. Fraser was saluted of course; but, as a former Member of Council, and a Gentleman filling in this [*illegible word, page a bit torn*] an high Station I ordered him also eleven guns: I did it to show I retained no Jealousy: I remembered also his having saluted you the unfortunate 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1780.

Talking of this I must correct a mistake in a late letter. I was a little weatherwise, and advised you to leave Madras at the end of the Moon's first quarter. Instead of looking in the month of July, I, by mistake, looked in the Almanac for June. Unless you choose to come sooner and can be quite ready, let Your day of embarkation be, if it please God on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> July.

I talk as if wind weather Conveyance and all served but if a good Sea Conveyance any time in July it is a good month but by no means defer it later. I think a Jack at Your [*illegible word*] head would be a great signal.

Secure, my dear Wife, some good Garden Seed: perhaps Major Stevenson can procure you a basket from Tranquebar: but do not trust to one basket:

Here, as the famed Junius says, let me make a Pause. I have written this at one heat; I could go on, but I know I should distress you, with an idea you must give me back the same quantity – why so? What is become of the Swallow; did she immediately sail on her return from Negapatam? When did you see cool Hamilton? When you go to see him next tell him, from me, I consider his desertion from the Grove as a great Compliment to me; as he came frequently formerly in my time, I myself must have been the Attraction. What Tragedy is it they talk of after the Merchant of Venice? Who is to play Portia; And how will she manage her Breech–es? Portia you know assumes the Part of a Lawyer.

Groomarty is making great preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> June, all the Company are invited; and Grimfarty has a list of victuals sufficient for a Conclave of Cardinals: or a Lord Mayor's Feast. No Entertainment in the Evening, I leave that till you come. M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone laughs and says if a February Ship arrive from Europe the Feast of Joy, may be turned to a House of Mourning. I hope not, for I am too loyal a subject to wish for the death of my

Sovereign. Write to me, my dear, if by the next Ships you hear any news of my Lord Macartney.

Would you expect any Europe news from hence I can give you a little. It is said there are Packets of importance on the Rockingham; (the Ship you and Bessy unaccountably call the Nottingham) one Regulation is to be, the abolition of the Barrack Masters. This affects not only Wilks, but a great favorite here, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Clark: brother to the Sub-Sec<sup>ry</sup>. – “But goodness, my goodman, you are interfering with Bessy’s and my Province” – “And will you really never have done; do not, my Davy, fatigue yourself: we will excuse you for to day”.

Very well, let me add my Love to Bessy, and best remembrance to Grant; from a man who is really short minded, though he must appear long winded. God bless the dear Inhabitants of the Grove prays the Father of it. Alex. Davidson.

Please turn over

P.S. I have paid the Cooly full. Cooly: I believe it is 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Rupees. The Sibbendy has had a month’s Batta: he had better return with you; unless he choose to return: in such case he must have advanced him 30 days Batta. Were it me if the Muslims come in good order I would present the man with a three Sivammy Pagoda.

Waltier 31<sup>st</sup> May 1789 M<sup>r</sup> Davidson Received 4<sup>th</sup> June 89 Grove

page 261 – 264 [*Elizabeth to her husband*]

The Grove 30<sup>th</sup> May 1789

Having been informed by M<sup>rs</sup> Duffin yesterday, several of the Asylum children had the Measles; Eliza, and I, after breakfast this morning went to see them, but to my great joy, instead of the Measles; I found it out to be only the chicken pox, this distemper for an infectious one, is very simple, not attended with the least danger.

It is now past 11 o’clock, we are just returned, the weather hot, and the Roads exceedingly dusty: however, the coolness of the Grove added with a draft of nice cold water soon revived our drooping spirits.

In my last my dearest Davidson I told you I should reply by this post the kind Paragraph regarding Falconar – you say like a generous Father, and Uncle – “I have no objection to Falconars leaving the Army – and be assured I shall receive him with open Arms. What can I say more?” – You have said enough my dear good man – you have eased my mind from a heavy load of anxiety – Shall I then bring him with us, If the Detachment be dissolved – But my Davidson as you have so affectionately acted in this business, you must complete it, by sending me a few lines for Falconar, recalling him from his present situation, the Mandate being from his honored, and dear Uncle, it will be far more acceptable to his delicate, and yet, manly feelings, than perhaps it would be from me. By your mutually assisting each other, why should not you be as great men as Sam Johnson, and Douglas? – You have indeed, I cannot help repeating, made Eliza, and her Mother exceedingly happy, If poor Falconar returns But Safe all will be, I hope well.

You ask me if any mention is made of writers – I am told there are to be none this Year. Rickards expects I heard to be appointed when the nomination takes place.

Your letter to the old – was delivered, no answer have I received no Vessel Sailing for Vizack yesterday I could not send the Ham and cheese. I should have sent you both had not the extravagant price of two Rupees a pound frightened me, besides, I imagine Hams and cheeses on the other Ships daily expected could be much fresher.

I am afraid Eliza made a mistake in telling you the name of the Play, Instead of Venice Preserved, It is the Merchant of Venice, Shylock the Cruel Jew by Sir Paul Jodrell. Eliza

desires me to tell her dearest papa, she is very sorry indeed for the blunder she has committed – .

We ladies dined by ourselves yesterday. Grant went to Captain Cappers the other side of the water. You observe that Grant very properly makes free in going out when he pleases – I agree with you my D–, I should be truly sorry were we to be a confinement to him, tho he resides here we often do not see him from Supper, to next days supper, or on the day after at dinner, After Supper last night he sent to Vepery to meet Stevenson when both setout to Ennore to pass this day with M<sup>rs</sup> Moorhouse.

Supped with us last night Mess<sup>rs</sup> Monbray, Corbett, Jones, Wilks and Grant. Monbray is grown a very good neighbour, he often comes to us: And is very kind in his inquiries after the worthy Chief. Corbett told us he had taken leave of the Governor, and yet, he is not resolved when he is to take his departure from hence. Boyd is laid up with Boils, as is Cornet Leslie, and Allan Grant.

We dined to day en Trio. This Evening we are to sup en famillé at the Garrows.

Captain Raphael promised me to manage to prevail on the Creditors to take the Grove in payment of their Bond. I am sure if this plan succeeds you will not be displeased with our arrangement.

I shall send with Dick as many things as possible. Cannot you my Davidson send me a list of the things you got? Shall I sell the round Seat Table?

Eliza is well – she desires her hearts affectionate and cordial Duty – God bless you my Davidson –

I remain with ardent affectionate your grateful &<sup>c</sup> Eliza: Davidson.

Alex<sup>r</sup>. Davidson Esq<sup>r</sup>

*page 264 is blank*

*page 265 – 268*

*[Elizabeth to her husband]*

The Grove 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1789 [*with insert*] ought to be June  
1 oClock P.M

We are just returned from the Fort, where Eliza and I went to see the remaining things in the Small House and likewise to speak to Bill to have the cases ready for the Madeira Pip[e]s against tomorrow – Bill sent word the Cases were done, but on account of the Kings Birth Day, the Coopers will not work tomorrow. I shall send as much of our Liquor by Gregory's Vessel as I can get ready; having engaged with him some time since to send some of my things, he would not be pleased with me, were I now to forget my promise. I am favored with your short letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> as also yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> by this days post. As I am pinched for time now I shall defer acknowledging till them on the 5<sup>th</sup> – And shall only mention a few things that you wish most to be informed of.

The Rockingham arrived yesterday afternoon, she left the Downs on Jan<sup>ry</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> – she is 3 weeks becalmed under the Line – Her passengers consist of a few Gentlemen for Madras, and Bengal, (Officers). The only news she has brought is that our dear amiable King it is thought cannot recover, the Prince is certainly to be chosen Regent but not with full Powers.

The King of Spain is dead – not a word more of news. Our family in Gower Street, and Scotland, thank God are well. I herein enclose you M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's letter to you and five sheets of her dear Journal: the kind partiality she shews Aleck, with her constant attention, cannot ever be forgotten. Indeed my good man, she is a treasure of a friend; Heaven preserve her to us –



I have sent you a list of Books chosen by M<sup>r</sup> Jones, those you wish to have, mention them in your letter, and I shall save them. The list of those I made choice of for you shall be sent tomorrow. You have no occasion to return the list as I have the Duplicate.

Corbett and Jones dined here, the former says he means, he believes, to leave this on Sunday. I have not to yet heard from old Corbett.

By this post I dispatch two Magazines and a Pamphlet with a list of the Ships and Directors from Westcott.

I had a letter to day from Falconar dated on the 27<sup>th</sup> May – he says he has had the pleasure to hear from you – he adds he shall address you shortly in the mean time he desires me not to fail to bring him affectionately to your Remembrance, as often as we address you. His health is much the same poor fellow! Falconar further adds this –

“We shall probably proceed to meet Mundoo again on the first or 2<sup>nd</sup>. We expect to be ready by that time”. In another part of his letter he says – “It is a most Shamful Business to be sure that we are engaged in, and I fear that soon people will have too solid Causes still more heartily and loudly to execrate it”. Oh! my Davidson! keep your promise after this cruel business, recall my favoured nephew – and render the rest of my days happy – Eliza desires her most sincere and affectionate duty to her dear Father. Adieu – I remain you ever Devoted Eliza. Davidson.

We sup to night at Duffins the supper is given in compliment to M<sup>rs</sup> Judson, who is to be married to Captain Tutt this afternoon. I have sent you a sketch of the Colangoody Engagement. The weather appears Stormy – it blows hard.

*page 268 is blank*

*page 269 – 272 [Elizabeth to her husband]*

The Grove 9<sup>th</sup> June 1789

Your letter my amiable D of the 19<sup>th</sup> May came to hand the day before yesterday –. I have again perused it, and the contents are only in answer to mine of the 18<sup>th</sup> of May I shall therefore, give you the occurrence of yesterday, tho I believe, Eliza was very full in her intelligence by last night post.

We had to sup with us yesterday Evening, M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes, and Miss Whittals, likewise Major Stevenson, Rumly, Leslie, and young Hughes. Our Captain went to the rooms – he indeed is often from us, sometimes we do not see him for two days successively – comparison is said, is ever odious, and yet my good man, I cannot help noticing how far different is he from my Pet in disposition, in manner, and in attachment.

We drank your health in Bumpers round the table, and on the whole past a cheerful evening.

Stevenson was tipsy when he came here, in his conduct he is polite and friendly, without any acrimony– he having lost a pot of Coffee to Rumly last night, he invited the company there present to Breakfast with him on Friday morning.

M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes told me that M<sup>r</sup> Saunders had received letters from his wife informing him with the unpleasing situation of their only Son, who beyond a doubt is an Idiot – poor woman! her friends in England while she was here kept her so deceived, her child’s situation she imagined was very different from what she found: owing to vexation, she has been very ill, and greatly troubled with fits. M<sup>rs</sup> Turing and Saunders have taken a house at Knights Bridge (Sloane Street) the old lady does not like England; she lives by herself and complains exceedingly at Hackney Coachmen whom forever carry her wrong.

Major Wynch breakfasted here this morning, he thinks William Wynch will return again to this Country – their second sister has been at Deaths Door with the Smallpox; for thirty days her Life was despaired off – She got the distemper from her little girl.

Your Spying Glass is safe. I shall attend to all your new Dishes. On Wednesday, that is to say, tomorrow, I shall go shopping with M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes, when I shall be able to suit you with a light handsome grey hat: the mounting of it shall be attended to.

This is the last day of the outcry in the Fort: I have a great deal to do, for want of ready Cash our work go on slowly the outcry money, I shall not get a fanam of it, till the 20<sup>th</sup> and till that Period I cannot purchase Beer, Glass wine, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>.

The man that wanted 200 Pagodas on Vizack has changed his mind – I shall be obliged I am afraid, to stay here till I can recover the Money to purchase all the necessaries we may require. Do not you send me money, I shall try to manage the best way I can without being troublesome to you.

Corbett was here after breakfast this morning, he told me he should certainly embark on tomorrow Morning, but not on the wooden [*illegible word*]; but on a Vessel that means to stop at Coringa and Ganjam, on his way back he would Stop at Vizak. I am now obliged to defer sending M<sup>rs</sup> Maxtone's Bonnets till a further opportunity.

I am apprehensive George's disorder is something else – and not the Bile as he tells me – You will naturally ask me, pray how do you know this – My Answer is, by accident I saw a letter of his to G...t, wherein he says – "G... I have been wounded in the Groin in the War of Venus". This is by his own confession his malady – and not the Bile. I think as a parent you my D– ought to advise him – but beware to mention my name – George ought to have been ashamed to have written such a thing to G.... .

I meant to have put up Corbett's Bay at the Outcry this day, but was prevented by the poor Animal having caught cold, and is confined in the Stables.

Hamilton has given me his house at Waltier, he is to write to the young man who has the care of it, to make it over to me when I go there – only think of this my Davy? – Do me the favor to look at it, and tell me what kind of habitation it is –

I am again been prevented answering your favor of the 27<sup>th</sup> that part of it regarding Falconar the perusal of your letter afflicted me exceedingly – I cannot help my affection for him – I love my sweet Aleck dearly – next to him, my girls excepted, of my children, I regard your amiable nephew – And can you, my good man, be displeased with me for esteeming your Sister's child? and so deserving an object too –

Eliza's best and tenderest affection await on you –

I am your Devoted and affectionate &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup> – Eliza: Davidson.

Dickson arrived this day from Bombay.

page 273 – 275      [*Alexander to his wife*]

Waltier near Vizagapatam

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 1789

My dear Elizabeth's

Letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> May reached me yesterday Evening – There being a Council tomorrow, and having some papers to prepare, I must shorten this address.

I give you joy in finding that you had no cause for your alarms at the Asylum. I have no doubt but your Administration there will be popular, and do you much credit: to know this, of course, will give me much Satisfaction.

You say you have dust and heat at Madras– thank God, we have none, we have almost constantly fine sea breezes: M<sup>r</sup> Maxtone says it has been the coolest season he has known, during his residence to the North.

Being to set out tomorrow after dinner for Ingeram, and Maddapollam; and an express from Ganjam to Madras waiting till I finish this letter, I am something hurried; I have nevertheless scribbled off a few lines to Falconar which I hope you will approve. It is impossible he can leave the Camp till the Campaign be over; unless he has unfortunately been obliged to report himself sick. If he keep up, which God grant it, it would be truly disgraceful to retire from facing the Enemy. You may be assured the Cavalry cannot be engaged among brush wood, and Jungle: they were sent on the Expedition to obtain Grain and other Forage. Yet the point of honour is the same, he cannot seek to leave till the Service be over. But I may mistake you, yet you write – “Send me few lines to recall Falconar from his present situation”. I declare to God, if my only Son were there, grown up, I had rather see him dead than retire in time of actual Service from the face of an Enemy. If poor Falconar has been obliged to report himself sick, tho disagreeable, that is another matter; but even then he ought not to leave the Southward till the Expedition be over; June must complete it. His resigning while his Detachment kept the Field would be improper. What did the Spartan Mothers say to their sons (sometimes their only Sons) when they went to battle:– “Return Victorious” – “or return no more”.

All this my dearest Elizabeth, be assuredly proceeds from my jealousy of Falconar's Honour.

Sam, Johnson – and Douglas! Since the Revenue has been doubled, and the Chiefs sworn, not a Rupee comes in the Channel you allude to. S–d–r is in close correspondence with Rajah, and his Spies at Viz–n–gram. The Russell sailed on the very day you wanted her; but, thank God, you did not know it, for none of us want to eat Cheese at 2 R<sup>s</sup> a pound. Why, my dear, we not only make Country Cheese here, but the finest cream Cheese I ever tasted.

I shall think it no favour the Creditors taking the Grove; they only advanced seven thousand Pagodas on the Mortgage of it; two thousand odd hundred Pagodas due: but I have no objection paying, or rather giving the House for the debt, but not as an Obligation.

No, sell not the round teak table; nor the round table of one plank. Love to Eliza – Conjugal Duty, friendship & affection from Alex<sup>r</sup>. Davidson".

page 276 is blank

page 277 – 282

[Elizabeth to her husband]

The Grove 15<sup>th</sup> June 1789

This morning Eliza and I got up a little after five, dressed, and went to Colonel Capper's to breakfast; on purpose to speak to him regarding the Asylum, and to tell him M<sup>rs</sup> Casamajor would not; on any consideration, take the charge of the institution. I saw M<sup>rs</sup> Casamajor last night, she told me, she could not pay the necessary attention to the charity, therefore, hoped I would excuse her. I shall consult M<sup>re</sup> Balfour, Chamair, and Kindersley, see what they say on the occasion. I shall take proper advice, and I hope no one will be offended with my Arrangements.

From Capper's we went to the Asylum, Accompanied with M<sup>r</sup> Neal Campbell, Capper, and Lieu<sup>t</sup> J Richards all of whom seemed well pleased with the appearance of the Children, and of the total change, and improvement of the School: But none were more delighted, than the worthy Neal Campbell, who paid me some compliments on the occasion.

M<sup>rs</sup> Mackenzie has left the Asylum, in her room a M<sup>rs</sup> Stevenson is placed, widow of the late Quarter Master of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> at Waulaujubad [Walajabad] – She is a better

mannered woman than M<sup>rs</sup> Mackenzie; but much too high minded. The other day she would not sit with M<sup>rs</sup> Stockwell at dinner on account of M<sup>rs</sup> Fisher, who she said, was a Soldier's wife – She made this objection to me; finding all I said did not satisfy the Lady – I told her, as I looked on M<sup>rs</sup> Fisher as the teacher of the School, and it was highly proper she should have consequence in the Eyes of the children, and to do away her prejudices, I would drink tea with them, accordingly I went to M<sup>rs</sup> Stockwell, told her, since I have been appointed President, she never gave me a dish of tea: therefore; I requested her to allow me to be of their party, we all took our seats, M<sup>rs</sup> Fisher made tea – Since then M<sup>rs</sup> Stevenson seems more reconciled to her situation. This woman has three girls also maintained with herself at the Asylum, her husband has been Servant to Colonel Strawbenzie – How strange then is this poor creature's conduct – without friends, and without Money, to give herself such Airs.

M<sup>rs</sup> Capper is on the Duke of Bucclough. I beg Miss Popham's pardon she is a Daughter of Popham's by the first marriage. Miss Wells, lives at Miss Pophams – A Miss Hughes is coming to Madras – she is a niece of Colonel Hughes. I saw John Turing yesterday, he told me old M<sup>rs</sup> Turing is sadly tormented with chilblains. I was told the other day old Wests whole family are coming out in one of the ships.

General Horne and Capper are going to take the Miss Kennedy's case in hand, they mean the girls should choose their guardians; when that accomplished the Guardians are to demand of the Trustees the young women's fortune: At the same time they mean to have them properly fixed. It is a kind, and generous Idea, I hope they may be successful in their endeavors.

I received my dear Davidson a letter from our amiable Falconar yesterday, the interesting part of it, I will extract for your perusal – Surely your good and tender heart will feel for the Dear Youth – “Tripatone 10<sup>th</sup> June 1789 My dearest Friend After an excessive deal of Fatigue of Sun and of marching, I have just one Days rest to acknowledge the Receipt of your letters, and Eliza's, and of the sweetest Comfort and Pleasure which they conveyed. – I will inform you of the Marching we made. We left Koilangoody on the 6<sup>th</sup> at ½ past 4 in the morning and travelled in scorching Sun till 2 oClock in the Afternoon 20 miles – We marched the next morning at the same time and arrived at 1 in the Afternoon of a very hot Day at Mator 18 miles – On account of Rain we could not proceed till after Breakfast of the next (viz the 8<sup>th</sup>) – we marched from 9 oClock till afternoon and arrived at Paramally – all this Haste was in pursuit of Mundoo who had been at this last Place, but went off the night before we came up: It is said to Dindigal. We left Paramally at 2 in the morning on the 9<sup>th</sup> and arrived here yesterday about 10 oClock A. M.

This has been very wearisome Business, and we have a days rest here. – I found the Sun makes me bilious but thank God, it seems now worn off.

But I had the sweetest Refreshment, and the most apropos in these Days of Lassitude, that even a wearied sojourner, happily met with! These comfortable Letters which I enclose you and beg you to keep for me, infused a strengthening and exhilarating Influence through out – reinforced that strength I had just expended – and supplied those spirits which had been almost exhausted – and I am to Day happier and more cheerful than before. Your Letters and my Cousin's my excellent Aunt, so attentionally kind and participant of my Happiness – contribute I assure you a very large portion of my satisfaction. Thanks to the Omnipotent for sending such glad tidings of both Familys. You have not been particular with regard to your own, but I am thankful for a general Report, when it is a Report of Health.

Give a Million of thanks to Eliza for so happily forwarding to me the pleasant Europe letters – indeed they caused my joy! I wish to God they may not blunder again in sending

my eldest Sister – tho she is a good Girl, she would not do – indeed I think none of them would ever answer for India. How happy I am, in being able to remit the other 100£ to my Mother – happier than any good chance that the revolution of Fortunes wheel; could bring round to myself; – unless it empowered me to make a larger transfer. And that now that I am on this Subject, I beg you to forward my affectionate Thanks for my good Uncle's Lottery Ticket, it is, itself, a Prize to me, and of an estimable Quality, as it indicates his Recollection and good wishes regarding a Young Man who has hardly had it in his Power hitherto to exhibit himself greatly deserving of either. Fails not, also to mention my Happiness in consequence of the pleasant account from both Europe Familys. – Immediately as this marching is over – I shall have the pleasure and Leisure to address him, and to thank him for his kind Favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> May, which gave me great Pleasure and satisfaction.

I am just informed that after to Days halt we are to begin again tomorrow to make a march of 18 Miles – If Mundos, as it is said, have left this Pallam, we march round to shew ourselves in Possession – and should hope that we might be returned to Contonment by the end of June – But this is all our uncertain I think I am something better for moving – tho, these last marches, have been much too hot and too long for any Constitution.

George follows the Camp, tho unfit for Duty, he is daily recovering”

Poor fellow! after so keenly expressed the joy he experienced in hearing of the welfare of his Dear Mother and family – How hard to be at once dashed with the Death of his affectionate promising Brother. I have told him my D– that poor Peter was very ill by M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's letter and when the next ship arrives I shall then tell him of his sad affliction.

I long to see Falconar – you say my good Man – “this darling object runs away with me”. I cannot help it, if you know what I feel for this young man you would pity me, should anything happen to him; I never shall forgive myself for having brought him to this Country – from the moment his sweet mother give him to me I became warmly interested on his behalf – It is I really believe designed by Providence, I should be so – I am not so inclined towards G...., and yet I wish him sincerely well.

I herein enclose you an account of the Money received and spent since your departure – a fair statement of our petty debts I shall forward hereafter.

The Dragon arrived this day, tomorrow I hope I shall procure the things you sent me.

Grant returned from his party late last night he is well.

God bless you my Dearest Davidson – long, Oh ,very may you live to be the Column and support of all your family – Prays your devoted Eliza: Davidson. Eliza's best attention await her Father.

page 283 – 286 [Alexander to his wife]

Ingeram 16<sup>th</sup> June 1789 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> past 12 at Noon

My Elizabeth – I have been busied this morning in reading some papers of a late date as last Christmas, sent me from Maddapollam Theodore Corbett. And having delayed writing ‘till now  $\frac{1}{2}$  past twelve, I must make this a hasty letter.

Vin Corbett on the 11<sup>th</sup> from Madulipatam sent me all the news he had heard by the Europa. Some tappals have passed, also there is a small break in our correspondence. I opened that of the 5<sup>th</sup> from Madras, but in yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> you account for not writing; you and Bessy having been the day before fatigued to death by being in the Fort the day before packing mine till  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4. Bessy’s of the 4<sup>th</sup> I received at Naidpour, now Proganoram, while supping with Capt<sup>n</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Gowdie. Bessy either did not write me on the 7<sup>th</sup> or the tappal must have passed me on the Road: but from the length of her letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>, I imagine she did not write on the 7<sup>th</sup>: but I am sure I have no cause to complain.

In reply to yours of the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Your argument is perfectly just about the Gelding, and my reasoning wrong.

The things in the Fort sold for more than I imagined: but indeed I do not know what you might have sent from the Garden.

I am rejoiced at the unexpected recovery of the Dun – you say Grant pronounces he will still be the best of the 4: you mean the 5.

Chastelle though a man of accomplishment, I believe to be a very libertine.

You have sent my bound books by Corbett – he first, I believe, goes to Callingapatam and Ganjam, and returns by land.

Meadows coming to Madras will quite alter the face of things: Corbett wrote me the Gen<sup>l</sup> comes round: that a Gentleman on the Europa has private letters for him. I predicted the shortness of the Southern Campaign: many thanks for the Extract. You call the man du Prez, his name is du Pré: the same as the late Governors.

It is a great mark of Andrew's Favour carrying You to Mamelon: he never carries any but fine friends there: the Charmiers are respectable and one is apt sometimes to gain by such connexions.

Yours of The 9<sup>th</sup>

I heard the accounts of poor M<sup>rs</sup> Saunders from M<sup>rs</sup> Corbett; she heard from M<sup>rs</sup> Kindersly. Shocking! How much happier, if God spares Alex, are you my Elizabeth.

I am afraid Wynch (I mean William) is not a man of principle. His Concern with M<sup>rs</sup> Barclay and Miss Barclay too bad.

What is to become of Miss Barclay?

Thank you for your punctuality about my wants: you are very good, and very attentive to me.

I suspected George – sad fellow – if he has any soul or spirit – his lying by at such a time must mortify him. I intended before to be severe upon him, now having such good information I can reprimand him with proper force.

The house at Walteir is worth about 500 Rupees, on account of the Ground and materials: everything must be pulled down and rebuilt. There is not, nor cannot be any well on it. If repaired it would let for 30 Rupees monthly. That is 8 Madras three Swamy Pag<sup>s</sup>, or forty Pounds a year (£40).

I am sorry any part of my letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> afflicted You: it was not meant: the subject stole insensibly on me. I ought to hide no sentiment of my heart from you – nor to let anything rankle there, nor ought you, permit me to say, ever, to withhold any part of Your confidence from me – but hold – for fear I should be drawn to any retrospection.

You cannot help your affection for Falconar! I admire you for it: You ask me “Can You, my good Man, be displeased with me for esteeming your Sister's child?”. No, surely I answer; and I think you must very much have strained my meaning if you can conclude any such argument from any part of my letter.

My Argument was against the Imprudence of encouraging, or rather not approving, such a passion in your Daughter. I am very deeply in debt, if I die – or if he die – Lord have mercy on the female part of our Family! But this is a subject cannot be agreeable to you: Tho I never flinch from any subject of your letter; and I hope I shall always act with Honor in whatever is required of me. I am my Elizabeth's Faithful Friend and Husband Alex<sup>t</sup>. Davidson.

Love to Eliza, and Compt<sup>s</sup> to Grant

pages 287 – 288 [Elizabeth to her husband]

My ever dear Davidson, I have been duly favored with your kind and comforting letters of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – the last mentioned, contained your affectionately kind, and generous summons to your amiable nephew – To say you have calmed my perturbed mind would be indeed too insignificant and not at all adequate to the pleasure I felt in perusing your favor. I have not now time to expatiate on your Fatherly affectionate conduct, having this whole day been in Town, but when I next address you, be assured I shall not be silent on the score of your dear behaviour to, indeed a charming young man deserving of your tenderest regard.

Eliza and I went to Town this morning after breakfast, visited Captain Applegath's and Captain Pouncy's shops – the former is a good man, I told him I would send for your Beer &<sup>cr</sup> from his stores – I have requested Bell agreeable to your wishes to choose the above mentioned things which he is to do. Pouncy asked very kindly after you, he delivered me a letter from Sir Edward Hughes, and told me he had got the Portraits you expected, which are to be sent me on tomorrow.

While I was in town the Nottingham arrived, Jones has not sent me the list of the passengers – But I heard the Miss Chases, M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Curry, Captain Murray and M<sup>r</sup> Bowser are arrived. It is now four o'Clock I have not yet had my letters, perhaps I have none by this conveyance.

Last night we visited the Miss Kennedys Miss Smart, and Miss Wells – Miss K–ys are become M<sup>rs</sup> Hornes charges, they are pretty little mild girls, it would have been 10,000 pities if they had been left with their poor Mother. M<sup>rs</sup> Horn's conduct will in this case, rebound with honor – After M<sup>rs</sup> Capper's arrival one of them is to be with her neither Miss Smart or Miss Wells have the least sign of Beauty: Indeed Miss S– made a sad figure last night. This evening I mean to visit M<sup>rs</sup> Trapand, she is at Colonel and M<sup>rs</sup> Ross's.

I heard yesterday Dent has written to the Board a Severe letter remonstrating against Ram's appointment to Tanjore, and setting forth the Bribes received from Baker, Hughes, and Ram. I am told it is a well pened letter and much to the Purpose. M<sup>r</sup> H–'s Dubash is not called the "Black Governor" but the Governor General.

M<sup>r</sup> Burke is now at Tanjore endeavouring to pluck as many Pagods as he can gather from the Rajah Tree. B–ke says our present G— or is so good a man, he should propose an address in the style of Sir Archibald Campbell – Is not this curious of the old man? – I have got my things from the Dragon, many think Colonel and M<sup>rs</sup> Trent take their passage on her. You will see M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Prendergast shortly at Vizack. Eliza sends her best affectionate, and most grateful Duty and Love. Except the same from me, and receive more than I am able to Express –Your – Eliza: Davidson

page 289 – 292 [daughter Eliza Davidson to her father]

Grove 18<sup>th</sup> June '89

My darling Father,

With your charming favor of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, I have been made most happy. The Sermon it contained Elegant, & beautiful, but of that matter I shall more fully discuss hereafter, at present my whole mind is so ingrossed, my [*unreadable word*], and generous Father, on your affectionate Conduct, and regard for your Eliza that I have not yet been able to calm my Mind, or meditate on other things or Subjects. – To return you my thanks with my whole heart & Soul. To express to you my sense of gratitude, or to make fair promise of proving deserving of such a Father, friend, & protector are little worth! But what can you expect from mortal Creatures my Papa? – I flatter myself time, and the never ceasing

assiduities of a fond, attached, and devoted Daughter ever ready, and active to the dictates of her Father's will, & pleasure and such a Father too!!! will if it pleases heaven at some future period to firmly demonstrate.

No word's can point to you my Papa, the impossible comfort, & consolations the perusal of Your letters on this Subject, of my dear Cousin enforce in my poor Mama and Eliza. It was really too much joy for one day – The Almighty will reward me, who so richly merits his bounteous Gifts. I am confident you will have been the means of preserving a deserving, and Amiable Youth from the cruel, & inexorable hand of Death. He is undoubtedly far too delicate for the hardship's of a Soldier – has he not shewn it ever since he has been in this Line by his reputed and constant ill health? During this Campaign, has he not been doing duty ill at ease, in pain, and sickness No, Not that Power on Earth, would make him quit the field. Tho it was Ruddiman's [*two illegible words*] entreaties at the peril of his Life.

He could not conquer his Spirit and his Honor he preferred – but now I thank my God (these impediments are over) and you my Father, he can easily do it: that as he has no causes not to be obliged to his friends and I fear not, but he will do well: Providence is ever kind, & good, more so, than was deserved. We will be his Guides, & Star. His worthy, & affectionate Uncle, his friend, his kind Preceptor. – I have now done, and shall not longer intrude on your hours of recreation but this more I have to say – I hope my present, & future Conduct will be such as to render Your days happy – The will I assure you is never wanting.

This is my Lydia's Birth day, God bless her dear Girl! and preserve her to her beloved Parents! – May she be happy, as the days ever long, and happy, as Eliza from her Heart wishes her!

Last night we supped alone, and this morning we breakfasted tête a tête – not a word of news have I heard for the amusement of my dear Father – Grant invited Leslie to dine with us on the fatted ox – poor Leslie, he looks very ill – He is going with Graham, & Cosby to China for the benefit of their healths.

Mama, my cousins Falconar, & Grant, join me in sincere Affection and Duty. I remain yours most truly, and with the utmost Sincerity of love, And attachment. Eliza: Davidson. The enclosed is a copy of a Certificate from Ruddiman pened from the Bottom of his Heart. – A letter of M<sup>rs</sup> Masons goes also enclosed.

*page 293 – 297 [bound in the wrong order but transcribed in the correct order – Elizabeth to her husband]  
[numbered as page 295]*

The Grove 19<sup>th</sup> June 1789

My worthy Davidson

Hark, I hear a Salute – (12 o'Clock) Grant has this moment come from the Fort, he sends me a scrap of paper announcing the arrival of an Indianman – Grant tells me Boyd has a letter from Macaulay by the Nottingham, saying it is very doubtful whether he will return to India this Season; at all events he will not come out in the Buccleugh. It is likewise uncertain of Miss Fisher's coming out this year. Major Stevenson has not had a letter from his sister concerning the Matter. M<sup>r</sup> Haffy, his Brother-in-law speaks of the young Lady's leaving England very waveringly – between ourselves, I shall not be sorry for the disappointment.

Till I receive my letters, I shall endeavor to chatt with you my Davidson on the subject of your recent generous conduct, regarding the amiable Falconar.

When I was honored with your dear favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> I could scarcely believe my Eyes – to be certain therefore, of the kind content there in contained, I perused, and reperused your



letter a hundred times before I could reconcile myself you were serious – “What Mama” says the gentle Eliza; “does my sweet Papa recall my Cousin? Gracious heaven! how good! Dear beloved Father may the young Eliza ever merit the Love, Friendship, and generosity of as valuable and dear a Parent” – Thus finished Eliza her Ejaculation. As for my part, It is difficult to say, whether admiration, gratitude or love, at the moment predominated in the agitated mind of your wife, but though, they by turns strove for dominion there, they at last yielded to that grateful joy which was at excited by your affectionate Parental and manly conduct. The dear Youth you have so kindly stretched your hand to protect, and befriend, I am fully persuaded will always drive to be Deserving of your affection and good opinion. While I am on this subject I must not omit to mention your Saint of a Sister, her heart likewise at this change of her Son’s, will be perfectly elated – poor soul, deprived of an affectionate Husband and a beloved Son, all and both within the year is too much – what must be her affliction, and sufferings? Cruel Destiny – I hope the Almighty will support, and give her fortitude to struggle through this world of Perplexities.

You indeed my good man mistook me – when I requested you to “Send me a few lines to recall Falconar”. I meant of course after the Expedition – I too, my dearest Davidson regard his honor, as well as his kind Uncle, and as much as he himself does – Tho repeatedly urged by the good Ruddiman to leave the Field – At the Hazard of his life he has continued to serve and do his Duty: I am well assured were he confined to his sick bed, he has too much honor and spirit, to quit his post with his own consent.

I hope none of us shall have cause to report of the change in his situation – I am confident as a merchant he cannot be worse off, but if all go on well, he can be greatly better. What are his prospects as the Youngest Cornet for these 20 years to come? Must not he, and his friends be ever begging and soliciting this great man, and that great Lady, for their interest and support, and after all, perhaps come off with a Cart Blanche. I am sure we have experienced the full force of this behavior – have we not? –

I think I see my good man, impatient to learn the arrival – you shall know all about it – Having touched subject next my heart, I have unthinkingly engrossed too much of your time – for which you must excuse me.

Well my dear D– the Rose is arrived she left London on the 7<sup>th</sup> March – [*the*] Miss Smith are come on her and I am in hourly expectation of them.

I enclose you a list of the Passengers and also a letter from old Corbett – I shall send you my letters on tomorrow for your perusal as I have not yet had time to read them.

I dispatched your mandate yesterday to the Southward with the Ruddiman certificate – Eliza’s dearest affection awaits you – God protect and prosper my Dear Man prays his devoted and old wife. Eliza: Davidson

page 297 – 300      [*Eliza to her husband*]

The Grove 29<sup>th</sup> June 1789

My Dearest D–

Eliza wrote you a long letter yesterday and meant to having closed her Cousin’s to you, but by the stupidity of the Servant, he left hers and only carried Falconar’s; when she sent her letter, it was then too late for the post.

As I have opened this with mentioning your nephews indulge me by allowing me to proceed with the topick. You will perhaps, my dear D– agree in spirit with your nephew – five hundred Pagodas is certainly an object to a young man, but in his present situation I think it is ten to one if he ever gets the money – His want of health, and the uncertainty of remaining in the Army is a further Obstacle. However, if he wishes to remain, and you approve, I must be satisfied – tho I must confess his relinquishing his present employ will

render me truly easy and happy in my mind. I am convinced as a Merchant, with you, assisting in your business, I too, shall try with my feeble aid to be serviceable in forwarding his success – I think altogether we shall do much better for him than merely his receiving his scanty pay of thirty Pagodas p<sup>r</sup> Month for these twenty years to come. I again ask your Pardon– I am warm and sincerely interested for your Nephew’s fate – I know I must appear teasing to his best friend, his Dearest Uncle – But you must attribute to my friendship to you, to him, and to E–. My prayers are in the cause of worth and goodness.

Eliza, sends you (oh, what shall I call that best and dearest of women?) M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty’s letter the perusal of it will I am sure make you love her – Is not your Dear Son a fine fellow? God preserve him my worth Man, to render you and his family happy.

This morning Eliza, Grant and I breakfasted at M<sup>r</sup> Turings and he showed me his daughters letters and read me a part of his wife’s where she mentions our little ones be in perfect health and adds that Lydia is a very accomplished girl this is not only satisfactory but gratefully pleasant to all parties but more particularly to my sweetest Cousin – The Turing family have all been ill – they live in Sloane Street Knightsbridge, their house stands them in, unfurnished one hundred and twenty Guineas, and their Carriage two hundred more. The house I lived in Cavendish Square, I paid for it only two hundred Guineas ready furnished, the situation one of the best in London. Our house in Gower Street, which I am confident is as large as the Turings only stands you in Eighty Guineas a year, the taxes included.

After Breakfast we, according to promise called on M<sup>rs</sup> Horne to take her to the Asylum, but, to my great surprise she excused herself by saying, She had a headach and could not accompany me – I was hurt at this, tho, I did not allow myself to show my disappointment, after sitting a while I took my leave.

I think as she was dressed to breakfast out with several Officers, had she a mind she could have accompanied me to the Asylum – She is a Fine Lady– that is enough. –

From thence we went to the Asylum, where I stayed near two hours, waiting for M<sup>rs</sup> Gibbons, who told me she would meet me there, also consulting with Story how to fix the inscription Board, and conversing with Gericke – the latter laments exceedingly my departure, and said “I am sure no one will take so much care of the poor Asylum as you do ma’am”.

Major Young and Stevenson dined here, we did not fail to drink the Chief and the little Author.

Poor Captain Scooler is dead to the Southward – and the worthy Cruitzer is expected to bid adieu every moment to this world of woe – he sent for Young this forenoon, and told him everything regarding his Sister

Took his leave of the Major – Alas!!! The Berrington is arrived, she left Eng<sup>d</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. I shall go to Town tomorrow to see the Cap<sup>m</sup> and to enquire after my Box &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. – I have not yet had any news. God bless you – Yours E. D–

*page 301 – 305 [young Eliza Davidson to her father]*

Grove 28<sup>th</sup> June 89

My Dearest Papa’s letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> has been received by the two Eliza's & rendered them most happy by the very Agreeable Account it contained of his being well; but to day we have had no such pleasing Intelligence – I trust in God, & flatter myself you are well, my Papa, but have been prevented writing in numerable inconveniences naturally resulting from long & fatiguing Traveling –

By Mama's request I enclose you my Cousin's letter to you, this day received in Answer to your truly kind Mandate – you will see, Papa, his sentiments on this occasion proceeds from delicacy to your benevolence & goodness – wishing to make the best of his [*next three words illegible*] dear Papa, after having been so generously kind in requesting to take him under your benign care & Paternal Protection being well assured his Assisting in your Service shall be all that you can wish, & and that of an Affectionate, & Attached nephew: notwithstanding his seeming propriety of reasoning, Do not hesitate one moment to withdraw him from his present Line of life – you know, my Papa, how happy it will make your Eliza's, not to mention his poor Mother in this Change – Excuse Mama, & me in being So orderly in their business, you well know my dear Papa, his constitution is tender, his promotion no inducement to his continuing in the Army. We cannot surely be so good a judge of his Health as Ruddiman who has no other motive in saying what he has said, but from real goodness of heart. – The 500 pagodas is no object in competition with his Life – Should he be appointed in the Civil Service, he can always demand it. If he is not appointed this Season he will be on the next. – I shall not despair my sweetest Father, the goodness of the Almighty is great & various!

Ruddiman dines here to day, as does Jones – Grant also – Young arrived yesterday. Grant has asked him & Stevenson to dine at the Grove tomorrow.

Anoma's adopted children were again at church to day, and on her Entrance they very prettily all stood up and courteseyed, which had a pleasing effect & showed their gratitude for her benevolent Protection of them – they behaved remarkably well, & were greatly admired by the Congregation – These are pleasing Subjects for Mama's reflection. “A Salute is firing, I hope it will prove an Europe Ship” – If so you shall hear further particulars tomorrow – If we have any Intelligence in time to transfer it by this Post, of course it shall not be deferred.

This Morning we had no breakfast's – Yesterday Eveng we had a charming refreshing rain which lasted an hour not very heavy – The ground was perfectly dry in half an hour – at night we proceeded to the Chases to visit their Sisters – Two such Frights! good heavens defend me! One is like the Captain, the other like the Justice – We unfortunately stumbled on the wedding Eveng and was accordingly introduced to Captain & M<sup>rs</sup> Murray, who to compare her to give you an Idea of her, I really cannot easily say, but I believe it would be Miss Ward, only that Miss W– has the advantage of her in point of figure M<sup>r</sup> Chase seems to be quite harrassed at introducing his two old Sisters to his friends – It is lucky they come out engaged to India, [*unreadable word*] he says he would have sent them back [*unreadable word*] again without the loss of time. – Those invited to the wedding Supper were Colonel & M<sup>rs</sup> Sydenham, General & M<sup>rs</sup> [*illegible word*] & family, [*illegible word*] &<sup>a</sup> &<sup>a</sup>. –

Here is Jones arrived at the Grove – I will go and learn the News.

5 o Clock

I enclose you the list of the Ships Passengers arrived. I have just wished good afternoon to our Guests & am come to enclose my Amiable Papa a letter from the excellent M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty to me, which is a Comick Tragedy – Her Accounts of Alex is charming! but those of the Falconar's are melancholy & Heart rending.

My Cousin's Appointment is disheartening, however with the Aid of the Almighty, and my loved Papa's Smiles, I do not despair, & shall live in hopes of better days – Is not the description of Eliza Falconar most pleasing?!

Adieu my beloved Father Ever affectionately your E: Davidson

Mama sends tenderest love Eliza gives fond kind Salams –

page 306 is blank

page 307 – 308 [Alexander to his wife - the writing down the side on the reverse of page 307 is intended for the end of page 308 and is transcribed as if written there]

Waltier near Vizagapatam 5<sup>th</sup> July 1789

My Elizabeth – I lost a good deal of time this morning in searching for the List of books you chose for me: I have just found it. I return it to you with an addition of some few books from recollection; And a few more selected from M<sup>r</sup> Jones' list. Return him Watt's Improvement of the mind, with my best Compliments.

The Lanterns for the large house you may bring with you, or dispose of: fashionable ones are always to be had.

Upwards of 900 Pagodas are mortgaged to Ranga Pillah for the Stables – Gill offers two Thousand Pagodas in two years; and offers also to mortgage the Property: I shall get Chase and Parry to settle this business.

I am in the middle of such a Chaos of papers accumulated since my absence that I cannot write, consistently, till they are arranged & sorted. Yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> I read last night. I shall like yourself, and M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty read over your late letters and take Mems.

Resumed the 7<sup>th</sup> July 89 10 o'Clock forenoon.

No tappal yesterday from the Norrad, without which we do not dispatch our Provincial Tappal; so that you would be a day without hearing from me. In future, during the Short stay you may make at Madras, I shall be punctual, and write till you desire me to stop. Last night I received Falconar's long letter from Coilgoody, or rather Kalacoil, 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. What he has said is sensible and spirited – You must at any rate bring him with you, when we shall consult more at large his interest. Every suggestion of his had occurred to me; but when his health was in competition it ever bore with me every Consideration.

I have never had any private communication with him on the subject.

Last night was the first night the young Eliza failed me.

Col<sup>l</sup> Prendergast told me on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> two India Men were going in: the Dragon, as I believe I mentioned before, arrived two days before the Tappal.

Poor Falconar! We must conjointly study thy welfare, prosperity, & happiness.

I enclose a list of Books to be retained; and also a farewell minute for leaving the Asylum: if you are diffident of the propriety, or the style of it, consult your friends Hamilton and Bell, on the Subject. Shall I write to M<sup>r</sup> Holland to get you [*the next is written down the side of the reverse of page 307*] a passage on a Europe Ship? What think you of the Houghton? Farewell! I cannot longer detain the Tappals: Indeed as the old head Peon allowed them to go to Town without my leave, stupid Fellow! I am afraid they are gone. My love and friendship to the young Eliza & the Grove prays your Alex<sup>t</sup>.

Davidson

page 309 – 310 [Alexander to his wife]

Waltier, near Vizack,

(A little Volunteer)

near 9 in the Evening, 13<sup>th</sup> July 1789.

My dear Elizabeth,

While our Party are playing their last Rubber before Supper, I amuse myself with writing a line to you.

This will arrive after the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. The instant you have a glimpse of a passage to Vizagapatam, I know you will have the goodness to inform me.

I have some hope, and a tolerable one, of remitting M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty £200 by way of Bengal: and I hope, upwards of Twelve Hundred Pounds (1,200) by way of Madras, time enough for the Swallow: I shall know in a few days: what do you say at Madras about the sailing of the Swallow?

I am happy, very happy, I have had the good fortune to please you and Bessy, by my Correspondence: when you both were, and are so good to me, it would have been ungrateful had I not exerted myself. Tho I am on the wrong side as to Entertainment, and Novelty, Yet knowing, so well as I do the haste of you, and Eliza. I studied Your goût, and served up what or what I thought was palatable.

Without a figure, I wrote from my heart— and I well knew Yours were in unison. I have had even the vanity (laudable vanity!) to think I could sometimes cause the eye to glisten for an absent husband, and Father, who loved You both; and at other times by exerting those powers which impregnated the fancy of Alec, to cause an enchanting smile, and even a broad laugh for my two partial Eliza's.

It what's my pride, my ambition, my happiness, to please you both; nay pause, for why should I hide it, to raise myself by my punctuality, assiduity and promptitude in Your good opinions.

I was in a manner, tho not so well qualified as I ought, Tutor! to you both; and it was natural for the Master to wish, and endeavour, to shine.

There, my Elizabeth, my Young Eliza, (for I am sure Bessy very frequently peeps over your Shoulder) is a letter, and a sheet filled; and I declare on my word when I sat down I thought of nothing else except that I ever am Your faithful Friend & Husband Alex.

Davidson

Love to Eliza. Friendship to the amiable Falconar: and to the confident, but friendly Grant. M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson.

*page 311 – 314 [Alexander to his wife]*

My dear Elizabeth,

Before I sit down to the business of the day, I have the pleasure of replying to your esteemed letter of the 5th July

The Picture you draw of Capper's situation is too affecting. Time only can compose, and calm his Grief: we were all here deeply affected; particularly M<sup>rs</sup> Prendergast, and myself. – It is to no purpose to dwell on so melancholy a subject.

I am happy to see such respectable Circles honoring the Grove with their presence: but can it be otherwise, when the hospitality and attention of my wife, and daughter are only to be equalled by their good sense, and affability.

I shall be glad to know the contents of Miss Popham's parcel from Gower Street; if I am not mistaken, beside the baskets, there were some drawings. Lydia's Drawings from the information we have had of them must be valuable, at least to us. I intend to write Lydia; but in case you should address her first, suppose you put the drawing of Likeness in her head, in the Manner of Downman, a little Indian ink; then to wash the paper with some water colours. I dare say for ten Guineas Downman, or some other Artist in that way would instruct her. By the Account of old M<sup>r</sup> Corbett, and Colin Macaulay, Lydia must be a great Genius.

I should be surprised if Miss Cox were thought not superior to M<sup>rs</sup> Ben Sulivan, Miss Greer or even M<sup>rs</sup> Sam Johnson; when girls are so famed as she has been, she must be an Angel to stand the general test of Madras: to stand the scrutinous examination of caprice, jealousy and envy. Lord, says Caprice – “They talked so much about Miss Cox, Miss

Cox, I thought to have seen a Prodigy”. “I declare to God, I think she is nothing so very extraordinary.” “Pray Ma’am, did you know Miss Vigors, afterward M<sup>rs</sup> Cotgrave?” “No Madam”. “M<sup>rs</sup> Cotgrave had a much finer red and white, and was a prettier Woman.” “Jealousy observed – with all this talk of Miss Cox, I am sure there are several finer Women in Madras: the gentlemen, who are the best Judges, have told me so”. Envy thought nothing of her! – “she should never be afraid of want of Attention in the Company of Miss Cox!”.

What said Candour? “That Miss Cox was a fine Woman – we were much obliged to her Uncle for bringing so splendid an ornament to the Society of India”. The Elizas will be impartial. I could not help laughing at the sudden effect of Miss Smart’s charms on M<sup>r</sup> Kissleback. When I see so very plain a man smitten, I always think of what Miss Harlow says to her friend – “What, my dear Miss How, must the love of such a husband be?” You will of course tell me of the arrival of Falconar; after what I have written I defer saying more till I see you and him.

Garrow’s Note on Alec’s novel is grave, sententious, & sensible, his heart was warm with the recent death of his Mother in January. I return his Letter: Bessy never sent me any letters of Miss Falconar’s, by the by, her letter is pleasingly worded: it is to be admired for its Simplicity, and Tenderness.

You are grown thinner, my dear Woman, from Fatigue, exercise, and bustle: thank God nothing very lately has happened that ought to cause you anxiety of mind. Your husband is well.

The news from Gower Street most pleasing. Your favorite Nephew not worse. I hope greatly better.

What is become of Ruddiman? Ask him, in my name, does the old Nabob pay him his Arrears? Ask him how does Sir Paul come off? It is true R. will succeed Buliman; but unless poor Ruddiman get the Pagodas his time is lost, and an Hospital might be better: I know nothing of the Profits of Vizack; he ought to live with us awhile his table would cost him nothing. At any rate to quicken the Nabob in his attention and friendship, for him, Ruddiman ought, in my humble opinion, to tell him that if he be driven to such a change, by want of Funds, his Highness cannot blame him for want of fidelity, or attachment.

If you could persuade a good shooting Peon to come with you, or to accompany Ramah: I mean a snipe Shooter particularly, he would be a great prize, and would cost us nothing. Please to bring me a piece of silk of the enclosed Pattern.

Hicky has done wrong in taking 300 Pag<sup>s</sup> for a full length; and even charged M<sup>rs</sup> Horne Pag<sup>s</sup> 30 for a Dog: his predecessors never did such a thing: I am sure he cannot have much custom. What does he think of Renegale? Has Smart seen the Group? Has he mended the Speck on Calliope’s nose? If this letter arrive in time let the [*illegible word*] Taylor make me a new old fashioned Coat, with a Prussian binding, colour dark

Mulberry. : I must **Stop**, – or I should scribble for ever.

Your very faithful D.

I shall leave my Love for Bessy out of this Letter for variety.

Vizak 13 July 1789 M<sup>r</sup> D– M<sup>rs</sup> D–

The Grove 21<sup>st</sup> July 1789

My Dear Davidson

Your favors of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>, are duly received – I have of late been very lacrose in my letters to you, which has proceeded entirely from my being greatly engaged in the business of the Sale and Packing– considering I have had little or no assistance, I think I have done wonders.

On Friday last the 17<sup>th</sup> was the last day of the Out–Cry here, not finding buyers for the Books and Pictures I stopt the sale and mean to have them conveyed into the Fort– for which purpose I have got Chase to lend me the Hall of his Fort house; on Friday next I shall make another attempt for the disposal of the Books and Painting.

Monbray has hinted to Grant a wish to purchase the large Bookcase with Books complete – He has requested Grant to desire me to value them, this has puzzled me greatly, however, I shall with the advice of your friends try to do the best I can to sell them to an advantage.

The furniture sold at the Gardens pretty tolerably, the white chairs were bought by Major Stevenson, the dozen for thirty three Pagodas: the only thing almost that went off well. I believe our furniture brought us in nearly six hundred Pagodas – This is not much considering our things were good. We must never morn my dearest man Any useless things, I mean large Pictures and great quantity of Books, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. A few light pretty articles being suitable to others, will when sold bring in your money.

As Cochrane [*h*]as the Lanterns at the large house can I do you think take them away from him? – he has also the Blackwood chairs and wall lamps.

I would not if I was you have anything to say to Gill he I believe is a sad rogue – and not to be depended on.

Regarding Falconar, I must tell you he is very willing to come, but he thinks it would be better to follow us – he is exceeding anxious before he quits the Service to obtain the Prize for the Persian, he is of opinion in four Months he will be able to claim the 500 Pagodas. His argument is most sensible and proper and yet, when I think there are, or that many impediment may occur, to prevent his obtaining the Premium, it disheartens me perfectly. I own, I should wish he would accompany us, but perhaps I am in the wrong – Should a war breakout, and he to join, it would be a sad predicament.

I am obliged to you for the farewell minute for leaving the Asylum. On this subject as well as on many other I shall have much to say to you.

I know you had remitted one thousand Pounds, but being so long reaching England caused all the uneasiness you have perused in my letters – Another remittance sent now by the Swallow which ship is to sail from Bengal in August would make them happy and comfortable.

You must excuse my old Uncle, he is in Money matters rigid, not at all guilty of India Liberality –

I am happy to find and perfectly do I agree with you regarding M<sup>rs</sup> Cairnes – I have not in the least committed myself respecting this business.

M<sup>rs</sup> Horne has positively refused having anything to do with the Asylum – I shall call a meeting, but not till Monday week, M<sup>r</sup> Gerrick being much indisposed, and still continuing indifferent, I am obliged to wait till then. I am afraid I shall not be able to leave this before 10<sup>th</sup> August. Do not be alarmed, Raphael and Hamilton tell me it is a far better time than the end of this Month: I shall not send your letter to the great Man – he is a shabby Sheep –

I hope you have by this got all our things safe by the Good Intent—The Admiral's and Cuthbert's pictures I opened, I think they are like them, for fear any body should see them here, I packed them immediately and sent them off.

I believe Lady Jodrell will be the Lady chosen for the President – I think she will be active in the cause of the poor Orphans – her Ladyship is approved of by M<sup>rs</sup> Casamaijor and M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour.

I shall tell you in my next further about the disposal of the Grove.

How did M<sup>rs</sup> Maxton like her Hats &<sup>c</sup>, pray give my best compliments to her, and hers. Tomorrow I shall set down to write to my good Cousin the Europe Packet by the way of Bengal is to be closed on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

My Young men join me in kind Love, and duty, to you, as does the Elizas who I do assure you wish most heartily to be of your party— we are now sincerely tired of this place. The only regret I shall feel in leaving this will be if your dear nephew does not go with us – Heaven bless and long preserve you my beloved D— may you long live to be a constant source of comfort and happiness Prays your devoted wife Eliza: Davidson.

page 319 [Alexander Davidson to his nephew Alexander Falconar]

Vizack Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 1791 At Supper.

My Dear Falconar,

While you were at Camp I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Sewell acquainting of the arrival of the Packet: it was the only letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> which came.

Some hours afterward the Tappal of the 20<sup>th</sup> arrived with your Packet: M<sup>rs</sup> D. and the Ladies are uneasy at not having heard from M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty especially as M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes writes M<sup>rs</sup> C. had been ill: So has Mary. If Buchanan be still at Madras will you ask him about Gower Street.

M<sup>rs</sup> D. is evidently better her cough going off and her face Rheumatism better. I expect she will be out in a day or two: M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes writes me no news.

Your affectionate. Alex<sup>r</sup>. Davidson

A<sup>r</sup>. Falconar Es<sup>qr</sup>

page 320 – 323 [Elizabeth to her husband]

The Grove 25<sup>th</sup> July 1789

My Dear Man

Your favor without a date, but which ought to have been dated on the 14<sup>th</sup> I am duly honored with.

As the first part is in answer to more of the 5<sup>th</sup> I shall pass it over, but proceed with replying to your questions. Miss Popham brought me a paper box containing four little Baskets from M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty made by Harriot, accompanied with a small letter written by herself. Lydia's Drawing I imagine is coming out on the Houghton.

Miss Cox my Dear Davidson is not the beauty we seem taught to expect – she has no person, she is tall but ill made, her teeth not the best, her complexion pretty well, her Hair borders on the red. Her Eyes resembles Major Maul's – In short she is not approved by the Beaux.—

Miss Smart is reported has refused M<sup>r</sup> Kissleback. Miss Henry is going to be married to her Cousin, Ensign Evans: they have been engaged to each other some years past. Miss Fontanean was married yesterday Evening to a Captain Terret of the Kings R<sup>gt</sup> her shipmate.



We never see Ruddiman unless we particularly invite him, I have sent a card requesting his company to dinner here tomorrow, if he comes I shall communicate to him the contents of your letter. The good Doctor is much engaged with the old Nabob, regarding the payment of the Pagodas, there I believe, he does not succeed well. It is suggested Bulman is meditating towards England.

M<sup>r</sup> Smart has cleared the speck on Callispe's nose, she now looks handsomer than ever. I shall not forget your Coat and green silk.

I must now tell you of Falconar – He and I have had many arguments regarding his accompanying us, he has at last considered but he is exceedingly anxious to obtain his prize for the Persian. He thinks there is a certainty of the Company's setting aside all Sir Archibald's appointments, the Idea has rise from something to that purport having been mentioned in one of the general letters of this Season: but before this takes place and he resigns to go north with us, after the pains and expense he has been at to acquire the language, he thinks by your writing the Governor a few lines, stating his situation, and the labour he has had in accomplishing the Persian, that if M<sup>r</sup> Holland had any feeling for a young man he would allow him the prize. Since his return he has again taken to his studdies and by the time I embark he will be ready for an Examination. The Governor having before refused me, in requesting his aid and friendship, I think he may now prove more obliging. If you do not my D<sup>r</sup> desire to trouble M<sup>r</sup> Holland, send me a letter or rather the copy of one, that I may again solicit this great man of the East. If F<sup>r</sup> could obtain the premium now, it would make him easy in his mind – And his joining you as a Merchant would I say render me perfectly easy. Forgive me the best of Husbands – when I tell you, when I think, if he is again obliged to join the Reg<sup>t</sup> – I feel pain in my heart, that it is inconceivable to express – were he my darling Alex<sup>t</sup>, I think I could not regard him more – I cannot help it, no can I restrain my affection, when the object of it is amiable, and worthy.

To M<sup>r</sup> Holland it will only be necessary to say, as your nephew he has attained the Persian language, and as his constitution will not admit of his remaining in the service, as something has offered more to his advantage, therefore, you flatter yourself, he will be indulgent in granting permission for receiving his prize after going through the necessary examination for that purpose.

I again ask your pardon for my Dictating the mode of addressing the Gov<sup>r</sup> – As my time is now short, your immediate answer will be highly necessary.

We supped last night at the Garrows, a wedding supper for Captain and M<sup>rs</sup> Terret, the former a prodigious Beau, the latter the reverse of a fine Belle.

Breakfasted here this Morning Majors Stevenson, and Young, for the last time; they leave this place after dinner.

Porcher has purchased Oakeley's House for eight thousand Pagodas. I am told at the Mason's Ball, our Premiere and his Brother was not at all noticed neither the Civil or Military paid them the least attention, they only shewed themselves and left the house before supper.

I believe Lady Jodrell will succeed me, M<sup>rs</sup> Chase and Thewls are to be appointed Directors in the room of M<sup>rs</sup> Capper and M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson.

Our friend Hamilton and Lautor is jaring the latter has put the former in Court for 30,000 Pagodas – there is to be a meeting to day for Hamilton to find bail.

I find a great difficulty collecting the Outcry money – with much trouble I have got three hundred Pagodas from [*illegible word*] to discharge Captain Applegarths bill for Pork &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>. – God bless my dearest Davidson.

*pages 324 – 325 [lists of books of Alexander Davidson's – not transcribed]*

pages 326 – 327 [Elizabeth to Mrs Chitty – possibly incomplete]

By the Rose by way of Bengal Waltier – 27<sup>th</sup> October ‘89

My dear and kindest of Friends –

I cannot suffer the Rose to leave Bengal, without sending a few lines, by her, to inform you and your darling charges of our safe arrival at Vizagapatam – and at the same time, my dearest Cousin, to assure you, and my sweet children are continually in my thoughts – O, my God! how I long to see you all. If the Supreme Being but spares my poor Husband, I think in the course of a very few years we shall all meet – meet I hope never while in this world to part again.

I beg your pardon, I am too grave – I did not mean to have been so serious – But to proceed. Eliza, my favourite young man and I left Madras early in the morning on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September for this place on board a small french Vessel. We experienced much bad weather at sea which with very confined accommodation made it perfectly unpleasant; however after five days sail we had the Happiness to reach this port, and had the grateful satisfaction of finding M<sup>r</sup> Davidson in good health and spirits. I now imagine my amiable friend, we shall here take our abode for some years and by the blessing of the Almighty we shall be happy in this retreat till fortune directs our course to old England.

Vizagapatam is a vontick [*volcanic?*] place on the Sea Beach surrounded with hills and Rocks, owing of late years to a great increase of inhabitants, the Town itself is becoming unhealthy, to avoid the prevailing fever that rages we have taken up our residence at our Garden House which is large and commodious about four miles from the Fort called Waltier. situated on a peninsula near the Sea, a dry pleasant situation esteemed exceedingly healthful.

As my time is now limited I shall not herein enlarge – but by the next dispatch from Madras, I shall answer all your affectionate letters and Journals word for word till then my dearest friend you must be contented with these few lines.

In April next I shall leave this for Madras in hope of receiving my sweet Lydia, and her Cousins to convey them to M<sup>r</sup> D–. God protect them from all the dangers of the sea: may they all arrive safe to the Arms of their dear friends.

The enclosed is the second bill of Exchange in favor of M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar. I hope you got my first safe by the Swallow Packet by which vessel I did myself the pleasure to address you and by the same opportunity M<sup>r</sup> D– sent you one thousand Pounds for the Expence of the Children and family.

page 327 is blank

## 2<sup>nd</sup> volume

page 328 – 342 [Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty]

Vizagapatam Dec<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1789

I now address my beloved Cousin, from the very center of retirement there is a tender pleasure, my friend, in reflecting, that perhaps at the same instant, though divided by many thousand leagues the same glowing affection is animating our hearts, the same pleasing task employing our hands.

Believe me, it is with real and sincere satisfaction I resume my pen; to thank you with a grateful heart, for the many kind letters and Journals I have been honored with by the

ships of the Season; I shall now proceed to acknowledge your favours according to their respective dates.

To be Methodical, I shall begin with your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 1788 written by the way of Ostend which I only received the end of July, a few days before I took my departure to the Northward. This letter tho, received the last, not least in my estimation, must cordially did I hail it; as I do indeed every one of your dear favors.

The acceptable circumstances contained in it, concerning your friendly and generous exertions in favor of my favourite nephew; your kind anxiety on account of my good man's situation; the truly maternal, an affectionate care you hourly bestow on my dear children; together with your friendly and kind attention to M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar, her Daughters Eliza and Jannet, the Pattersons, and poor Tom Hunt, all these generous humane actions failed not to inspire if possible with superior Idea of your benignity and Philanthropy. – But why do I talk in this style? Is there anything good and amiable that is not familiar to my dearest Cousin! May you my kind friend long live to fulfil the benevolent purposes of your heart, where I hope you will ever find a sympathetick corner for your grateful Elizabeth.

As I have addressed you by the Swallow, and the Rose, via Bengal on the subject of Money, I shall here in say no more, except that it is to assure you M<sup>r</sup> Davidson will never be willingly inattentive to your Injunctions: I hope in future you will not have cause to be uneasy on that score.

I am really vexed the things I sent you by Captain Clarkson did not arrive with you; Had he not assured me he would have conveyed them to you with safety I should not have troubled him with any of my trifles: the silks, fans &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup> I sent were pretty, had they reached you I should have been highly gratify I'd stop knew line the gold chints I sent by M<sup>r</sup> Westcott I lament you did not receive them; they were neat, as well as elegant, had they reached you they would have been greatly admired. I was glad the Curry powder was in good order, as I am now situated I fear I shall seldom have it in my power to oblige in sending you such things myself, (not you), for I conceive your acceptance of my little remembrance says is doing me a favor.

In the Box Cap<sup>m</sup> Clarkson had I sent silks for M<sup>r</sup> Corbett's sister, Lady Grant, yourself, M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner, Miss Hancock, besides fans for Miss Luard, the children, Grubb, Celey, Dennis – what a pity it is they were all lost!

So you have seen all our India friends, the Turings, Saunders, Westcotts, the Macaulays, little Major Jourdan, the Anstruthers &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>: – and of them all you like the Westcotts best they are certainly agreeable people, M<sup>rs</sup> W– is much respected here. When you see the above mentioned persons pray give them my best and cordial Remembrance.

I did not give your card to M<sup>rs</sup> John Turing, because she is rather a high Lady, and as we were not sincerely intimate, It made me rather shy of her. However, I have not forgotten you my dearest Cousin I have distributed all the cards you sent to several of my friends. I have also sent the Casamajors one of them. My good man has employed one of the Blackmen here, in making some more after your sample; which will do to give a way to any of our friends that may here – after leave this Country.

I am happy to hear my sweet Lydia is so much improved in her Musick, M<sup>r</sup> D– had written you regarding giving her a watch. What a busy scene it is at this moment in Gower Street with you all, oh! my darling Cousin how sincerely do I grieve for you, the severe parting you must experience on resigning your charges makes my heart bleed; and what is worse, in which way can I ever recompense you for all your friendship and exertions? I am sure I know not. I will however assure you, the whole study of my life shall be to convince you I am in possession of a heart that overflows with every sentiment of love, and gratitude, to render you happy shall be my unremitting & constant thought.

M<sup>rs</sup> Latham's marriage created much laughter at Madras – the Colonel in marrying her, must of had her Pounds in view.

The Miss Whittalls her nieces are both married to two of the Companys Civil Servants, both young in the service; Mess<sup>rs</sup> Grunhill and Branfield, at present they are fixed at Madras. I am vexed Mary should give you cause to be displeased with her, unless she exerts herself and pays attention to all your injunctions, I am afraid she will make her Father as well as myself not only very angry but very unhappy. As her sister Lydia will be absent from her I shall flatter myself her constant attention will be to give you every satisfaction and pleasure in her power; In hope of her amendment and trusting to her future compliant disposition I shall herein drop this unpleasant theme.

Tho, Harriet may be “careless sometimes”, I hope and pray that she may not be deficient to her beloved Godmother, in point of respect, obedience, or affection: any impropriety of her conduct at her time of life, can be more easily admitted of than in one that is older.

When you my friend were receive this I expect my saucy Alex<sup>r</sup>, your favourite little man, will be grown a great scholar and nearly fit for Harrow – his Father is well pleased with your well judged arrangements concerning his only Son; and I believe he has long ago addressed you on the subject. I hope my Aleck will always be ambitious of becoming a man of letters: gentlemen he cannot be a great man, or a gentleman without an education: [*couple of illegible words*] he must be a Grammarian & a correct Latin scholar.

Your account of the good health of Lady Grant, the Gardiners, M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan, my uncle, the Pigous, gave me inexpressable pleasure long, very long may they enjoy that greatest of blessings.

I am rejoiced the Long cloth got safe to you; Should you be in want of more, pray let me know at: at any rate, I shall send you a few pieces next year.

I am glad Tom Hunt is so well disposed of – I hope he will be good and grateful fellow, I am sure he owes much to your merited generosity and benevolence.

You really my friend made Eliza and me very happy in giving such pleasing information respecting Slingsby – give our best compliments to him, tell him anything that is proper and handsome of us on his having overcome all his difficulties.

The shoes came safe, mine fit charmingly. I am obliged to you for the trouble you have had in sending them out.

Your favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1788 is now to be replied to – I received it by the Valentine, Captain Lewis, on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1789. You afforded me much pleasure in giving such grateful information of the continuance of all your health, and of the children's improvements, both these circumstances; as well as every other where your and their happiness depend shall ever yield us comfort. You say “The children are making hasty strides to appear with the elegance of other young women in the world”. To you and to your unlimited attention my beloved Cousin they are indebted, every praise they may obtain must give you a degree of pleasure not easily to be expressed, and I shall not be deficient in boasting under whom they were brought up, and to whose Maternal care they are beholden for their future welfare and appearance.

Lydia has no reason to be afraid of her size, we have at Madras just now no less than a dozen women much shorter than I am sure she is – when I was in England, I think she was taller than Pentap, we have three ladies much lower in stature then little Pentap is. Little Janet Falconar's conduct was natural, her affection to her dear Parent must plead in her behalf; and I am happy she is gone to her amiable parent again, may she poor girl be a kind companion and bosom friend to her excellent Mother.

The seal which you promised to send by the Valentine, has not arrived. I am glad you liked the Macaulays, from the younger, I have had two or three letters by the last ships we

expect him out on the Packet which is thought will arrive on the Coast in the course of next Month.

Tho you paid high duties for the long cloths and Handkerchiefs they will prove useful to you and the children. I am well satisfied my amiable friend the chints Capt<sup>n</sup> Munro delivered you, met with your approval; I would send you the Indies were they in my power so great is my affection, and, so desirous I am of convincing you of my gratitude and Friendship.

Your description of poor Tom Hunt is truly pleasing to me I shall hope when reason and reflection comes to his aid and he will render thanks also to Providence for having placed him under the care of such kind friends as yourself, and M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has been of use to him. Captain Robertson did promise M<sup>r</sup> D— and me he would procure the birth of a midshipman on Board of an Indiaman, now if you were to remind him of it perhaps he might have it in his power to serve the Boy. Tom's Father was second or third officer of the same ship to which Robertson was a midshipman he told us often Tom's father used frequently to give him a meal, when he could not get one.

I am glad you liked the muslin M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther delivered you Miss Hancock likewise approved of hers. I shall endeavour to send Mary and Harriott a couple of shawl handkerchiefs as soon as possible. M<sup>rs</sup> Lewins sister a Dutch young woman who we entertained near six weeks at our house at Madras promised to send you a few feathers by the channel of her sister, for your charges, but God knows whether she will fulfil her word.

Yours of 15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1789 my much loved friend by the Rockingham, I received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June one month and a day after your last above acknowledged.

How kindly and feelingly you express yourself guarding my saucy boy's going to School; and the dear anxiety you describe for his return on Christmas – Had you been his own Parent, the sweet fellow could not have been more loved or more attended to. God of heaven grant he may prove equal to all your most ardent hopes can form; And when grown up that he may never cease to acknowledge his obligation to his inestable foster Mother; and bear in remembrance her unparalleled attention and affection. Poor fellow! may he have it in his power to show you my charming friend his gratitude – I think he has a good heart; and the seeds of every thing manly and generous –much therefore is to be expected from him: besides your love and kindness must make a lasting impression on his mind.

I am really concerned to find M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes had the ill fortune to experience another miscarriage – tell her, with my best regards, I most truly sympathize with her. Ask her if she should again favor an increase of family, if she is not otherwise engaged, would she a second time accept of me for a Godmother? I am backward of making her the offer myself; You perhaps my friend may sound her on the Matter, and if agreeable to all parties you may inform her of my wish.

I have written to her so much on the subject of my poor nephew, I almost begin to despair of obtaining my sanguine wish; however, hope is so sweet, that I shall not entirely give up a project so near my heart. You kindly promising to miss no opportunity of arguing my situation perhaps have some weight. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has by this conveyance Petitioned the Court of Directors to have Falconar appointed in the civil service at Madras, the Copy of the Petition with his letters to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes and David Scott I shall herein enclose for your perusal. –

Soon after M<sup>r</sup> Falconar's arrival in this Country M<sup>r</sup> Davidson by Sir Archibald Campbell's interest, had his nephew appointed a Conductor in the Artillery, twelve months after he was appointed here a Fireworker and afterwards a Cornet of Horse. While in this situation orders came out from home that those young men appointed by Governor Campbell were

to be dismissed the Company's service: the above order together with Falconar's constant ill health, determined his Uncle at once to remove him from the Army and should take him under his own protection. Though, with his uncle he may in time do well, yet, we cannot but be very anxious for his attaining a permanent establishment. when you have perused M<sup>r</sup> D-'s petition, I am well assured you will agree with me in opinion, that he has not asked a favor unbecoming, or too presuming of the Court of Directors.

When I reflect M<sup>rs</sup> Jackson on account of her mere personal appearance procured both her Sons appointments on the Civil establishment, And M<sup>r</sup> Davidson one of the Companys oldest Servants, after serving them 30 years with a just and fair character; and I must add, after having been most unwarrantedly disgraced, not to be favored in the only application he may ever solicit – is I confess severely galling to a feeling and generous mind.

As he is to be dismissed it was better surely making way. One degradation in a family is sufficient: but even this Circumstance ought to operate in M<sup>r</sup> Falconar's favor in Council. Appropo's, as I have mentioned M<sup>rs</sup> Scot Jackson, I must tell you her Brother has been lately appointed second of this place, unfortunate man, owing to his former course of life he is now a poor emaciated being; The medical men say he is not long for this world.

About a year and half ago he married a Miss Campbell, this Lady not being one of Governor Campbell's nieces, and indeed no way connected with him, the Brother's marriage had given M<sup>rs</sup> Jackson very heinous offence. She has also a Cousin here a M<sup>r</sup> Richard Keating a good natured young man, who they say, she has used very cavalierly; tho, he was sent out to this Country by her, to this young man M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has been very kind. I only notice this circumstance to shew he is too generous to return evil for evil but to bestow good for Evil. –

Betsy is in high expectation of seeing shortly the American Slave you have promised to send her by M<sup>r</sup> Macaulay, this gift will be invaluable present to her, as it contains some of your hair

M<sup>rs</sup> Welch the Hughes are well, M<sup>r</sup> Hughes has got a very handsome appointment, if he lives a few years he must make an elegant fortune. M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes now does not so much desire to see England as she did a year ago.

M<sup>rs</sup> Davis is expected out this next season – I am afraid I have got myself into disgrace with her: poor woman; A few months past the only Brother she had died of the Liver, a disorder very prevalent on this Coast.

29<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1788 Your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1788 I received on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 89 By the Europa, Captain Applegarth. How good you are my friend, to be so continually incumbered by your Exertions of friendship – Providence most certainly reward your merit tenfold; Your benignity of conduct will not nor cannot pass unnoticed, here or hereafter.

You acted as your dear self in prevailing on M<sup>r</sup> Wilkinson to keep Aleck Patterson a year longer in England: had the Boy come out, he would not I am sure have profited in any one respect in this Country, neither one of his Parents capable of giving kind liberal instructions.

I am very happy, my friend, you sent for Eliza Falconar; by her letters, and by the accounts you give of the sweet girl, I doubt not we shall be truly happy in her society: whatever she may want in point of beauty, her amiable mental qualifications will fully compensate for deficiencies.

Captain Churchill is a very superficial man, his visit to you was merely to say he had done me the honor of calling on my family; He is by no means a desirable acquaintance: we paid him some little attention entirely owing to the Miss Browns who came out with

him if you recall they were Daughters to Lady King, they are both married but the Youngest is now a Widow and returned to Europe this Season.

Captain Anstruther is a gentleman born and bred therefore his behaviour cannot be wondered at, and it gave me pleasure to find he had not forgot M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's kind hospitality to him and family. M<sup>rs</sup> Anstruther is a Lady greatly admired for her excellent disposition and amiable conduct to her husband, who, is a bon vivant, often is guilty of errors, that were better not committed, his fondness of cards, and the bottle, being a man of humour likewise a Lover of Musick, he frequently is invited where he sacrifices those hours which ought to be passed in the society of his worthy wife, and sweet children. Eliza desires her affectionate Love to Aleck, and requires her best thanks for having acquitted himself so well before Captain Anstruther, by exhibiting the Graces a la Slingsby: Bessy means to address her little favoured Brother.

26<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1789 Yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1789, also received by the Europa, I am to reply to – their you give me pleasure, by saying M<sup>r</sup> Inglis had delivered you the p<sup>s</sup> of Muslin Handkerchiefs I had sent under his care. I am pleased you got the trifle safe and that it proved to your liking. M<sup>r</sup> Inglis is a good tempered young man, he will be flattered with any civility you are pleased to confer on him; besides he will be a good hand to send anything out by.

Be so obliging my cousin as to give him, and Johnstone, my best compliment, tell the former I have been favoured with his friendly letter. When you write after you receive this tell me, how the Mangoes turned out.

My sweet Boys novel yielded us, I assure you, much satisfaction. It has been given, by his Father, Mother, and sister to all their friends to read; those who have perused, the little lovely wanderer, have bestowed numberless encomiums on the dear Author. I have a letter by me written by a M<sup>r</sup> Edward Garrow brother to the celebrated Counsiller giving me his opinion of the little novel, which I shall in close to you stop I showed this small production to M<sup>r</sup> Boyd but he Father like, too partial to his own children, [*page torn*] give another his due. M<sup>rs</sup> Boyd by every ship sends to her husband Poetry of her Boy and Girls composition almost by every ship.

Many thanks to my Harriot for her elegant baskets, they are much admired I shall preserve them for her dear sake.

9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1789 Your much esteemed long letter by the Ocean Captain Tod, dated 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1789 – hailed me on the 24<sup>th</sup> June – you mention the coldness of the winter, and at the same time say when the Barrington comes out of Dock, you shall send the dear delightful family Picture under the care of Captain Ley: which longed for Group, was at last sent me by the worthy Ley, the morning he landed & gave me most obligingly a full account of all your health. You may be assured the case where the Picture was kept, did not remain long unopened; the cover was in a moment torn open, the pleasing prospect presenting to our sight did not fail to draw tears from Eliza and me. Dear sweet picture we exclaimed O! how happy we should be could we at this moment behold the Originals – Many, many thanks my amiable friend for sending these charming resemblances, which is greatly enhanced in its value by generously having added your valued Resemblance to the Piece.

The Picture is a little damaged, not having been covered with oil cloth something or other got to it at a distance, however it is not seen and the Injury is scarcely perceptible.

The Painter has great merit in the design, but I think he has not done you justice, at least in my Eyes, in Lydias likeness to he has failed but the rest are [*seems unfinished*]

Captain Ley is a great favorit with me, I paid him all the attention I could, during the

short stay he made at Madras: he having obligingly offered to take charge of any trifle I might have to send, I gave to his care two pieces of Long cloth, and a shawl the latter for yourself; The former to be given to M<sup>rs</sup> D— discretionally, the letter which accompanies the Parcel will fully explain to you my intentions. I have also sent a piece of Muslin to Miss Hancock.

Miss Popham, I think much altered, not in my opinion for the better; I expected she would have gratified me by expatiating on you and my children, but alas! I was disappointed: as she was often in Gower street I think she might have been more communicative.

I am sorry M<sup>rs</sup> Haffy did not send out Miss Fisher this Feb<sup>r</sup> season, when my dear Lydia, Juliet, and Eliza arrive, I am afraid it will not be in my power to accommodate her. [*in the margin the following is written* – put J & E before Lydia]. I stayed at Madras two months longer than I meant in expectation of her –

19<sup>th</sup> March 1789 I am now come to your esteemed letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> of March by the Chesterfield received on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1789 –

The Box containing the hair Powder, Magazines, Netting, Pins, shoes &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>, all came safe – thanks innumerable to you my dear friend for the kind concerns you are ever taking in complying with all my commissions.

I really my best Friend was excessively sorry to find you had hurt your knee; God in heaven grant you may have not experienced any ill consequences from your fall: I am impatient to a degree to hear from you; may the Almighty preserve you and may it please him that I may receive comfortable intelligence of your health and recovery.

Your pleasing mention of Lydia's gentle manners, and of her great improvement is flattering to her parents; I doubt not but she will reap every benefit and satisfaction from the approval of her own mind for her laudable exertions.

4<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789 By the Indiaman Captain Penney I was made happy by the receipt of your welcome and esteemed favour of 4<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789 –

You open your letter my beloved friend with lavishing praises on your dear Boy, for as I must now style him. – You observe he is a "Latin Scholar" and that "he is a dear engaging Boy", in short (you say) he is so dear to you he had no rival in my affection. What a lucky fellow is my Aleck; how happy he ought to be with so invaluable a friend, so dear second Mother. – The entertaining anecdotes you talk of to me of this Phenom [*page damaged*] his affectionate and gallant behaviour to you, his arguments with his cousin Jannet and sister, added to his affecting conduct when he heard of his poor friend and cousin Patrick Cook's death, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>: all these with many other instances of his pleasing manners be assured my loved friend do not a little delight his old Father and Mother. May Heaven protect and kindly guard him to render you and us happy.

I am glad you are pleased with M<sup>r</sup> Macaulay's attention, he is a sensible man, from us he has always received civility and friendship.

In a letter Macaulay writes to a friend, he speaks highly of Mary's Beauty; I should imagine by what he says his heart is a little touched. Of the Hero, the great Alex<sup>r</sup> Hector, he says, "he is the finest little fellow he ever knew". Harriot is a very sly insinuating young Lady and bids fair for being very pretty: she dances neatly and with grace. But Aleck is by far the best dancer he ever saw. He speaks of Lydia, as if she never would be tall, but adds what she wants in height she amply supplies by her many accomplishments. She plays delightfully, dances gracefully, draws, in a style superior to many of the first rate of Artists, and converses with much information and good sense. Then he goes on by saying – Miss Mary tho, last not least, has something very interesting in her manner and appearance: she will be tall and elegant in her person and thinks she is in her countenance



more like me than any of my Daughters. He admires Juliet, says she is a sensible agreeable girl. Of Eliza Falconar he could not when he wrote form any Judgement, as the sweet Girl was greatly distressed by the Melancholy news she had heard of her poor Brothers death; that she seems a good-natured girl and he thinks she will make a different appearance when her mind is recovered from affliction.

Begin from this part –

I was glad to hear of the late Miss Jackson's marriage, who is M<sup>r</sup> Holford? do you my friend visit them? when you see the good old Father remember me kindly to him: he is a deserved favorite of mine.

Corbett's and Robertson's attention to you renders me happy; tell the former I am apprehensive by the General Goddard I shall not be able to address him; but I shall certainly write him by the next Dispatch which will be in Feb<sup>ry</sup>. When I left Madras Vincentio was in good health; A few days ago he was appointed the Mayor for 1789: he has relinquished his Partnership with M<sup>r</sup> Boyd: you may tell the old gentleman of this; though I know his son will fully write to him on this business. M<sup>r</sup> Theodore Corbett, the eldest son is now with his brother at Madras; As I have not heard of him lately I cannot say how he is in his health; but I believe his Brother means he should proceed to Europe in the Oxford.

*[the next couple of lines appear crossed out and much the same is now written]*

The poor King's recovery gave all India universal pleasure. The principal Inhabitants of Madras met at the Town Hall, when an address of congratulation suitable to the occasion was read, and sent home to the Secretary of State, by the hon<sup>ble</sup> Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cochranne – The Masons likewise gave a brilliant ball at their Lodge to all the Ladies and Gentlemen of Madras. Lord Cornwallis also gave a superb Ball and splendid Illuminations on the happy Event. But I cannot say so much for our Madras Governor; his thoughts are so engrossed by the Pagodas, his Loyalty was perfectly absorbed by his cupidity for requiring acquiring Richness; for would you believe it, he did not even order a Salute on the occasion: nor did he in any respect testify the least demonstration of Joy on what had given so much satisfaction to all Europe.

By perusing the Madras Couriers, you will find into what a horrid predicament Sir Paul Jodrell has involved himself his family in; the crime he is accused of, is so serious, the society of Madras have entirely deserted their acquaintance. Do my friend ask Farquhar if he knows who Miss Cummings is; the young lady who accompanied Sir Paul and Lady Jodrell to India.

My Lydia's little drawing, and the ribbon for Eliza have been safely received; the former is hung up in our best room opposite to the dear family group. It does the artist great credit, as much as her Master, it is indeed much admired. Eliza tenders her affectionate Love and thanks to you for the elegant ribbon, the watch paper are very neat and prettily executed, the old folks wear one of each in their watches for the sake of their amiable Lydia.

I have now acknowledged eight of your kind affectionate and dear letters; I shall reply to the remaining five, by the Feb<sup>ry</sup> dispatch; if I were to detain this longer, I might perhaps be too late for the Packet of the General Goddard.

I have sent under the cover of Captain James Russell, who embarks on the General Goddard a small parcel of Muslin agreeably to the enclosed list and samples; I have given this gentleman a few lines of introduction to you. Captain R– is a very obliging and friendly man. Any charge attending the Muslin discharge as usual. M<sup>rs</sup> Casamijor also got under her care has a small box of Ganjam feathers for the Children and a very small parcel containing a Shawl from my nephew to his Mother, M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar, and four aprons for yourself from your humble servant. The shawl you will I know take pleasure in

forwarding it to the amiable Mother. M<sup>r</sup> Drake has in charge a packet of Madras Couriers. When you receive the Muslins my sweet friend, I beg you will do with them as you please but if you would oblige Lady Grant, M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner and M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan with a few aprons, they will take it kind. I need not I am sure remind you of this business your too generous heart will do all I wish; and a great deal more without my officious intimation. Give my affectionate kind remembrance to my worthy uncle, tell him my darling Cousin, he must not attribute my Silence to any cause, but my fear at his time of life I should trespass on his time, and give him unnecessary trouble in writing me: assure him that I have the highest regard, and veneration for him: and that I love my poor father's favoured Brother dearly.

To M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner and Vaughan I am certain you will say everything that is grateful, handsome and most affectionate: request of them to bear me in Remembrance.

To the Pigous in Berners Street likewise to the new married pair forget me not: to the elder Pigous present my best thanks for their civilities and attention to my little family. My kindest love to good Lady Grant, and the Grants. I must depend on your Rhetorick to make my peace with good Lady Grant for not writing to her by this opportunity: but certainly I shall so myself that pleasure shortly. Tell her not to imagine me ungrateful, for I am under too many obligations to her Ladyship to allow one to be unmindful of her: besides I really and sincerely regard and respect her so highly, that I should be sorry ever to forfeit her good opinion and friendship.

I must now request you will present my best and kindest Compliments to the Devaynes, the Corbett family, Farquhars, Pringles, to Robertson, the Luards, the Leys, to Miss Hancock all the Masters and in short to all my good friends who may do me the honor to enquire after me.

Embrace my Mary, Harriot, and Alex<sup>r</sup> and kiss them for us – tell them to Love and Honor you my darling friend; and to retain in memory of their parents. As they conduct themselves to you so will their Father and Mother Love them. I should address Miss Hancock.

Give me leave to thank you again, and again for your Affectionate letters and kind expressions for me. Repeat them often will always gratify the highest ambition of my life. Heaven bless you, and your little charges – wishing you and them many revolutions of the Season, joined to every earthly blessing in this mortal Life in which M<sup>r</sup> D. Eliza, and Falconar most fervently unite.

I am ever your devoted faithful sincerely affectionate and attached E: D

Tell Mary my Cousin I have got some specimen of Lydia's drawings Harriot's work, and her little Brothers composition, But I have nothing particular of hers to shew –

Do me the favor to remember me to poor faithful Grubb, to Celey, to Hardy, and to all your servants not forgetting Dennis. James and his wife have left me, they have behaved very ungratefully. I shall be obliged to you to send enclosed in your letters yearly three or four watch chains, and as many purses. A few pairs of shoes for a Eliza and a pair of stays, the box must be directed to Alexander Davidson Esq<sup>r</sup> chief of Vizagapatam recommended to the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Chase and Parry Madras.

Eliza has addressed her favorite brother by Captain Russell and enclosed two gold mohars as a reward for the little novel –

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty

*page 343 is blank*

page 344

[Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty]

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty

Waltaire near Vizagapatam 26<sup>th</sup> December 1789

These few lines my invaluable friend will be given you by M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour, sister to M<sup>r</sup> John Sullivan, and Godmother to my Dear Boy – I beg pardon, your dear Boy.

M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour has other often expressed an anxious desire to see her godson; I shall therefore request you, if Alex<sup>r</sup> is at school, to contrive a mode for her seeing him. This Lady is a very affable woman; she has been ever admired here for her good sense and pleasing manners: And I doubt not she will frequently notice the little Hero.

I have given her one of your Cards, and M<sup>r</sup> D– has likewise recommended your house to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Maxton, the latter youngest daughter to M<sup>r</sup> Claude Russell M<sup>r</sup> D– will introduce the Maxtons to M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour.

reverse of page 344 – 345

[Elizabeth to Mrs Balfour]

M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour

26<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1789

My Dear Madam

You have often kindly requested me to give you a few lines to my good friend and Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, that she may introduce your godson to his amiable godmother. The enclosed my dear M<sup>rs</sup> B– is to that Lady; who will be happy to see you, and proud to present her little favourite to your notice.

I shall flatter myself Aleck will behave himself so as to gain your friendship and good opinion; he is a well disposed Boy; my Cousins affection for this young rogue is not to be described.

You're calling in Gower Street will be confirming on us a favour – may I also request your attention to M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and her charges. My friend is an excellent worthy woman, and is much respected and esteemed by all who know her.

When you see your Brother John, and your excellent sister M<sup>rs</sup> Forbes I shall be obliged to you to remember me warmly to them. As your time must now be greatly limited, I shall take my leave – assuring you that I most heartily wish you and M<sup>r</sup> Balfour the full enjoyment of every desirable blessing: I shall ever rejoice in every good fortune that may attend you.

Wishing you all a safe and speedy voyage and a happy meeting with your friends in dear old England I remain with sentiments of Friendship your sincere and obliged [*unsigned*] Pardon the liberty I take in recommending the house mentioned to you in the enclosed Card: they will supply you with Coals as reasonable as any Persons.

pages 346 – 350

[Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty]

Waltaire near V– 20<sup>th</sup> July 1790

By the general Goddard my dear and amiable friend I did myself the pleasure to write to you, I may justly say a volume; for it was to the length of forty seven Pages. – And yet the pleasing task of conversing with you is so grateful, that there are few things in this world could give me more real pleasure. I am then come again to resume the thread of my discourse, and to proceed to reply to your remaining an acknowledged five letters.

In reply to yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1789 which I was honoured with by the Rose Capt<sup>n</sup> Dempster on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June last – By perusing it I find this letter treats mostly on subjects I have already answered in my former Packet.

You say in one part of it, you had been indisposed by an attack of S<sup>t</sup> Anthony's fire in your face – what could have caused this disagreeable disorder my Cousin? of late you have been sadly teased with one thing or other: I ardently pray long ere this period you may be perfectly restored and freed from all your uneasings and that your health and peace of mind maybe again returned to their normal tranquil state.

I have not by the last ship heard from M<sup>rs</sup> Devyanes – tell me if she approved of the things I sent her by the Manship; and the work Basket by the Dublin. I have one way or another sent her Ladyship a number of things, tho, may appear trifling to her, they cost money; but my sweet friend keep this locked in your own Breast. If I had but also obtained my object, I should not have noticed this circumstance: however, if she will exert herself yet underscored and grant the request of my heart, she shall not go unrewarded for her friendship to me and family: for I shall end ever in the end to make her ample recompense.

Your affectionate and inexpressibly kind favor of the 30<sup>th</sup> of March by the Houghton my dearest friend came to hand on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Sep<sup>r</sup> – you in this letter observe by the provoking manner the letters were delivered you did not receive any large packet “till some days after the receipt of my two single letters”. Your expressions of uneasiness on that score, though, painful are very pleasing to my feelings, my vanity is I own greatly flattered, my amiable cousin, by your dear sweet anxiety, for nothing evinces to me so much as your attachment and affection as your constant solicitude and apprehension of your not having my letters; – and the distress you are ever in, if they do not reach you quickly after the opening of the Packet. Let me again, and again, assure you my best and kindest friend, my constant ambition shall be to render your mind happy; I should indeed be a very wretch, if I ever allow myself to forfeit your invaluable friendship and affection by my negligence and Ingratitude. no my friend, while I am permitted to exist, I shall flatter myself you will find me deserving of your love, friendship and good opinion.

Thanks in abundance to my darling Aleck for the regard he showed to his Mothers letter – Poor fellow! I hope I shall live to see him grow up an amiable and deserving young man to be the admiration of his parents, and to be loved and respected by his friends. Embrace and kiss him for me my Cousin: tell me how he liked Kensington, the School, and above all whether Doctor Thomson and he are friends? – What does Thomson think of this little rogue, tell me all about him you may be assured from all you have said of this Boy I am not a little vain of him. I always dwell particularly on those parts of your Letters which depict this little Favourite.

I am sorry to tell you poor M<sup>rs</sup> Capper died on her passage out, it is imagined of a broken heart for the loss of her favourite Daughter: the unhappy Colonel in the space of two Months had the cruel intelligence of the death of both of his wife and child.

5<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 1789

Your dear favors of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 89 reached me a few hours after the receipt of the above; they also came in the Houghton's Packet – the latter little letter my cousin which only contains about 12 lines describes your dissatisfaction at you're not hearing from me more at large – As I have discussed this matter above and as you must my beloved friend be very certain, I shall never carry myself ungracious toward you – I shall drop the subject, flattering myself you will not have occasion to think I would neglect writing to you by every offered opportunity.

In yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1789 you notice M<sup>rs</sup> Powney's unkind conduct – I am sorry you should have given yourself any concern on that score: M<sup>rs</sup> Powney is a woman of the

world, in this Country she had always great attention paid her, not finding the same notice taken of her and Daughter in England; She has taken an utter dislike to the Country. On M<sup>rs</sup> Powney's arrival at Madras Eliza and I waited on her immediately, she made many excuses for not having visited you often; she said she found the cold so severe, she had not the heart to go to anyone's house. I accepted her apologies; and on my part said little on the occasion – being fully convinced had she had a grain of friendship or affection she would have conducted herself otherwise. M<sup>rs</sup> Powney told me that both Lydia and Mary were taller than Eliza, but after what you have said of Lydia's height, she must certainly have been mistaken.

The Miss Smiths are fine girls, they only stayed with us one night, being obliged the day following after dinner to embark for Bengal; from them I heard nothing of you nor the children: they live with Lady Chambers at Calcutta.

When you see the Westcott's make my best compliments to them, I shall address M<sup>rs</sup> Westcott if I have time by this conveyance.

2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1789      I am now come to your last dear favour dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 1789 – which I was honored with at the same instant with the three former on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Agreeably to your request I got Doctor Arnold's list of Music advertised in the Madras Courier, you will find it among those I sent under the care of M<sup>r</sup> Drake: pray show it to the little man, that he may see I was not in attentive to his wish.

I shall be glad to see Slingsby's Organ; it will be a great acquisition to the young people to dance by, as we here at present have no fiddler's, hardly even a Scrapper that can play a fashionable tune.

In your letter you mentioned you have [*page torn*] of sending out Mary with her Sister – I shall hope my sweet cousin, long ere this have changed your plan tho, having Mary with us would give us much happiness yet, it would be a thousand pities she should come out so young, a year or more under your Maternal care will be of the utmost utility to her. I am afraid Mary does not strive to have your affection; her behaviour to you I have heard from a very worthy man is too thoughtless; But it shall be my constant prayers she may mend and regain her best credit with honor: when I hear she has changed her conduct and uses exertion, she shall not fail to render us all well satisfied and happy with her, and at the same time meet with every Indulgence.

I have the pleasure to tell you the Vestal Frigate with Macaulay on board touched of Angingo on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of instant, a few lines from him written to my nephew Grant communicate to us the happy and most comforting intelligence of the welfare of you all – God be thanked for all his mercies – we now am in daily expectation of our letters, the knowing ones say we shall have them at Madras by the 20<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>ry</sup>. I all impatience as you may well conceive being anxious to hear of you, the children of Lydia, and her Cousins, returning & & –

I am sorry to tell you we have at present a War again with that tyrant Tipoo, by perusing the enclosed Courier you we'll see the beginning of hostilities committed by him and his Troops against our Ally in the Travancore Country – The King of Travancore is a firm Ally of ours included in the Treaty of Peace, our Army all under Marching orders, whether we are to have war or peace, will be decided by Lord Cornwallis, from whom letters are expected from Bengal shortly. Be you not uneasy on our account, being 600 miles north of Madras we shall be out of the fray. – But my friend, when I reflect on the number of brave and Innocent Fellows that may fall, on this occasion it makes my blood run cold –

By one of the Ships of this Season the Pipe of Madeira is to go to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes: I hope he will receive it safe and in good order.

The youngest Miss Kennedy a few days ago married an Artillery Officer of the name of French. The elder poor Girl soon after her arrival in the Country owing to some thing not come to the knowledge of the world went in a manner out of her mind, she lives with her Mother in the Black town perfectly secluded from all society. The Mother being a Roman Catholick is so bigoted to her Religion, she does little else but pray almost every hour in the twenty four.

I have now my dearest friend entirely wrote myself out. Had my letters by the Vestal arrived, I should have acknowledged them by this opportunity –

I shall be obliged to you to send me a bottle of that fine smelling salts, three or four Ribbon watch chains, and as many purses. I believe I mentioned to you M<sup>r</sup> Davidson would like a yearly supply of hats, shoes and silk stocking, 6 single Cannisters of Hardman's N<sup>o</sup> 9, small cannister of Martinece Snuff called Macaban.

Now my best loved Cousin do me the favor to embrace all my sweet children with all the warmth of a fond Mother's affection. I shall endeavour to address each of them.

To all my dear Connexions and Relations remember me most affectionately; but most particularly to my Uncle and Aunts, and my kind Dear benefactress M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner, tell this latter Lady my charming friend no absence nor distance can obliterate the friendship and affection she ever shewed me.

Remember also M<sup>r</sup> D. Eliza, and me to all the Masters and to Miss Hancock with all our fervent wishes for all your constant happiness – I remain Yours most faithfully.

Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 90

Since writing the above I was most pleasingly surprised by the receipt of your most welcome letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> of April by D<sup>r</sup> Goldie, who, only arrived from China the middle of last month. Our absence from Madras tell M<sup>rs</sup> Loughnan with my best respects prevents M<sup>r</sup> Davidson on shewing her relation attention; However, should we meet hereafter, we shall not forget to take every notice of him: tell her also I shall ever gratefully bear in remembrance M<sup>r</sup> L's kind and friendly exertions in favour of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson.

You, my dear friend, say your Alex<sup>r</sup> “is at last reconciled to the thought of School and goes Monday sennite; to Say the truth I hope I shall cry the most” your affection to this saucy fellow is wonderful – May Heaven always endue him with gratitude ever to keep in mind your unbounded friendship for him.

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson is I believe to make you early remittance.

I wrote Lady Grant by the Goddard, but unfortunately my letter was too late for her Packet, but M<sup>r</sup> D-'s Attorney at Madras has promised to send it by the Pigot's Packet – Eliza has addressed her Ladyship and Lady Macartnay.

I am in daily hopes of receiving your letters by the Vestal – I wish they were come. Now my dear cousin I must at length bid you farewell – And be assured you are too dear to me ever too allow me to forget the tenderness and affection which binds you to you ever affectionate friend and Cousin – E: D

10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1790

This day four Years we left dear Gower St, and it is four long years since you have had the goodness to become a Mother to my poor Children – And this happy Day's post brought me by the way of Bombay your sweet letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1789 – by Macaulay giving us the pleasing and grateful account of poor Falconar's appointment as a Writer on our Establishment. – Your kind heart my delightful friend will readily suggest the pleasure and surprise the contents of it afforded this family. So unexpected a piece of news, and so comfortable, we did not I assure you think would ever fall to our share. What guardian Angel, or generous friend assisted you, and who are we indebted for this kind and generous action? To a wise and just providence added to your exertions I know

we owe this good fortune. I lament exceedingly my not having heard who gave Falconar the nomination; because it is not in my power to return my thanks by this Dispatch: But as soon as I am acquainted with it I shall not fail to snatch the first opportunity to make proper and suitable acknowledgments. In the mean time, my heart's best and dearest of friends say everything that is handsome, grateful and kind for me.

By this windfall my mind is rendered easy by your noble and generous aid assisted by our other friends a worthy deserving young man is established, who, I am confident will study to do credit to his Employers as well as give satisfaction to his friends.

I shall conclude this fearing it may be too late for the Pigot's Packet; should it so happen be not angry the distance we are at from Madras must plead in my behalf.

I shall hope to hear from you regarding little Miss Raphael, and from time to time do me the favour to mention her in your letters – I flatter myself she is at M<sup>rs</sup> Olier's School.

I imagine Lydia with her amiable Cousins are on the eve of leaving you – Alas! Sincerely do I feel for you all, but particularly for you my darling Cousin.

Adieu a third time my invaluable friend – and impress your memory at all times with the assurance that I love you, never, never, to forget your grateful and everlastingly your obliged Cousin

Remember Eliza and me to Celey, Grubb, old Hardy, Dennes &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>a</sup>

Forward enclosed letters my friend for Scotland, Frank them if you can.

page 351 is blank

page 352 – 353 [Elizabeth from Waltaire to Peter Corbett]

Peter Corbett Esq<sup>r</sup>

You're friendly and esteemed favors of the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1789 I am duly honoured with. – I am much obliged to you, my good Sir, for your kind communication of the welfare of my family – as well as for the interest you took on the part of my nephew Falconar. Your account of Lydia's improvements has not I do assure you given M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and me a little satisfaction: she is an amiable deserving girl, I doubt not if she is spared she will give us happiness and be an ornament to her family. To my invaluable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, I am indebted so largely, I'm afraid it will never be in my power to do her that justice her merit she so amply deserves. I cannot restrain my gratitude, my admiration of her goodness or rather I have not words to express it. Her noble generosity quite overpowers my Feelings. May the great Disposer of all events defend and protect her to be our comfort to our lives end.

Excuse me, my dear Sir for trespassing on your time, by dwelling so long on the subject of my friend; but knowing our Family as you do, I am well assured you will freely pardon this digression and the sensations of a grateful mind.

Long ere this hails your hand [*you*] will have heard of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's having succeeded M<sup>r</sup> Russell at the Chiefship. – In March last he was appointed, a few days after he took the charge of his Government; I see no obstacle (if the Almighty but spares his Life) of his doing well. This is a retired as well as a wild romantic situation surrounded with Hills and Rocks. The Town of Vizagapatam just now is not very healthy; but where we reside is perfectly the reverse: the name of this little Village is called Waltaire; it is situated close to the Sea Beach. In the warmest days, here we always experience cooling Breezes. If no unforeseen event happens, I suppose we shall remain at this spot till it please God to allow us to look toward dear old England whenever that comes to pass rest assured New Steet Bishopsgate shall be one among the first places I shall call in to pay my Devoirs.

You will see by the Madras Courier the state of our Indian affairs, every preparation is making for our Armies to take the Field against Tippo; but whether for certain we are to have war or Peace, is still to be decided, when General Meadows arrives, he is expected in the course of this Month at Madras.

Your Son Theodore informed me before he left Madras that he was to proceed to Europe in the Oxford, from his own pen I learned his health was greatly improved, I sincerely pray he may reach your parental affectionate Arms in safety; from you he will receive that satisfaction and comfort he has being a stranger to.

Your Son Vin<sup>o</sup> will I doubt not [*will*] give you a full account of himself, when I left the Presidency in September last he was enjoying good health and spirits. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson sometime hears from him.

It is high time now to return you my best thanks for the trouble you are ever taking in forwarding our packages, parcels, letters &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>, they have all reached safe and we are grateful & thankful to you.

You have not told me how Miss Faulkner's health is I hope she is perfectly recovered: M<sup>r</sup> D- Eliza, and my nephew Falconar join me in kind remembrance and best wishes for your happiness as well as for the prosperity of M<sup>rs</sup> F- your niece Miss S-

God bless you my dear Sir, I beg to remain with great regard your ever much obliged  
Eliza: Davidson

Waltaire 13<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1790

*page 354*     [*Elizabeth to Lady Grant*]

Lady Grant             Waltier 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1790

Tho I have not had the satisfaction of a single line from my much honored Lady Grant by the ships of this Season which has been no small source of disappointment to me yet being well assured you would be displeas'd with me were I to allow the January Dispatch to leave Madras without conveying a few lines to your Ladyship; I have therefore with the greatest pleasure taken up my pen to address you. I hope sincerely this will find you in health, M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, my admirable and excellent friend, never fails to mention you my dear Madam in every one of her letters; and I am infinitely oblig'd to you for your kind attention and friendship to her, and to her charges. Continue my good Lady Grant your kindness to them: Providence will bless you for it.

We are once again settled at Vizagapatam – when I shall pray most fervently the Great Disposer of all Events may prosper my husband and enabled him soon to give full satisfaction to all his friends. This is a retired as well as a romantic situation, the Town of Vizagapatam just now not very healthy, but where we live it is quite the reverse: the name of this Village is Waltaire situated close to the Sea Beach. Our house a most excellent one. If nothing very material happens I suppose we shall remain here till it pleases God to permit us to bend our Course towards Dear Old England.

We are in daily expectation of a packet either by sea or land from Europe. Since Sir Archibald Campbell's departure, we have been anxiously looking out for a new Governor: General M[*eadows – page torn*] has been long talk'd of as a successor to Sir Archib[*ald – page torn*] but his commission has been so long coming from England we have [*page torn*] hopes now of his succeeding to the Chair [*page torn*] Madras.

By the Madras Couriers, which I have sent out to my cousin, your ladyship will find only what a disagreeable Situation Sir Paul Jodrell and his family have subjected themselves. The Stigma he labours under is of the worst kind; the Settlement of Madras have sent his whole family into Coventry, no one takes the least notice of them.



May I trouble you my amiable Lady Grant to resent my best remembrance to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Gra[*nt – page torn*] and children; I hope they are blest with [*page torn*] state of health. Likewise remember me to the worthy M<sup>rs</sup> Craige, the Pringles Farquhars &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup> Eliza address your ladyship. I have no entertaining news, with all our fervent prayers and best wishes for your Happiness – I shall ever remain my dear and honored Madam your greatly obliged and affectionate.

pages 355 – 356 [*Elizabeth to Mrs Lydia Falconar*]

My dearest Madam

With much pleasure did I hail your kind and affectionate letter by the Vestal Packet. – And now permit me my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar to congratulate you on your amiable Sandy's being appointed in the company's Civil Service on this Establishment. I do assure you my good Madam we have this four long years, laboured to obtain this grand point for him; Not only for his sake, but also for yours – For the success of this affair we are greatly indebted to My dearest and most valuable Cousin, and friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty: to her kind exertions we owe more than I can find words to express. The news of my nephew's appointment has given this family as you may imagine easily no small degree of satisfaction. Your worthy Brother has solicited the Governor for permission to allow your Son to be with him; which favor General Meadows will no doubt grant. I have now no fears about him if it please Providence to spare your Son, I have not the least doubt his making his way through Life with honor and credit to himself and friends.

The end of this Month my nephew and I shall leave this place for Madras, to meet your good Eliza, and my Lydia, with my young Cousin Miss Juliet Chitty to convey them to your Brothers Arms – God of his infinite mercy guard and guide them to us with safety. Be not uneasy for your gentle Daughter, I shall flatter myself in some degree she will in your Brother, and me find a Father and Mother, though not equal to yourself, yes, we shall endeavor to copy her dear Parent in showing her love and affection, and friendship – Nothing but war is talked of at present at Madras, Our whole Army on under marching orders Lord Cornwallis and General Meadows are making every active preparation to exterminate that Tyrant Tippto from the face of the Earth. How happy you must feel yourself at this juncture my dearest Madam to have your Son who has but a delicate constitution [*out*] of so had a hazardous a situation –

As we are 600 miles from Madras we shall be out of the fray–

With M<sup>r</sup> D-'s my daughters and my affectionate love and regard to yourself and family –

I remain My dear M<sup>rs</sup> F your very affectionate E: D –

Vizagapatam 12<sup>th</sup> March 1790

page 357 – 360 [*Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty*]

Waltaire 13<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1790 By the Chesterfield

My dearest Cousin

I have addressed you by the General Goddard, and also by the Pigot, but unfortunately my letter Packet was too late for the Pigot; However, M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's attorney will forward it as well as this by the Chesterfield; the last ship of this Season except perhaps that a Packet may shortly be dispatched from Bengal to Madras on account of Military [*next word illegible*]. Tho the Vestal with General Meadows on Board left Bombay on the 21<sup>st</sup>

of Jan<sup>ry</sup> she is not yet arrived, this delay makes all Madras very anxious, as the Generals presence is greatly wished on the Coast at this present Juncture. Our late Governor M<sup>r</sup> John Holland embarked on the 13<sup>th</sup> instant on board the Pigot for England leaving his Brother Edward John Holland his successor to the Government of Madras. – The conduct of the former, indeed of both, have been so reprehensible that they abhorred and detested by every individual: his departure was sudden, owing it is imagined to Political reasons. On this occasion I cannot be silent. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson was by his Employers removed from Council and most shamefully degraded, and accused of a transaction he never was guilty of by dismissing M<sup>r</sup> Davidson way was made for the appointing M<sup>r</sup> Holland who was accordingly sent out Second of Madras superceded M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, and after succeeded General Campbell, as Governor was then left a whole year in the chair to act as he pleased; not satisfied with this took his brother Edward into Council that he might have a support, though, tho, there are 20 Civil Servants older than M<sup>r</sup> E.J. Holland on this Establishment; many of them I may venture to say to say superior to him in capacity – and as for integrity, if they had not a larger share, they must be poor Creatures indeed. Should M<sup>r</sup> Hollands conduct be ever enquired into, you will find my friend he will make a most deplorable figure on the worlds grand Stage. To evince how truly all late Governor and his Brother are despised I will give you a sketch of the opinion of all Madras written by a sensible man whose name I must conceal

Here enter the Extract

Coll C – # – #

I have here now found a moments leisure &<sup>c</sup> &

In continuation ~~28<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup>~~

4<sup>th</sup> March 1790

I have been unavoidably prevented from going on with my letter till this moment, before I proceed further, I must tell you the friend of my heart General Meadows is safely arrived and your kind favours with the childrens by the Vestal reached me on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month. Could you but have seen the joy expressed in our countenances, on perusing your letters, and such sweet letters, conveying to us the welfare of you all; and of the long and wished for appointment for poor Falconar – I say my Cousin could you but have beheld the joyful looks we expressed you would have thanked that great Disposer of all events, for having made you the happy instrument of diffusing so much happiness to this family. Mentioning the above subject creates in me a sensation so agitating it deprives me of the power of expressing my sentiments – therefore, from you my beloved dear Angelick friend, must have the friendship to imagine all my grateful heart would say to you on this occasion: when I am more composed I shall answer all your letters as I ought, and should do so.

I have written M<sup>rs</sup> Devayness with a heart and mind ever flowing with affection and gratitude; but I must request you will still add as much as your fond and benevolent heart can suggest; and tell her over, and over, again how sensible I am of the favor she and her excellent Governor, have so generously and liberally bestowed on amiable young man whose appointment I hope, they will never have cause to regret.

Eliza is addressing a tender letter full of gratitude and affection to her kind and much esteemed M<sup>rs</sup> D. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and Falconar have likewise written to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes. Macaulay is well at Madras I have heard from him [*illegible word*] times since his arrival, General Meadows has appointed him his third Aide de Camp: he will be obliged to accompany the General to the Field.

Nothing but war is talked of I pray all my end to our satisfaction – every vigorous preparation is making to banish the Tyrant Tippo from the face of the Earth. The end of the Month I mean to proceed to Madras to receive my sweet Girls; and to convey them to the Arms of an affectionate Father – Heaven guard and guide them safe to us.

I wrote you before I believe M<sup>r</sup> D would require a supply of six single Canisters of Hardman's number 9. He also begs his shoes 3 p<sup>r</sup> of pumps and 2 p<sup>r</sup> of Shoes may be of the enclosed sizes.

It may be vanity in me, but how different the conduct of my husband! Though his abilities may not be first rate, his Integrity whilst Governor never unimpeached even by his Enemies. What was his reward? degradation for the time and to boot the great men at home think him a fool for his pains. But he has a sunshine and an applaud in his own breast, and the Commendations from honourable men, which he would not exchange for M<sup>r</sup> Hollands fortune – no, not for the wealth of Ceresus. Since I am on the subject I shall enclose a short letter to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson from Lord Cornwallis made up and written with his own hand which you will please to make a [*next word illegible*] use of. <sup>X</sup> The praise of such men as Lord Piggot, Lord Macartney, Sir Arch-d Campbell, Lord Cornwallis, M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, Sir John Dalling, M<sup>r</sup> Coutts, M<sup>r</sup> Brodie, &c<sup>a</sup> establish M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Character on such a Basis, as renders him Superior to such Characters as Sir Thomas Rumbold, the Hollands &cs. My good man when he returns to his native Land can with modest Confidence look his King and Country in the face as becomes a good Subject and an honest Man.

reverse of page 360 [*very short lines written by Elizabeth – not known who to*]

My Dear Colonel

The end of this Month or the beginning of next my nephew F

pages 361 [*continuation of Elizabeth's letter to Harriet Chitty beginning page 357*]

<sup>X</sup> I wrote you before I believe M<sup>r</sup> Davidson would require a supply of six single Canisters of Hardman's number 9. He also begs his shoes three p<sup>r</sup> of pumps and 2 p<sup>r</sup> of Shoes may be of the enclosed sizes.

8<sup>th</sup> March 1790

Last night post brought me your favour of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1789 sent by the way of Ostend. I shall not at this period my dearest Cousin attempt to answer it; as I am fearful this may be too late for the Chesterfield which Ship is hourly expected at Madras.

I am not certain when whether I had mentioned to you to pay the duties for the Pipe of Madeira M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has sent M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, if I have not, may I request of you to order it to be delivered to him free from all charges – the expense of Duty &c<sup>a</sup> to be charged to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's account.

I beg you will tender my best wishes and affectionate regard to all those I love and respect – in which request M<sup>r</sup> D– and Eliza join. My kind remembrance to Miss Hancock tell her I shall address her after Lydia and her Cousin's arrival.

Adieu my dearly loved friend, remember I am your ever much obliged and grateful  
E: D–

reverse of blank page 362 [*one line written by Elizabeth*]

My dearest M<sup>rs</sup>

M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes

My Dear Madam

Not having had the pleasure of receiving a few lines from you by the Ships of the Season, be assured Eliza, and I, were not a little disappointed. – I shall not allow myself to think your silence proceeds from your having forgotten your Madras friends; no, my dear M<sup>rs</sup> D– I shall rather imagine it is owing to your dislike to writing; for I believe I heard you once say that you never wrote if you could avoid it. Whether this be the case or not, I cannot suffer all the ships for Europe to sail without informing you that we are agreeably settled at Vizagapatam. – Here I shall flatter myself my dear Madam aided by Providence, and supported by good and kind friends, such as you and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, and others who honour my husband with their patronage we shall in due time overcome all our Difficulties, as well as frustrate his Enemies, – who have not failed to or do all in their power to prejudice him ungenerously and most liberally.

This is a hilly Country and to the last degree Romantick in its appearance – we reside about four miles from the Fort at a Village called Waltaire: here it is always cool and healthy, owing to it being situated on the Sea Beach. Vizagapatam, itself these four years past has been extremely sickly – caused I am told by the immense increase of Inhabitants: a fever and ague prevail which carries off daily twenty or more people tho, this fever is now more moderate, yet the place is far from being wholesome to reside in. Provision is exceedingly reasonable, the fish and mutton the finest on the Coast. Tho, we are six miles North from the Presidency, yet we are not in want of company Vizagapatam being a thoroughfare, strangers are forever passing and repassing to go to our other Settlements: the society of this place notwithstanding it is confined is very amicable.

By the General Goddard you will hear the situation of our political affairs on the Coast, and of Tipoo's Attack on the Travancore Country. – Every preparation for war is making both at Bengal and Madras; had not General Meadows been appointed to the Government of Madras Lord Cornwallis meant to have taken the Field in person. A large Force is ordered to march immediately by Land. One Battalion of Artillery, and the Detachment of his Majesty's 76<sup>th</sup> regiment are to embark on the Houghton and Chesterfield to reinforce the Troops & Britannia Country Ships to reinforce the Troops of the Carnatic. Thus again we are going to be involved in trouble. God grant us a speedy and happy conclusion.

By one of the ships dispatched this Season M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has sent M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes a Pipe of Madeira.

I hope your worthy Governor with yourself, Miss Devaynes and little Billy are well, the good wishes of this family are offered for all your health and happiness. God bless you my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes hoping you will bear Eliza and myself in kind remembrance. I am  
[not signed off]

23<sup>rd</sup>

18<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1790

page 364 is blank

pages 365 – 366 [Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes]

Waltaire 4<sup>th</sup> March 1790 [*written down the side of the first page is* – By the Chestefield]

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

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of last Month M<sup>r</sup> Davidson was honored with a few lines from your worthy and generous Governor; announcing to us his having appointed my favourite nephew a writer on the Madras Establishment –

O my dearest Madam! in what words can I express to you my gratitude, my acknowledgements; and my admiration of yours and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes conduct to this Family? Your noble generosity quite overpowers my heart. This gift to my nephew who is an amiable deserving youth, so surprising, so unexpected – but why do I run on in this style?

Is there any valuable attribute that may not be described to such peculiar liberal minds as yours and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes. I can now only thank you with tears of joy they are accompanied with a feeling so delightful however unaccountable that I would rather weep than rejoice with the world. Could Jealousy find a place in the Breast of her whom you honor with your friendship, I should certainly envy your present feelings. But I can with Sincerity say, had I the power I should know no pleasure equal to that of obliging you.

Perhaps it may prove at some future period that I am not altogether unworthy of your Friendship; and it is with the greatest truth I declare your goodness inspires me with equal pleasure and gratitude. Not to mention M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes Patronage of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson, to you and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes shall I ever attribute my Protégé's good fortune in this Life. May you, my dear Madam, with your dear Husband and children long and very long live to fulfil the benevolent purposes of your hearts.

I ever am, with truest esteem and gratitude your affectionate and most obliged E: D – Eliza is addressing you – M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and his nephew likewise write to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes – Do not omit mentioning me kindly to Miss D– and to your darling Son –

pages 367 – 368 [Elizabeth to Mrs Westcott]

Waltaire 10<sup>th</sup> March 1790

My dear M<sup>rs</sup> Westcott

I have taken up my pen to tender you my heart best thanks for your two very obliging favors one from the Cape and the other from London –

I need not assure you how happy you made M<sup>r</sup> Davidson Eliza, and myself, with the communication of your welfare, with that of our old friend your good man and charming family. Long my dear Madam, may you all enjoy those blessings you so amply merit.

My Amiable friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty informed of your kind visit to her, and the attention you were pleased to pay her charges: – for which and for the trouble you and M<sup>r</sup> Westcott must have taken on account of the Shirts, I again beg leave to offer you my hearty thanks. Lady McCartney particularly mentions you in her letter to me; and says you were so kind to call on her in your own Carriage personally to deliver her the Chints which she admires exceedingly.

Do not do think her Ladyship affable, and without form and Ceremony? the more you are acquainted with her the more you will admire her Character: When next you see her Ladyship pray do me the favor to mention me kindly to her.

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has been here ever since April last – M<sup>r</sup> Westcott can tell you what a romantick situation this is – it is formerly said to be his favorite retreat.

The end of this month I am going to Madras to receive my Daughter Lydia and her Cousins. I hope in June to have the pleasure to see them – your kind heart my good Madam will readily suggest to you the anxiety I labour under for their safety. From abler pens than mine you will hear the situation of the Coast – nothing but war is talked of, every vigorous preparations is making both by Lord Cornwallis and General Meadows to exterminate that Tyrant Tipoo from the face of the Earth. I shall do myself the pleasure shortly of again addressing you. In the mean time accept [*unfinished*]

*pages 369 – 370* [Elizabeth to her son Alexander and daughter Mary]

Waltaire 6<sup>th</sup> March 1790

My dearest Aleck

I had the supreme pleasure and satisfaction of receiving your kind and entertaining letters of the 16<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1789, the other is written without a date –

You give me sincere happiness my Son by your affectionate mention of our amiable and invaluable Cousin Chitty; to her you must indeed pay every attention and respect: this kind Lady my Alec dearly loves you; and you must honour and revere as long as you live – Her worth and her virtues I cannot enough dwell on.

You have commissioned me to promise for you “all sorts of India fruit made of Ivory and painted”. I have been so engaged since I have been at this place I have not had the leisure to have them finished by this Season, But by the Dispatch that goes at the end of the year, I shall end ever to give you satisfaction.

I have sent enclosed to my Cousin five Pagodas for you which with her kind advice you will dispose of agreeably to your inclinations –

Your charming little no[vel –*page torn*] did not fail to give your good Father [and – *page torn*] family pleasure, he was so proud of it, he could n[ot – *page torn*] avoid showing it to his friends, all of whom gave you my sweet Boy much credit: I hope soon to see something more of your own composition –

I am glad Mely is married remember Eliza and me to her and to honest Dennis. Your favorite Dog in the Picture is greatly noticed, pray my Alec what name do you call him by? –

James and his wife have left your fathers service, M<sup>rs</sup> Tapsal’s child by her former husband died a few Months ago by the bite of a Mad Dog.

This perhaps will find you at School, where I shall flatter myself you will take every opportunity of improving your mind; remember my dear Alec learning will make you a gentleman and a Man of knowledge.

Your amiable Cousin Giant Falconar with myself are going down to Madras the end of the Month to meet your Sister Lydia and Cousins Eliza, and Juliet; owing to the warm weather our Journey will not be very pleasant: however the happiness I hope to experience by receiving and seeing my sweet Girls will amply recompense me for all the troubles I shall encounter.

Eliza your sweet sister with your worthy Father, the good Giant and myself all join in kind and affectionate Love to you – wishing you every happiness I remain my darling Boy your devoted and ever attached Mother – Eliza Davidson –

Waltaire 8<sup>th</sup> March 1790

Mary's letter dated February 1789 is now to be acknowledged.

I am happy you remember your absent family with love and affection; but more particularly of your kind mention of M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty one of the best of women, and Friend we have in this world – To her my dearest girl, we are greatly indebted: and friendship to us are unparalleled: your conduct to this amiable and dear Lady must be uniformly kind and attentive. Let me my Mary recommend to you to be submissive, obliging and affectionate to her – my sweet Cousin's admonitions to you are kindly meant by following her Council you will reap every desirable advantage. If she did not love your Parents, and their Children, do you imagine she would trouble her head about them? be afraid not. Therefore, I entreat of you my good girl, as Lydia will be now away from her, to redouble your attention and assiduities to gain her affection and friendship – I hope sincerely I shall have no further occasion to remind you of the duty you owe to my charming friend: I shall flatter myself therefore you might Mary, for your own sake as well as ours you will [*not*] be continuous of giving us cause of being displeas'd with you. –

You will not, my dear Mary till you have left your Patroness know her value and her friendship for you: tho she may at times enjoin to do things which at the moment may appear irksome two you depend on it her intentions are founded on your well being and are intended for your ultimate good.

From my Cousin you will know long ere this of our being once again lived at this part of the world – here I shall hope to have the happiness of seeing you in the Course of two Years hence.

Your father, sister Eliza, Cousin Falconar join me in affectionate love to you. Wishing my dearest Mary much health and happiness I remain your faithful and very affectionate [*page torn*] Your Cousin Grant is at Madras he is well. George Davidson is at Trichinopoly, poor fellow he will be obliged to take the Field. Tell the young Pattersons their Parents are settled at Masulipatam, their Father is appointed commandant to the above place.

page 371 – 371A [*bound incorrectly but transcribed correctly – Elizabeth to her daughter Harriet*]

Waltaire 9<sup>th</sup> March 1790

Having by this Conveyance written your brother and sister you, my dear Harriott might think yourself slighted did I not address a few lines to you. Mary will show you her letter from me which with great propriety might have been addressed to you both: For there is not an Injunction in it which may not and indeed does apply to you both.

Many thanks to my dear Girl for your pleasing letter containing the descriptions in compliment to the King's memory, as well as for your letter, and neat little Baskets you sent me by Miss Popham.

The Baskets are much admired, I hope my Harriot will every year send me some further Specimens of her improvements. My dear Cousin says you are growing more attentive and on the Whole you are really a much better child [*page torn – than*] you used to be – you may rest satisfied this kind information does not give me a little pleasure. Continue, my dear Harriot, always to be obedient and dutiful to your amiable Godmother; none of you can be too kind and good to her every precept. I shall fervently [*page torn – off*]er up my prayers to Heaven always to know you, Mary, and Alec, with a proper sense of the numberless obligations and gratitude you owe, and, indeed every one of us are indebted to this Benign Friend

By the next [*hole in the page – ship?*] I shall send Mary and you some thing worthy your acceptance –

Give my best and kind compliments to Miss Hancock and the Masters likewise remember me to little Miss Raphael; tell her Mr Raphael her father with her Mother Sister, and Brothers are all well.

God Bless you my dear Harriot – Love, honor and respect your dear Chitty, so shall your Mother love and regard you, your ever affectionate. [*nothing further*]

pages 372 – 379 [*Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty*]

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty

Waltaire 2<sup>nd</sup> August

I am my dearest Cousin come with a Heart and mind full of every enduring sentiment of gratitude, affection, and friendship, yet, I am not able to express to you, the manner in which I wish to express the feelings of my agitated mind. – Could you but see my throbbing heart, you would pity its palpitations. I am come, I must again repeat my dearest Cousin, on my Bended Knees to pour out my unbounded thanks to you for your unlimited care, attention, and also the trouble you have had with my Lydia, and Eliza – they have my surpassed my most sanguine hopes, their improvements do indeed reflect honor on themselves, as well as justice to you, and the Teachers. Lydia has done wonders! Tho, she is not handsome nor tall, yet, her amiable disposition and her Abilities are such as I am sure she will she will make her way through life exceedingly well. M<sup>r</sup> D– now very happy in both his Daughters, tho they are very different he finds them equally worthy] of his affection, and friendship – I cannot tell you my friend which of the two he admires the most.

Eliza F– is a dear gentle sweet girl, she is all heart and soul, her mildness, tenderness and a disposition ever ready to oblige will ever give her friends; she speaks of you, O! how she dwells on your worth and goodness to her, and to her family. – She is addressing you at large: she has a strong likeness to her good Brother.

Juliet is now my theme – she is a sensible girl, she has made great advancement in her Education; She is liked here for her openness of Countenance. I shall ever make it the constant study of my Life, to render her happy, while she is with M<sup>r</sup> D– and me she shall not want an affectionate Father, and Mother: I hope she loves me, if she does not now I shall flatter myself I shall merit her affection and confidence hereafter, when she is better acquainted with me.

Miss Fisher seems an affable and well disposed young woman, what gives me much pleasure is, to see her prefer coming to me at Visack, rather than Madras, among everything pleasant and gay. Miss F– has two sisters and a Brother with a Brother of M<sup>rs</sup> Haffy's at Tranquebar, as Major Stevenson M<sup>rs</sup> Haffey's other Brother being in the Field, prevented Miss F– seeing her sisters at Madras: poor girl!

She is greatly to be pitied, not meeting with her own friends has lowered her spirit much; Besides I think she has in some degree lost her heart to Macintosh, not owing I believe to any particular attention from him, but from his kindness in general, and the pleasing tenor of his conduct to her and to her shipmates.

Before I proceed any further, I must my amiable and matched loved friend tell you of my transactions all these four Months past. On the first of April my nephew Falconar and I left this to proceed by land to Madras, a distance of five hundred Miles – leaving my sweetest Eliza to take charge of her worthy Father's house: Since I took her in England from Lady Grant the dear girl and I have not been a day asunder, judge then my darling friend what must we have mutually felt at this abstinence. Though I knew my absence



would be only a few Months yet our separation cost us as many tears as if it had been for years. Poor dear girl! She parted with her Cousin, and Mother with the affliction and tenderness, felt only to such hearts as her's.

After a pleasant Journey of twenty four days we reached Madras – on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April – notwithstanding the fatigue of a Palakeen, I bore the jaunt extremely well: the anticipated pleasure, I should experience in meeting with my dear girls made every other Difficulty appear trifling. The second of May I was honoured with your affectionate letter by the Minerva's Packet, announcing to me your late charges were to embark on the Hindostan. After this agreeable indulgence I as you may suppose was anxiously looking out for Mackintosh every signal that was made, Falconar and I ran to the windows to see if it were from an Indiaman. At last on the second of June arrived the ardently wished for Hindostan – Good heavens, you can scarcely my sweet friend point to yourself the sensations I felt! A thousand anxieties and unpleasing Ideas rushed in my mind. Falconar amiable dear young man, flew from Breakfast to Town on the wings of affection and friendship to convey to my Arms my treasures: at one oClock they arrived at that moment I was above stairs, but how I came down, I am not able to tell you. Suffice then to say when we met we all set up our pipes, the sight must have been distressing to a bystander – in the midst of our affliction, we found joy. Lydia could not every now and then help saying “I cannot believe I have got my Mother by my side” –

From the time of their arrival to the seventh of July, we remained at Madras, and as they were to be so soon secluded from the Beau Monde to retire among hills and rocks, I took them to every amusement Madras yielded – my friends too were not deficient in showing then every attention. Full a whole month they were invited out almost every evening; I do assure you by so much raking they perfectly knocked me up.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of this month we embarked for Vizagapatam, on the 18<sup>th</sup> we landed on the spot that contained an indulgent affectionate husband, and father, as also a gentle kind and tenderhearted Daughter, sister, and friend – How glad you my loved Cousin would have been, to have seen the of this happy group – As for my poor Eliza, she was all joy and pleasure, could she have flown into the Boat, she would have been with us in an instant. M<sup>r</sup> D– I am sure was never happier, surrounded with five fine young women they add greatly to his spirits and benevolence: – they all admire and love him. I must not omit to inform you the expectation of our arrival inspired him as you will perceive by the following lines

O happy Indus! &c<sup>a</sup>

As no happiness is permanent in this life nor without Alloy, I am sorry to tell you my favourite young man is ordered to be stationed at Madras for four years. The Court of Directors having sent positive order for all the Writers to be kept at the Presidency for that time to be employed in the different offices: they never before have been so strict, but as there are 37 writers appointed to Madras, by and by perhaps they may change their opinions. Falconar having on his arrival by advice of his Uncle, having made the Persian language his study, he is appointed deputy Persian translator, which is thought a good line and an excellent situation for a young man to distinguish himself, – so my nephew does not want either for abilities or application, I have not the least doubt of his recommending himself to his Employers. At present we shall lament his absence, but I shall flatter myself in a short time the change may be to his advantage. He leaves us in a few days – He has fully written to you by the Houghton's Packet.

By Captain Mackintosh I have sent you a piece of Muslin it will make you my dear Cousin a pretty Summer evening's dress. Johnstone also has in charge for you a piece of Surat worked Muslin, and two gold Philagree Bottles also a small phial of attor of Roses, do me the favour to divide the gold bottles and the other between you and the excellent

M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes present them to her with my best love – Johnstone has a parcel also for this worthy woman # and M<sup>r</sup> [*illegible name*] has got a Box of Ganjam feathers for Miss Devaynes. # The China Men were so full last year they would not take on freight M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's wine for M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, but this season a Pipe was shipped on the Minerva by M<sup>r</sup> D's Attorney.

I only mean this a flying letter, you will pardon it brevity: by the dispatch of the end of the year I shall acknowledge all your precious dear favours amply.

I placed previous to my leaving Madras, Maria under the care of M<sup>rs</sup> Kindersley a most amiable woman, whose children she is to carry home with my friend M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes. I gave Maria thirty Pounds in Money besides things to the amount of 20 pounds more, she seemed grateful and perfectly pleased with my conduct towards her. M<sup>rs</sup> Kindersley has promised to give her, for the children and M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes 60 pounds in Money; besides Maria is to receive one pound four monthly from M<sup>rs</sup> K – till she embarks for England.

I hope you my Cousin will approve of what I have done and when you see Maria she will give satisfactory accounts of your dear girls and me.

Before I take my leave I must add that M<sup>r</sup> D and I much approve and am glad my little Harriot is gone to School, I think she will by example and from ambition improve greatly – The inclosed is a copy of Harriot's letter to Lydia Falconar it will show you she is not wanting in sense. Indeed my dearest Cousin, without any disparagement to Miss Hancock, in respect of Harriot she did not manage her well. I beg my most valued friend will not notice this to her; but always thought that their disputations were not suitable to each other – Miss H– has a great deal of merit, but her temper is hasty she was I always imagined in want of mildness and in some respects moderation. However, notwithstanding all I have said above I am much indebted to her for her attention in general to my children, as I shall when in my power take a particular pleasure of shewing my esteem and friendship for her. Do the favor to remember me to her, I shall most assuredly address her by this conveyance.

Aleck Patterson lived with me at Madras till within a few days of my departure when I sent him to his Parents at Masulipatam: he loves you dearly, and next to you I may venture to say myself. It was with some difficulty I prevailed on him to go to his Father and Mother; poor Boy! since his arrival with them, he has been very ill; as I have not heard any thing from his Mother lately, I shall hope he is recovered.

Give my love to my dearest Mary, I shall hope she now will be the friend and affectionate companion to her adopted Mother – I hope likewise that no secret of her heart will be concealed from your knowledge. And my best loved friend permit Mary and Harriot to show you all and every one of their letters, there can be nothing in them they can wish to hide from your all indulgent Eye. Mary says [*page torn – in*] one of her letters to one of her correspondents, I beg you will not let even my Father and Mother see my letters, this injunction from a girl of fifteen I must confess vexed me not a little: what can there be in my Mary's letters her Parents may not see? can Mary after the kind attention she has experienced in accomplishing her write anything in her letters deviating from the character of a gentlewoman and a young lady of Education? I shall expect Mary will freely permit me to share in the pleasure her letters yield her other fair correspondence. Besides young people write things without reflection if the letters fall into stranger's hands, they may construe them to their disadvantage: and your inspecting their letters will my dearest Cousin prevent them from exposing themselves.

Remember me affectionately to dear Harriot and my darling Aleck the former I hope to have pleasing accounts of her improvements as well as a change of conduct. The latter I know will endeavour always to deserve the affection and much esteemed friendship of his adorable "London" Chitty. O! my charming kindest friend may you long be preserved to

us and God grant no unforeseen event may happen to disturb the tranquility of that bosom which Heaven has ordained to be the residence of every amiable and endearing virtue.

I had almost forgot poor Tom Hunt give him my love my Cousin I shall not omit writing to him by the next Packet. I am happy to hear such good accounts of him. Tom's mother died near two years past his Brother is well at a charity School at Madras.

I must now trouble you to offer my best and sincere affectionate love to my lively and revered M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner – I pray that she may bear me in kind remembrance my affection for her has known no change; and more it shall never know it; to her husband and sweet Boy give my love. To M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan and my Uncle Pigou tend my duty and affection. Tell the former she must now and then think of me who was so nearly connected to her favorite Brother.

To Lady Grant present my sincere and grateful remembrance – In short my Cousin mention me in the fullest manner to all my friends: –

I shall address M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes.

Adieu, Adieu, I shall always remain with confirmed friendship and sincere affection ever yours E: D

I have the pleasure to tell you M<sup>r</sup> D– has accepted your bill drawn on him. I am surprised in March last you had not heard of the remittance having been received by M<sup>r</sup> Coutts, in Jan<sup>y</sup> he writes M<sup>r</sup> D– of his having got the thousand pounds. M<sup>r</sup> John Ferguson who sent the bill expressly mentioned in his letter of advice the £1000 being for the use of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's Family. Compliments to Grant, Celey, Harddy, Dennis &<sup>c</sup>, &<sup>c</sup>,

*reverse of blank page 379 [everything in what looks like pencil written by Alexander Falconar]*

1790

M<sup>rs</sup> D & I left Vizag for Madras to await the arrival of the Hindostan, on 1<sup>st</sup> April – arrived at Madras on the 24 April – the Hindostan arrived 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Sailed for Vizag again with the young folks & my Aunt, on the Indus, Dock on the 7 of July arrived there on the 10 of the same month.

*page 380 – 381 [Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes]*

M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes

Waltaire 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1790

By the general Goddard and the Chesterfield I did myself the pleasure of addressing my dearest M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes. –

I have now taken up my pen to repeat to you again the overflowing of a truly grateful heart, But O, my dear Madam, how to converse with you on the subject of your and M<sup>r</sup> D–'s late most generous conduct, to my nephew, is I find a most difficult task, a task tho most pleasing to my reflections yet I feel myself perfectly inadequate to express my Sentiments to my own satisfaction.

The nobleness of your and M<sup>r</sup> D–'s conduct have made a lasting impression in my mind: I am very sensible the great obligation you have jointly conferred on this family, and it is so forcibly imprinted on my heart it never probably will be obliterated.

The young man you have so kindly patronised, unknown to you at present will I am confident deserve your good opinion, if you were acquainted with him and knew his singular merit and modest worth, your kind heart would be impelled to interest yourself in his welfare: the Knowledge I have of his uncommon virtues at his age, and give me leave

to add the that nothing less than the strongest conviction of his goodness could have induced your favourite Eliza and me to become his warm advocates.

I pray the Almighty may spare my life, that I may personally on my Knees thank you and the benevolent Governor for your generous disinterested friendship to us all, particularly to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and his nephew Falconar.

On the second of June last arrived safe at Madras the Hindostan with her fair Cargo – Lydia, Eliza Falconar, and Juliet Chitty, all gave me most pleasing accounts of all your healths; they speak of you and M<sup>r</sup> D–‘s obliging attention to them as grateful hearts ought to do. Never a day passes but the name of Devaynes is mentioned by them. Eliza F has written to you fully and your favorite and much honored Betsey is pleasingly employed in pouring out her grateful heart to her dear and inestimable friend, and Benefactress, M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes.

Your obliging present of feathers and [*next word illegible*] to my daughter and me are received, they are elegant; Except of our sincere thanks for such tokens of your unremitting friendship to us.

I am making the cruel necessity of shorting this, and trust you will excuse my hurry, owing to my fear of my letter being too late for the Houghton’s Packet, which ship is expected hourly to touch at Madras, from Bengal in her way to Europe.

By M<sup>r</sup> Johnston second officer of the Admiral Hughes I have sent a small parcel to you, M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty likewise will deliver you a trifling token of my regard, when ever you view it my dear M<sup>rs</sup> D– remember you are ever present in my mind.

Tender my respectful and cordial compliments to M<sup>r</sup> D– added to my most fervent wishes for the Happiness of himself and amiable family. Too Miss Devaynes, and dear Billy omit not to mention me kindly.

God Bless you my dearest Madam, praying that every felicity maybe your por[*page torn*] in this life in which M<sup>r</sup> Davidson heartily joins – I ever am your most unfeignedly – grateful and most affectionate E D

Waltair 3<sup>rd</sup> August 90 [*also, added by Alexander Falconar*] M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes 3 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1790  
[*some symbols underneath that could be Persian*]

pages 382 – 385 [*Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty*]

Waltaire near Vizagapatam 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1790

My dearest Cousin and friend of my Soul – I was made impossibly happy by your letter by the Queen, your health was perfectly reestablished and that you had in a great measure regained your usual tranquilly. The circumstance my loved friend has not a little contributed to heighten my spirit, which tho, not seen by all, has been depressed much. Oh! may Heaven preserve and protect you, for the solace and comfort of your Elizabeth and her offspring.

I have snatched up my pen hearing a Ship is going to sail from Bengal next month to inform you of our welfare, and to so sure you again, and again, that while the hand that writes this and the heart that dictates it all in being I shall ever adore and revere your worth. Your friendship and affection I prize above all the Gems of the East.

I could talk of you my Cousin for hours, and sing of your praises the live long day so often I think of you and so much do you employ my thoughts.

I have not now time fully to answer your affectionate letters, but next month I shall sit down most heartily to reply to all your favours according to their different dates.

From accounts from Bombay we have had the cruel mortification to hear of the loss of the General Goddard off the Isle of Wight – I am really concerned for this misfortune not

only on account of the passengers &<sup>c</sup> but likewise on your account – I hope the Company's letter packet may be safe, if it is, you will receive my long letter, if otherwise its duplicate you will have by the Pigot she will be the very next ship that arrives in England from this Coast.

Now my dearest friend I have another boon to ask you for this troublesome nephew of mine which is nothing more or less than this. I find M<sup>r</sup> White, the Secretary has written and recommended a few of the young writers, his particular friends to the Court of Directors to have him placed high in the list. As M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes have done us the honor of nominating Falconar, I have only to request of you to put M<sup>rs</sup> D– that dear woman in mind to have the young man they have highly favored, placed in the list of writers as high as they can with prosperity to the appointment: his work in the service being fixed by M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes will give consequence to his nomination. (M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes), tell M<sup>rs</sup> D– to forgive my being so teasing to her but if I did not mention the circumstance I should not do justice to her benevolence and generosity. My nephew's future prospects and advancement will greatly depend on his standing in the service.

Juliet thank God is well, here is a gentleman in Council a M<sup>r</sup> Gregory, I believe he is related to the director of that name very partial to my young Cousin. – But she does not fancy him, tho, he is a money making man, and may perhaps in a few years be a man of fortune, yet neither M<sup>r</sup> D– nor I approve of him; and I am glad Juliet has the same sentiments. Young Jackson just now engrosses much of Juliet's thoughts, at which I am sorry – You my dearest Cousin, I am told are acquainted with your dear Neice's mind, if so, I make no doubt she will pay due attention to your kind admonition. Jackson, you know is not his own Master, nor is he of age to enter into so serious state of matrimony. What say you my friend? Are you not of my opinion. Juliet is rather reserved, and wishes not to make me her confidential friend, but this shyness I hope will wear off when she becomes more acquainted with her "Mama Davidson". If Juliet would but love me, I should be happy. But whether she esteems me or not, it is possible for me my darling cousin not to Love a Chitty. "Oh, name forever loved for ever dear. Still breathed in sighs till ushered with a tear".

# I shall now conclude, but not before I assure you you have robbed the family of all their hearts; a Robbery, my dear Cousin of which we are only vain but in which we glory.

xxx

Since writing the above we have had account from Bombay by the way of Suez from England, as late as the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, mentioning The General Goddard was not totally lost, and that she and that she was expected to float you haven't the following tide. Grant God grant it may be so, and you my dear friend in possession of all my letters &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup> – Letters from Madras a few posts past inform us of the Marriage of young Brodie, M<sup>r</sup> Brodie's nephew lately came out a writer, to Miss story his shipmate. The Uncle I imagine will not be well pleased with this intelligence.

The War with Tippo still continues, we have not young yet done much, our Cavalry have had an engagement with the best Force of the Enemy who were twice nobly repulsed: after which Col<sup>l</sup> Floyd made an [*next word illegible*] Retreat. Previous to it our people took a place of some [*next word illegible*], Dindigul, in the storm of which we had the cruel [*page torn*] of losing poor G – D [*George, Alexander Davidson's illegitimate son, along the side of the page is written* – The enclosed is an account of the engagement] By all the information we had, we are told he fell like a brave and gallant young soldier – poor George [*next word illegible*] when I tell you my Cousin, I had brought him up as if as one of my children and ever regarded him as such, his untimely death cannot but makes my feelings most poignant – I have unthinkingly got on a grave subject, as recounting it much will only distress your sensibility – I shall therefore quit the Subject.

Eliza and Lydia are well they too have had the admirers, but these girls do not seem at all pleased with the Visack Beaux. Fisher has not yet done much exertion but it is to be hoped she will not be behind hand with her shipmates. They desire to be most warmly and affectionately remembered to you – you shall hear from them by the dispatches of the season. M<sup>r</sup> D– and Eliza request their more than affectionate regard.

28<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1790

The post of the 23<sup>rd</sup> brought me the pleasing intelligence of the safe arrival of the Swallow Packet at Madras with Sir Charles and Lady Oakley, M<sup>r</sup> Hudleston, and Oakes. It also conveyed to us letters of my dearest of friends with little Alec humorous scroll comfort most valuable. I have not time now to enlarge fearing of losing the fair opportunity of sending this by the way of Bengal. May the Great God! bless and ever protect you for all your kindness and for all our sakes.

Should there be a war with Spain by no means send out Mary my loved Cousin she is young enough to remain two or three years longer in England: But whenever you send her to India, I beg my sweet Cousin to send her under the kind Care of some good and amiable woman who will [*next word illegible*] my dear Mary.

Give my grateful respects and thanks to Captain Raphael, tell him I shall not fail to address him by the first ship that leaves the coast.

Money that invaluable and scarce article, you shall have my Cousin my Hubby will address you on the subject.

Remember me affectionately to the Devaynes and to all my dear Relations, and friends &c<sup>a</sup>, &c<sup>a</sup>. Pray kiss Mary, Harriot and Aleck for their absent Mother – God bless and prosper you my darling friend – Believe me most warmly your most faithful and devoted friend

P.S. Do me the favor to send me a small box of the best Bark in powder.

page 386 [*Mrs Jane Devaynes to Elizabeth*]

London Nov<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1790

Many thanks my D<sup>r</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Davidson many full the two pieces of Long Cloths you was so kind as to send me by the Barrington and as soon as the weather comes fine I shall make it up I suppose by this my dear Betsey has changed her name and may she know nothing but Happiness is my sincere wish give her ten Kisses for me if that is the case, your House I imagine is very gay at present with the Ladies from the Hindostan. Marry them as soon as you can settle your own Business & and come back among us as you know we are good sort of People and disposed to love you much. Pray my Love to the Misses and Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson.

I hope you now will allow I am better than you Expected I should be, as I would rather come & see you than write.

I remain My d<sup>r</sup> Madam Most truly & affectionately Jane Devaynes

page 387 is blank

page 388 [*Lydia Falconar to her niece Eliza Davidson*]

Inverness 9<sup>th</sup> Decemer 1790

My ever Amiable Niece

I beg leave, to Embress the Earliest opportunity to retourn you my best thanks for the preety Shawl you was pleased to send me – indeed I am very fond of it – and shall be very proud, each time I put it on – in remembrance of my beloved Niece – may you live

to wear many and to Bless your worthy parents and Relations, with that delight and comfort which you have Hitherto done – I had the happiness Lately to receive a Letter from your Amiable Mother which I shall do myself the favour of ansuring by the Next dispatch

after I hear of the travel of your dear Sister, and my Daughter &C – I am at present all anxiety till I hear – in truth I trust in God I shall soon have happy Tiddings of them – I last post had a Letter from the good mrs Chitty, she said the children were very well, also Lady Grant – only that she still has a very bad Cough. but now by Course of Nature her days can not be long – your Grand Uncle Sir Ludovic Grant Dyed the 17<sup>th</sup> of last Sepr his remeans were carried from moy Hall to the family burying place and Honourably Entered – he has left a good Fortune to his Grand Children – by my Dear Sons Letters of the 6<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March he seemed very happy, having obtined the writership – I trust if the most High is pleased to spair him he will now do well – what dos he not owe to your Amiable parents – may God forever bliss them – I hope long ere now, you have Embraced your Dear Sister Lydia, and miss Chitty, and my poor Eliza she is very Sweet Tempered – but I fear her spirits suffered much by the loss of her too Broyers which happened whell she was in England – I am sure she was a troublesome Guest on that occasion to the Dear mrs Chitty – god grant me the happy accnts of their safe Launding – the young folks joins me in sincer Love to you, your papa and mama and I remain my dearest Niece your affect Aunt Lydia Falconar

*page 389 is blank*

*page 390 – 391* [Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty]

Vizagapatam. 27<sup>th</sup> December 1790

My Dearest Cousin

These few lines are only to tell you by the Conveyance the Rodney Indiaman, I have sent you the duplicates of the letters by the Houghton and of those sent by the way of Bengal in October last.

I have been so severely ill since my last to you, that it has caused my not addressing M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, M<sup>r</sup> Pigou, Corbett, Lady Macaulay, and most of my other friends by this dispatch. But ere long I hope to be able to pay all my debts of friendship with gratitude. I am in the middle of a long Letter to you my dearest Coz, I hope to be able to send it by the Disco a Danish Ship that is to call here in the course of next month. If the Captain will take the charge of a few pieces of Muslins, I shall send them also with some Remembrances to my Children

I am getting made two Ivory netting Boxes one for you, the other for Miss Devaynes I think you will approve of them, I wish they may be finished in time for the Dane. All the girls are well, Juliet may be well settled tomorrow if she choose, and our Lyd also. M<sup>r</sup> Gregory tho not very young, and very handsome, yet, he is an eligible match for my young Cousin, he is an old Companys Servant, at present in Council here, his prospects very excellent: and what is better than all, he has a sincere attachment to Juliet. M<sup>r</sup> Gregory has not yet solicited her hand, but I am told by a female friend of mine he means to make proposals to her if he sees her but smile on him.

My favorite is at Madras – poor fellow! he is really my friend an amiable youth, and were all my other Daughters married, I shall not among all their husbands find one that loves me so sincerely as he does me.

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson is thank God well – he desires his kindest remembrance to you and your dear charges. Do not forget me to all my kindest enquiring friends –

Adieu, adieu – your ever faithful

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty                      W– 15<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1791

My dearest Friend

The worthy the Major Burrowes has in charge a small Box of Ganjam Feathers for your two Girls. The box likewise contains five bunches for M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes marked with her name, which you will do me the favour to present them to her with Eliza's most affectionate and grateful love, pay expense attending them you will do me the favour to repay the major on our account.

You will also my Cousin receive either by Major Burrowes or by the Packet three Packets of Madras Couriers, & the letter of introduction to Major Burrowes I shall also enclose you four card markers, and a watch chain for Alex<sup>r</sup>, all of which I shall be happy if they reach your hands safe.

\*The long shawl and the shawl handkerchief which the good Major has, are designed for Harriott, and M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock, but my sweet friend, if you should like the shawl handk<sup>r</sup> for yourself do keep it, can at another period send one to M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock.

\*The Long is for my Harriot.

I have run up some cloth in Sheets which you will have the goodness to have made up into Shifts for Mary. Each Sheet will make 6 Shifts, I have made 8 sheets which will produce forty eight shifts for the little made. I shall send them with six Muslin Petticoats and three pieces of neck handkerchiefs made also into Petticoats containing 25 handkerchiefs and two Petticoats made of the remnant of the long cloth – under the care of M<sup>rs</sup> Munro: And my amiable cousin if you should receive them in good order It will yield me great pleasure. I am in the middle of a very long letter to you in which I have answered on every subject you wish to be informed.

When you see all my friends remember me to them, tell them if they do not hear from me by this opportunity my silence was caused by my late Indisposition.

I have got a long shawl for Mary which I shall also send with M<sup>rs</sup> Munro.

Waltaire near Vizagapatam 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1791

By Captain Gadeson of the Disco I shall send these lines, he has promised me from Dover ordeal to forward them to you.

I mean this letter merely to give information of the few trifles I have sent you and the children under the care of M<sup>rs</sup> Munro, and a M<sup>r</sup> Cuming a Bengal gentleman passengers on the Disco –

M<sup>rs</sup> Munro has a few necessaries as p<sup>r</sup> enclosed list. M<sup>r</sup> Cuming has kindly charged himself with an Ivory netting Box, a Long shawl for Mary, and a Packet containing some letters and remembrances for yourself and my children –

M<sup>rs</sup> Munro has obligingly promise promised to put my few things among her foul linen, by which means I hope they will escape danger. Any expense attending putting them on ashore I shall be obliged to you to reimburse M<sup>rs</sup> Munro you and M<sup>r</sup> Cuming.

A pair of Pearl Locketts made by M<sup>r</sup> May, I have also sent in the Packet by M<sup>r</sup> Cuming –Betsy has never worn them, owing to the dampness of the Sea Air, they are out of sorts; I shall be obliged to you my Cousin, to have them repaired and send them by Mary, also M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's print Ruffles after they are washed and mended.

Tell my Alex<sup>r</sup> he must send us some of his new novels and that the girls are forever talking of him – Lydia expects something very fine from his pen.



Kiss my children for me tell them if they love their Parents they must adore revere and love their best friend – Cousin Chitty.

Present my best remembrance to all my kind friends – I shall soon address them all – tell Lady Grant not to be angry with me I have really been very ill; & not yet recovered perfectly.

With the united Love & Sincere Affection to you with my Constant Prayers for your everlasting happiness

I remain your most faithful Eliza: Davidson

page 396 [*Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty*]

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1791

My dearest Cousin

Since closing my letters by M<sup>r</sup> Cumings, I have procured a much handsomer long shawl than the one directed to Mary – which I have also troubled M<sup>r</sup> Cumings with the care of: I have directed it to you, thereby my dear Cousin you will make no mistake. Let the one I intended for Mary be presented to M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock; and the Shawl Handkerchief designed for her, I request you will do me the [favor] to make use of it for yourself. Under the care of Major Burrowes I have sent the shawl handkerchief for you and the long shawl for Harriott.

Adieu my most loved and adored friend E: D.

pages 397 – 400 [*Elizabeth to Mrs Devaynes*]

M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes

V – 15<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791

My Dear Madam,

My heart fills and gratefully acknowledges the favor of your kind Indulgent letter by the John Packet – the receipt of which, and the assurance you pleasingly give me of the continuance of your friendship and good opinion yields me a source of most cheering consolation –

Yes, my dearest M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes – you have indeed acted most nobly in friendships aid – Such real and [*next word illegible*] friends, as M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, and yourself, are rarely to be found in any section of the Globe.

Can Gold gain friendship? Impudence of hope!

As well mere man an Angel might beget

Love, and love only, is the Loan for Love

You say my dear Madam, you will write me once a year, if that will do – but you must hear from me "by every ship" –

Contented – you shall faithfully hear from me by every dispatch my M<sup>rs</sup> D– that goes from Madras. But at the same time you must not forget your friendly promise –

Considering what a dislike you have to writing, you have been generous in allowing me the gratification of hearing from you yearly. Rest assured the satisfaction I shall ever experience in hearing of the welfare of yourself M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes and your amiable family, will be preferable in my estimation, to all that the world calls pleasure. –

I did myself the honor of addressing you by the Houghton, since then I have been severely indisposed: from October last to this day, I have been almost constantly confined in my room – I am now thank God better, and when the weather is warmer I hope to regain my former health.

I am exceedingly concerned to find by your letter to Eliza my dear invaluable cousin, M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty had been ailing, as also my daughter Mary – and what adds more to disturb and perplex my peace of mind, is my not having heard from M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty by the John Packet, She never used to miss writing me by every offered opportunity; therefore I cannot help being still more unhappy. – But as you mention her being at little Hampton, I shall from the present console myself with the hope she did not know of the sailing of The John – Our Army has lately been within 16 miles of Madras incamped at a place called Vellant – The Coast Army have done but little; we have spent upwards of 40 Lacks of Pagodas, upwards of a million and half Sterling as yet to little purpose. Earl Cornwallis is come from Bengal, to take charge of the Army, he has brought with him a further supply of Money, Cavalry, and Infantry with Draught Cattle, Elephants, &<sup>ca</sup> &<sup>ca</sup>.

It is not for me to remark on the conduct of those who ought to understand and manage so subtle and formidable an Enemy as Tippoo – But this much I must observe, General Meadows has he thinks given no satisfaction either to the Publick or to the Army by his Generalship. Lord Cornwallis is most strenuously making every exertion in his power to crush this Sooty faced reptile Tippoo. God grant his endeavours may prove successful; the fate of India depends on the success of our Arms.

Earl Cornwallis joined the Army at Vellant on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant, February, our Troops moved ground 14 miles west of their late encampment, since then I hear they are marched for Mysore.

None of my girls are yet disposed of – I cannot say much just now for our Beaux, we have no great choice here – All our Military Smarts are gone to the Field, when they return crowned with Laurels I expect they will do great execution among my fair charges. Your favorite Eliza will speak for herself, she is addressing you, she desires me to say with her sincere and affectionate love, that she lives in your smiles.

My nephew Falconar is at Madras, where by the late positive orders from the Court of Directors all the Writers are to be kept for Four years – for that time to be employed in the different Offices: they never before have been so strict. My nephew I have the pleasure to tell you for his attention to his business and exertions particularly for transcribing the General Letter for (*illegible word*) has been particularly noticed and thanked by the Governor and Council. He did himself the honor of addressing you by one of the Ships of last Season.

I request you will do me the favor to tender M<sup>r</sup> Davidsons and my best and grateful remembrance to your dear and excellent governor, accept the same yourself with love to your lovely Daughter and Darling Boy – I remain my dear Madam with the [*next word illegible*] best wishes and [*next word illegible*] affection [*page damaged*]

pages 401 – 402 [*Elizabeth to her son Alexander*]

M<sup>r</sup> A.H. Davidson

W– 21<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1790 [*another hand has written – 1791*]

My ever Dearest Aleck

I have only time now to give you a very few lines, and to thank you for your very short pretty letter. – But, my dear Boy, the next I shall expect to be a longer one, and complete with politics and family matters. You must always tell me very particularly about my darling M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, of Mary, Harriot, and yourself, else I shall not be satisfied.

I hope you pay due attention to worthy Doctor Thompson, love your school fellows be kind and obliging to all your masters, and to the mother James. I request you will tender Doctor Thompson Papas and my best respects.

I am now my Aleck to solicit you will ever be dutiful and attentive to that best of women my revered M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty all the attention in your power – I hope you never fly in a passion with her, when she is angry with anyone. She is the best judge how to act – be assured she will never be displeased without a just cause. Do not you know it is sinful to fly in the face of your Parents? and has not my amiable cousin being a kind, tender, and affectionate Mother to you, for these long five years? Love, and adore her my Child, you are a great favorite of hers; I pray you will merit a continuance of her affection and friendship.

I have sent you the enclosed lines to learn by heart, if you my Aleck will imitate the character you will be a happy man; and will be loved by all the World.

Kiss and tenderly embrace my charming cousin tell her to pardon your impituousity also kiss your Sisters, I shall if able address Mary and Harriot by this opportunity. The enclosed is a reward for your getting the lines by heart, you must give them to cousin, she will present them to you if you are deserving.

God bless my dearest Son – with Papas, sisters and Cousin's love and friendship I remain your ever affectionate and devoted E: D–

*page 402 [possibly written by Alexander Davidson – not known who to]*

An easy Mind engaging in Address  
Locks which at once, each winning grace express;  
A life where love, and truth are ever joined;  
A nature ever great and ever kind.  
A wisdom solid, and a judgement clear;  
The smile indulgent, and a Soul sincere.  
Meek without meanness, gentle and human  
Fond of improving, but yet never vain.  
So justly good, so faithful to his friend,  
Ever obliging, cautious to offend.  
A friend where generous pity stands confessed,  
Ready to ease, and succour the distressed.  
If these respect and admonition raise  
They surely must deserve out grateful praise.  
In one bright view, the accomplished youth  
These virtues all are thine - and those art he.

*pages 403 – 404 [Elizabeth to Lady Grant – her husband's aunt]*

Lady Grant                      Vizagapatam 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791

My Dear and Honored Madam

Your always most welcome favors of Oct<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> 1789 – I had the pleasing satisfaction of receiving by the Ships of last season. I must confess to you my dear Lady Grant, I was happy that I stood amply [*next word illegible*] in your generous mind on the score of writing: I would not willingly be inattentive to you for the world, whatever my faults are, I hope I am not deficient in gratitude, respect, and affection to your amiable Character. Tho, you are absent, your presence is ever in our mind, and I shall live in hope of kissing your hands ere I die.

You must not my ever indulgent Madam be angry with your Once partial nephew, nor must you listen to the voice of malice and malignity – you must pity M<sup>r</sup> D–, for really my good Lady Grant he has been unfortunate: his Enemies if they were taxed on the subject cannot but admit of it. But, if the present war ends favorably I make not the smallest doubt, it will be to the advantage of all India, and after a few years, if God be willing, M<sup>r</sup> D– will be able to give honorable satisfaction to all his Creditors.

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson desires his most respectful duty, he says he shall not fail of addressing you. M<sup>r</sup> James Grant is married at Bengal to a pretty genteel young woman – of this circumstance he will doubtless address your Ladyship very particularly.

My young girls arrived at Madras in June last, all in good health and spirits – the kind attention my dearest Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty has paid them does her great honor, and credit – My Eliza means to write to you her honored Aunt Lady Grant, she is the same dear amiable girl – she ever speaks of you but her eyes fill with tears of affection and gratitude.

M<sup>r</sup> Falconar is at Madras where he is doing exceedingly well he has already been flatteringly distinguished by the Governing Council for his exertion and attention to the Companys business, if he is spared, there is little fear of his doing extremely well. I am happy to hear of the good health of M<sup>rs</sup> Craig, M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Pringle and child, and of the Grants – I shall esteem it a favor to notice me kindly to them: I hope by this time M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant is returned from Jamaica. M<sup>rs</sup> Pringles nephew Stevenson is with us at present for a few days.

Lydia and Eliza Falconar are writing to you – I hope you will continue your kindness and friendship to M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and her charges – they are truly sensible of your civilities, and my dear Madam I am not less so.

My present weak state of health owing to my late severe underlined prevents my enlarging. Heaven bless you my dear Lady Grant, with the fervent prayers of this family for your health and happiness I rem [*end of letter*]

*pages 405 – 406 [Elizabeth to her uncle Frederick Pigou]*

Frederick Pigou Esq<sup>r</sup> W. V. [*probably Waltaire Vizagapatam*] 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791

My Dearest Sir

Your obliging favor of 31<sup>st</sup> of November 1789 came duly to hand – Long ere you receive this you will have heard of the safe arrival of my young charges – My amiable and invaluable Cousin, M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty I doubt not has given you a full account of us as well. I am sincerely obliged to you, my kind Sir for your good wishes, I hope after this cruel war is over with Tippoo the Coast will flourish, just now nothing is to be made, Trade and commerce are perfectly at a stand. The expenses of our Army has distressed individuals greatly, the Companies elder civil Servants have not received their Salary for these eight months past: every Pagoda that can be procured is taken for the use of our Troops; thus are we situated, God only knows when things will wear a different aspect.

Our Army has lately been within 16 miles of Madras to meet Earl Cornwallis. – General Meadows has done but little, before the arrival of the Governor General they had spent 40 Lacks of Pagodas, upwards of a million and an half Sterling to little purpose. Earl Cornwallis has brought from Bengal a further supply of Money, Cavalry, and Infantry with Draught Cattle, Elephants &<sup>ca</sup> &<sup>ca</sup>. May the almighty favour his strenuous endeavors, the fate of India depends on the success of the British Arms.

Earl C– joined the Army on the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> at Vellant near Madras and on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant our Troops marched for Mysore – Our Forces consist of about twenty three thousand men, composed of Europeans, Natives Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry.

I was truly disappointed in not having heard from my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty by the John Packet – I pray no illness, or any other unpleasant cause may not have occasioned her silence, she always hitherto has had the kind consideration of writing me by every offered opportunity.

Permit me to trouble you with M<sup>r</sup> Davidson’s and my best respects to your family. With our mutual sincere good wishes to yourself, with those of my young girls – I beg to remain my dear Sir your greatly obliged And Affectionate E: D.

pages 407 – 408 [Elizabeth to Peter Corbett]

Waltaire 24<sup>th</sup> February 1791

My Dear Sir

Your ever acceptable favour p<sup>r</sup> the Hindostan, was delivered me by my dear Daughter Lydia. – The many kind wishes contained in it, claims my grateful acknowledgements; May they prove propitious to our most sanguine hopes. I flatter myself you will confide in me, when I assure you there are few things in this world that would yield me more pleasure than seeing you again in old England seated by your Snug chimney corner in New Street.

Your son Vincentio I had the pleasure to see at Madras; he was then in high health and spirits: since he has been appointed collector of Coimbatore – after his departure from Madras, he has never wrote a line to M<sup>r</sup> Davidson; but I have very lately heard that he was well and hearty.

I hope your son Theodore is benefited by the cold air of England, I did myself the pleasure of addressing you by him, but I am not certain if my letter reached him in time; but M<sup>r</sup> Vin<sup>o</sup> Corbett informed me he believed he had forwarded it. Pray, my good Sir, give your son Theodore my best wishes for his speedy reinstatement of health.

I have no news but what concerns our Army, that will be I daresay fully communicated to you, by the abler pen of your son Vin<sup>o</sup> who being near Mysore must be better informed of the transactions of the Army than we are, at the distance of 5 or 600 miles from Madras.

I have sent M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty some camp compositions, which I think will entertain you.

Meadows and Musgrave have not done anything to boast of – neither of them have given satisfaction either to the Army, or Government: I hope Earl C– will regain the credit of the English Arms. – All India is now looking up to him for their future fortune and comfort.

I was most sadly disappointed in not having had a single line from my ever revered Cousin M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty, by the John Packet. Good heavens! My dear Sir, what could have caused her silence! She never, never, omitted writing by every conveyance. And yet, I know if anything had been the matter you surely my dear Sir would have kindly given one line – In this hope I shall for the present rest satisfied, flattering myself ere long I shall be amply paid for the anxiety I now labour under: and from your hurry you did not write to Little Hampton to acquaint her with the departure of the Packet.

My young girls are well – for want of Beaux owing to the war, they are still spinsters: they join M<sup>r</sup> Davidson my Daughters Eliza, Lydia and self in requesting their kind remembrance to yourself M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Faulkner and Miss [*Foskey?*].

God in heaven bless you my worthy friend, I remain with a grateful heart your much obliged E: D.

Your favourite the gay and bucksome widow Davis is married to a Captain Cockburn of the Kings – he followed her out from Bath. I am now sorry, very sorry to inform you, and I am certain you will drop a friendly line when I tell you, poor George Forster is no more – M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty will acquaint you with the particulars of his Death.

pages 409 – 411 [Elizabeth to Mrs Hancock – the children's governess previously referred to as Miss Hancock]

25<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791

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

Your favor p<sup>r</sup> the Hindostan of the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1789, and those by the Foulis Dated on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 1790. I have been duly honored with.

In the first place my kind M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock, I must tender you my best and hearty thanks for your care and active exertion in forwarding the Education of my Children; Lydia does you and her Masters credit; indeed she is improved far beyond any Idea of mine. Her father is pleased with her if she would but practise her musick she would play exceedingly well, as it is her execution on the Piano Forte is very pleasing.

The french language is an elegant accomplishment, if Lydia had added to it it would have been a feather in her cap; But in this world we cannot at all times obtain on wish.

Miss Chitty for the little time she has been in Gower Street has done wonders, she is a clever sensible girl and I dare say she will do very well.

Miss Falconar possesses an amiable sweet disposition, with an affectionate tender heart – In short my dear Madam my girls in their different ways are all amiable and tractable: their society greatly adds to the happiness of Vizagapatam.

It is natural to feel pain at parting with them, whom we have long lived with, in friendship: therefore, is it surprising you, who had the instruction of my Lydia for five years should drop one kind tear at her quitting you? Indeed I most poignantly felt for my dear invaluable Cousin, and for you all.

As Eliza, Lydia, Juliet, and Eliza F– have all addressed you and fully, I have but little to say, their sprightly pens I know have no bounds in writing their worthy Governess –. Your kind communications respecting Aleck and his sisters I am obliged to you for; I hope they will daily see their youthful errors and improve.

It has given me great pleasure, my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock, to hear of your prospect of being well established – you have my best wishes and prayers for your every success; be assured, if I can anyway be of service to your School I shall with the greatest pleasure assist you. Our present retired situation deprives me of being so useful to you as my heart wishes; however, when occasion offers, and I can procure you scholars, I shall not be inattentive to your interest.

I have given M<sup>rs</sup> Munro a friend of mine one of your cards, she has promised in a manner if she does not send her daughter to M<sup>rs</sup> Munn's School she would give you the preference: but you know of all India's fair promises.

I hope you see my Cousin often – you know her health is not very good therefore I shall flatter myself when anything is the matter, you my worthy Madam will attend to her, and let me hear of you by every opportunity; your giving me a few lines regarding my darling friend and Children will oblige and render me happy.

My dearest M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's silence not writing to any of us by the John Packet has given me great uneasiness – I shall trust in God no unforeseen event has caused us not hearing from her. M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes says in her letter to Betsy, Your Cousin has been very indifferent and

Mary has had swelled legs and feet. I pray we may soon have satisfactory news from dear Gower Street.

I hope dear Madam you will excuse the brevity of this – my present weak state, owing to my late severe illness makes me just now a very poor scribe: I am indeed at best an indifferent pen woman.

Permit me to trouble you with my best remembrancer to all my good friends. M<sup>r</sup> D– and family unite with me in wishing you a large share of health, added to every other earthly blessing. I beg [*to*] remain my dear M<sup>rs</sup> H– your sincere friend and greatly obliged E: D. M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty will present you with a long white shawl if it reaches England safe which you will accept as a trifling token of [*page torn*]

pages 412 – 413      [*Elizabeth to Captain James Russell*]

W. V. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791

My Dear Sir

Your very polite, attentive, and friendly favor, dated London 6<sup>th</sup> June 1790 I had the pleasure to receive by the Swallow Packet.

I was happy to find you had enjoyed good health and spirits during your voyage; and it also afforded me, and the rest of your old friends here much pleasure to learn after the disagreeable solution of the General Goddard your safe arrival in London.

Before I proceed further I beg leave to thank you for the care of my Parcel, and for the early visit you paid to my friend M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty and family – Your obliging attention shall ever be remembered by me gratefully.

I have little [*illegible word*] to send you from here but what regards our Army and of this, you will hear from abler pens than mine. However, this much I must say, I might as well be out of the world, if I did touch a little on politics, Medows and Musgrave have not done anything to speak of, nor are the Army and Government I believe satisfied with their conduct. I hope Earl Cornwallis will recover the credit of the English Arms, it would be truly mortifying so many Brave fellows should suffer for the conduct of their leaders. Earl Cornwallis has brought from Bengal a further and full supply of Money, Cavalry, and Infantry with Draught cattle, Elephants &<sup>ca</sup> &<sup>ca</sup>. His Lordship joined the Army on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>ry</sup> at Vellant near Poonamalee, and on the 5<sup>th</sup> instant our Troops Marched for Mysore – Our Forces consist of about twenty thousand men, composed of Europeans, native Infantry, Artillery, and Cavalry. God grant us success; the prosperity of Individuals and the future public weal of India depends on this Gallant Army.

We go on here as you left us, on a good understanding with all. The Prendergasts are well; little Tom grown a fine Boy, he has lately had the small pox very fortunately by inoculation. The Keatings you have no doubt heard or fixed at Chicacole in the room of M<sup>r</sup> Crawford, who is appointed to Ganjam. M<sup>rs</sup> Keating is in a fairway of shortly increasing her family: the Beau is much better than when you saw him. M<sup>r</sup> Wilson is paymaster of Chicacole. M<sup>r</sup> Gordon is at Madras, uncertain whether he will again return here. M<sup>r</sup> Ogilvy is the same and griffen as ever; with much ado I got him to give us a supper, and that cost him eight sleepless nights – poor fellow! You have heard I imagine of the worthy MacAlister's death – Captain Hudson late of Ganjam has succeeded him; his fair Lady you have seen. M<sup>rs</sup> Crawford has lately added a girl to her family – M<sup>rs</sup> Grant is gone to Ganjam on a visit, perhaps to remain. Miss Fleetwood engaged to Captain Mountague of the Bengal Artillery. M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Lawson have been Residents since March last. M<sup>r</sup> Ogilvy has purchased Bakers House, the Lawsons poor Macalisters.

M<sup>r</sup> Halliburton is our Surgeon's assistant – a deserving clever young man. Gregory, and Snow, little Keating are all hearty. Snow never fails to do credit to the L[*illegible word*] P[*illegible word*]

I am sure you will excuse my not adding more to this; I think you must be pretty well tired of my letter before you reach the bottom, and yet, I cannot help flattering myself you will derive pleasure from hearing of the welfare of your Vizagapatam, and Waltaire friends. Should you see M<sup>r</sup> Drake give him our best salams, none here have had a line from him: except lately letter from S<sup>t</sup> Helena which was a year coming to hand Adieu my dear Sir – M<sup>r</sup> D– joins my daughter and me in wishing you every blessing – I am with truth you're much obliged E. D

Many thanks for the perusal of news paper which I sent to M<sup>r</sup> Falconar [written along the side] Do me honor my Dear D– to [illegible word] enclosed letters [then follows a list which is too tightly bound to be able to read the left hand edge]

?? Chitty	the 15 January 1791
??	22 D <sup>o</sup>
??	15 feb <sup>y</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
? Davidson	21 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
??	22 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
??	23 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
??	24 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
?? Hancock	25 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>
?? Russel	27 D <sup>o</sup> D <sup>o</sup>

page 415 [Lydia Falconar to Elizabeth Davidson]

Inverness 16th Febr'y 1791

wit joy and thankfulness do I take up my pen to address the most Amiable of women – yours by the Houghton has rendered me happy indeed – the safe Arrival of the young people, the pleasing intelligence of all your Healths – and my Eliza's meeting your approbation – O my god give me a thankful Heart – and extend abundantly thy Blessings to the instrument of my present happiness, the change in my sons situation, I hope is for the best – but I regret the great distance he will be at from the tenderest care that ever was administered to a mortal Creature in case he should be ill but to Divine care I commit the the most Dutifull of Sons – he will I trust spair and protect him for a Blessing to the fondest of mothers and to many the Charming state of Health mr Davidson enjoys has greatly refreshed me. the most High I hope will bless you all for your Singular goodness to my dear children. I had the pleasure of a Letter from my Dear Niece:Lydia but none from your Charming Eliza – but it will come another time. — my Daughtrs description of her, has rejoiced my Heart – my Son has wrot me – but I will forbear what I had to say at this time – may Heaven Bless my Exelent Son – the Amiable mrs Chitty and the children are well. how happy am I, in the enjoyment of her Correspondence – she is a Treasure, a true friend – how happy is my Eliza – under the protection of such worthy relations – and indeed she seems most senceable of it – her acomplishments are not such as I could have wished but it could not be otherways she is senceable and good Hearted – and I hope providence will be gracious to her. she may say it has allredy been Highly so – in puting her in to such Hands as yours. my Dearest madam tell mr Davidson, I sent him a Copy of his Broysr will, under my sons cover Decemr last and please offer him my Hearts best Soul – the young people joins me in respectfull and affectionate Compts



to you and miss Davidson – miss Lydia I intend to writ – also my Daughtr – ever my  
dearest madam yours most affectly whell – Lydia Falconar

page 416 is blank

pages 417 – 440 [Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty]

M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty [also in a separate hand] 21 feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791 for Hawke – sailed 16 April 1791

My Dearest and most revered Friend

I told you in my letter dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1790 by the way of Bengal, I should address you fully by the dispatch of the end of the year. Accordingly, my loved Cousin, I have snatched up my pen to perform the pleasurable and dear employment I promised myself of acknowledging all your most esteemed and highly prized letters. Though, I do not hear of any ships going from the coast this Season, yet in the hopes some may be sent to Europe with the transactions of our Army; I shall yet get my Packet in readiness.

Reply to your letter the 29<sup>th</sup> April 89                      Your favor by way of Ostend dated 27<sup>th</sup> of April, which was a full twelve months on its passage came safe to hand – therein you transcribe M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes very kind letter offering Falconar the appointment of a Cadet thanks to the Supreme Being my amiable friend, it did not succeed. All is well that ends well – And most happy am I he has nothing to do with the Military. The situation Falconar is in now if it pleases the almighty to spare his life, I am confident in the course of a few years he will be enabled to make a genteel figure much much are we indebted to you my darling friend for your friendship and exertions.

“I find a pious gratitude disperse  
Within my soul; and every thought of you  
Ingenders a warm sigh within me, which  
Like curls of holy incense, overtake  
Each other in my bosom, and inlarge  
With their embrace your sweet remembrance”.

O my dearest Cousin; I hope you will ever find in me Gratitude and affection go hand in hand, But when I cease to be grateful, make up Providence that instant is extinguish my Existence! –

You say “this day your dear Boy went to Doctor Thompson’s”, from the date of your letter to this time, he has been at school a year and Seven months. The account of your parting with this little favourite drew tears from me; not on his account my Cousin, but for your kind and tender affection for him, and blended with so much dear anxiety for his welfare: his manly behaviour is greatly to be admired. His desiring his sisters Mary and Harriot to comfort his indulgent Cousin was a pretty thought of his – Heaven bless the sweet Boy! May the Beneficent Parent of the Universe grant him wisdom, added to every amiable requisite virtue to render him an ornament to society and an honour to his friends. And you my best of friends be preserved to take largely the pleasure of your labour, in saying this Boy of ours all that your fondest heart can wish.

Eastbourn 7<sup>th</sup> August 1789                      I come to your esteemed long letter from Eastbourn, conveyed to me by the Vestal Frigate. I was happy to find you had made your annual excursion to the Seaside; the change of air and scene must have been salutary for all your healths; as to the expense there can be very little difference, wherever you are you must live, at all times provision is much more reasonable in the Country than in London. The

lodgings, and now and then carriage hire are the only extra expenses, and even that is made-up by the non attendance of the Masters during your ramble. Therefore my dear considerate friend, do not deprive yourself and your children of the only passtime you are able to enjoy with comfort and satisfaction.

You say you constantly wish to see us settled in England when you see so many heavenly spots –How your Ideas and mine my sweet friend are in unison – how frequently do I long to be with you, to be a partaker of all your social and innocent moments, accompanied by your sweet young charges. I yet, hope the time of our meeting is not very far distant; the greatest desire I have at this moment is to see all my amiable girls here with me happily settled; and then to revisit England once more purposely to behold you, and acknowledge my heartfelt thanks as I ought to do for your unlimited Friendship: Then, and then only I shall be completely happy.

I have received all the letters, Drawings, Pictures, the Seal, your dear keepsake to my Eliza, her Watch, the puzzling purse, and spectacles all safe. – I was glad to find Lieu<sup>t</sup> Macaulay had been as attentive in Gower Street, he could not do less, after the attention he has received from us. I saw him at Madras in May last, he is greatly improved by his trip to Europe, he speaks of England in raptures – Indeed I should have been surprised if he had not: he is at present in the Field, appointed Aid de-camp to General Meadows. Since Macaulay's return, he has not been so gracious with me as formerly, I can easily account for it. I do not recollect at the moment if I ever mentioned the circumstance to you, if I have not, I must now tell you in confidence he was once an admirer of Eliza's; finding that my nephew is the favored Rival, his jealousy I suppose causes the shyness. I must however do him the justice to say he has behaved always much like a Gentleman. Do you know my sweet friend the attachment between the Cousins were not known out of this house by any individual, until the Arrival of the Vestal? and then it flew like wildfire all over Madras, and its environs to the astonishment of everybody! M<sup>rs</sup> John Turing's letter to her husband first communicated, or another disclosed the secret that had been for four years buried in the womb of concealment. wonder then at our surprise that the posts for several days from Madras conveyed to us the disclosure of this circumstance.

Aleck's being Politic is curious! He begins by times to be a politician. – Give him my love my Cousin, tell him I am an old foolish woman, and that I am not ambitious of his becoming a warrior, but I think if he can aspire to be as Great a Man as his favorite M<sup>r</sup> Pitt, he ought to be satisfied. His Father I am pretty sure rather wishes, as he is the only Son, to be of his own cloth: therefore I shall flatter myself my Aleck will give up the charm of a red Coat for the more grave one of Brown or Blue.

I am glad Lady Campbell has been kind, does she employ your house? She has expressed herself very warmly concerning me in her letters to some of her friends in this Country: when you see her Ladyship, Sir Archibald, and M<sup>rs</sup> Malcolm present to them my best compliments. Sir John Menzies civility on natural, I think I can with great truth assent M<sup>r</sup> Davidson was in this part of the world his most sturdy friend. Sir John was by no means a man liked, being a [*illegible word but would seem to be – parsimonious*], he lived very retired and associated very little among the people at Madras. This little private history I only mean for your knowledge and to shew you that Sir John's attention is no more than might reasonably be expected.

I felt myself greatly obliged to Major Johnson for the kind care he took of the Muslin and papers; he is a sensible worthy man; I hope poor fellow his health is improved by his trip to Europe: should he not have left England before this reaches you, tender him, my dear friend, my best respects and thanks.

The Muslin you mention having been sent to the India House must I imagine be the piece I sent under the care of Captain Welladvice of the Barnwell: I shall be glad if you have

been able to recover it. Tho Frost did not behave well the latter part of his servitude, yet in consideration of his former attentive conduct; particularly to our darling Boy; I was glad he had his handkerchiefs. Lydia tells me the Toy and Fan were approved of by Harriot and Alex<sup>r</sup>. – The Counters no doubt pleased Lady Grant; you are exceedingly kind to be so attentive to her Ladyship: I dare say you have gained her good will buy it, poor Lady Grant I cannot hope to see her again – I shall not however omit writing to her by the Ship that conveys this.

Pray my friend did you like Lady Oakley, Major Lewis Grant, the honble M<sup>r</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Leger? Major Grant is an excellent character, should you ever see him, do not forget to recall me to his friendly recollection.

M<sup>rs</sup> Davis was not well pleased with Lydia and the rest of the young Ladies not accompanying her, I did all I could she should not respect the cause that occasioned it: she was very civil, and spoke handsomely of you; but my dearest Cousin there is little sincerity in the world, that I could not help doubting her veracity. M<sup>rs</sup> D– looks exceedingly handsome; the charming cold air of dear England has entirely restored her lost beauty; She is as gay as a Lark, and ready for a third Husband. Fanny Clifton is still a poor sickly thing, I really believe she never will be in better health; she plays prettily. Miss Rumly her ward is admired much at madrasah, not for personal charms; but for an obliging deportment and modest affability; this preference, to M<sup>rs</sup> Davis, who thinks her own Daughter all perfection, must be a mortifying circumstance; and poor Rumley I dare say looked on with the Eyes of Jealousy.

I was rejoiced to find by your letter, our little favorite Hero's eyes were so much recovered his squint you say is not by any means as bad as Miss Fisher's, this agreeable tidings pleased M<sup>r</sup> D–, for he had an Idea the cast was much worse: I do not despair; as my Aleck grows in strength, he will I hope recover the Defect.

I was vexed to think my dear Mary does not exert herself in her Education, when her excellent Father gives her every advantage in his feeble power – the underwritten six lines I think will make my Mary desirous up being clever, they will show her my dear friend, that a pretty face is a mere bauble without the Ornaments of the mind.

“Education is the Alchymist that purges away our Dross and Sublimes our Disposition: That reads us Lectures of Use upon every turning and winding of our actions; informs us in our general and particular Duties teaches us to worship Heaven, to honor our Parents, to reverence our Elders, to subject ourselves to the Laws, to obey our Governors, to love our Friends to cherish our husbands to be affectionate to our children and not injurious to any”.

Mary will say “Mama is serious, and is grown a perfect Granny in notion”. I hope my Mary has too much good sense to make such a reflection, when she must be confident that her Amiable Cousin Chitty, and absent Mother I have no earthly motive but her future welfare, therefore, I shall flatter myself, since her good sister Lydia's departure, she has like an angel girl, redoubled her assiduity by paying close attention to every wish and every request of my dearest friend.

Harriot I am certain will use her best endeavors now she is under so able a Governess as M<sup>rs</sup> Olier, to do justice to herself, as well as credit to all her teachers: she having given you already my kind Cousin too much trouble: Harriot surely will exert her abilities and goodness to make full amends for her former misconduct by her steady attention to her Learning as well as her perfect reformation in her manners. When I know she is all you can desire, when I have under M<sup>rs</sup> Olier's hand my dear Harriots character, I shall then reward her gratefully with a handsome present for her obedience and dutiful behaviour: I mention M<sup>rs</sup> Olier's giving me my Harriots character, knowing you my inestimable friend will be partial in her account of her God Daughter.

As for our little Alex<sup>r</sup> – we must have him all perfection – He must my ever adored friend answered to the character I shall underneath transcribe, I think you will admire it and will with a partial Mother join in wishing that this nonpariel of a Boy should be the counterpart of it.

“An easy Mien engaging in address,  
Looks which at once, each winning grace express;  
A life where love, and truth are ever joined;  
A nature ever great, and ever kind.  
A wisdom solid, and judgement clear,  
The smile indulgent and a soul sincere.  
Mask without meanness, gentle and humble,  
Fond of improving, but yet never vain  
So justly good, so faithful to his friend:  
Ever obliging cautious to offend  
A mind where generous pity stands confessed,  
Ready to ease, and succour the distressed.  
If these respect and admiration raise,  
They surely must deserve our greatest praise.  
In one bright view, the accomplished youth [*next word illegible*]  
These virtues all are thine – and thou art he”.

Are not the above lines charming? You will say perhaps my too great partiality blinds me – my favorite nephew answers to the description – Indeed I think he does, as least as human nature will admit of. I shall enclose our Aleck a copy of it, that he may get it by heart; and if he will try to acquire those virtues, he cannot fail of being admired, and beloved.

Aleck’s first letter from School is Capital – “Yours for life” is sweetly expressed, dear Boy, I hope he will never vary from his present sentiments; his obligations to you – must be imprinted as an everlasting Memorial in his mind. M<sup>r</sup> D– is very pleased with your arrangement of sending Aleck to D<sup>r</sup> Thomson’s when he gets to Harrow if you think a Tutor will be necessary it cannot be objected to. Take D<sup>r</sup> Drurys advice my dear Cousin and be decided. M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has heard from a former Scholar that some of the under Masters for a Twenty Guinea Note on the New Year, pay extra Attention and additional Instructions after the School hours: and give more particular superintendence to the Pupils Learning & Morals. You my dear Cousin will for your Darlings sake make yourself a Mistress of this Subject, and act accordingly.

I hope James and John Patterson are kind to our Boy – their being at the same School must be a great comfort to poor Aleck. Alex<sup>r</sup> Patterson has received his appointment as Ensign and is ordered to do duty with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of European Infantry at Ellore, a Garrison near Masulipatam, at the latter his Father commands. I understand the Colonel feels himself so grateful to you my Cousin for your kindness to his Boys if he has not already done it he means to write to his Attorney to present you with five Lottery Tickets; If you should be prosperous, and that fickle Goddess present you with twenty thousand pounds, good heavens, how shall this whole family rejoice! – the house would be too small to contain us – O! would it were so! I know none better deserving of dame Fortune’s smiles than my darling friend.

Good God! My dearest Cousin how you drew tears from Eliza’s Eyes and mine when we read that part of your sweet charming letter, wherein you say – “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 opened her eyes and her heart. Involuntarily I fell upon my knees kissed her hand and burst into tears”. Such condescension to my interest was what I never would

have expected – O, my Cousin! your goodness is not to be repaid in this world; therefore you must, my invaluable friend, take the will for the deed. – I cannot, Indeed I am not able to describe all I wish to express to you.

“Friendship, that best support of wretched man, which gives us when our Life is painful to us, A sweet existence in another being”

Tell the Anstruthers when you see them, that we are not unmindful of them, Give them my friend the best wishes of this family. Inform M<sup>rs</sup> Pringle her nephew Stevenson is become a near neighbour of ours, he is well; and has promised to pay us a visit in Jan<sup>ry</sup> next. Poor M<sup>r</sup> Hughes owing to the mismanagement of his head Black Servant has got himself in some difficulty; the business is investigating, as Masters are ever liable for their Sservant’s conduct, it is imagined poor M<sup>r</sup> Hughes will be a sufferer. M<sup>rs</sup> H– waits with patience until the close of the inquiry, when she will determine whether she shall proceed to Europe or remain longer in Indai.

I am ever happy to hear the friendly worthy Corbett continues firm in his attention and friendship to you all – he is a dear old man, I never can speak of him, or think of his kindness to our family but with Enthusiasm; I shall most certainly write him in the meanwhile remember me to him in the warmest manner. Have you seen Theodore Corbett? is he better in health since he has been in England? and how do you like him? Vincentio Corbett was lately appointed one of the Collectors of the Coimbatore Country recently taken by General Meadows from Tippoo, where he has been these two Months: should our Arms prove successful, the Collector it is imagined will soon make their fortunes. V– Corbett when I saw him at Madras in July last was in perfect good health and spirits.

So old Robertson is still the attentive Beau! –, he possesses too just a heart to be otherwise than mindful of those who have rendered him service on former days: tho God knows, he has by his generous conduct in assisting me when in distress amply repaid assistance he might have formerly received from M<sup>r</sup> Davidson when in this part of the world. To this excellent man, and to his more lively Brother George, tender the best wishes of their friends at Waltaire: the “little Ldy” inform George Robertson often mentions him.

Having fully replied to your dear letters by the Vestal I shall now proceed to acknowledge your favors received by the Ships of the last season –

~~13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1789~~ Minerva my ever dear friend was the first ship that arrived at Madras on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, by her Packet I received

[*in the margin*–] 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1789 your most esteemed favour dated the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> gave me the pleasing information of your intention of sending my three Girls. As I have by the Houghton and by the way of Bengal written you very fully concerning them I shall not trouble you here with a repetition of the same story: but shall go on with those parts of your letters, that require friendly acknowledgements and reply.

Captain Mackintosh’s behaviour to his fair passengers has gained him their respect and gratitude forever; they are quite lavish in their praise of him he is the finest fellow they say that ever stepped on Board of a Ship: in short to sum up his merits he is a Non Such. Joking a part from what I saw of Mackintosh’s manner towards them his conduct seemed that of a sincere friend. I wish my Mary may be as fortunate when she comes out.

Your joint to Bath must have been delightful! Your late Charges talk of M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner’s kindness to them with affection and sensibility. – Offer my dear and ever loved Mrs Gardiner my heart's most grateful thanks, for her goodness and friendly attention to the young girls: they say, and are always repeating, that they can never forget their comical friendly Cousin Gardiner, her honest Lord and lively handsome Fred. The charms of delightful Bath are so riveted in their young minds, they are never to be

eradicated either by time or absence. The “Ponies” wish to know, with their Salams if M<sup>r</sup> Gardiner has since their departure been in danger of visiting Stone Jug[? *not clear & doesn't seem to make sense*] for a want of Kidnies?

28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1789 I am to reply to your favor of the 28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> by the Triton, in perusing it, I find I have acknowledged all you wish to know in my letter by the Houghton's Packet. Your letter [*crossings out and illegible words*] of M[*next few letters illegible*] leaving you, of Patterson's having been promised by my Uncle of a cadetship, M<sup>rs</sup> Loughnan and M<sup>rs</sup> Farquhar's having kindly recommended the girls to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Murdoch's at Madeira; and of many engagements between you and Capt<sup>n</sup> Robertson. Do me the favour, my dear friend, to mention me in the kindest manner to M<sup>rs</sup> Loughnan, and to the Farquhars; – tell the former, I shall ever bear in remembrance her friendly attention to you, and to your children. Lydia, is very partial to the L-s; so indeed are all of them. Was M<sup>rs</sup> Farquhar pleased with the Long cloth, I should take a peculiar pleasure to send her some remembrance from time to time to convince the worthy Farquhar that tho absent I am not ungrateful, or forgetful of the great benefit he has been to our family: but the trouble is so great getting any thing sent home it perfectly disheartens me. However, I shall as soon as I am a little richer send her something worthy her acceptance.

24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> 1790 The Lord Thurlow brought me your long interesting favor of the 24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> – wherein you describe the painful task you experienced in parting with your; now my dear girls. Robertson's kindness too in going on board with them was humane, and showed his sincere regard to you, and us: – he is a Princely fellow, his constant attention to my friends in Gower street shows the sincerity of his mind united with a noble generous heart.

What a melancholy journey you and Mary must have had back to London! how and how very dismal poor Gower Street house must have appeared to you both. Yet my Cousin, the long arduous charge you had in taking care of so many was too much for your health and spirit; I hope since your family is decreased you enjoy yourself more comfortably. Your health likewise, may Heaven grant it! is I hope greatly improved, may the Almighty perfectly restore it.

Mary will be the next that will cause you some trouble, but after her, I shall flatter myself with the glimmering hope of M<sup>r</sup> D– and myself of seeing you in old England, before I bid a long farewell to this earthly world. – Harriot and Alex<sup>r</sup> will be your companions for many a day; So you see, my friend, you are doomed to be plagued with the Davidson's; they are like Leeches they will not quit you until you through salt on them.

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and I were happy to find you continue in Gower Street; there are two years of the Lease still remaining before that is out many things may happen, and the change who knows, may be to all our advantage: therefore we shall drop the subject of the poor house for the present.

We are thankful to you for remembering us in sending us our yearly supplies. The stockings, hat, snuff, coats, Gauzes, stays &<sup>ca</sup> &<sup>ca</sup> were all acceptable. M<sup>r</sup> D–'s black [*next word illegible*] were damaged owing to the dampness of the Ship. I think in future Eliza and I shall be obliged to you; and indeed so will the rest of the Girls [*next few words illegible*] to send us yearly some pairs of new stays for each of us, also about 12 pairs of smart shoes, half leather the other half silk for every one of [*the*] girls; my Eliza's stay's sent her these two years past are about an inch too long at the Top and nearly half an inch too big at the bottom. If a few Pounds of hair powder can be sent they will prove acceptable, in this Powder is an expensive article in India and that for sale is not good: sale of pornatum the same; it is dear and generally of a bad quality.

Hairdressing is very expensive here, I have prevailed on my young folks to leave off powdering not only for its cleanliness but also for appearance, they look at least three years younger than they did when they first landed.

I am greatly ashamed at the ungraciousness of our Indian gentry – I too well know they would never think of the cards I gave them, though, I addressed each of them particul<sup>r</sup> enclosing your address: I think I have a copy of my note if I find it, I shall transmit you a duplicate of it, merely to show you that I was not deficient my dear Cousin in complying with your wishes. When people leave this warm clime, after they advance into more rigid Regions, their minds become as changed as the climate; by which means they lose recollection of that friendly conduct that actuated them to promise their interest and support. –

I am ever sorry, my soul's dear friend, when you mentioned your living with us, as adding to our expences. All that M<sup>r</sup> D– and I have to urge you on this subject is, that you will make yourself perfectly easy and comfortable on this score. – Consider our friendship is mutual and sincere and the obligations on our parts are so unlimited, do you imagine the trifle you eat will list distress, or even repay you? For God's sake say no more on a theme that is truly galling to me.

I never my Cousin admired M<sup>r</sup> Luard's conduct towards you, he always appeared to me a selfish being; and to his own interest never blind: I will not herein say more of him for fear of incurring your displeasure; And yet, as you are concerned I cannot suppress my displeasure. I hope his amiable Daughter is as affectionate and fond of you as ever, she possesses too much good sense not to discern your worth and not to wish to retain your affection and friendship. When you see her present her my kindest remembrance.

I shall observe what you say respecting Mary's shifts; I am afraid I shall not be able to send them this year, but I shall see what I can do.

I do not believe M<sup>r</sup> D– will accept of the Chiefship of Masulipatam, we have been so knocked about from pillar to post, he is perfectly tired of the business; besides, you know my friend the old adage, “A rolling stone gathers no moss”. It is imagined M<sup>r</sup> Sadlier with several of the Company's Servants will be disgraced for their mercenary conduct.

The Collectors appointed to the Countries since writing the above, I am informed are returning back to Madras, not being able to do anything – V– Corbett among the rest: this not certain Eliza and I have wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes by the Houghton thanked her for the feathers, and Blond she sent us: we mean to address her again notwithstanding which never omit my Cousin, to mention us in the most affectionate; and grateful terms to her and M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes. –

I am now to acknowledge you're three kind letters received by Juliet, Eliza, and Lydia – the perusal of them did not fail to make me feel all that you so maternally and kindly experienced when you parted with them. I hope they will all do well, and I can with pleasure inform [p429](#) you, at least as far as I can discover, they are all on they are all on amiable fitting footing with each other.

*[left margin torn so only a little readable]*<sup>th</sup> of 1790      Your favours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of March on now my subject, I received them by the Admiral Hughes' Packet – I am mortified at my poor giddy Harriot's conduct and lament more truly her having given you a moment's uneasiness. But as she is now at School, (indeed my Cousin I am heartily glad you have not sent her to Miss Oliers) I daresay she will see her errors, and with the good examples before her, she will improve and correct herself. When I hear of her reformation, I shall then plead for her; and shall endeavour to replace her again in your friendship and estimation.

I shall now expect to hear Mary has exerted herself in her accomplishments, her excellent Father has heard so much of Mary's person, he is all expectation to see her. I hope my

Mary will not disappoint her Pappa, but that she will be all his fondest wishes expect: M<sup>r</sup> D— means if it pleases the Almighty we are all well, to go to Madras about April 1792 to bring Mary up: I pray we may all meet with pleasure and happiness.

Poor Johnstone came to see me as soon as he was able to procure leave of his Captain and brought me Mary's and Eliza's writing Desks. Johnstone is an honest fellow, ever obliging and attentive to this family: I mentioned before, he had a few trifles for you and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes; I hope they may reach you Safe, give him my best compliment: I wish M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes may be of service to him.

I was surprised and sorry to hear of M<sup>r</sup> P— Davidson's death! by all accounts he had an excellent mind, but rather given to Indolence. May I beg of you my dear Cousin when any Casualty happens in the family that your pen only may be the Channel that brings the intelligence to me? my Mary, Harriot and Alex<sup>r</sup> in each cases should be silent. I am glad Lady G— is to give her Small Legacy to M<sup>rs</sup> Falconar — She always as a great favorite of her Ladyship.

M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock's purse was received safely she sent it to Lydia, not to Betsy underscored so you my friend imagined; It is a dashing one and Lydia is not a little proud of it.

I saw both M<sup>r</sup> Mackenzie and M<sup>r</sup> Cecil Smith, when I was at Madras. my stay at the Presidency was so short after the arrival of my girls; I had no opportunity of showing either of them any attention. M<sup>r</sup> C— Smith got acquainted with the young folks at the Rooms by dancing with them, by which means he was more known to to me than the other; He is a good looking young man bids fair for extravagancy and seems on good terms with himself. Should M<sup>r</sup> Smith ever come in our way, be assured we shall pay him attention.

I was glad to find Lady Campbell and M<sup>rs</sup> Malcolm were at your Rout, and still more pleased as they conducted themselves so politely towards you. Lady Campbell in this Country was in her Publick Character well liked; she has a great turn to promote the good fellowship of Society; and to the distressed, she really had a heart: and yet, her Ladyship had as we all have, her foibles: but in this world who are there, that are free from them.

M<sup>rs</sup> Malcolm was in general admired, both for her affability and genteel appearance, Betsy was a great favourite of hers, will it not give you pleasure my kind friend when I tell you a letter I received from M<sup>r</sup> Hudleston a few days ago in speaking of M<sup>r</sup> D— Betsy and me he says— "I am happy to find (after all mishaps) M<sup>r</sup> Davidson and you are settled at Vizagapatam, where I wish you both and your amiable Daughter (of whose merit and sweetness there is but one opinion) every possible comfort and happiness". —You that know underscored my Eliza, will excuse her Mother's vanity in acknowledging to you Hudleston's flattering panegyrick.

I am really pleased M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock is so well situated, she shall have my prayers and best wishes for her health and success. I shall keep her in my minds Eye, when I can be of service to her new undertaking, I shall not lose an opportunity: the distance from the Presidency, entirely demote debars me from being of that use to her I wish to be.

12<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1790                      Your favours by M<sup>r</sup> Mackenzie of the 12<sup>th</sup> and of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>ry</sup> by the Cerés Packet I had the pleasure to receive a few days before I left Madras.

The young man was particularly recommended to M<sup>r</sup> Turing by his Lady, with whom he lived. I saw M<sup>r</sup> Mackenzie one night at the Rooms, he did not in my opinion in the smallest degree resemble his beautiful sister.

How do you like the Turing family? You never gave me your opinion of them. M<sup>rs</sup> Saunders is the mildest of these three Ladies, and while in India she was greatly esteemed by those who knew her. M<sup>r</sup> Turing is thinking I hear of going to Europe this season, he was much pleased when I told him your letters spoke of his family being well: is a plain man, he has an excellent private character, but in publick never gained many friends. I



think you will like Turing, he is an affectionate indulgent husband and Father – two valuable requisites in married life.

Your letter dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of March came by the Queen's Packet, reached me here on the 19<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>. The Queen had a long Passage – She being a wooden bottom, is a slow Sailor: I was however, happy to find you and the young fry were then in good health:

M<sup>r</sup> D– being desirous of having Mary's, Harriot's and Alex<sup>rs</sup> heights, will you my Cousin cause them to be measured, and enclose their measurements to me? Lydia says her sister Mary when she left Gower Street was full as tall as Miss Fisher, Betsy and Miss F– are very nearly of the same size, I think the former much grown since you my dear charming Coz seen her. Betsy has grown an inch these last six months, is now 5 feet three and an half. Lydia since July has grown near  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch, is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch of 5 feet.

25<sup>th</sup> March 1790 – your kind few lines by Young Baillie of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March came to hand; do give my best respects to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Baillie tell them should M<sup>r</sup> Baillie and we be ever in the same place, I shall be happy for their sake's, and for their kindness to my Daughters Eliza: and poor Peggy, to show them their connexion every civility and attention in my power.

I have been honoured with the worthy Murray's letter – though, it was long forth coming, yet, tell him my friend, it was not the less acceptable. I shall not fail soon to address the most amiable Commander. Poor Langley! Have you even heard of or seen him? The Doctor too – oblige me, my Cousin, by tendering these good fellows my best wishes. If you see M<sup>r</sup> Christie do not omit the devoirs of his old ship mate –

1<sup>st</sup> June 1790 I am now come to your dear kind letter dated the first June 1790 received by the Swallow – I was happy to find on perusing it that our friends Cap<sup>m</sup> Russell and M<sup>r</sup> Millingchamp had been so early in their visit to you; They are both good characters and where much steamed in India by those who were acquainted with their worth. I shall flatter myself ere this reaches your hands the Muslims sent by Cap<sup>m</sup> Russell all safely lodged in your large store Trunk.

I was sorry you were disappointed in your visit to M<sup>rs</sup> Balfour – you must tell me my friend how you like M<sup>rs</sup> B–, her husband in this country was styled the silent Man; and yet, he is exceedingly sensible and clever. I shall like to know if Alex<sup>r</sup> approves of his Godmother, and what she thinks of his eyes &<sup>c</sup>, &c<sup>a</sup>.

I was vexed poor Aleck only got three Pagoda's instead of four – I must make amends for his shag ring, by making up the loss. M<sup>r</sup> D– has received the news papers by young Brodie; but not on darling Boys present of the Country dancers caricatures: I wonder what became of it! M<sup>r</sup> Davidson has given me a Shakespeare seal for his little son in return for the caricatures, to which seal I shall add a little gold chain for his watch. One side of the seal being plain, I shall be obliged to you to having his initials cut on it.

We have not heard from England these seven months, however, I was happy to learn by the best accounts received over land, we are most probably not to have a Spanish War. God knows we have enough on our hands in India without further Broils.

By one of the homeward bound ships of this year from Bengal, I find Miss C– Blunt is returned home– which did not a little surprise me; as I was told she had given her promise of marriage to M<sup>rs</sup> Powney's son. Poor Lady Blunt, out of five Daughters she sent to India, I believe Miss Blunt is the only one remaining with the Father – the rest have all suffered one way or another.

The Foulis arrived in Bengal late in October, by her Packet I was made happy with the receipt of your letters of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May and the 13<sup>th</sup> May 90 [*note in margin also notes those dates*].

By them I was pleased to find you had got, my beloved friend, my letters by the Rose; I am never more gratifying than when I am told by you, my letters have reached your

hands; as any misfortune happening to them, must ever cause in your affectionate anxious Breast, a doubt of my intention: An Idea I confess that ever rends my heart.

M<sup>r</sup> Carr told me he had wrote me if he did his letter never came to my hands – I should not have sent the long cloth to M<sup>rs</sup> Farquhar by him, had he not voluntarily offered to take charge of any thing I might have to send home. I shall be happy after all, if the cloths are procured for M<sup>rs</sup> F –r.

It really yielded me much satisfaction to find my revered M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner and her sweet Boy had been with you – Dear woman! When my dearest Coz shall we all meet again to talk over the many past happy scenes?

I shall send Mary some neck handkerchiefs if I possibly can. If the Dane expected here will take cloth and Muslin, I shall certainly send some by her; The cloth for slips for Mary, the Muslin for you and the Girls, also if any can be spared to Lady G– M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner, and M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan, they will I dare say be acceptable; but I leave this entirely to your management, to act as you best think proper.

I have ordered some Muslin's for M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, they will not be done till next season, when I hope to send to have the pleasure to send them to her: likewise some handsome neck handkerchiefs for herself and Daughter. This year Eliza sent that dear woman another pair of Pearl drops with some few other things which I noticed to you in my former letters. The Pipe of Madeira is also gone to M<sup>r</sup> Devaynes, which we meant to have sent by the General Goddard, but it being cased Captain Foxall refused to take it on Board.

I have got a long shawl for Harriot, and why a white shawl handkerchief for you with a few feathers for M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes which I mean to trouble poor Major Burrowes with. – Poor fellow! A second time he returns to Europe a Widower, do not you remember his wife? The accomplished Miss Greenland – her Death was universally lamented by those who had the pleasure of being acquainted with her worth. M<sup>rs</sup> Burrowes has left a little Boy behind her, which the unfortunate Father takes with him.

I shall send Mary a long Shawl also M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock, Mary will have no occasion for one, but as she will require something to cover herself during the passage I think a neat Black Cloak would answer the purpose, and a white Sarconet [?] for particular occasions. By all means my dear Cousin give Mary a riding habit made of the thinnest cloth that can be procured in England and of a dark fashionable color.

I have finished replying to all your dear letters fully – shall now proceed to inform you of our situation regarding our Army tho, the Couriers will tell you more clearly of our transactions than my poor pen is able to describe.

Since my last our Army has done but little; we have spent upwards of 40 lacks of Pagodas upwards of a million and a half Sterling as yet too little purpose. – Earl Cornwallis is come from Bengal to take charge of the Army, he has brought with him a further supply of Money, Cavalry, and Infantry with Draught Cattle, Elephants, &<sup>ca</sup>. It is not for me to remark on the conduct of those who ought to understand and manage so subtle and formidable and Enemy as Tippoo – But this much I must observe, General Meadows has hitherto given no satisfaction by his Generalship. Lord Cornwallis is most strenuously making every exertion in his power to crush this Sooty faced reptile –

God grant his endeavors may prove successful; the fate of India depends on the success of our Arms. The enclosed two songs made at camp I enclose the perusal of them will entertain yourself and friends: they are rather severe –

In October last about the 23<sup>rd</sup> I was severly attacked with a bilious fever, endemick in these parts; it has weakened and pulled may down exceedingly I have got a bad cough and I am still as weak; And as slow in regaining my strength, that change of air is recommended. M<sup>r</sup> D– and the Girls are going with me to make a tour of a Month round

the Country: I hope from this excursion I may reap benefit – for really my dear Cousin at present I am a poor creature.

I have mentioned all the girls to you and of the prospects except your favourite eldest Daughter. – As you have my dearest invaluable Cousin most materially with all the fervency of the truest friendship, interested yourself in her, will not you deem me most ungrateful, were I not to converse with you on the Subject of her situation? Yes, you would I am certain think me unfit and undeserving of your affection and friendship. Well then, to proceed I must tell you my nephew is confined by the late orders of the Court of Directors to the Presidency for four years; I told you this circumstance in my letter by the Houghton. He is appointed the deputy Persian translator under M<sup>r</sup> J – Garrow, ere his writership is expired, is expected M<sup>r</sup> Garrow will be on his way home, should this be the case, Falconar stands the best chance of succeeding him in the Office. I do not infer from this my Eliza is to be four years longer unsettled, but you know my good Coz, the young people must have something before hand to make the pot boil. I hope and trust ere so distant a period our young man will be able to maintain his wife. Explain this matter to M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes that she may not wonder at delays. Falconar is prudent, industrious, and ambitious of recommending himself to his Employers: therefore; if it pleases the Supreme Being, I have not the smallest doubt of his doing well. M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Munro, Brother and sister in law to M<sup>rs</sup> George Smith all returning home on the Disco Danish Indiaman, we expect them here on their way to Europe; By M<sup>rs</sup> Munro, I shall send them some card markers for you, and a small gold chain and seal for our darling Boy. I do not imagine the Disco, not coppered, will reach England before June or July, if she does before that Period, she will be fortunate. The Danes not being enterprising or active consequently the Vessel will not make so much expeditions or voyages as one of our Europe Ships.

Have you received the Shawl and long Cloth I sent you and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes by Captain Ley? When you see him, the Anstruthers, Jordan, old Macaulay, the Pringles, Lady Gordon, old Lady Grant, the Grants, Pigous, M<sup>rs</sup> Scot Jackson, the Baillies, M<sup>rs</sup> Craig, the Luards & & & do me the favour to present my best remembrance to them.

I shall here in enclose you a pair of M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's point Ruffles to be washed and mended by the best lace washing in London: and if you, my dear Cousin, when done will enclose them to me in the like manner in one of your letters, I shall be greatly obliged to you.

Last night's letter from Madras 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> mention M<sup>rs</sup> Davis marriage having taken place with Cap<sup>tn</sup> Cockburn — a third time she is become a Bride — Previous to her husband's arrival she had an offer from a M<sup>r</sup> Dent who had been in Council formerly; but being a devious and eccentric character she of course declined his addresses.

*[the next appears to be written in a different hand – it looks like her husband's writing, however the words seem to be hers, was she dictating?]*

On account of the War Government stopped the middle of last year the payment of the allowances of the Chief's and Councils, and all the Revenue Officers; this measure has distressed M<sup>r</sup> Davidson exceedingly: however he bids me say he shall by the Ships of the Season strain every nerve to send you home two five hundred Pounds. He adverts to Mary's outfit. M<sup>r</sup> D– expected his brother would have left him something being next heir at Law: he wishes for a Copy of the will: he however supposes he died worth very little. natural Children are generally provided for by particular legacies. *[written in the margin by Elizabeth]* I shall be obliged to you dearest D– to look over this sheet – begins from this Place.

*[letter then continues in Elizabeth's hand]* I have only written you a few flying lines by the Rodney's Packet enclosing you my duplicate by the Houghton, and those sent by the

way of Bengal. I have also wrote you two short letters one under the care of Major Burrowes, and the other to go by the Europe Packet, the duplicate of which I shall send by the Dane, and shall not fail giving you a few lines by her. This my large budget with letters to my friends and Children. I mean to forward either by the Feb<sup>ry</sup> or March dispatch from Madras or Bengal.

I have perfectly wrote myself out and I hope you will think I have been sufficiently explicit in every matter you wished to be informed of.

You must my much loved friend mention in my name to M<sup>r</sup> Chitty his dear Daughter being well; she has not had a day's illness since she has been in this Country, and that Juliet to my knowledge wants for nothing – If she has a wish, and that wish, not gratified I am ignorant of it. Permit me to inform him and you, while she is with my good man and me we shall always look on her as one of our children; and as much as it is in our feeble power we shall always strive to make her happy.

You will not my cousin omit to mention me particularly to M<sup>r</sup> Pigou, M<sup>rs</sup> Vaughan, my ever valued M<sup>rs</sup> Gardiner, the Pigou family, the good and honored Lady Grant, the Grants, M<sup>rs</sup> cox and M<sup>r</sup> Spidell; likewise the Luards, Farquhuars, the Turing family, the Devaynes, the Macartneys, the Pringles, M<sup>rs</sup> Craig &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup>. — & tell those friends I must ever regard and respect them and the continuance of their good opinion will ever render me happy and comfortable.

Affectionately kiss and embrace my Dearest Girls and Boy, (Mary, Harriot, and Alex<sup>r</sup>) are I shall certainly addressed them, and likewise the good little fellow Tom Hunt – poor Boy tell him to love M<sup>r</sup> D– and me my Cousin. His Brother is not so stout as he ought to be, he is at the charity school at Madras: where I hope he will do well, he is under the care of M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Hughes.

Give my compliments to the Wilkes – their son and daughter are at Masulipatam very well. – M<sup>r</sup> Wilkes has had the misfortune to lose his post of this affair I imagine they will inform the old people. M<sup>r</sup> Willis brother to M<sup>r</sup> Willis of Croydon is in disgrace he is said to have embezzled some part of the Company's money. x

[*in the margin*] <sup>x</sup> My best wishes if you please my friend to M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock and the Masters particularly to the favourite Slingsby

Let me know if Maria was satisfied with my Conduct – and if she has arrived in England safe.

Remember me kindly to poor Grubb, old Hardy, Celey, Dennis, and to old mother Ramington – does she still wash for you? what is become of Frost and Jenkins? do you ever see them? Is M<sup>rs</sup> Recton living do not forget my compliments to her and to M<sup>rs</sup> Olivier, and poor Bennet.

My Eliza is writing to you, so are most of my Children. The old Cook assures me he will not be deficient in respect and attention to one of the best of women God has created – I shall now conclude, but not before I assure you, you have robbed this family of all their hearts; a robbery, my best and dearest worthy Cousin, of which we are not only vain, but in which we glory.

My nephew has desired me in the kind of term kindest terms to mention him to you – he says the continuance of M<sup>rs</sup> Chitty's friendship and good opinion will be an everlasting cordial to him –

Heaven bless and protect my invaluable friend – is the present wish and prayers of her faithfully and most affectionate obliged friend while E: D–

Beginning of Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1791

Since Finish

Within these few days Juliet has had two offers, the first M<sup>r</sup> Gregory Second Member of Council here, the other a Lieu<sup>t</sup> Malloy – she has refused both. [*next bit is muddles with much crossing out*]

Gregory is not very handsome, though far from being ill looking, he is tall about thirty three years of age; his father is a Major in the King's service at home. M<sup>r</sup> Gregory is thought by some not very good tempered, but this I am not certain of; but I also heard to women he is a dupe: his prospects are very excellent, add Juliet accepted of him, she would have been mistress of a very pretty house, chaise, Chariot, and Servants &c<sup>a</sup>, – besides being the second's lady of Vizagapatam. Notwithstanding all this grandeur and state, Juliet did right perhaps in rejecting M<sup>r</sup> G as she could not give her heart with her hand. – #

# L<sup>t</sup> Molloy is a genteel young Irish Man – conceited – and not on good terms with himself. She seems to be just now very partial to a M<sup>r</sup> Wilson a company's Servant he is a young man about five and twenty, he is rather handsome, his father lives near Captain Lewins at Eltham, he formerly commanded one of the Indiamen: and distinguished himself against the Dutch in Lord Clive's time. If M<sup>r</sup> W– would have Juliet It would render us very happy, but as yet I cannot perceive whether he likes her; But her partial conduct does not pass unobserved. W– is a favoured character: he is remarkably bashful and requires great encouragement to induce him to speak.

Now my dear Cousin I shall beg of you to order Sheldrake to make Betsy yearly one of his nice Spiders according to the enclosed sample, they are very beneficial to her person: it can be sent out with her stays –

Let not Mary's best gown be too showy, neat and elegant is what is most admired in this Country: – the colour ought to be chosens [*sic*] by [*illegible word*] Eliza's and Juliet's was approved of, but Lydia's was too fine. Allow Mary my sweet friend two Beaver hats, one for the use of the ship the other to shout at Madras – pray my Cousin permit it to be handsome and dashing, that she may kill Harts [*sic*] by dozens.

I have sent you by M<sup>r</sup> Cummings a netting box made here, and some other tokens of my Affection, gratitude, and Friendship – M<sup>r</sup> Cummings is on the Disco, Capt<sup>n</sup> Gadesdon, he has two long shawls the first for Mary, the other for M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock.

[*the next lines seem to be possibly written by Elizabeth's husband, as the writing changes*]

M<sup>r</sup> Davidson wishes you to send him some Garden Seed as per enclosed list: also some Flower Seed: By writing a card in M<sup>r</sup> Davidson's name to M<sup>r</sup> Scottney your Neighbour he will tell you how to pack them: If M<sup>r</sup> Scottney be removed you will hear of him at M<sup>r</sup> Stables late a Director: this Commission was mentioned in my letter last August except the Flower seed.

Mary, my amiable Cousin, ought to have 6 coloured Gowns for the ship, don't let them be dark have only half of them [*illegible word*] in the sleeves; and dear Cousin recommend to my Mary to be always properly dressed, during her passage never to go without her stays nor allow herself any improper indulgence (I hope she will have the good fortune to come under the care of some genteel good woman: Girls the best of them when left to act for themselves, and when from under the tender care of their friends, are very act to be misled by forming wrong Ideas, particularly when several are together). Do not imagine from what I say that our Kindostanies behaved improperly – far from it – Macintosh spoke very highly of them, which cannot but give pleasure to those interested in their welfare. By all means advise Mary, my dear friend, not to walk the Deck, but to take as

much exercise in her Cabin as she pleases. A Chamber horse would be a good thing to have in her Cabin, it will be serviceable to us also here, after Mary has done with it. I have now my ever loved friend to lament to you the disappointment and chagrin we all experience in not having had one line from you by the Little John Packet.– as you, my Cousin, have never yet failed writing me by every opportunity; I cannot but be unhappy at your silence. Particularly as M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes letter to Eliza by the Packet speaks of your “very indifferent state of health”, and of poor Mary having been afflicted with swelled Legs and feet.

M<sup>r</sup> D– comforts me by saying, that either you must not have known of the Little John leaving England; or that your dear letters must have been too late for the Packet owing to your being at Little Hampton. Heaven grant it may big be so, and not from any other cause –Oh!!! my Cousin, I cannot bear such [*next word illegible – ends ful*] query thoughts – I have a large share of fortitude – it is well for me it is so –I shall wait with patience till it pleases the Almighty to yield me peace of mind.

The John left Spithead the 26<sup>th</sup> of September – she arrived here on the 29<sup>th</sup> of Jan<sup>ry</sup>. Except Peace with the Turks she has not brought any very particular news.

Tell M<sup>rs</sup> Pringle with my love her nephew Stevenson is here to pass a few days with us; he is well and in good spirits.

I have at last put an end to my long volume, which I am afraid will try your patience to go through but the girls say, you my indulgent friend, will not think so, and add a thousand flattering compliments of what you will say of me.

Once more farewell my dear Cousin. And O! may Heaven’s best blessings ever surround you is the sincere prayer of your most grateful, most affectionate and most devoted E: D–

\*                      10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup>

This is a memorable day with me – this day five years Eliza, Falconar and I left you my dearest Cousin; And left you kind Parent, and Guardian Angel of my poor children.– Alas! how time flies, how swiftly has five years taken their flight!!! I hope ere the next five years are expired, kind Providence will grant us a comfortable happy meeting. The underneath quotation I am sure you will admire – I mean to pursue it’s maxim Most religiously – It is impious to deplore the lot Heaven has thought fit to fix us in "Submit thy fate to heaven's indulgent care, Tho all seem lost, its impious to despair, The tracks of Providence, like rivers, wind Here run before us, there retreat behind: And tho immers'd in earth form human eyes Again break forth; and more conspicuous rise" Again my Cousin this day twelve months your welcome favor of the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1789 came to hand announcing my nephew's appointment in the Company's Civil Service Gracious heaven ! what a joyous day it was to us – what do not I owe you, for your generous friendship to me and your dear maternal care of my Children? –

I do not mention the heroic death of poor Ensign George Davidson because not to inform you of the sudden death of any poor friend George Foster he died of a cold and fever. Poor Foster! he poss [*page torn*] an excellent mind knowledgable and was always a great favorite of his – by his means I was introduced to M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Devaynes, and to the Jacksons and some others. The enclosed is an account of his demise.

I have the pleasure to tell [*page torn*] Falconar has been flatteringly distinguished and thanked by the Governor and council for having written the general letter to go home by [*page damaged*] Packet to their satisfaction – I mention this circumstance [*page damaged*] I know it will give you pleasure to hear of his welfare and it will be an agreeable Report to the Devaynes. O My amiable friend indisposed as I am I could write to you for ever. Again Farewell for the present. E: D.

pages 441 – 442 [Elizabeth to Harriet Chitty]

W– 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1791

My dearest Cousin

By the Hawke now under dispatch I have addressed you very fully, I have also by the Fitzwilliam the duplicate of the above mentioned Packets.

These few lines will in all probability be conveyed to you by the Warren Hastings or Fitzwilliam now at Madras. Your dear and anxiously looked for favors of the 14<sup>th</sup> of July and the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1790, also your Journal by Major Johnson, I had the felicity to receive on the 1<sup>st</sup> of this Month; the pleasure and happiness they diffused to this family, as well as to myself, my pen can very poorly describe. The knowledge of your recovery and that of Mary and Harriot was a source of charming comfort to my mind and my enfeebled Body. The Idea of your dangerous situation my amiable friend rendered me perfectly sick at heart. O! for Heaven's sake take care of your invaluable health, and I pray that no trivial circumstances vex and torment you.

M<sup>r</sup> D– is doing all in his power to send you one thousand Pounds this Season, do not be uneasy if it should not reach you so soon as you expected, money is just now on account of the war extremely scarce

We expect ere long to hear of a Packets going to England, by her I shall be more explicit, these few lines are only to assure you we are all well and in full expectation of hearing from you by the 1<sup>st</sup> of May the ship is now thank God very near at hand.

I mentioned to you in my Packet by the Hawk Juliet and a M<sup>r</sup> Wilson, I think the match between them will take place, if it does not M<sup>r</sup> D– and I shall be truly sorry for really she may remain here for years before she may have an offer from a Gentleman in every respect more amiable and in so fair a situation of having a fortune in a short time as the amiable Wilson.

Wilson <sup>[\*]</sup> is a fine young man, and is greatly loved by all who know him; I wish you were here, I am sure I am sure you would grieve at the failure of this business. Juliet I am certain likes and is partial to him and I believe still continues to think favorite of him, but I cannot get her to open her lips to me on the subject.

How is my poor Alex<sup>r</sup>. Kiss him and his sisters for me: hoping you will be attentive to yourself – I remain with the *[hole in the page and much crossings out]* affection of true friendship of every one of this house your attached and ever devoted E: D.

End of Mss Eur E300 1B

[\*] Juliet Chitty married George Wilson

