

Mss Eur E300/2

This volume consists mainly of Elizabeth Davidson's journal, intended for her nephew and future son in law, Alexander Falconar, known as Sandy, who was the son of Elizabeth's sister in law.

It is very strangely bound, with many pages out of order, but it has been transcribed as if bound correctly. The journal has been interspersed, out of order, with letters to Alexander. For clarity and because there is not continuity, the letters have been removed and added separately at the end of the transcription.

vol 1 pages 1– 122

vol 2 pages 122 – 234

Volume 1

page 1

from January 1788 to June 1789

[also faintly written – possibly added by Alexander Falconar later]

20 Aug 1787 – went to Trichy

8 Oct 1788 returned to Waltier 5 Apr 1789 went last time to Trichy

1789 x

July 1790 returned finally from Trichy and from the Company's Army

page 2 -27 excluding letters on pages 3,4,5,9,11,12,13,20,25 and 26

From the 1st Febr^y Till the 6th March

P. M. Thursday 31st Jan^{ry} 1788 – March 5th

Journal continued

Dined Corbett and the family only. Came this evening to see us Major Buck and his Lady and also M^r Benfield, their visit were of ceremony. We supped enfamille.

Friday 1st Feb^{ry} 1788

The Breakfast over, I received and settled M^{rs} Anstruther in the Billiard Room Apartment, I am come to tell you my Friend, of the arrival of the long expected Ranger, she Saluted the Fort a quarter after Seven oClock this morning – she caused a painful anxiety within me. The situation of your dear Uncle, the pleasure of hearing from my valuable friend M^{rs} Chitty, and Children and the success of my solicitations regarding yourself, All rushed at once into my mind, and for some moments I found myself in a very unpleasant situation – Your Uncle coming to Breakfast helped to remove my gloomy Ideas – and I began to make tea for him the best way could. The Town Mayor favored us with his Company, who accompanied M^r Davidson to Town I am now on the tiptoe of impatience for my letters – May the Almighty grant the wishes of my poor heart which are unbounded.

Past one oClock – the Pion is just come with my letters – I am in such a flutter I can scarcely open much more read them – here is Grant come – just gone – he read me the postscript of one of his letters saying his Father Mother and family were well – God be praised for it – I hope I shall have letters for you tomorrow. Johnstone of the Swallow I find is come in the Ranger – The Captain of her has brought me my sweet Boys Picture I have not got it yet. Corbett dined with us. Captain Anstruther with your Uncle dined in the Fort.

The evening we passed at home M^r Davidson went to hear Captain Thydd a great Performer – being the concert night, we saw no one but Grant who only stayed half an hour. I shall write you a few lines tomorrow. My heart is ill at ease – Tho all my Children and M^{rs} Chitty

are well and M^r Davidson's letters on the whole pleasing: it is thought my goodman will still be honored and the Bars at least removed

Saturday 2nd

The Breakfast being at an end I am come to read over again some of my letters and Journals –my heart – My heart aches greatly for you my dear Sandy I know your feelings will be acute – you must resign yourself to your God, he certainly knows what is best and fit for us miserable Beings –here I shall lay down my pen.

Corbett's brother I am told has resigned his Paymaster ship. Dined M^{rs} Anstruther, your Cousin Eliza, Corbett, and P. M^r D– dined with the Hanovarean Colonel, a dinner given by the Corps to the Governor and Council &^c. We passed a dull evening my heart not being Cue to enjoy either Company or Conversation. Captain Wynch &c supped here.

Sunday 3rd

Breakfasted here Mess^{rs} Grant and Young – the talk of the place the unpleasant situation of the Campbells – But everybody is sorry for the kind hearted Benevolent Stevenson – some imagine Burrowes will not accept the Reg^t – I wish to God it may be so – my prayers shall not be wanting for his success.

We dined at Hamilton's in the company of about ten – Johnstone the ship officer of the Ranger arrived here this morning accompanied us to our dinner party: he enquired kindly after you – he has obligingly brought me four Packages from my ever good Cousin.

I mentioned to you Alek's picture – I was very near losing it – for Captain under whose care it was given entirely forgot he had such a thing in his possession; however, he found it, and instead of sending it to us, or giving it to Johnstone, he carelessly entrusted it to one of the Servants who brought it to the Gardens in a Basket of China ware, which was put out of the way without any notice being taken of the Small Package; at last after much inquiry and solicitude we found the dear Boys Picture packet in a little shaving Box – it is indeed very prettily done, and very like, the saucy fellow is not much altered, his father is so pleased with it that he means to take it tomorrow to Lady Campbell's. Supped M^r and M^{rs} Ruddiman, the former gave me your letter to him to peruse.

I am so overwhelmed with Europe letters I have not time to acknowledge yours of the 26th

Monday 4th

Breakfasted the family with my friend Johnston. Your Uncle, Anstruther, and Johnston are gone to Town – the Ranger is to sail this Evening. Dined in the family only. I hear the Governor is to review the troops at Wawlaugaubad [*Walajabad*] after the dispatch of Henry Dundas – no less than six thousand men are to be under arms. The news by the Ranger has caused a gloom on the Countenance of all the Campbells. I am told M^r Charmier's and Jackson's Salaries are lessened – the former's reduced from seven to three hundred, the latter from three to one hundred p^r Month. Supper here Macauley and Grant.

Tuesday 5th

Breakfasted with us Captains Brown and Dalrymple I have not heard anything new from them. Dined enfamille with only Grant. This Evening your Uncle accompanied Captain Johnstone to the Rehearsal of the Entertainment which is to be acted on tuesday next – M^{rs} Anstruther with Betsy and I made a Trio this Evening, and had the good luck not to be interrupted by any unwelcome interlopers. M^r Willis is appointed Postmaster and Martin Deputy in the Room of Mess^{rs} M Campbell and R Mitford.

Wednesday 6th

Breakfast as usual – It is now past 2 oClock – Betsy and I have been all this forenoon as busy as Bees with our Europe letters, you are not forgot in some of them – I have this moment finished one to your Dear Mother – here is the Courier just brought it is full of news which I hope will amuse your mind – My Journal will be old when you receive it.

Dined with your Uncle only. This evening Betsy and I had got into the carriage and were proceeding to the Asylum when we met M^r Alex^r Macauley and his Nephew, as I had always

been out when the old Gentleman called, therefore we returned back to receive him – Madras air has almost recovered him, he finds great benefit from it easily. Supped here Boyd Grant Stuart and Dirom.

Thursday 7th

Breakfasted here Mess^{rs} Palk and Whyte. Still busily employed with Europe letters – dined the family only – after dinner M^{rs} Anstruther accompanied Betsy and me to the Asylum – found the children perfectly well. We had a few visitors here this Evening – I heard M^r Gomond is appointed Town Major, M^r Stuart, Fort Adjutant. The posts that Stuart and Wilkes had are given to M^r Skandon and Ince – M^r Atkinson is appointed Secretary to the Medical Board, in the room of Doctor Berry. M^r Spalding is going home on the Tuscan Ship. M^r Gregory was our only Beau at Supper, the other three Gentlemen attended the Rehearsal. M^r Keating a Civilian at Visagapatam is married to a Miss Campbell that came out some time ago in a Danish ship called the Carnatick – she lived at Sir John Menzies – Do not you recollect her, and a Miss Brown? – Adieu I am sadly interrupted.

Friday 8th

Breakfasted here only the family party. Dined also as breakfast. This evening Major Patterson his wife and three children made their appearance Macaulay and Jourdan supped here No news. The Pattersons have got a house at St Thomé near the Flagg Staff – where I believe he means to leave his family while he proceeds to his Command – which it is imagined he will not keep as he is near being a Lieu^t Colonel – being now the oldest Major.

Saturday 9th

Who but Doctor Lucas favoured us with his company to breakfast here, this is a wonder. I believe tho his visit was more to Captain Anstruther than to any of us. I hear Colonel Keating is dead. Miss Prescott married to Cap^{tn} Banks. Colonel Dugald Campbell I am told is arrived, I have not seen him yet. Dined here Sir John Menzies. In the Evening we had a visit from Lieu^t R Turing who is come down with his sister Saunders – he looks well. Macaulay, Grant, Doctor Lucas and the Pattersons passed the Evening here. Your favor of the 6th I am duly honored with. Alas! My heart bleeds for you

Sunday 10th

An Italian doctor breakfasted here named Montano he is a supra–Cargo of the Tuscan Ship. I have been very graceless these past two Sundays, on account of my Europe letters I have not been to Church. Dined us only. I am informed M^r Savage is to succeed to the post of Military Storekeeper or Warehouse keeper whichever of them becomes first vacant.

Mess^{rs} Anderson, Raphael, and Courier Johnstone supped here. The King has granted Lady Burgoyne a pension of eight hundred pounds p^r Annum – The Stingy Company as a great favor have pensioned M^r Barckly sixty Pounds a year – this act by then is esteemed most Capital.

Monday 11th

No breakfast visitors this morning. I hear the Oakleys are for certain going home – I have reason also to imagine Miss Humphries is at large – free as air at least in regard to Europe. I dare say you will soon now hear of her settling herself. After breakfast M^{rs} Anstruther and I with her children paid Lady Campbell a visit – the Governor has not been well for some days past, he has had a constant bleeding at his nose, his legs also swell, last night he was bled in the Arm for it. It is said he has not received the Reversion of his order with firmness and dignity. I saw the late Town Major he appears greatly dejected – he has not a stout heart I am afraid. How well your Uncle has borne his reverse of Fortune: a conscious rectitude and true principles of Religion have supported him.

Dined without any company. In the Evening Betsy and I visited M^{rs} Patterson who may be justly styled a [*illegible word – Girl?*] of the tallest magnitude. By the desire of the Governor the Major is to wait here for a few days. Colonel Tonyn made his appearance at Court this morning I am told he is resolved to have the Command of the Cavalry. The dress he appeared

in is said to have been the most Ludicrous that has been worn by an Officer. The Rev^d M^r Bell gave us his company to Supper.

Tuesday 12th

Colonel Kelly breakfasted here – It is imagined either Colonel D Campbell, or Major Young will have poor Stevenson's Reg^t – Major Alexander's Garden house is purchased by M^r Hughes for upward of Pagodas 8,000. Grant is moved into M^r Macaulay's house near the Luz Church.

Dined enfamille M^r Grant was of the party. M^r D– and Captain Anstruther dined at M^r Casasmajor's.

In the evening we went to the Play as Betsy means to give Miss Bruce an account of it, I will not here enlarge – this much I must notice that it was one of the best performed pieces I ever saw done here, and Mango allowed to be one of the very best that was ever seen any where. actors, actresses with their connexions supped at the Governor's. M^{rs} Anstruthers little girl not being well, we came home to supper, leaving the gentleman in lieu of us.

Wednesday 13th

Major Judson breakfasted here, he was promoted a Major yesterday. Major Alexander and Grant were also of our breakfast set. M^r Hughes is to pay the money for Major Alexander's house payable in England in five years – interest to be paid annually at 5 per cent.

The Farce of High Life Below Stairs it is to be acted with the Author Your Uncle is to speak the prologue to the Author. Diner as usual.

We had several visitors this Evening Mason, Macaulay, Grant and Rainbolt supped with us. As the Courier is full of news I will not here trouble you with a repetition. The Prologue in the Courier was written by Boyd and read by Maule, but it was so ill read it was not relished by the Audience. McCauley favoured me with the perusal of your letter of the 10th instant.

Thursday 14th

Breakfasted Major Jourdan and Miller the former with Corbett give a Ball on the 21st instant. Stevenson I am told arrived last night and he looks a good deal dejected – I really feel for him from the bottom of my heart. Good honest fellow! Dined here uninvited Colin Macaulay.

This evening we had a perfect Rout – twenty persons supped with us

Wilkes told me he is to go with Major Close as his Secretary to the Borders of the Carnatick, to settle some dispute about the Boundaries of country after which he it go to the Norward.

It is really they say settled that M^{rs} J Turing, M^{rs} Saunders, also the Oakleys and the Garrows go home this year.

Friday 15th

Mess^{rs} Colonel D Campbell, Captⁿ Brown, Porcher and the worthy Stevenson breakfasted here. the latter bears his chagrin like a Hero – I fear for him greatly and the loss you will experience in him – I hope to God it will only be for a short time – He told me you were pretty well – and quite recovered of your hurt – I long to hear from you. And when I have that pleasure I hope your mind will be in a state of more Serenity. Why should we indulge immoderate sorrow for the loss of those dear friends who are gone before us, when every day, every hour, every moment is accelerating the blissful period of our re union? Your dear Parent is happy my friend should not you then be resigned? Yes I know you will, and bow down your head with Christian Resignation.

The family only were of our Dinner party. In the Evening we had M^{rs} Douglas, with Macaulay, and Grant. I do not believe the Henry Dundas will sail till the first week of March. M^r Lewin and family left Madras this morning early.

Saturday 16th

Breakfasted here M^r M Campbell, Martin, and a M^r Macalester. Dined infamille – I have just heard of an explosion in one of the Powder Mills in the Black Town which was caused by the carelessness of the Lascars; by this melancholy accident M^r Petrie's favorite head Dubash was killed also about fifteen or twenty people killed and wounded

This Evening we had to supper here Mason, and Offaney. You Uncle, Corbett, and Anstruther attended the Rehearsal of the Anthem and of High Life below Stairs – the latter I hear promised to be well performed.

Sunday 17th

After breakfast we went to Church, where we had not been these three Sundays. M^r Lister preached better to day than ever, the Text taken from the 23rd Psalm the 25th Verse. Coming from Church Sam gave me your favor for your Uncle – Before we came home visited Smart and Boyd, at this latter place I was gratify I'd with a sight of two elegant Urns presented to Captain Cuppage by the officers that were prisoners with Hydar at Bangalore we came home near one – Your gave me the perusal of your letter to him, your delightful delightful Mother's and Brother's – they are my Sandy, written with the heart and hand of filial affection and tenderness . Heaven will bless you for your kind attention to your amiable Parent, and her family will not go unrewarded – I am really happy to find you address your Mother with so much fortitude and calmness of mind, she indeed set you a noble example by her almost unexampled resignation – You merit more than I can express – I have that faith in our God that I am sure there is happiness in store for you. And the ladies of the family only the Gentlemen were engaged at Sir John Menzies.

The last part of the Evening we were by ourselves – at half past nine Captain Stevenson and Grant hailed us both very lively, having dined at Boyd's and also having done honour to Captain Cuppage's Urns by drinking libations out of them – at 11 oClock who should make his entre but the Lognans and pleasant Boyd they sucked and stayed here till near one oClock then went of with long staggering strides –

Monday 18th

Breakfasted here Major Alexander, who has taken his farewell leave of us and his bound for Europe in the Tuscan Ship. Major and M^{rs} Gratton are going on the Princess Amelia. The Floyers after having embarked the things on the Tuscan are to remain here for some time longer. Woolley went as far as Pondichery with an intention to proceed to Europe over land, when a whim took him, and made him return though, he has disposed of his horses, carriages, &c, &c, &c, what an odd fellow he is! It he has it is said made his will in favor of his old flame M^{rs} Ruddiman.

Stevenson and Ruddiman called here this forenoon the former has promised the money directly on your account – and at the same time offered a bill on England £ 50 Pounds – I thanked him, and said I had got one for an hundred.

Dined here Mess^{rs} Jourdan, Macaulay, and Captain Brown. A Frigate from Brest arrived at Pondichery the 15th instant brought an account that the Troops of the king of Prusse have entered Holland and that the French had recalled the Parliament at Paris – some suppose this may involve part of Europe in war – but this is an Ideal supposition only. England and France inclined to peace.

Only the family supped at home.

Tuesday 19th

M^r Landon and Ince breakfasted here – your favor of the 16th enclosing your poor dear Mother's letter I am honored with – many thanks for the perusal.

We were to have dined to day at Major Jourdan's who now lives in the Fort, but expecting there might be a joyous set, and M^{rs} Anstruther's child not being well enough to be left with the Servants, I sent our Excuses – and dined at home very Comfortably.

We supped also by ourselves, without any Beaux: Your cousin Grant is to perform in High Life Below Stairs the part of a Black Servant Girl.

Burrowes I hear is to have your Regiment, next to Stevenson I prefer him – I hope you will find in him all you wish to experience in a Commander – I shall mention you to Major and M^{rs} Burrowes by Letter. Major Patterson is promoted Lieu^t Colonel in Room of Major Burrowes.

Wednesday 20th

No morning visitors here to day. The Courier will be full of news I shall not therefore here intrude on your more busy hours by repeating over again the occurrences of the day. Dined with us Macaulay and Grant.

In the Evening visited Lady Campbell's Conchée – her Ladyship detained Betsy and me to see the Rehearsal of High Life below Stairs which was not so well done as I expected, nor did they seem perfect, particularly the men. Cap^t Anstruther will make a great figure in the character of Sir Harry – About half past ten we came back and found here Major Jourdan, M^r Popham with his daughter and Son. M^{rs} Maunsell was brought to bed this morning of a Boy. Both are well.

Thursday 21st

Breakfasted here Captⁿ Long. I have got a bill for one hundred pounds by your desire and have enclosed it to M^{rs} Chitty requesting her to manage the business to forward the Money by M^r Brodie's assistance true your dear Mother without delay. Dined none but the family. In the evening we went to Jourdan's Entertainment – which was Brilliant, near 250 people present the supper &c was well organised, the wines excellent – Corbett who had the direction of the whole business acquitted himself exceedingly well, to the Satisfaction of the Company. Your uncle stayed at home. These public Scenes are indifferent to him.

M^r Shippy who was to have acted my Lord Duke in the farce and Vamp in the Author has taken the sulks and under pretence of ill health has given up both his part, tho, they were of his own choosing – some imagine his pique proceeds from his not having been appointed a Barrack Master – this night it was reported he is preparing himself for Inoculation – I am afraid Shippy has done for himself by his too hasty conduct. I do my Sandy, I am far from being well.

Friday 22nd

Ruddiman breakfasted here – Poor Davis is still very ill, it is imagined he cannot live long, he now and then gives your Uncle and me a few lines; he writes quite spiritless. M^r Davidson has undertaken to perform the part of Vamp the Bookseller in the Author. M^r Shippy after some reflection and some little persuasion has resumed the character of my Lord Duke in the farce – so there is no doubt now of theatrical success.

Dined en famille. In the Evening tho, the Benefit Concert of M^r Jessel we had to sup and pass the Evening Mess^{rs} Jourdan, Stuart, Grant, Macaulay, Leslie and Hamilton – the latter after having resolved to go home on a Tuscan Ship, he received a letter acquainting him with the demise of his poor Father at Edinburg whom he was going to see this sudden as unexpected intelligence made him for the present postpone his return to Europe.

Macintosh the Shop Keeper with his family or going home in the Tuscan in the room of the Floyers.

Saturday 23rd

Breakfasted M^{rs} Anstruther, Betsy, and I only – the three Gentleman went out – I have very nearly finished all my Bureau letters. If it pleases God on Monday I shall dedicate my time to your Journal, tho, the news constrained in it will be old yet you may here and there find something amusing. Your favor of the 20th with George's of the same date I have been duly honored with – as I have written you at the moment all my receiving them, I will here only add one word more, that is, that I shall certainly hope to hear you are once again returned into society and are doing all in your power to reinstate yourself in health and spirits.

Dined as we breakfasted the females of the family only. In the Evening we had Mess^{rs} Hamilton, Smart Youseheld Offany, and Raphael, the latter came from Pondichery two days ago where he told us everything is in peace and quietness. Adieu, my friend, you have made me indeed sad at heart.

Sunday 24th

After Breakfast this morning we went to Church – M^r Leslie preached, the sermon adapted entirely to your present state of mind, indeed I wished much you had been present as I am confident you would have derived comfort from it. After the service we visited Lady Campbell then came to the Grove – M^r Grant dined here, and in the Evening accompanied Betsy and me to the Asylum – on our return we dropped him at his new habitation. M^r Shippy and M^r Alex^r Macaulay, Hamilton and Captain MacNab. The Packet is certainly to be closed on Saturday next. Besides writing to your sweet Mother by the Company's Packet I have given Macaulay a few introductory lines to her. Your Journals I have packed with due care double waxed cloth and Gunnied.

Monday 25th

Ruddiman attending M^{rs} Anstruthers little girl breakfasted here This whole day we have been by ourselves the Gentlemen everyone dined in the Fort. M^r Grant came near three and dined here, he is as I told you before to act the part of black Cloe in the Farce – which with the Play are to be performed tomorrow Evening – he tried on Matildas clothes after dinner which he very ill became but when his face is blacked he will perhaps appear more effeminate. Dined and supped by ourselves being the Room night we had no one here. I hear M^r Wrangham is off at the Bruces – report says Colonel Bruce interrogated M^r Wrangham on the frequency of his visits to his fair Daughter and wished to know if he meant anything by them, on which the latter said he had no serious thoughts on gaining the young Lady – Since that period we here are told Wrangham does not visit the family – If Wrangham only meant to play the Boy, he certainly behaved very ill indeed – But you my friend must know something of this matter.

Tuesday 26th

This is my Wedding day my Sandy – Twenty years this day have I been a wife – Breakfasted here Ruddiman and Raphael – this whole family have been employed preparing Corbett, Cap^m Anstruther, Grant and your Uncle for the Play, with Caps, Gowns, Sestinces [*did she mean to write "sentences"?*] – Dined the family only

About quarter after seven we went to the play – as Betsy is to give miss Bruce an account of it I shall not enlarge, Encomiums are justly due to the performers, particularly to Captain Anstruther who really is a very superior Actor: the Author in the character of Cadneallader he closely followed Foot step by step – Sir Harry in High Life below stairs, was also admirably done. But as you will see a full account in the Courier of his activities, I will here give my pen a little rest, just mentioning your Uncle likewise gained great applause in the difficult task of speaking the Prologue to the Author of the Ass as also in Vamp the Bookseller – M^r Shippy was great in my Lord Duke. The three Ladies M^{rs} Thewles, M^{rs} Gibbons, and M^{rs} Moorhouse were much admired, and deservedly. Dined and supped all the family only.

Wednesday 27th

Breakfasted our family only. The Masquerade in which we had not bestow a thought till this instant (10 oClock) being in the Evening this whole family is in a bustle to muster up things to make our appearance – In the Evening your Uncle and Captain Anstruther went as two women of pleasure Mother and Daughter, you can sincerely imagine any thing like them, they were ridiculously large and looked well their characters. The hon^{ble} M^{rs} Anstruther in a Domino her hat ornamented with a most elegant diamond Button and Loop. Betsy and I make our entre as Portuguese women. Betsy was dressed ready with her nurses jewels. I as her attendant. Miss Raphael dressed as a Boy carried our Beetle Box – On account of Betsy we were soon found out. We went so late ($\frac{1}{2}$ past 10) almost every lady were unmasked – to me, and indeed it is allowed by every Lady, the Masquerade this year was a very dull poor business. Near one we returned and supped pleasantly. The Courier is not yet out, I suppose it is detained to give an account of this Masquerade Ball. Farewell –

Thursday 29th [*incorrect should be 28*]

The ever good Ruddiman was of our breakfast party this morning – post from Macaulay just received mentions a Vessel being in sight with a Flag at the Mast head and that she has the appearance of a ship of War – The good people in the Fort did not fail on being much on the [*next word unclear*] many were the suggestions till the Vessel arrived, which was no more or less a poor French Brig from the Isle of France. She has been seventy days on her passage and did not bring a word of news.

Our Gentlemen dined with Colonel Capper at his house on the opposite Banks of the River while we four females amused ourselves at home.

Our Evening visitors were Stevenson, Macaulay, Grant and the late Town Mayor.

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Friday 29th [*incorrectly changed by Eliza should be 29*]

No one but Ruddiman breakfasted here – I have been so much interrupted by the family living in the House I have not had time to full fill my promise to you of sending my Journal and I am always sorry when I am oblig'd to break my word.

Dined here your Amiable Captain Stevenson with Jourdan Doctor Whyte Grant Stuart and Macaulay – it was a farewell dinner to our friends – poor Macaulay while here he paid us great attention – I shall miss him much – I shall now have no one to tell me any thing that has that has the air of secrecy or that is amusing or entertaining – he used always to communicate to me, when he heard news – Your good uncle however is very good, has a faithful memory and generally by Hook or by Crook hears what is going on or consequence. Macaulay looked grave spiritless the whole day and went away without saying a single word –

Stevenson learn this tomorrow. The four with dashes under their named supped with us. I shewed Macaulay the Paragraph of your favor of the 20th regarding him – he said to me he had written you yesterday.

M^r Oakeley this day resigned his post at the Revenue Board I am told he is going home with his family on the next Ship.

Saturday 1st March 1788

No morning breakfasters Ruddiman called to see little Miss Anstruther. At the Masquerade the other Evening two Chimney Sweepers passing M^{rs} Gratton she slaped one of them with her fan this caused the Adversary to brush M^{rs} G–s face with his bottle brush. The retort of the pair was not relished by M^{rs} G– who immediately went to her Lord and said there were two very impudent fellows that insulted her – on which the Major was after the above characters and when on the stairs he pulled of one of the Masks the person he saw he supposed to be M^{rs} Porcher – while the Major was so employed M^{rs} G– kept going round the room saying to everyone she met she was sure it would, it would conclude very seriously. When the Major returned to the Rooms he told her the Chimney sweep that insulted her was M^{rs} Porcher – this enraged M^{rs} Gratton so much that she prevailed on her husband to call Porcher out which he did – This affair remained in this dilemma for two days when M^{rs} Johnstone was found to be the real Chimney Sweeper and M^{rs} Mansom the Lady from whom Major G– pulled of the Mask – By some crass accident.

Poor M^{rs} Porcher was not at the Masquerade at all therefore was M^{rs} G–'s accusation was the more mortifying – The particulars of this fracas Stevenson will better relate to you than I can he having lived at Porchers must be better acquaint with the particular circumstances – dined the family only.

Supped and played at Cards Mess^{rs} M Campbell, Grant and Major Gomond. The Henry Dundas sails tomorrow. I am duly favored with your letter of the 27th –

Sunday 2nd

We rose at half past four this morning about six we accompanied Captain Anstruthers family to Corbetts and Boyds where we breakfasted – and remained thee till ten oClock then saw them fairly off in the accommodation Boat – they are a very agreeable young family, I really

was very sorry to part with them.

Grant and Corbett attended them to the Ship – and took their farewell leave of Macaulay and Jordan &^c &^c.

Dined with us Grant who is come from the Henry Dundas. He told me he had left our friends on Board – he said also that old Macaulay had recommended you very strongly to M^r Macleod and desired him to pay you for the Biscuits – I hope you will find this recommendation agreeable to you as well as useful – It is now half past five – I hear the farewell salute of the Henry Dundas – God bless them all – Amen I say – Dined, passed the Evening and Supped all alone.

Monday 3rd

Breakfasted by ourselves. I have not heard anything particular all this day. Dined Corbett and us only. In the evening visited M^{rs} John Turings family not meeting them at home we proceeded to the Hughes – then we saw Major and M^{rs} Prendergast they are on their way to Condapilly. Came home found here Mess^{rs} Grant, Stuart and Creutzer – M^r Benfield paid us a visit and told me he did not think there could be a war; he you know is a great politician, and generally has the best and latest accounts from Europe.

No Rooms to night they were nearly knocked up for want of a sufficient number of subscribers but M^r Stuart told me with some exertion they will be now able to keep them up — Next Monday they are again to be opened

Tuesday 4th

M^r Skandon and ourselves composed our Breakfast party – I hear M^r Lewin and family are going home immediately – they have taken their passage on board of a French ship – We dined without Corbett Mr Lewin your Uncle tells me has resigned his Chiefship – Poor Davis is very, very, ill.

This Evening Betsy Miss K– and I paid seven visits, five of the families were invisible – At M^{rs} Grattons I heard the Lewins are to sail in a few days. Wonders will never cease! The Old Dowager Turing is to accompany her Daughters to England – Miss Wests are to leave with their Brother Innes. Spalding was to leave Madras this night for Pondichery to embark on the Tuscan Ship. Supped here Mason and Young and Offany.

Wednesday 5th

The family only at breakfast. It is now 11oClock trying hard to finish my Journal for your friendly Eye only – Excuse all errors, for I am sure there are many – I am honored with yours of the 2nd – to which I shall particularly reply after your Uncle has spoke to the Governor and Colonel Malcolm.

Good gracious what Hodge – Podge – I am sending you. Betsy has written you I believe by last Mondays post – I also had that pleasure – God Bless you – all friends desire affectionate remembrance ‘to you not forgetting George – our best Salams and wishes to Captain Stevenson –

I remain as ever your firmly attached and faithful Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 7th March 1788 M^r Alex Falconar

pages 28 – 33 [excluding the letter on pages 30 – 31]

P. M. Wednesday 5th/12 March 1788

Journal Continued

Dined a M^r Wood a young man from Bengal, an acquaintance of Corbetts. At last my friend I have dispatched my Journal of a long date by this Evenings post. I am afraid you will be greatly disappointed in the perusal of the Content you will find your expectations were raised above it's desert.

This evening we visited Lady Campbells Conchée – from thence I got the late T. M. to go with me in the Carriage and I mentioned to him your wish to remain in the Cavalry, I begged

he would pave the way before your Uncle saw the Governor and Colonel Malcolm which he kindly promised to do, and said there would be no difficulty he was sure of granting your request and spoke of you in the handsomest manner. We carried him to his Sisters and took the opportunity of paying her a visit – We came home about 10, and supped by ourselves

Thursday 6th

Major Johnstone of the Nabob's and M^r Macalister breakfasted here. M^r Lewin and family were to embark about the 10th of 11th of this Month in the Tuscan from Pondicherry this Manouvre of his surprises every body

Your Uncle is gone to Town and means to speak on your behalf – God grant he may succeed. Your Uncle returned at this usual hour he told me he had seen Malcolm and spoke to him particularly about you and means to appraise you on the subject after he has seen the Governor I will not have troubled you

In the Evening we paid four visits on the plain and had the good luck of finding all absent except one Lady. Supped here Grant, Cornet Leslie and M^r Gregory. The Chiefship of Cuddalore has been applied to M^r William Hamilton and Houghes both have been pleased.

Friday 7th

M^r Creutzer breakfasted here – Davis he told us is rather better but so weak that he is not able to sit up in his bed poor fellow! how he Lingers – a few Evenings ago he sent for M^r Millingchamp to pray by him – Do not you think he must be very bad, a man that never went to Church when he desired prayers to be read to him?

After breakfast I paid Lady Campbell a visit with Betsys little handmaid who we are likely to lose, her parents having demanded her to take her with them to Bombay her Father is a Corporal in the 71st Reg^t She is a fine child, with the attention Betsy and I paid she was coming on prettily. I have left her at Lady C—s her Ladyship is to try if she is able to prevail with Bayn, to leave his Daughter behind.

Dined Betsy Miss Raphael, and I only. In the Evening we visited the Oakeleys and the Chamiers – La Belle [*Anne Humphries*] looks well, she is to pass the day here on Sunday. When we came home we found here M^r Hamilton only, who supped with us. M^r Craig is appointed Chief of Cuddalore – M^r Andrews 2nd and M^r Dashwood 3rd in Council –

Saturday 8th

Breakfasted here the Grove family only. After ordering dinner &^c &^c I went to Lady Campbell's according to her request of the night before – when there she told me Betsys little Maiden was ready to attend me – for she has got the Governor to send another man to Bombay in the Room of Bayn and had returned Jennys Parents here whom they mean to do something for. Having chatted a while I then made my Congé and directed my course to the Asylum where the little girl was Lodged the preceding night and brought her home in great Triumph When you see her I am sure you will think she is a fine promising Child:

Dined here Mess^{rs} Colonel Capper, Grant, Sir John Menzies, Stuart, Cap^{tn} Wynch, the present Town Major and Captain James Campbell – the latter said every thing to me that could make me happy and easy regarding yourself.

No one interrupted us this Evening, our supper party were ourselves Corbett and Miss K—Tomorrow we dine at Sir John Menzie's who has entered into Partnership for a short time in business with M^r Chase.

Sunday 9th

The breakfast over, every thing arranged we proceeded to Church – which was better filled than I have seen of late – The General and Lady Campbell were present – After the Service we took Miss Humphries with us and went to visit M^{rs} Ruddiman whom we did not see – The good Doctor came to us we paid him a visit of near a quarter of an hour in hope of seeing his wife, but finding she was not forthcoming we left and our compliments and came to the Grove – I thought the humane Ruddiman appeared very low and dejected – I am afraid, all is not as it should be with them.

Poor little M^{rs} Bulman is very ill – it is imagined she cannot live many days. Davis is something better. At Sir John Menzies there were besides our party M^r and M^{rs} Chase and Colonel Patterson – Miss H– if nothing extraordinary intervenes is certainly to accompany the Oakeley's to Europe. I believe she does not approve of M Campbell – But keep this to yourself. The Aubreys are stationed at Vellore where they are soon going – M^{rs} R– Johnstone for a time and M^{rs} Morson are gone to Chingleput the former is on a visit to the latter This Evening we had a few friends to sup with us – The Hughes & c & c.

Monday 10th

We are now perfectly pleased very few breakfasters ever molest us. Station makes ever a great difference to every body in this respect, I am not at all sorry; as I always preferred a peaceable comfortable Life to one of bustle, confusion and noise – I thank God for all his Mercies – Could I only have all those I Love near me, my humble ambition would be continually gratified.

M^r Raphael and his second Daughter were our breakfasters, at Dinner quite Snug and happy – Your Uncle, Betsy, Miss Raphael and I – In the Evening we visited M^{rs} Raphael to carry home her little Daughter, whom M^r R– had left with us to pass the day.

It is said the Princess Amelia will be here sooner than was expected her stay is to be very short, not more than a few days. Adieu –

Tuesday 11th

Having finished my daily and usual morning avocations, I am come to ask you how you are, and to enquire when the Burrows are expected I hear they will not go to Trichinopoly until M^{rs} Burrows recovers from her Expected confinement.

Would you my Sandy wish to have any of your Brothers in the Military? if yes which of them do you think is best inclined to be a Soldier? let me know perhaps with your good Uncles advice and aid, I may be useful to your Dear Mother – At least you know I may try: getting Cadets appointed when the act permits requires not very great Exertions of Interest –

Dined us only – Corbett has been in town these two days – Your Cousin Eliza wonders at your long Silence – well she may methinks – Grant and Wooley supped here, from them I heard M^r Lewin and family had quitted the Tuscan ship on account of the Mackintosh sitting with them at Table, or some other cause – it was a great error of Lewins not to have settled this matter before he had embarked he has not only lost his passage but likewise his Chiefship.

Wednesday 12th

It is now past nine oClock . I am going to Town to be very busy in the Godowns, when I return I shall close this for the nights post.

I am just returned from the Port 12 oClock – not a word of news did I hear while there. The Dog Boy arrived this morning he looks the better for his Jaunt – I return you the enclosed with many thanks for the perusal.

Your Uncle and Cousin are well they sincerely join me in kind and affectionate remembrance and beg you will mention us kindly to George. Compliments of friendship to Stevenson and to the Bruces.

Adieu, my Sandy you shall never want the Love and friendship of your Affectionate friend and Aunt Eliza: Davidson

The Grove

12th March 1788

Read the enclosed lines they are made by your Uncle – Notice them in your next
M^r Alex Falconar

P. M. Wednesday 12th March 1788

Journal Continued

Dined as the preceding day – In the Evening your Uncle went to the Conchée we stayed at home to take care of the house – After nine Mess^{rs} Mason, Offany, Grant and Stuart, came and supped here. The Heiress M^r D– tells me is certainly to be acted – You will pity me I am sure when you hear of the night I am made my presence as the grave Matron Lagely – After much ado the Lewins are at last gone – Alas poor Ruddiman! on account of his Wife I hear he is to fight Ben–d My Journal as usual I have sent by this Evenings tappy.

Thursday 13th

After breakfast I called to the Fort to finish arranging my Godown which I am afraid will at last take me two long forenoons more. I hear the people at Ganjam are at present very sickly Old M^r Carlisle and a friend of M^r Mannsels a M^r Fannion are dead M^{rs} Gent her little daughter and Sister are very ill – the air of the place is just now I hear quite putrid and unwholesome. Dined as the day before In the Evening we went to M^{rs} Porchers Dance given at the Masons Lodge – the company were Brilliant the Room of course was well filled, I believe near two hundred people were there, tho many Ladies not invited. The Lodge is much improved since you saw it. The Throne is finished, the Musick gallery and the pillars of the Throne were ornamented with curtains of light blue silk trimmed with gold and silver fringe which has a very elegant effect – No regular supper, but a long sideboard extremely well covered with every thing the place afforded, wines of all sorts very good – Another French Frigate is arrived at Pondicherry supposed to have brought duplicates, as yet no news has transpired.

Friday 14th

No breakfasters – It is now 2 oClock just come from the Fort where I have been much employed in the Godowns – The agreeable Boyd, with M^r Wood dined here – the former told me the french Frigate had only brought copies of the former Dispatches nothing new. The conduct of the R– is a matter of much speculation at present and does not afford a little conversation – Something has happened between R– and Ben–d, what it is the ever curious world are at a loss to find out – but my friend do not notice this affair to any one. This Evening we passed at home Grant with Mason and Offan supped here. We have lost all our young Beaux in a very few months more I think Madras will become a very stupid place.

Saturday 15th

After Breakfast I went again to Town and finished all that I had to do there – While in the Fort I got a note from Boyd to your Uncle with the pleasing news of Peace Reigning in Europe – as I have sent you an Extract of the news made out by your always amiable Uncle's own hand, I will here desist repeating it –

The Governor did M^r D– the honor of calling on him this evening in high spirits, and communicated to him all the news: After which your Dear Uncle ran off the Extract unsolicited as he knew it would give you and me pleasure: And^r Ross could not have done more for his favored Clarindon. This much I cannot help saying that I have not been as easy in mind as I have experienced since the arrival of the most comfortable Intelligence of to day. Dined us only.

In the Evening after dispatching at ½ past 8 your letter of news in the post we went to the Kindersleys – there had been a Sillabub and a dance we were told but unfortunately we were too late for both the party invited were all the Turing family Miss Humphries and us only besides a few gentlemen with Grant and Stuart – Sir Archibald's kind visit, with your good Uncles writing you the News caused our detention and loss of the Rural Amusements – However we were told we did not lose much by it, as the party were perfectly spiritless – The Miss Wests are greatly altered in their looks you would be surprised to see the eldest in

particular – Alas! how changed and how faded. The Lord Camden is arrived from Bengal in her way to Bombay.

Sunday 16th

We did not go to Church this morning – Having so frequently been in the Fort this week I indulged myself with a holiday to day – Corbett and we only made our Dinner party. In the Evening we had a few flying visitors – as they were not to pass the Evening here we (Betsy and I) paid the Pattersons a visit – there we neither heard nor saw any thing new – they are going to Velore In five or six days more – I am told Major Tonyn is at last gone to join his Reg^t – I believe he had a severe reprimand from the Governor for his delay in joining his Corps. The General has presented the Body Guard with a Standard which they had not got before. Betsy has given her little black Pet Anatchy to the lesser Pattersons Our supper party tonight was perfectly Petite – consisting of Corbett, Betsy, and myself – Your Uncle being fatigued eat his Sneaker of Congy and returned into the Rooms of Somnus.

Monday 17th

I had a visit this morning from M^{rs} Patterson and three children – no breakfasters. It is now past one, a note just brought me from Town from your Uncle who dines at Sir John Menzies – he tells me M^r Edward Holland is going on the Northwood to manage Juggapetty Rangers Country. I told you before of the mortality at Ganjam. M^r Williams is very dangerously ill of the same fever – should M^r W– die, perhaps it may remove your Uncle from hence – Should this removal take place – God grant it may prove propitious.

I was so poorly all the Evening with a most severe headach I did not quit my bed –Your Cousin Eliza did the honors of the Table and entertained besides her Father, and Corbett, M^r Hamilton M^{rs} D Campbell is come down to lie–in. M^{rs} Chase, M^{rs} Erskine, M^{rs} Cass and M^{rs} Jackson are in the way to add to their family. The Turing family have secured half the Roundhouse of the Princess Amelia. M^r W– Hamilton is appointed a member of the Board of Trade in the Room of M^r E– Holland.

Tuesday 18th

M^r Harrington our only Breakfast Beau – I had the pleasure of receiving yesterday your truly kind and long expected favor of 11th, 13th, and 14th. The perusal of it gave me much heartfelt satisfaction – You have made me easy my Sandy by your assurance of your welfare and good spirits – May you now experience nothing but Sunshine, peace of mind and Serenity: for your time of Life I am sure you have had your share of afflictions – The rest of your long and very grateful letter I shall reply to it in my next. I am much better I thank you –

Dined here Sir John Menzies Grant, Cruetzen, and Captⁿ Pearson, he is a brother of our poor friend Cracus – he is the very Counterpart of the little Doctor – the Captain told me he expected his Brother out here in one of the 44 Gun Frigates – his manner, his person his voice all reminded one of the good little Crosus. M^r Grant told me he was at Major Tonyn's this morning found him still here – the Governor imagines he is gone – I wish he would stay a few days longer, Stevenson then would I think stand a good chance of continuing with his Reg^t – R——n has desired M^r Grant to contradict the current report concerning him and Ben—d.

This Evening we had a few visitors. Hamilton and Lucas only supped with your Uncle, Betsy, and me – Davis is thought cannot live many days more. Alas! poor fellow. Before I conclude I must tell you it is reported Kingscote is keeping his address to Miss Darke – He is for ever at the Red Hills.

Wednesday 19th

No breakfast guests or any thing new to communicate this morning – Your Uncle is gone to town – I shall keep this open till he returns – It is now past 2 oClock your Uncle returned, no news – No accounts of poor Williams these three days, as I hope he is better – Am I to procure your another Dubash? – tell me if I am – Your Uncle and Cousin are well, they join me in affectionate remembrance to you – Forget us

not to George and to Stevenson &^c – I shall write George tomorrow if it pleases God – The Ross's I heard a Day or two ago are thinking of going to Dear, ever Dear, old England. Farewell, my Sandy, may Heaven's best blessings always surround you is the sincere wish of, Your faithful, and affectionate, Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 19th March 1788

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P. M. Wednesday 19th March 1788 –

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[ie 19th – 23rd March]

Journal Continued

After having dispatched my usual budget of weekly intelligence to you Eliza, and I dressed for the Conchée but being as it imagined rather too soon for Lady Campbell's we went to visit M^{rs} Woolf and M^{rs} Balfour – at the latter place seeing two Carriages at the steps of the house, and not moving their situation, I desired James to stop rather on one side which he did. But unfortunately for me, we happened to halt quite close to the Scraper, on my stepping out of the Chariot unluckily I set my foot on the shoking Iron that happened to be as sharp as a Kitchen cleaver, which cut me severely through the sole of the shoe and down I came on all fours – At first I was not sensible of having been hurt; but too soon found I had been badly wounded. This unforeseen accident alarmed M^{rs} Balfour's whole house – Old Lady Turing the Miss Wests, (who were visiting them) M^{rs} D– Campbell at present M^{rs} Balfour's guest together with Major Campbell Balfour, and poor Innis, beside the Servants all came out to give me their kind and friendly aid – Indeed the Ladies paid me particular attention, Major Campbell sent his Carriage for Doctor Anderson who came while I was there; he was alarmed to see the sole of a new Europe shoe cut one third across and bloody: as the good Ladies had administered Fryar's Balsam which acted as a Stiptick hand had bound up my foot he would not disturb it – I was put in M^r Balfour's Palenkeen and conveyed home, while Major Campbell escorted Betsy, and arrived at the Grove before me to inform you Uncle of the accident here – again commenced a second Alarm – Your poor Dear Uncle I saw was much agitated thinking I was worse than represented, he carried of the unlucky accident however in a most manly manner.

Let not this affair I beg of you make you uneasy, before this salutes your hand I shall be I dare say almost perfectly well, and able to tread the Stage a la mode Sagley – Mess^{rs} Grant, Stuart, Leslie and the Pattersons supped here – Betsy occupied my Arm Chair at the head of her Father's table. Do not you my Sandy think I have said enough about my foot? – What must have been the suffering of your Leg when I make a Mountain of a Mole Hill. Anderson says it might have been very bad – I thank God for all his mercies.

Thursday 20th

Breakfasted here Grant, Woolf and Doctor Anderson – I have the pleasure to tell you my foot is perfectly easy, Anderson would not even look at it when here this morning fearing to open the wound on account of the air getting to it, as I have hitherto no appearance of inflammation nor fever. I hope I shall escape them altogether.

M^r Jones dined here with Your Uncle, Eliza, and Corbett. In the Evening a few enquiring friends came to ask me how I did – Colonel George Campbell has got himself into a bad scrape, he has offended three of the Hanoverian Officers – Betsy means to give you an account of the affair in her letter to day.

Friday 21st

Grant, Stuart, and Leslie hailed our breakfast board – I am still in my Room tho God be praised a great deal better and may pronounce myself out of the danger of a fever.

I am now to reply further to your favor of the 14th I am glad to find the Persian has once again drawn your attention – I have some more of Macaulays books by me which I shall send you by a further opportunity. So Burrows has been with you! When he comes for good and all to

his Reg^t, I shall address him, and her, about you – After our attention to them, I think we have some claim on their Friendship – I hope most sincerely you will be agreeably disappointed in Major Burrowes. Tonyn is still immured in the house in the Black Town

I am sorry for the loss you have experienced in your poor Dubash – I believe he was a good Servant not having his family about him perhaps he was not so well attended to.

How can you be so thick my dearest Sandy in not apprehending my meaning regarding Miss H – D–g–g has no Idea of her I believe M. C– is certainly very sincerely sincere – But whether she will accept of him is the Question – She is gone to Ennore with the Porchers where M. C– has followed.

I am favored with yours of the 17th The story of the R— m's is hushed up, they are now both in good spirits. I am happy to hear you and M^r Macfie are to be joint house keepers: but I suppose each of you keep your separate Quarters – tell me if you do?

Dined the Trio – Father, Mother and Daughter. This Evening we had Sir Archibald Lady Campbell M^r and M^{rs} Cass – Grant, N– Campbell with Sir John Menzies .and Captain Pearson to visit the poor Nundy – so you see my friend the kind attention paid me ought not I to be proud and hold up my head at last a foot higher? – I hear the quarrel between Colonel G– Campbell &^c, &^c, is made up by the interference of M^r Popham and Captain Deroon, the former was the second to the Colonel – The Colonel wished to have engaged both the Hanoverian, at once Triangularly, this I believe is a new mode of Duelling. – M^r Williams is said to be out of danger – if he had died your Uncle meant to have left this on Sunday like a shot – we should have remained here for sometime by ourselves – which I did not relish – nor do I really wish to be so far from the Dear Grove not even Madras. Grant, Pearson and Millingchamp passed the Evening here. Grant has been since this accident particularly attentive in his visits.

Saturday 22nd

This morning having no breakfasters, not even Corbett, I hobbled out to the breakfast table, joined your Uncle and Cousin – my foot very easy – No Dinner company to day. The Evening visitors were M^{rs} Garrow, M^{rs} Oakeley, Mess^{rs} Colonel Capper, Grant, Rainbolt and Wood – the men supped here.

Poor M^{rs} Bulman is no more – She was interred this evening – M^{rs} Saunders among others attended her funeral; during the Service she was taken ill with strong Hysterics which lasted near two hours – This Lady is an amiable woman, my friend, she is a favored character; were she known to you, I am sure you would add her to the list of your favorites – Indeed she is far superior to any of the females of her Family.

Sunday 23rd

No news this morning your Uncle is gone to Church like a good boy (Easter Sunday) Major D– Campbell and Doctor Berry made me a visit of enquiry – I can set my foot on the Ground with great ease to myself.

Betsy would have me send thus far of my Journal to day to show you how well I am. Will you expect to hear from on Saturday? I am writing M^{rs} Burrowes, I shall just mention your name for the present en passant –

The Mirror being a new paper I have sent it for your perusal – when you have done with it send it back, as your Uncle wishes to have it

Remember me to George kindly, and to Stevenson offer my best Salams – I am glad to find M^{rs} Overand's little commission executed by me, was approved of – I am concerned to hear Colonel B– has been ill– my best regard attend the good family. Adieu. – In all situations and humours, continue to remember your sincerely affectionate Aunt &^c, &^c, Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 23rd March 1788

M^r Alex Falconar

Your Uncle desires his kind wishes to you –

P. M. Sunday 23rd March 1788 –
26 [23rd – 26th March]

Journal Continued

Grant dined only with the Grove trio. In the Evening we had a perfect rant – The Nundy is highly flattered with the kind attention of her friends – The Baron among others came to see me with his long side Bows, hat in hand a smile before his nose – You, that have seen the Barron so often, can I am sure easily fancy his ludicrous entrance in company – Nevertheless, I am truly obliged to him poor man for his friendly visit. – Corbett joined our snug family supper party as we were seated at table. Good night –

Monday 24th

This is a perfect barren morning, no breakfasters – No news – in short my Sandy nothing Novel – Courier Johnson accompanied Corbett out to dinner the former has let his Country House to Major D– Campbell for four Months. Griffen Campbell an amiable Shipmate M^{rs} D–s favorite deany has got himself a grand Dilemma – he, it is said will be made to refund only ten thousand Pagodas of the Company’s money ill gotten pelf that he has over charged, more than what the Paymaster used to charge – Do not you think his Scotch Pride will be a little mortified on this decision?

This Evening the Hughes with M^r Hamilton came in a kind friendly way to take pot luck with us. M^{rs} H– looks poorly, the warm weather does not at all agree with her. Betsy has given Miss Bruce a long account of M^{rs} Lewin’s and M^{rs} Grattan’s conduct, what pains some people take to make themselves talked of – It is a certain sign they can have little employment. Leathorn the shop keeper and his wife have the Roundhouse which M^r Lewin wished to purchase in vain where M^r Lewin’s wife and family are at present accommodated – there is a passage to the Quarter Gallery, used frequently at Meals, and the Tuscans being a polite People, they kiss the right hand to M^{rs} Lewin in passing to, and the left in passing from: is not this laughable? When Lewin wanted to purchase of M^r Leathorn his Apartment, the latter clapping his hand on the pocket of his Inexpressibles chinking his money, said he had made his Fortune, and was happy his Ladies (M^{rs} Leathorn and M^{rs} Ellis) were so well accommodated – The man I think in this Retort showed his Sense – Alas! poor Lewin – his consequence must have been some what shocked! he and M^{rs} Lewin no doubt will be completely disgusted before they reach Europe.

Tuesday 25th

Breakfast over I came to my Room, and to my usual and never ceasing employment of writing – Tho, in the middle of a long letter to my invaluable friend M^{rs} Chitty, I cannot refrain the pleasure of having a few moments confab with you – My poor unfortunate foot is much better, in a day or two more I hope to be able to wear any shoe.

Johnson and M^r Boyd dined here on a chicken Turtle. In the Evening Mess^{rs} Brown, Stuart, and Grant supped with Eliza: and I – your Uncle attended the Rehearsal of the Heiress. I hear General Conway with his Reg^t is returned to Pondichery, he was not able to reach Trincamalay the wind being against him. The General I dare say is not a little vexed at the ill success of his Expedition.

Wednesday 26th

I have not seen any body (the family excepted) this morning – The Princess Amelia arrived about an hour ago – now for Europe letters – Have you none my Sandy for this conveyance? – I have sent you the enclosed Extracts for your perusal – You have no occasion to return them, letters to Lord Macartney and to your Mother are also enclosed. The weather is daily growing warm – Betsy and your Uncle are well, they join me in affectionate kind remembrance to you – With cordial wishes for your happiness and prosperity. I remain you attached, and faithful Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 16th March 1788

Kind remembrances to George, Best family compliments to Stevenson and the Bruces. Tonym is still here. Do you receive the Courier regularly?

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P. M. Wednesday 26th March 1788 –
Ap^l 2 [26th March – 2 April]

Journal Continued

This Evening I dispatched four days Journal, with the one sent before (on Sunday last) completed my eight days Ledger. – For the first time since cutting my foot I put on my shoe this Afternoon but I found I was not able to keep it on long, and was again obliged to have recourse to your good Uncle's easy Moroco slippers. Captain James Campbell, with Grant, Mason, and Offany supped here. La Belle paid us a friendly visit, but did not stay. It is reported that M. C– has had his Mittimus – but it is only a supposition I believe.

Thursday 27th

Breakfasted with Betsy and me, Corbett, Maunsell, and Oakes – M^r D– deserted us, went and breakfasted at M^r John Hollands. It is now past three, your Uncle is just come from the Fort –there is no news he tells me. Dined us only joined by Miss Raphael who came back to us on Tuesday.

This Evening visitors were Cornet Leslie, M^r Millingchamp and Yanschild – I am told M^{rs} R–dd– n appeared the other night at a very small party with all her Diamonds, and an elegant Hooker manufactured at Bengal and highly wrought; it attends her wherever she goes – Poor R–dd–n for a quiet life I imagine allows his Lady to indulge herself in all her foolish whimsies – Cornet Leslie I think is in a bad way – he has got a dreadful cough –

Friday 28th

M^r Millingchamp and Grant were our morning visitors. Every body busily employed in writing Europe letters: the Ship is to be dispatched on Sunday.

Yours of the 24th is duly received – I am almost well, tho not yet able to wear my shoe – I am exceeding happy to find you enjoy good health – it is but just you should, my friend after a series of tedious confinement. – I am truly concerned for Colonel Bruce; I am much afraid he will never recover in this Climate – he ought without loss of time to try the Sea Air – Bombay, China or the Cape would I am confident be of service to him – as he has a large family he should for their sake pay particular attention to his Health. I am sorry for the worthy Stevenson, I hope he will shortly do well again [*next word illegible*] Cordial; they are to appearance the same as ever – You are I must confess very severe in your opinion of Women – your remark is not at all suitable to your humane, mild disposition, Indeed very unlike your gentle nature – As you Men are all perfection, the follies of one Woman must do doubt appear in a very conspicuous light, not ever retrievable – Is this really your Idea, my Sandy?

This evening I hobbled out with Betsy, and Miss Raphael to take leave of the Turing family, not finding them at home we returned to the Grove, found here Town Major Gomond who passed the Evening with us. Lieu^t Burns I hear is gone distracted, the other day he waited on the Governor with two Swords, one on each side – he is confined in his house in the Black Town under the Charge of a Serjeant and eight Europeans.

Saturday 29th

M^r Place favored us with his company to breakfast – Our Concerts are on the decline, very few Gentlemen were there last night and only eight Ladies. M^r Grant dined here – he said that Colonel Malcolm by the order of the Governor had written to Tonym very pointedly, but no answer had been yet received.

This Evening your Uncle took leave of the Turings, and supped at the Governors, we, Betsy, Miss Raphael and I stayed at home as I am not able yet to put on any shoe – our supper

Beaux were M^r Hamilton and Ewing. Do not you think we were very smartly supported? No news have I heard this whole day.

Sunday 30th

Breakfast over we went to Church, the congregation very small – from thence visited Smart, and on our way to the Grove called at the Oakeleys for La Belle, who we brought home to pass the day with us. I delivered your Message she said when she was going to be married, she should certainly let you know.

Your favor of the 27th I was honored with in Town – No strangers dined with us. In the Evening a Coach full of us went again to take leave of the Turings, and Grattans – The old Lady Turing was very low – poor woman she made my heart ach to see her, she put me so much in mind of my own situation when I left for old England – at taking our farewell, she gave Betsy and me an ardent and kind Salute – I wish her happiness wherever she goes with all my heart. The Grattan received us very politely in her dressing Room while at her Toilet – and behaved herself very graciously to us, and offered to take a letter to Gower Street – there's for you – is not this more than I could expect from so great a personage? – from thence we called at M^r J- Turing, but we did not find the Ladies at home: they having gone to take leave of old M^{rs} Carvalks. We returned home and supped in the company of Stuart, Grant, and an American Captain, a very honest and good looking man.

Monday 31st

I have been much employed since breakfast in writing Europe letters to go by M^{rs} Saunders and M^{rs} Grattan, and have also been busy sitting for the improvement of a Copy of my Picture by Baron Rachael, [*Thomas Reichel*] your good Uncle wishing to send it to M^{rs} Chitty. Now I must reply to your favor of yesterday before I go any further. I thank you my very kind friend for your very pretty compliments on my Temper, they being conferred by so favored a Nephew cannot but be most highly flattering. – My foot thank God is almost well tho I am not yet able to wear shoes – Your not acknowledging my letter of the 19th enclosing you a perfect account of the Europe news written by your Uncle's kind hand, surprised me greatly – Do enquire at the post office about it, the post office people of this place assure me of their having sent it on Saturday the 12th – What a pity it is you did not receive it – You cannot think my Sandy, how very anxious we all were for your receiving it the day before the Courier, or before anybody – If you look over my Journal of the 19th, you will see what I say about it – I lament the more your not getting this Extract as your worthy Uncle took on the instant so much pains about it – I am truly mortified at the disappointment – On account of sending you the news, we had lost a pleasant Sillabub and a Dance, and were nearly losing our supper in the Bargain. –

I am prevented from going on with replying to your letter – Dined the family only – Corbett is gone on Board the Princess Amelia – she sails early tomorrow morning – I have requested my amiable Cousin to tell your Dear Mother of your being in good health –

This being Monday we had no one but our old friend, the sage Philosopher Hamilton – God bless you for this night – aye– and every night.

Tuesday 1st April

Our breakfast guest this blessed morning were Grant Mason and Yrnschild – the latter told me the Rooms were badly filled very few ladies attended and there was no Dancing.

I am now to resume the thread of my discourse and finish replying to your last favor – I am happy to find M^r Macfie is so great a favorite with you – I have heard him always well spoken of – and I am happy at the idea of your becoming messmates – Is he not very sentimental? – he is a great writer I have heard and writes well too. –

You say you would like to have a Portuguese Boy – In my humble opinion I think they are none to be found trustworthy – they are “Indolent”, dirty and often given to drinking – however, if I should find one all perfection I shall not omit procuring him for you.

Dined the family only – the Evening we passed entirely en famille – without visitors, or

supper guests.

Wednesday 2nd

M^r and M^{rs} Maunsell, M^r and M^{rs} Oakes, and Captain Brown Breakfasted here. – I know you are possessed of a great share of prudence, else I should be a little angry with you for showing my Journal – Be not offended at my noticing this simple circumstance. – Thou grumbler – you and your dear fair friend are ever finding fault with the poor Eliza for not making a more frequent use of her pen – To my knowledge she has been very punctual with Miss B–, and with you except during the stay the H. D. made here – she has written you weekly – last month in particular you must have received six or seven letters from her – Now do you not think my Sandy, you are very unreasonable – Impartially I must take the part of my Daughter this time – God in Heaven bless and protect you – I am ever your faithful and affectionate Aunt and friend – your uncle and Cousin desire their Love and best wishes
Eliza. Davidson

The Grove 2nd April 1788 M^r Alex^r Falconar

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P.M. Wednesday 2nd April 1788 –

10 [2 – 10th April]

Journal continued

Well my Sandy here I am again – At 6 oClock this Evening I dispatched the peon away to the post Office with my daily Journal which this week affords little or no entertainment. M^r Raphael paid me a visit and remained to supper. – As the Europe ships will now be coming – do send me a list of all the things you may require for yourself and Mess – shall endeavor to give you satisfaction by executing your commission to your wishes – You know I am a good hand at providing the useful, at least you have often said so –

Thursday 3rd

Captain Wynch was our only attendant at breakfast. Corbett and your Uncle breakfasted out – M^r Burkes friend Lieu^t Davison has fought a Duel at Calcutta lately with a M^r Prendagast a young Engineer of the Establishment who used to live at Sir John Dallings, the former shot the latter through both his thighs – this is the third or fourth time that M^r Davison has got himself in these scrapes – I believe he has a frightful warm temper, which will ever lead him in difficulties, as well as embroil others. Such men should be avoided as bad subjects – Poor little Captain Bruce was thrown out of his Bandy the other day as he was coming from Poonamalee and has dislocated his Shoulder, however I am glad to find he is in a fair way of doing well. M^r Hall the Beach Master was at last on Saturday married to Miss Guidain. Grant, Stuart, Boyd and a few more dined here.

Poor Davis it is imagined he can not exist much longer, he now subsists entirely on a Milk Diet – M^r Millingchamp by his desire has again attended him – he is very low, tho his recollection and faculties I am told is still very good.

We passed this Evening by ourselves – The weather is growing very warm, and for these few days past it has been threatening to Blow –

Friday 4th

No breakfasters this blessed morning – Dined in the family way – The evening likewise we passed by ourselves – the only visitor we had was M^r Grant who did not make his appearance till near 9 oClock. M^r M.G. I am told has made his congé to the fair La Belle – peace must again soon reign in the Breast of the poor disbanded Secretary – The under written lines are reckoned Smart – Do not show them to any one – But I will give you leave to peruse them to a few partials friends, I need not I am sure desire you to read them to the fair Cla–a–she, I know is the first on your list in the confidential way – I must beg of you not to give a single copy to any one for many mighty reasons.

A Ballard

On the Melancholy Event of the Departure of M^{rs} G— from Madras

—————“Remember thee!

Ay, thou poor ghost, whiles memory holds a seat
In this distracted globe.” Hamlet:

Things to their old pass,
Shall now come at Madras,
Since the Terror of Women and Fellows
That Virago of * Stones
Has got off with whole bones,
“Sing old Rose, and then burn the Bellows”

Each Lady divine,
In Husband may shine,
Or with Bosom more tempting than father;
May dress at her ease,
And say what she please.
For with Scandals gone off Mother G— on

The Asylums Protectress
And every Directress
From her Tongue or her Fist fear no Knocks
Since the Carey’s rich Blood,
For Ague is good.
Has escap’d the Plebeian small pox

*The Name of the Original Owner of the House where she lived

And you, ye Stage Players,
May give yourselves Airs,
Betraying such Fire, and Spirit;
Yet we very well know,
To old Nick, ye might go,
Unpossessed of Theatrical Merit.

M^r Willis may boast,
Of his ill deserv’d Post,
Which creates him a Man of great Letters,
He may thank Lingo’s Wig,
Which has made him as big,
In a place more befitting his betters.

But for this M^{rs} Strange,
The Fruits of Exchange,
As a Paymaster’s Wife ne’er had friend,
Her sweeting smiling Sir,
For new Cargoes of Furr,
Might have tripp’d it again to the * Sound.
Ye fair Dames of the Brush,
Who so near were a crush,

From my hand that for boxing is made,
Your sweet pretty Papers,
My dear Chimney Sweepers,
Fain I'd blacken 'gainst next Masquerade
*Nootka Sound

And you M^{rs} Lewin,
Whose Husband was thriving,
And for fear of a War, took to Shipping,
What best would suit you,
If you had but your due,
O could I but give it! is whipping.

That I quickly depart,
Is great Joy to my Heart,
Instead of it's being distressing,
Than Madras, Hell's not worse.
So I'll give you my Curse,
At all times as good as my Blessing.
With these the last Words,
Of the dame sprang from Lords,
She finished her foolish Career,
If she has e'er a Friend,
He must hope she will mend,
And be wiser in England than here.

Saturday 5th

After breakfast I was obliged to attend the Asylum – M^{rs} Porcher and M^{rs} Moorhouse were nominated Directresses in the Room of M^{rs} Grattan and M^{rs} Turing Senior: There are seventy six children now in the School and the number increasing daily. Dined ourselves only – In the Evening we went to the Rehearsal, M^{rs} Sagely did her part I so assure you much better than you could suppose, she was highly complimented when she came off the Stage – the only fault that was found with her was that she spoke rather too low – M^{rs} Gibbons, Oakeley, Theweles and Moorhouse, will be the Heroins of the piece – Poor M^{rs} Baker is too timid for a pert chambermaid – as for the Gentlemen (your Uncle excepted) they are very so, so, – perhaps the night of the performance may inspire them – Indeed they require great Improvement. M^r D– impartially is very Capital – I am certain there never was a better Alscrip –

Sunday 6th

After breakfast your Uncle, Cousin Eliza, and I attended Divine Service – very few people frequent the Church just now, the warmth of the weather I imagine makes them Lazy – No anecdotes either amusing or otherwise have I this day to communicate – we dined infamille, the Evening we likewise passed by ourselves. – I am sorry to hear Captain Stevenson has given up his post of Barrack Master, his friends here blame him exceedingly – Indeed I cannot help thinking he has acted too precipitately in his resignation – Tonyn took his departure on Saturday morning –

Monday 7th

Breakfasted with Betsy and me Corbett and Raphael – Your Uncle went to M^{rs} Moorhouse's to breakfast and to rehearse with her. This Evening the three first acts are to be rehearsed also the scene between Miss Allan and M^{rs} Sagely for the last time, the Play on Wednesday. It is now past eight P.M. Betsy, Miss R– and I are just now come from the Rehearsal – as I

finished my part, I took the opportunity when others were engaged of slipping home. M^{rs} D–Campbell was delivered this morning of a Boy – So Stevenson I hear is going home – Did you not know anything of it? – poor fellow, I hope and most heartily pray he may succeed in all his views – Tell him so with my best and kindest compliments – Should Miss Fisher arrive in his absence my care and attention shall not be wanted towards her – Should she not see the excellent Stevenson before he takes his Departure, offer him the warmest wishes of your Uncle, Cousin and Aunt for his health, success, and lasting happiness.

Tuesday 8th

Breakfasted here M^r Stuart who has informed me that poor Davis is very ill – he has not spoke these two days – Indeed, after all that he has suffered Death will be a happy release from all the Miseries of this wretched world – His unthriftiness and impudent conduct in Life have been his ruin –

Your ever affectionate and always most acceptable favor of the 5th Ultimo I was duly honored with at 12 oClock this forenoon – and to which I shall reply in my next – We dined to day perfectly Beauless – Mess^{rs} Alscrip and Prompt being engaged at M^r Spencer’s –

This Evening we made several visits – but was unlucky or rather lucky as not to find any body at home except the worthy M^{rs} Hughes. Heard not “a Whisper of news” supped with here Mason – Apropos – I did hear a “whisper of news” – Shippy I am told has received 500 Pagodas for learning Moors and Persian – Pray my Sandy, when will you put in your claim – Shippy I hear knows as much of it as the Man in the Moon. –

Wednesday 9th

After Breakfast I rehearsed a la Sagely avec Prompt: we were both perfect – This night my friend will require all the Resolution and Courage, I am mistress of to tread the Stage with confidence – I shall pray I may do my part with credit and propriety – I shall detain this till tomorrow to give you an account of the Heiress. Poor Eliza was frightened as her Mother – it is but very natural for her to feel for her Friend as for your Uncle, tho he says he is frightened we do not believe him –

Grant dined here with Lieu^t Bell was promoted a Captain this day – M^{rs} Bell may now hold up her Head one peg higher. Captain Wynch is said will be a Major in the course of three weeks. It is now past 6 oClock, we are on the wing for the Theatre – Courage M^{rs} Sagely – and trust to Shalia for success – Tomorrow I shall give you some account of the Heiress – Adieu, Adieu.

Thursday 10th

Now my kind Sandy, I am retired from Breakfast to give you an account of last nights performance – The Heiress went off on the whole very well indeed – The Ladies really deserve great credit, they were very perfect Draped with elegant propriety. Major Maule more perfect than I expected and played well his part. Your Uncle most excellent – he bore the Palm in applause – the whole house was in constant peals of laughter whenever he made his entré on the stage – he was allowed by the Judges of the Theatre to equal Parsons – some really give their opinion in favor of the Madras Alscrip – The Courier I make no doubt will justly publish his praise – Prompt did what he had to do very spiritedly M^{rs} Sagely came off with flying colours, she was greatly flattered by the approbation of a partial Audience, and what is more surprising she spoke loud enough for every body to hear – The rest were very la, la – or as she used to say aboard the Vansittart, tolly, lolly, O, I beg her pardon Blandish was done excellently, I leave a fuller account my dear friend to your favored Cousin –

The Ranger arrived here this forenoon from Bengal – What do you think of this Courier? – if it does not contain anything serious – it will at least afford you a smile.

What is the matter with George? I am afraid he has forgot his friends at the Grove – My Love to him my Sandy – tell him my foot is perfectly well –

My best compliments to all enquiring friends – not forgetting M^r Macfie. Your Uncle desires his best remembrances to you. Your God–son is hearty but grown very, very, Black. God

bless you – and always remember I regard you most affectionately. Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 10th April 1788
M^r Alex^r Falconar

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P. M. Thursday 10th April 1788
Journal Continued

By your Cousin Eliza's letters to Miss Bruce, and you, and with my daily Diary, all of which I dispatched this post, will fully give you an account of the performance of the long talked of Heiress – I wish to God you had been here, to have seen it – Your Uncle's acting would I am confident have yielded you much gratification – Anstruther was great in Mungo – Your Uncle was equally so as Alscrip – Both of these characters could not have been better done in all Europe –

Our Evening visitors, and supper guests were Grant, Ewing, Cornet Leslie, and Rainbolt. Davis is very ill truly – he has not been moved from one posture this week – Opiates with Milk have been his only nourishment for days past – Alas poor M^{rs} Davis!!! –

Friday 11th

We rise now with Aurora almost every morning – I hope we shall have fortitude enough to continue so laudable a custom; for indeed, both Betsy and self expect to derive much benefit from it – particularly Betsy, as she needs more health and strength than I do – tho, she is perfectly well, yet she cannot boast of strength.

Our breakfast Beaux this morning were Martin, Grant, and Torin.

Now for a reply to your last letter of the 5th date – I am obliged to you my Sandy, for thinking so frequently of my poor foot, it is, thank God, almost perfectly healed; tho at times I feel a pain in the sole of it – this is strange you will say but it is really so, it hurts me so much I cannot walk on it, with comfort; but I know this is not alarming; it will perhaps give no further trouble. We have had more rain here also but not enough – if you can spare us a little, do waft us some, for we are almost parched up for want of it – Tho, if I may judge of this present appearance of the Atmosphere, we shall not be deficient in our share of so great a blessing. The weather looks well and it blows fresh.

With Miss Bruce's Turban I shall send by the Corley the Gloves and wafers, as for the Hats, Feathers, &c, you had better wait till the arrivals from Europe, as then I shall get them better, and more reasonable. You make me indeed happy by saying you are in good health – Heaven grant you a long continuance – to be in possession of health in this life is half the Battle. Your Uncle dined to day at Sir John's. We dined by ourselves – Colonel Elphinstone's Regiment I hear is safely arrived at Bombay, and in good health and spirits. The evening we passed at home infamille – M^r Hamilton called, but he is such an invalid he seldom sups out any where.

Saturday 12th

Betsy and I took a very pleasant ride this morning before breakfast – the air was perfectly mild, and the Country looked pleasing; the Trees and fields were gilded with the beaming rays of the Sun. Indeed we hitherto find our morning excursions agreeably rural.

My friend Johnstone of the Ranger came out with Corbett to Dinner to day: In the Evening we had to supper the Ruddimans, Boyd, Grant, with a few more. No news. The talk of the Play still pervades every Circle.

Sunday 13th

Johnstone accompanied Betsy and me to Church – Rain attended us all the way – which made the Air cool this last week in the mid day the weather has been exceptionally sultry and cloudy. We returned home at our usual hour and passed the rest of the day without Company – M^r Johnstone is our guest while he stays here. You speak of War in your letters to your Cousin, pray my amiable Sandy what do you mean by it – for here we know of no such

report, do pray tell us particularly – You have alarmed me much.

Monday 14th

No breakfasters this morning. I have seen a Portuguese Boy I think will do for you; he appears smart, talks Moors well, he can dress hair – I shall inquire further about him, and will engage him for you; if I think he will answer – Will you give him his Board, besides his Wages? being a Portuguese you must feed him, and if he behaves well your cast off old linen, and coats, will be acceptable to him – I like his looks exceedingly – in his last place he lived two years, he would not have left his master but that he went to Sea –

This evening we paid a few visits in the Black Town – when we came to the Grove we found with your Uncle Mason – Grant, and Stuart, to partake our supper infamille joined our little party – the latter told us the Rooms were very thin: only five Ladies present – The weather rally is much too warm for Dancing the Evenings generally are close and uncomfortable.

Tuesday 15th

We paid an early visit this morning to the Asylum, then returned to Breakfast – What an odd manner George expresses himself regarding troubles without telling us any particulars– the prevailing report at Trichinopoly is surely fabulous had Tippoo any design against Travancore, should we not here know something of it – I met Colonel Capper last night, he told me Tippoo just now is more inclined for Peace than War – Do you think my Sandy, the Troops from Negapatam would have been ordered to Madras if the Governor had any Idea of War? The Ranger Packet I hear is going to be sent to Negapatam to bring down the Troops – Colonel Capper also told me the Items sent to the Southward are sent for back – that Bullocks are gone for that purpose – How Idle therefore the report! – the ever busy world are always Creating ridiculous Chimeras to pain ones mind needlessly without their reaping any advantage –

It is now 12 oClock at noon – your favor of the 12th instant is this moment delivered into my hand – Alas! why my favorite friend do you express yourself so feelingly affectionate – the perusal of your letter has caused your Cousin and me to shed a flood of tears – Your Uncle appeared alarmed, tho his manly mind endeavored not to show us it –

As every thing, and every body, seems to be perfectly quiet and easy here, I shall flatter myself General H – is causelessly Alarmed – None here give the lest credit to the Southern Rumour – You ever kind Uncle has just got a note from a Gentleman in Station, in answer to one, he had written inquiring of the prevailing report – As this purports “ In reply to your note, it may be necessary to observe, that should General H– take upon himself to Encamp his Garrison on the Plain, it does not follow that you should be in hurry to send off Field Equipment to Camp”. Keep this to yourself – however this kind intelligence obtained by your worth Uncle, has greatly consoled us – We hope to hear something more about this affair by and by.

This Evening we had to visit and to sup with us Captain Brown, and M^r William Balfour – My mind thank God is greatly relieved by every pleasing account

I heard respecting the Trichinopoly report – The Governor I am told is not all pleased with General Horne's Conduct, he has sent him a reprimand, and orders to recall the Troops to Garrison directly – A letter was received this morning from Tippoo expressing his wish for Peace and quietness– these circumstances with the Governor's ramble to Ennore for ten days, does not appear if hostilities were likely to happen – The disturbance in the Countries on the other side of Trichinopoly was owing to a few of our Nabobs people being troublesome to some of the Tippoo's men and nothing more – This charming intelligence believe me, my dear Sandy, will be conducive to our procuring a good night's rest – God bless you – my heart is still very heavy – Give my love to George –

Wednesday 16th

No morning visitors today. The Courier is very late coming to us, it is now three in the Afternoon – I was in hopes of hearing from you by this day's post, but I am disappointed – We are well – let us know of all your movements. Your Cousin is in the middle of a long letter to you – your Uncle and Eliza desire their affectionate remembrances to you, omit not mentioning them to George. Farewell – with sincerity and truth, I remain, your most Affectionate Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 16th April 1788

P.S. The Courier just arrived (4 oClock) by which you will see my friend, it has not taken the alarm of the Southern Ferment – Adieu again – and let us hear from you soon .

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P.M. Wednesday 16th April 1788

Journal Continued

This Evening's post take away my weekly dispatch to you, which I hope will hail you at your quarters at Warriore – By to day's tappy you will have been acquainted with the determination of this Government respecting General Horne's conduct – It is the general opinion of those who have any just Ideas of the Politics of the Coast, that we are likely to enjoy a long series of Peace – Heaven grant we may! For War cannot I am sure be desired either by the Government or by Individuals: hostilities in this part of the world must ever prove baneful to the Country and to the Community. Our supper party besides ourselves were M^r Leslie and Grant.

Thursday 17th

No visitors this morning – we dined as usual. In the Evening Betsy, and I took a ride to the Fort without seeing a single creature of our acquaintance – when we came back, found here Tête a tête with you Uncle M^r Raphael. This is a charming Evening – the present Moon shines brighter than any I have seen a long time – the Air is too mildly serene – The appearance altogether of this night strongly Indicates that peace and Tranquillity will reign in unison among us.

Friday 18th

We had a charming pleasant ride this morning – the worthy Ruddiman called here after we had done breakfast; he told us by this time the Southern Troops must be at their Cantonments – the recent report of Invasion is thought to be without any foundation and perfectly groundless.

We dined as the preceding day. In the Evening we supped at the Oakeleys in a party of 24 Persons, they were more sociable than usual – After the victuals were taken away several songs were sung by the Ladies. I think our friend Miss Humphries looks poorly and is somewhat broke. Previous to our going to the Oakeleys who but M^r Getty surprised me with a visit – he looks well and is grown lusty; he accompanied the Troops from Tangore to this place. I believe he means to make a stay of a few days at Madras. He kindly inquired after your health.

Saturday 19th

Having been kept up till one oClock this morning we were not able to rise betimes as usual for our morning ride. Grant breakfasted with us.

It is now past 11 oClock – Your anxiously wished for letter is this instant put into my hands – Good Heavens! how chagrined, and how was I pained to the heart to peruse the melancholy account of your indisposition – May the all Merciful God protect you my Sandy, and avert the ills that forever seem to attend you – I can not account why I should be so peculiarly unfortunate, but so it is – those I love and regard always partake of any ill success – I shall

flatter myself you my friend will be exempt from such a remark – And will live to be blessed with many happy days – You must indeed take care of yourself; reflect for a moment, that your Life is precious to your Amiable Mother and to her family – and also to your dear friends here – If you do not find yourself recovering strength I will try to procure leave for your coming down here for a while to recruit yourself – what say you to this my friend? I shall reply to the rest of your favor tomorrow; as I am now obliged to go to dress to dine at Colonel Capper's on the Banks of Mamelon River; where I am going with a heavy heart not at all fit to enjoy company – Adieu for the present.

Here I am again come my Sandy to tease you with my daily chat – We came from Capper's at the hour of seven – Grant, Stuart, Doveton, young Capper, Boyd and with ourselves five made the party – after dinner we had a pleasant trip across the River in an elegant Punt made by Corbett with a fine Cabin in it – We only wanted the French Hanns to have made our jaunt delightful – Boyd, Stuart with Offeney and Rainbolt supped here – on the whole it was an agreeable day tho I ill relished it.

Sunday 20th

As usual we went to Church this morning which was pretty full considering all things – M^r Millingchamp preached the Text was taken from the 7th Chapter of St Mathew and the 13th and 14th Verses these words – 13th

Enter ye in at the Strait Gate, For wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction; and many there be which go in thereat

14th

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

It was a good subject, and the discourse was well delivered. Before I left the Fort M^r Grant called on us and accompanied us here to dinner: Your Uncle is gone to Ennore to dine with the Governor's family.

Now to proceed replying to your favor – It gives me pleasure to find Stevenson is satisfied with me regarding Miss Fisher and the confidence he has reposed in me respecting his personal situation, he may be assured it shall not be made an improper use of – my best compliments and thanks await him. On Thursday will be opened an Europ shop, an investment imported on Board the Imperial ship De Stade Van Wienen – That is the City of Vienna – from which I mean to procure your Casimeer Boots and shoes, – you never told me whether the Boots I last sent you had fitted you: The things are to be sold reasonably. Your Uncle returned from his ramble nearly about 8 oClock in the Evening supped by ourselves and Johnstone.

Monday 21st

M^r Getty favored us with his company to Breakfast – he is to be stationed for a while at Chingleput with some of his men who are going for the recovery of their health.

Yours of the 18th is just brought me, you must have written your letter before the arrival of the tappel of that day, else you would have known the resolution of the Governor and Council respecting the frivolous report at your place every body I have mentioned the subject to assure me Tippoo never had a thought of going to War with us that his Country is perfectly quiet; the old general I dare say has been dreaming of War till he now actually believes it to be true – I am indeed happy to find you are better – till I got your last favor I could not be free from anxiety. May you my friend never experience the like illness again. Supped in the family way: being the Room night had no visitors. The Rooms and Concert thought to be on the Decline; perhaps the Expected Arrivals may give them a Fillip.

The Governor's family return to day but they mean to go back to Ennore tomorrow after dinner, and to remain till Friday.

Tuesday 22nd

After our ride we came home to Breakfast – M^r Raphael was of our party – he told me from

good Authority that Tippoo has no Idea of War, and that it would neither suit his Finances to be now at variance with the English – I hope this day's post will bring a line from you acquainting me with your motions – If you my Sandy find your self strong and perfectly recovered from your late illness, I should rather wish for the pleasure of your company at Christmas as the Season then will be gayer and pleasanter for traveling – I need not tell you I am confident how happy I shall be to see you –

By advices from Bombay four Regiments are certainly coming to India – two for the Bombay and the other two for this side of India – it is said one half of the Officers are to be appointed by the Crown the other moiety by the Company. The Yarmouth who arrived two days ago from Bombay bring later advices than the 30th October. General Meadows on account of the Peace was in no hurry to leave England. As this will not go till tomorrow perhaps the Courier may be more explicit on this subject. I am told there are advices from Europe as late as the middle of November: But in a few weeks we shall hear by Sea – Corbett and the family were of the dinner set.

This Evening we passed at home – just as the clock struck nine M^r Grant and Leslie made their entrance – the later told me he had heard Major Stuart had a letter from Trichinopoly by this day's post mentioning that the Troops were recalled into Garrison, I hope it is so – but I long to hear from you.

Wednesday 23rd

I have not seen any body but the family this morning. Your Uncle went into the Fort – 11 oClock your Cousin has received your favor of the 20th So you are once again to be peaceable I am very happy at it – what does old H say on the occasion? I imagine he looks quite Blank – We are well – Remembrances to George, Stevenson and the Bruces – Your Uncle and Cousin desire their affectionate remembrances to you – the latter will shortly address you. God bless you my amiable friend – I remain with lasting affection, your faithful Eliza: Davidson

The Grove

23rd April 1788

P.S. Poor Davis is expected to be no more either to day or tomorrow – Do My Sandy keep a vacant place for your Wafers. Else I am deprived of knowing many of your words – Eliza, will tell you the reason why we wish for your Company particularly at the end of the year – M^r Alex Falconar

P. M. Wednesday 23rd April 1788

Journal continued.

Having posted off my Journal and Courier, we dressed for visiting – M^r Corbett offering himself to be our Beau accompanied us to M^{rs} Kindersley – On our return to the dear Grove, we found here bearing your Uncle company Colonel Capper, and Town Major Gomond. This Evening we have not heard an Item of news; therefore I shall lay down my pen in the hope tomorrow will produce something worth communicating. Good night my friend pleasant sleep attend you.

Thursday 24th

Breakfast over we left your Uncle to take care of the house and proceed to the Fort to purchase your shoes and Boots – I think they will fit you, I took only one p^r of Boots two of shoes – I measured the soles of them by the Sample you sent me – when our own ships arrive, I shall send you a few more pairs of shoes with another pair of Boots –

On my way home I called to inquire after Davis, Cruetzer seeing our Carriage came down and told me that his poor Brother in a very few minutes would be no More! – It will be a happy released for the poor Doctor, who has truly suffered like a Martyr – I am told he is a dreadful object – Ruddiman went to see him the other day but was on seeing M^r Davis obliged to quit his Room abruptly – and left him miserably moaning and expressing a desire

with uplifted arms to embrace his friend –

This evening while we sitting in our usual way on the Veranda, a note was delivered to your Uncle from Gomond announcing M^r Davis's demise – Alas! poor Tom Davis – he departed this life at three this afternoon, he is indeed a publick loss, in his profession he was great, and besides he had many good Points in his character – he has served the Company with unremitting fidelity and toil six and twenty years – I hope in consideration of his long and diligent servitude to them they will consider his helpless family. I am afraid he has died perfectly insolvent. Supped here M^r Millingchamp, Grant, Stuart, with a part of M^r Raphael's family –

Friday 25th

This morning M^r D– with Betsy and self went to Davis's interment – he was buried at half past seven o'clock, being early in the morning very few accompanied the Corps – Cruetzer was much cast down – his feelings for his Sister, and her children's situation must be severe – No dinner company. The Evening we spent perfectly infamille not Even Corbett.

Saturday 26th

Mason and Offany breakfasted here – they had not a word of news to tell us – what little I heard yesterday Betsy has Snatched it from me for her Letter – Dined here Mess^{rs} Boyd, Sydenham, Colonel Capper, and a few others – after dinner your poor Uncle was taken with a severe sharp pain across his Loins which obliged him to repair to his bed immediately – I hope by tomorrow, I shall have better accounts to give you of his health.

Your favor of the 23rd was brought me by this days post – The assurance you give me of your being perfectly recovered yielded me much satisfaction All bilious complaints are to be avoided; by common attention and trifling precaution abstinence and a little cooling medicine often times prove a preventative to most Diseases: but all bilious cases ought to be particularly attended to, they are in general as sudden, as they are dangerous.

As to the report of Tippoo's being in motion against this Coast it is without any foundation, three or four Gentlemen of veracity and good politicians have told me that Tippoo has not the least Idea of going to War with us – It was also observed it was well enough for once to shew the Tippoo how active we could be, but if such alacrity as our Southern Army shewed were to be put inforce on every trivial rumour, it would cost the company a pretty penny – Every time your little Army is moved the expense is computed at several thousand Pagodas – The Troops in your Garrison would have cost a large sum had they been Encamped. A letter has been received a few days ago from Tippoo written in perfect friendship. Notwithstanding all this he is nevertheless said to be in Force near Calicut and Tellicherry.

Sunday 27th

We had draped ourselves for Church, but finding your dear Uncle so poorly we remained at home – Indeed my Sandy, he has been for the short time of his indisposition severely pained – this whole day he has suffered greatly, I have been scarcely out of his sight – it was with great difficulty we could get him raised from his bed with the assistance of three people – Between three and four he was attacked with strong spasms for which, Ruddiman happening to dine here, bled him pretty plentifully, this operation in a short time procured him some relief – he is still very Indifferent – But I hope by tomorrow he will find his pains greatly abated – God grant he may, poor dear Man, he suffers much, and it is distressing to ones feelings to see him, he bears the pains with fortitude – I pray the Almighty may speedily alleviate them. Besides Corbett Ruddiman, and our family M^r Cruetzer and Jones dined here.

Monday 28th

Breakfasted here Grant and Leslie, their visits were of enquiry to your Uncle, who, Heaven be praised, is greatly better to day tho yet he feels a great degree of pain; but if he keeps mending to day as much as he has done since yesterday he will I am sure shortly recover – Grant has been here this whole day keeping your Uncle company. The good Ruddiman is very kind and attentive. Dined with us Grant only.

In the Evening we had Cruetzer, Grant and Stuart. God be praised, Your dear friend, your kind Uncle, my dear Sandy continues to mend – I shall flatter myself your Cousin Eliza will be able to forward to you pleasing tidings of his health by tomorrows tappy – his pains are greatly deferred and yet he often feels smart and sudden twitches that make him call out lustily – I have no news – the Courier I am well assured will fully make up for the deficiencies of my Journal.

Tuesday 29th

I have the heartfelt satisfaction to tell you my friend your worthy Uncle is almost well, his recovery is owing to some medicine he took this morning, the consequence of which has nearly eradicated the pains that so acutely tormented him – God be praised for it, what little he feels at present is scarcely anything: The sudden and agreeable turn of his disorder, has overjoyed the faces of the whole house – Betsy is skipping for joy and she tells me my Countenance is lighted up.

M^r Grant joined again our dinner party to day – In the Evening we had to see your Uncle a few friends among whom was Captain Tasker, Getty, Courier Johnstone &c, &c, &c. M^r Millingham communicated to me the death of Captain James Macky late Advocate of the Northern Station, and brother to M^{rs} D– Campbell – his Death was occasioned by a fever. This has been a sickly season at Madras – Mess^{rs} Chase, Welch, R– Mitford, Moorhouse, Grant, J Mowbray, have all been ill of Bilious complaints –

Wednesday 30th

Ruddiman breakfasted here – Your Uncle is still complaining, but greatly recovered – I hope in a day or two he will be Set again on his legs, his spirits are good and for so severe and hasty an attack, he is surprisingly recovered. The Courier is full of English Extracts and pleasing anecdotes. I imagine Boyd's account of Tippoo must be from your part of the world – the Government do not seem to pay any attention to it. Grant dined here again he has been particularly attentive –

Yours of the 27th I have received – I have got the Green cloth for your Jacket it is rather darker than your Sample, the same as what you sent, there are none in the place – I shall now soon Dispatch your things – Give my love to George tell him his Father is much better. Remember me to the Amiable Stevenson – and the Bruces. Tell me how your new Major behaves to you; M^{rs} B has not answered my last letter.

Farewell my loved and favorite Nephew – Believe me I am always yours most affectionate Aunt and friend &^c Eliza Davidson

Shippy is appointed to Captain James Mackay's post – I herein enclose for your and Miss Bruces amusement copies of M^{rs} Gratton's and M^{rs} Lewin's letters after you have done with them send the back sheet then to George, Stevenson, and Macfie, to any other particular friend.

The Grove 30th April 1788
A Falconar

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P. M. Wednesday 30th April 1788
Journal Continued

In my Journal of this date you my Sandy will find your good Uncle is nearly recovered – this fix of illness I dare say has saved him from one more unpleasant. This being the Couchée night we had no visitors but M^r Cruetzer, and Raphael. Ennore is become the resort of all gay parties; for three or four months past – Ennore House has been engaged by different sets: An elegant pleasure Boat is building by Corbett for Ennore River for the use of the Parties this you will say is Style.

Thursday 1st May 1788

May day my friend— Good gracious how different from our charming May days in England — where are the Milk Maids, the Garlands, the trees in blossom the damask Rose, the Honey Suckle and Eglantine, with other innumerable Rural Scenes denoting the delightful English Spring — Alas! they are far, far away

M^r Cockburn and Torin breakfasted here.

Now to reply to your favor of the 27th April — you have my dear Sandy led me into an Error respecting the Portuguese Boy, in your letter of the 27th of March, you there requested me to offer 4 Pagodas p^r month if I could hire a good Portuguese Servant, accordingly I offered that amount to the man I mentioned to you, but in your last you say you cannot afford to give so much — How comes it my friend you should have made such a mistake? — However I have a friend in a corner who has promised to hire him on as reasonable terms as possible, I am sorry for the accident of your Horse — I do not see how Burrows can reprimand you if the animal dies, as long as his Death does not proceed from any fault of yours — I wish the next you get may prove as good as the one you are likely to lose.

Dined here Grant. In the Evening Captain Brown and Nundy Campbell supped here, as did also Hamilton. Your Uncle is thanks to the all gracious God nearly well he very frequently gets up, and to show us how well he is, in his humorous way marches first with one leg then with the other, sometimes runs across the Room with the alertness of a young man of twenty, and sometimes acts Alscrip.

Friday 2nd

The only breakfaster this morning was the honest Ruddiman — Your Uncle is now pretty well; he only complains of a Numbness in his Loins, after sitting any time he finds a difficulty in rising from his chair — this inconveniency I flatter myself will not be of any long duration. Johnstone has been for these ten days past been on Board the Ranger — to day he came with Corbett to stay with us till tomorrow. The Ranger is ordered to Masulipatam with Military Stores and is to return to Madras.

This Evening Betsy and I carried M^r Johnstone to the Asylum which is increased to upwards of 80 children — Lady Campbell finding the house not big enough to contain them is going to add two Bedrooms and two Verandas one of the latter is to be sixty feet long. Captain Wynch is made a Major this day.

Supped here this Evening Grant, Stuart, Creutzer and the Ruddiman's. Captain Beatson is arrived at Madras, Major Close and Wilkes are daily expected. Adieu.

Saturday 3rd

We made an early visit to the Asylum, this is my week for the tour of Duty — After breakfast poor Johnstone made his Conjé for the last time for a few weeks— the Ranger is to sail sometime to day. I have hired the Portuguese Boy, Paul is his name and is rather “handsomer” than your Uncle's Paul — You will see by the enclosed letter the term on which he is engaged. As you did not seem to use you Servant with severity while here, why should I think you will now make a Rigorous Master — Indeed my Sandy, you must be greatly altered if you are grown Choleric: Three Pagodas per month and Victuals cannot be Dear, Your Uncle gives his Paul four —As you keep a table the feeding of your Servant will not be expensive.

It is now three oClock Johnstone I come again, he does not now go till tomorrow. This Evening Eliza with Miss Raphael, Johnstone and myself went to the Fort — I to my Godown, while there Corbett being in Town sent word to us to come to tea, to which we assented, after tea he shewed us all his house which is neatly furnished, the House altogether makes a different appearance, and is indeed much improved — Boyd's room in particular you would scarcely know it again to be the same, it is perfectly Metamorphosed, and withal clear of all the old Shoes, Boots Pamphlets &c, &c, &c.

Sunday 4th

Breakfasted here M^r Ruddiman after which I proceeded to Church leaving Betsy at home, I was accompanied to town by Johnstone and to Church by Miss R— and little Jenny Bayn —when in the Fort I was favored with your kind and anxious letter of inquiry after your Uncle's health — As Betsy and I have very particularly given you Daily information regarding him, I will only further add that thanks to the all wise providence he is greatly better — nothing ails your respected Uncle, but a stiffness in his Loins which I hope with a little care he will soon be himself again.

You say my dear Sandy, I must not be so angry, if Clara tells tales — However flattered I may be by your understanding to confess your errors to your Aunt, yet I should have wished, nay, hoped you would have been exempted from the Bacchanalians Laurels steeped in claret must ill become your youthful Brows — I shall say no more hoping you will not often be ambitious of wearing such Trophies.

Dined with us Grant, Corbett, and Jones. The Evening we spent at home — Dirom paid us a visit in passant from the Mount. Captain Beatson came here at near nine, and remained to supper — he inquired after you — No news. God bless you.

Monday 5th

This morning Betsy and I after paying the necessary visit to the Asylum, came home to breakfast — About 9 oClock your Uncle went to Town where he means to dine (at Sir John Menzies) M^r Getty and Foresyth called here at 10 but not being in a trim to see Gentlemen I made my Excuses —

This forenoon I dispatched Miss Bruce's Turban, with your Boots Shoes, green clothes — all of which will I hope reach you safe. The Portuguese Boy did promise to accompany the Coolie, but he has disappointed me, and I did not wish to detain the Coolie on his account — If he is willing to keep his word with me, I can send him by another opportunity. Send me the measure of your Head, by a piece of string to choose your hats by, enclose it in your next letter —

At six this evening the arrival of the Barwell Indiaman was announced to me by your ever kind Uncle, the accounts of her and of her passengers Eliza, has sent you by this nights Post — God in Heaven grant us happy tidings of our Dear Friends — Farewell, I cannot at present add a word more — Adieu, adieu —

Tuesday 6th

M^r Davidson and Corbett left us to ourselves — your Uncle is greatly better and is gone this morning to see a M^r Macarthur fence; this Gentleman came from England in the Ranger, he is said to be perfectly accomplished in the polite arts, he is remarkable for Fencing, Horsemanship, &c, &c, and is reported an Elegant Writer. He has been assaulted by several of the Hanoverian Officers but none are his equal — this morning he is to engage a French officer who is esteemed a good Sword's man — M^r Macarthur is a Scotchman, he means to settle in Bengal.

M^r Grant was so kind as to forward our Europe letters at 11 oClock last night, which engaged Betsy and me till 2 oClock this morning; as your Cousin Eliza means to send my letters for your perusal It is needless for me to say more than to thank God, all are well — by the latter ships of this Season I expect letters more satisfactory — when I hope also you will my friend hear from your invaluable Dear Mother.

Grant and Corbett dined here. In the Evening we had to visit us Captains Brown, and Dunwoody, likewise Hamilton — Grant only supped with us. It has rained a good deal all this blessed day.

Wednesday 7th

It has rained hard all the live long night, and still continues to pour, the weather has every appearance of being boisterous. I have no news to day I hope your things will get to you in good order — We are well — Affectionate remembrances await on you from your friends at the Grove.

I remain with sincere attachment your faithful friend and Aunt Eliza: Davidson
The Grove
7th May 1788
M^r Alex Falconar

pages 73 – 76

P.M. Wednesday 7th May 1788

Journal Continued

We were to have had a few friends to dine with us to day, but the weather proving excessively tempestuous, none of them came. It has been blowing and raining horribly – Corbett came from the Fort at half past eight at night, he told me the Barwell Indiaman with six large Country Ships and Vessels were obliged to put out to Sea. Five or six of the small Craft were driven on Shore; and several of the Paddy Boats went down and other vessels were in imminent danger. We are surrounded with an Ocean of weather. I hope the heavy rain we have been blessed with, will cool the Air to enable us to be without refining the Land winds.

Thursday 8th

The weather this morning my esteemed Sandy, is charmingly cool and pleasant. Your Uncle after breakfast was attacked with a sharp pain in his right Breast, which penetrated to his shoulder, it affected his neck also so that he could not without pain move his head, nor look around – Indeed I must say, he is careless of himself; however, these frequent lapses will I flatter myself induce him to pay greater attention to his health.

At half past 12 oClock at noon Betsy and I went to the Fort, visited the Imperial Shops, purchased a few Kitchen Tin utensils then returned – Dined the family only – In the Evening Mess^{rs} Grant, Cruetzer &c, &c, visited us. Mason, Offany, Grant, and Cruetzer only stayed and supped – The ships that left the Road on Wednesday have not yet made their appearance – I hope they are safe –

Friday 9th

Heaven be praised your Uncle is much better, the pains he complained of yesterday, are entirely removed – if the weather continues dry for a few days he will be perfectly recovered. Grant dined here. I have not heard any news– This Evening Betsy, Miss R– and I visited the Asylum, the natural Small pox have attacked five of the Children lately received, the death of one of the poor girls was announced to me as I alighted from the Carriage – I was told she died in a very shocking manner, many parts of her skin burst and bled, blood also came from her mouth, in this Dismal situation she expired.

From this melancholy scene we went to see the Hughes' – M^{rs} H– told me on the first of next Month they intend to become the Inhabitants of the Luz – It was after nine when we reached the Grove – Your Uncle and Corbett with ourselves composed the supper Party.

Saturday 10th

Wonders they say will never cease – who should have breakfasted here but Andrew Ross – this visit of his is the first since we have resided at the Grove – tho, I have not seen him these twelve Months he is the same Indefatigable Being I ever knew him, In his appearance, he is not the least altered – I believe, I am rather a favorite of his: and I think him partial to Betsy because she is the friend of his admired Miss Bruce.

We dined alone – Corbett and your Uncle by invitation dined at old Andrews in Compliment to the fair Clarinda: upward of twenty were invited, among whom were Boyd, Grant, Torin, Cockburn, Haliburton, Corbett, &c, &c, &c.

Last night we had the ill luck of losing one of the two which belonged to young Dalling, but the oldest of them. This Evening a French officer and Captain Ramsay supped with us – tell Miss Bruce, if all Andrew's company were as lively as Corbett (by, the by, I have not the least doubt of it) they have done ample justice to the day – I am informed that old Ross sat till he

grew quite crusty with his Company – Your Uncle came away early, but drank Clara’s health in a Lumbo.

Sunday 11th

Captain Welladvice and Sir John Menzies breakfasted here. The bar to prevent the Ships bringing out passengers &c, &c, is to be taken off by the Company; this being the case, I hear upwards of seventeen or eighteen young Women are coming out to Madras, and as many more to Bengal. Dents expects out three of his Neices, Daughters to his Brother Sir Digby Dent. M^{rs} Horne has either a sister or Neice, or both coming to her. M^{rs} Casmajor has sisters, and M^r Neal Campbell’s Daughter, Miss Taylor sister to the Civilian Taylor, and a Miss Cotgrove are likewise looking towards the East: there are many others whose names I do not recollect.

I dare say my friend, you would have no objection to some news papers and Magazines – Well if you are very desirous, I will see what I can do for you: I am sure you must know it always gives me pleasure to afford you any entertainment.

Dined here an officer of the Barwell a M^r Argles with Cruetzer and Corbett. In the Evening we visited M^{rs} D– Campbell who has been confined these five weeks to her Bedchamber; while there, Lady Campbell, her sister, M^{rs} Cass M^{rs} Woolf, Miss West, M^{rs} Oakeley and Miss Humphries made their Entré – the prevailing conversation is, Lady Jodderal & Miss Cumming, we have not seen them yet, when I do, you may expect a description of her Ladyship and charge:

The Chichester Captain Blake arrived this day from Bombay – she has brought only horses for the Cavalry, landed only fifty four, the rest died on the passage. M^r Willis is arrived from Bombay, the late T. M. is arrived from Floyd’s Cantonment I am told he is well.

Monday 12th

Breakfasted here the honble M^r Cochrane who is just returned from the Norrand he told me my friend and Shipmate M^{rs} Dunn was very inquisitive about us, and longs to hear from me – but what surprised me most was to learn that she again bids fair to increase her family. We must not wonder at any thing that happens, but were I told this would come to pass I should not have credited it.

Dined here to day Boyd, Getty, Grant, Andrew Ross with a few others – Betsy and I left the Table about six to visit the Asylum as I was stepping in the Carriage I was honored with your affectionate Letter my amiable kind Nephew of the 9th instant the perusal of it you may be assured did not a little grieve me – Being now late I shall wish you a kind good night, and shall proceed to acknowledge your favor on the Morrow.

Tuesday 13th

Breakfast being over and having empowered you Cousin Eliza to take charge of my Godowns, I am retired to reply to your yesterday’s letter – I am most sincerely concerned my Dearest friend to find your health still continues so precarious – I cannot but be very uneasy at the bilious Symptoms you mention, the pains in your Shoulders I am afraid indicate the Liver – is this the case? Do my Sandy, tell me faithfully –

You have lately lived I am apprehensive too freely, it is a Life you have not been used to – You can easily avoid Excesses by a proper conduct. It only requires a little determined Resolution; tho, at first your thoughtless companions may try to over come you, in the end they cannot but admire your steady adhearence to preserve your health. Proper temperance, Exercise and avoiding the Midday sun as much as possible will greatly assist to preserve your constitution. You must have been taken ill soon after the day you dined with Stevenson (30th of May) in yours of that date, you say “No bad consequences have resulted from this Excess” – Yes my Sandy, your present Indisposition most probably may be entirely owing to it – Pardon me if I am too forward with my advice – Attribute it to the Effusions of real Friendship and the regard I bear you – were you my Son (as such I look on you) I should just so tell him. When S– was here, talking of you, he observed you had a great share of prudence

however that they had robbed you of some of it; but still you had enough left – Is it so my friend? – but keep this to yourself, and remember the remark you so justly made use of to your Uncle “I rejoice to hear that it is not from easy failure in his Constitution; tho I am surprised that he should suffer that Constitution (however strong) to be impaired by Inattention”.

Your Uncle is thank God perfectly recovered – Your prayers I doubt not joined to your Cousin Eliza’s and mine proved instrumental towards the reinstatement of his usual share of health and good spirits; he is concerned for your health, and is afraid you are heedless of yourself – he says you should use no prescription especially take no Emeticks unless advised to do so by the Faculty

The Surgeon and Clergyman are Hanoverians. Lady Jodderal is said to be a sensible conversable Woman, her age about forty. Miss Jodderal a child of three years old. Miss Cuming agreeable, tho not handsome about 19: but more when I see them. Lieu^t Taylor is Brother to Civilian Taylor – Miss H–s Beau at present is said to be M^r W– Balfour. I have told you all the news I have found by the Barwell – The Courier I was informed by R Johnstone is complete with every thing that is amusing.

Dined here Corbett and R Johnstone. I have preserved for you some news papers, they shall be sent shortly. Grant only supped here he had no letters from Scotland. Adieu.

Wednesday 14th

Your Uncle and Corbett breakfasted out this morning. I hope tomorrow or the day after you will received your things. I am favored with your kind letter of the 11th – You have my Sandy, been more than good, in giving us the pleasure of hearing from you three successive days, do my obliging friend indulge us with one line as frequent as you are able, until you are perfectly restored to health –

Remember us to the Bruces – Love to George, compliments to all inquiring friends. God bless and protect you my friend, to prove a comfort to your amiable Mother – I beseech you take care of yourself – I am, as I ever hope to remain, Your sincerely affectionate, Aunt, &c, &c – Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 14th May 1788

Do pray keep Wafer Room (M^r A Falconar)

pages 77 – 80

P. M. Wednesday 14th May 1788

Journal Continued

Having dispatched my Journal and the Courier, Betsy Miss Raphael and I engaged to visit Lady Jodrell and Lady Campbell’s Conchée – M^r Grant and your Uncle were our Beaux – the former Lady I like much she is affable, polite and sensible – she received us like a Gentlewoman and seemed pleased with the attention of the Settlement – she admires the Country, Climate, Buildings, our manner of living &c, &c, &c. Her Ladyship is about my height, but not too corpulent her complexion fair, her teeth and Eyes (as Boyd says) charming! – her face, I think if anything rather too large for her size, in conversation her Ladyship is very precise, speaks with vast Emphasis, and her words appear to be studied – I am told she is fond of reading, the best part of the day she employs herself in her Study. Sir Paul is a little man something like Ben Sullivan in his person, not quite so full: his countenance has more of humour than beauty in it: he is said to be eminent in his profession – he has written some pieces for the Stage, and I am informed had a share in the News paper called the World. This Family must prove an acquisition to Madras. Miss Canning being ill we did not see her – I am told this poor girl is greatly troubled with fits. The Conchée was uncommonly Brilliant; most of the Ladies in the place attended, as also a M^{rs} Lechmere, a Bombay Lady lately come here with her Husband for her health – she has really an handsome

face resembling M^{rs} Overend.

At near nine we returned supped with us Grant, Stuart and Offany – Poor Manbray was a few days ago taken seriously ill with a fit, which lasted two hours – I hear some say, he is threatened with the Palsy – he has been confined to his bed: his nervous system thought to be greatly deranged – Living too freely, eating heartily, and taking little exercise have caused his illness –

Thursday 15th

My household business ended for this morning, Eliza and I are going to town to visit Captain Welladvice's shop: when I return I shall acknowledge yours of the 11th date –

We came from Town about two saw a few things at the Europe shop scarcely sufficient to occupy one room – there were some excellent round hats, but for the want of your size I did not purchase any: while there I saw young Powney who told me he was appointed to Tanner's Battalion and meant to leave the Mount on Sunday Morning early – he politely offered to take any thing for you; therefore I shall certainly trouble him with a few news papers, the magazines I have not yet procured. Be civil to Powney; he is you know Cousin to M^r C– m –r. Dined here Corbett – In the Evening we had Mess^{rs} Benfield, Grant, and Cornet Leslie with a Mons^r Menville late Governor of Haricol who lives with Benfield. Captain Prescott is ordered to be tried by a Court Martial for challenging M^r Sadlier, it is the opinion of the Military that he may be cashiered. Cornet Leslie looks sadly, I am sure unless he changes the Air he will not live long – His disorder borders on Consumption. Miss West it is reported has refused M^r Pearce, nevertheless, he continues to pay his daily homage. The Heiress is going again to be performed – the Rehearsal is to be on Tuesday, and on the Thursday following the Play. Mason I have just heard is another of Miss W–'s suitors.

Friday 16th

The weather is indeed very warm, the heat always gives me a headack – Tho, an Indian my dear Sandy, I cannot bear this Sultry season – my head is so ill at this moment I can hardly endure the pain.

Now to reply to your kind favor – the Boy I had engaged for you has totally changed his mind, and has resolved not to move from home for less than four Pagodas p^r month – you having already two good servants, I own, I am not at all sorry at the fellows not going – The half cast Portuguese in this country are poor Creatures, and you will be much better off without any of them; perhaps you might be plagued either with a Thief or a Drunkard. I am grieved my amiable friend to find you speak of your health so doubtfully – I hope you take proper advice – what is your complaint; does the Bile affect your Bowels – do tell me candidly in what shape you are affected – I pray to the Almighty your next letter may carry to us favorable tidings of your Health.

Tho I am not acquainted with Ferguson and very little with Oldham – yet I am sorry for them, that man in the character of Gentlemen should forget themselves so much as to be squabbling, boxing and exposing themselves to all the world – is indeed most shameful.

Dined here Creutzer, he leaves this for Arcot tomorrow. M^r Cameron the Person that kept the principal Tavern in the Black Town died last night suddenly.

Supped here M^{rs} Arilla, her Brother John, Rainbolt and young Powney – he seems (the latter) pleased with the Idea of going to Trichinopoly –

Saturday 17th

We had the pleasure of Captain James Campbell's company and M^r Grants to breakfast here this morning – the former is quite recovered, his new uniform makes him appear much taller, in his dress only he is altered – in other respects he is the same obliging Captain James Campbell as ever. The breakfast things removed, M^r Boyd and Stuart made their appearance – after they took their departure M^r J– Holland came – Boyd has undertaken to perform the part of Sir Clement Flint in the Heiress – Should not you wish to give a Peep at him?

Dined here a M^r Macleod and Corbett. This morning we females visited M^{rs} Maule and

Balfour – at the latter place I heard The Ameer had purchased the Chichester a Country Vessel on which they say he means to Cruise for the benefit of his health – he being threatened with a Dropsy. Ruddiman thinks it is necessary that he should change the Air. Doctor Berry is appointed Surgeon in the room of Davis to the eldest Son. We had to supper with Smart only.

*

* Sunday 18th This morning we were graceless, did not attend Divine Service. Dined infamille Corbett came out as usual. This Evening we took a ride by the light of the moon – it is a delightful Evening – one of the finest I have ever seen. Supped here M^r N Campbell, Grant, and Boyd – the latter told me the Courier would be amusing with further Europe Intelligence on Wednesday. I have not heard any Anecdotes worthy a place here. To the list of Ladies I have sent you, I must add two Miss Connors and Miss Mackay, the latter sister to M^{rs} D Campbell. Tell me when the Burrowes's arrive at Trichinopoly – M^{rs} Burrowes has not answered my last letter. I have purchased for you Black feathers; Gloves, and one p^r of Buckles, the latter is thought handsome and brilliant. The above, with some other things I shall shortly send. Do pray send me the size of your “Giddy Head”.

Monday 19th

After breakfast this morning our whole family went to Town, when there we visited Captain Welladvice, Boyd and Corbett, then back again to our small house – Dined at Sir John Menzies on a family Dinner – Remained in Town, drank tea at Boyds and were escorted by Corbett and Boyd with a few more to two weddings in the Black Town – it was near 10 oClock at night before we reached the dear peaceful Grove – Much fatigued with our days Jumbling Excursions. Your Uncle not relishing these amusements left us to brush through them with our Beaux who were men of all nations – French; Irish, Scotch, Welch and English.

A Danish ship arrived here this morning, the Johanna Maria from the Cape of Good Hope, and last from Tranquebar, she left the Cape on the 22nd of March, brings an account of having left the Vestal Frigate there commander Sir Richard Strahan bound for China with Colonel Cathcart on board who was very ill, the crew sickly – tis imagined the Vestal will call here: she had a long passage from Madera to the Cape nearly three months. I had a letter from M^{rs} Westcott, dated on board the Enron the 21st March from the Cape – she had a tolerable passage being only two months from Madras. Poor Biddlecome is dead, he died in England soon after his arrival: Bartlett has also paid the last debt of nature. Lewin I hear is to have a coast and Bay Voyage next year, the good Doctor was in Ireland when the Barwell sailed.

Tuesday 20th

Our Land wind is set in, tho, hitherto pretty cool. Dined with M^r Grant – In the Evening we attended the Rehearsal which did not at all go off well – the men (your Uncle excepted) were very imperfect. Boyd I think will do his part extremely well he speaks with great propriety, his action only is not so pleasing as I could wish. A. M. Campbell has again begun to lay siege to La Belle – this time I think he will certainly carry the Fort – he paid great attention all the Evening to her, and she I thought seemed to smile prettily on him.

I spoke to Major Campbell, the late T. M. concerning your situation in the Cavalry – he very kindly offered to make a point of speaking to Colonel Malcolm tomorrow, and to have it settled for your remaining at Trichinopoly – he said it must have been owing to the hurry of business that it was not done before J– C– behaved very kindly; indeed in all occasions when I have mentioned you, he has ever expressed friendship for you.

Wednesday 21st

No morning visitors. Your Uncle is gone to Town, on purpose to speak to Malcolm in your behalf when I know further about it I shall inform you.

This is a sad warm day – the flies are tormenting one cruelly and prevent me from saying

more – Your Uncle and Cousin are well – they desire their affectionate love to you. How is George? I shall address him after the Play which is to be acted tomorrow Evening.
Take care of yourself – How does Clara like her Turban – I hope the things reached you safe – Tho, unknown remember me to M^r Macfie.
Adieu, my dearest Nephew, I remain your attached, and faithful Aunt. Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 21st May 1788
Colonel Malcolm has promised your Uncle to write to Captain Flint –

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P. M. Wednesday 21st May 1788

Journal Continued

We dressed this Evening for M^{rs} Casamajor's chevaux given to the Jodrell's – the company invited were to the number of thirty eight – most of them Grandees. From my observation of A. M. C– and La Belle these two Evenings I have been in their company I must confess both parties seem seriously inclined – Miss H–, if she approve of the Secretary, I really think she cannot do better, on the other hand, he I am sure could not have made a more eligible or happy choice, he will find her what a wife ought to be. While at M^{rs} Casamajor's Colonel Malcolm very kindly came up to me, and said he would make it his particular business to write Flint regarding you remaining at Trichinopoly he was sorry it was not done before – and further said “Flint was wrong in writing to you”. Miss Cuming being still very nervous did not make her appearance at this Supper. Previous to our going out Doctor Duffin, the Reverend M^r Bell and Colonel Capper visited here – M^{rs} Duffin is not yet come down to Madras.

Thursday 22nd

Breakfasted here Captain Stuart Hall. For a while I must go read and Rehearse my part, with little John, who is I am certain perfectly wearied out with hearing each of us repeat the same story over and over again for these ten Months past.

M^r Boyd passed the day here to study and to rehearse his part with your Uncle, and to prepare and dress for the Play – At half past seven or I believe rather nearer eight having waited for Boyd who accompanied us to the Theatre – At eight the Heiress began which was altogether much better preformed than formerly. A new Sir Clement and a new Clifford added great strength to the Comedy. Our friend Boyd I assure you did wonders! had he spoken a little faster he would have been Capital indeed – Your worthy Uncle as usual shone Triumphantly above all other actors, or even actresses. We ended the Evening by supping at the Governors. A. M. C– very attentive, Miss H–'s conduct has not been such as I might have expected – I certainly thought she should have been to me more free and communicative – However, she may be right – all the harm I wish her is, that she may meet with uninterrupted Happiness for I really believe she is deserving of all the Blessings of this Life. I am only my dear friend honored with yours of the 19th.

Friday 23rd

My family Occupation being over – I am come to resume my pen to reply to your favor – I am happy indeed my amiable Sandy your health is restored; may you, my dear friend long, very long, enjoy this inestimable blessing uninterrupted by any unfortunate event I am sorry you should think that I meant to call your prudence to an account in my admonitions – I did not believe me desire to find fault, be therefore satisfied – it was my Anxiety for your health that made me caution you to pay more attention to yourself – This has been a sickly Season, people have been universally complaining.

You have highly gratified me by your approval of the things I sent you; and likewise with Eliza's present to her friend Miss Bruce. – I imagined the green cloth was too dark and would

not suit you – but there was nothing in the place agreeing with your sample: when the other Ships arrive perhaps I may be more fortunate in getting some proper cloth for your Uniform. We have at Madras besides the Barwell, two Danish Europe Ships and two Imperialists all of them full of Merchandise particularly Wine: The Danes go on to Bengal.

We had no dinner company even Corbett dined abroad – M^r Grant and his Staff Cornet Leslie supped here. I wrote to George this afternoon, but my letter was so ill written I am certain he must think I was tipsy – So indeed I was, not with wine, but from the fatigue I experienced the night before as M^{rs} Sagely.

Saturday 24th

Nothing novel this morning – We had a few friends to dinner to day being Saturday – among whom were Sir Paul Jodrell, Boyd, Sir John Menzies Captain Welladvice, Grant &c, &c, – Sir Paul is a pleasant sensible man, I like him better than his better Half, ten thousand times over – he is acquainted with many of my friends and intimately with my proud Cousin Andrews. I think you would like the Physician much when you see him – his reception it is said at the Durbar has not been very gracious.

Supped here Boyd, his young french friend Mons^r Jonay, with Mason, Major Bonnavance and Offany.

Sunday 25th

This morning like good people this whole family went to Church – there we saw Miss Cumings for the first time– she is rather low in stature and appeared to me when at a distance pretty, but on a nearer view I found she was not what I imagined, however she is more agreeable than otherwise: her age about nineteen. From Church in our way home we visited Lady Campbell, called on the Oakeleys and brought Miss Humphries to pass the day here – She talked much bout going home, with M^r and M^{rs} Oakeley – whether she meant single or married I cannot say, but I think she means as M^{rs} A. M. C– she is in good spirits and appears as well as usual –

Dined here Grant. In the Evening joined our party M^r Stuart. M^{rs} Overend and General Horne are arrived as also Captain Cosby. I hear Miss Bruce is grown as tall as her Mother, and withal very lusty – is it so? Yours of the 21st came to hand duly. I had this day a glimpse of a long letter from George Davidson to his friend M^r Grant – the latter part of which he favored me with a perusal.

Monday 26th

Captain Archy Brown breakfasted here. All of us dined at M^r Boyd's; he said it should be in the Family way, and Lo there were five and twenty: this is what he calls a Snug Party. Among others there were General Horne and Captain Cosby – both looked well and hearty – I had the pleasure of hearing from you that you were well and that George was getting better: about six we came home not a little Jaded: most of the Company came away with us; But General and half a dozen others kept it up till night: had it been otherwise it would not have been Boyd! The rest of the evening we passed at home.

Tuesday 27th

Yesterday before I went to Boyds I dispatched your news papers and Magazines &c, &c, – the other things I shall send by another opportunity.

On Friday the Ameer lost his wife – he loved her tenderly – her Death has I hear given him great uneasiness, in so much that his health is much affected by it: Sir Paul Jodrell was to have dined with us yesterday but is attending to his Highness the Ameer. Sir Archibald likewise is confined to his room with a disease in his Ears: a gathering and discharge from them.

We dined without Corbett. In the Evening we went to William Hamilton's where we supped, the party small, the Ladies Miss Raphael, Miss, and M^{rs} Davidson. I am told poor William Hamilton of Kinhorn is dead – he fell a sacrifice to his Bottle –.

Wednesday 28th

I have sent James to Town to the new Shop to see and secure for you some Shoes, Boots, and Hats –

What has been the matter with George my Sandy, I am told he has been long ill – Give my love to him I shall reply to his favour of the 25th in a day, or two. Compliments to old Tanner and to the Bruces.

Your uncle and Eliza desire to be affectionately mentioned to you and forget them not to George.

Adieu, my dearest Nephew. You have the best wishes, and prayers of your affectionate Aunt, and friend Eliza: Davidson.

The Grove 28th May 1788.

Do have Wafer room in your letters.

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P.M. Wednesday 28th May 1788

Journal Continued

My Journal and Courier as usual I now dispatch. Betsy, Miss Raphael and your humble servant dressed and left the Grove for the Conchée – at half past eight, we arrived at Lady Campbell's, the company very small, we were the last of the Ladies – the Governor still confined to his room; A. M. C– told me Sir Archibald had a slow fever hanging on him, which caused dejection of Spirits and made him unfit to receive company in Publick. From the levee M^r Grant accompanied us home; here we found with your Uncle Mess^{rs} Ewing, Rainbolt, and Corbett.

I am informed his Highness the Ameer is so ill that Sir Paul Jodrell, with Bulman and Ruddiman, have been necessitated to sleep at his house these two nights. God bless you my Sandy – Adieu.

Thursday 29th

Betsy and I rose early this morning with all the curiosity natural to the female sex accompanied by Miss Raphael and Corbett we proceeded to Town, took a breakfast with our Beau en passant, then visited Captain French's shop – he commands the Countess de Tranttmansdorff an Imperial Ship. We had flattered ourselves with the hopes of being there first; but we were disappointed in our scheme the Taylor family with their friends Mackay and Clerk having the Start of us. Tho our eyes were dazzled with innumerable pretty things, yet, we quitted the house and all the fineries without purchasing any one article for ourselves. We left many Ladies looking and tumbling over Gowns, Caps Hats feathers, &c, &c, &c.– M^{rs} Moorhouse among the rest as busy as a bee in a Tar Barrel. This fair Lady is well known at all the shops by the appellation of “The pretty Lady that is fond of Feathers”.

We came home about two: dined ourselves only. In the Evening our visitors and supper guests were Mess^{rs} Millingchamp, the Rev^d M^r Bell, Duffin and Getty.

I have got your Hats, green cloth and shoes. M^{rs} Duffin is to live at St Thomé, – M^r Duffin is going up to Vellore on Monday to bring down his family.

Poor Captain Pringle of the Guides I was told this Evening is dead – he died at Cuddalore after a short illness. He was a character much esteemed his temper was amiable and conciliating, but you will no doubt have heard of this event before this reaches you.

Friday 30th

I have been very much employed all the morning in arranging the house, Gowdown &c, &c, till I am perfectly overpowered with the heat – Your Cousin Grant and a M^r Argles dined with us. In the Evening we went to see M^{rs} Overend attended by Corbett and Grant – M^{rs} O– is much fallen away, tho still very pretty – she told Betsy you had promised to pay her a visit at Tanjore .

M^r K Mitford supped here, a visit from My Lord Cloth is wonderful! for I believe this is the

second time he has favored us with his Company since our residence at the Grove – However, he is a bit of a favorite of mine he is so good humoured, chatty, and is so ever polite: he is of opinion that A. M. C– is certainly leaning towards the Land of Matrimony.

M^r Mackintosh the shopkeeper died yesterday and is said to have expired suddenly. I have heard his Fate was as follows – He had been a few days rather indisposed in consequence of hard drinking: arrack and water I believe has been his bane. About ten days ago when Cameron the Punch House man died of an Arrack and water fit, Mackintosh went to visit the Widow – Shed tears of Condolence– held forth against the rise of Drunkenness, yet lo with so dreadful an example of Inebriety before him, got so beastly intoxicated, that he fell and lay in a damp street all night: this was the Cause and Commencement of his last illness: he fevered and still having recourse to his favorite Arcana Spirits fell a victim to this detestable practice –

The Ameer still continues dangerously ill, his legs are now grown larger than his body, the water it is said is issuing out from one of them, which the Faculty think is bad omen – Should he die, it will make a great revolution in the affairs of the Durbar Politics –

Saturday 31st

M^r Raphael and a friend of his M^r Maroot breakfasted here on their way from the Mount. Corbett and your Uncle dined at M^r Hollands, this is the very first time this Gentleman has invited M^r Davidson to dinner, tho we have been two or three times to his Evening Entertainments – this Gentleman has made a great alteration in his House – his Hall altered into an elegant room for dancing; when the Improvements are finished he means to dash away at the Dainty Widow: at least it is so reported.

While we were at dinner (Betsy, Miss Raphael, and I) M^r Johnstone made his entré – he returned in the Ranger a day or two ago. – his enquiries after you were polite and friendly. Sir Archibald and family are again to revisit Ennore for the benefit of the General's health which has been of late very indifferent.

Besides our family, supped here Smart, Cornet Leslie and Colonel Capper. The Ameer has been scarified, which operation has given him much relief both to His spirit and mind.

Sunday 1st June

M^r Martin and Torin favored us with their company to breakfast. I am sorry to hear Miss B– is grown so lusty, they say she is bigger than her Mother – I am told in her person tho shorter she resembles M^{rs} Grattan. It is ten thousand pities so young a woman should be given to Corpulency! I am afraid she gives herself up to much to the Indulgencies of this warm climate.

I am happy to tell you poor Miss Tanner is going to be married to the King's Doctor at Chingleput – this piece of intelligence must I think give pleasure to all humane minds. We had a few friends to Dinner – here among whom were the late T. M. Duffin, Doctor Anderson &c, &c, – from the latter I heard the Ameer is still very ill – he is already quite a Corpse; the poor Creature is not able to move a limb he is so wieldly and motionless. The old Father is excessively distressed for his favorite Son – he sent for Anderson, when the Doctor came, the Nabob running up to him was going to prostrate himself, but the good Anderson prevented him – his Highness then said he hoped he could save his Son's life as he had done that of this Father twice before – with tears in his Eyes he implored the Doctor's Exertions, and made him promise to visit his Son twice a day.

General Horne and Lieu^t Rand paid us a visit of Ceremony this Evening. M^r Grant only was our supper guest.

Monday 2nd

After breakfast this morning we sallied to the Fort – The sensible Boyd having found us out, accompanied us in our visits to Captain French's Shop, and that of his chief Officer's, then parting with our Beau we came to the Grove without doing much in the purchasing way.

Betsy writes Miss Bruce the news of this morning, by which channel you will be acquainted with it all – for a moment adieu.

I am come again my Dear friend to resume my pen and to finish this day's narrative – Poor Johnstone has been very ill with severe pains in his Bowels which confined him till dinner time to his bed – except him, and Doctor Berry who came to see Johnstone, we had none else to dine with us.

Colonel D– Campbell and his Lady visited us this Evening. I had a note of a very interesting nature this night from La Belle – You my Sandy may conjecture on what subject – No time I believe is yet fixed for the completion of the event – Do I beg of you notice it not to any one – No, not even to lively Buxom Clarinda – She may perhaps mention this affair herself to you: I think it probable Anne may write to her. It is really nonsense the Parties enjoying hearsay on an occasion when all the world are looking on and smiling at the process of the Courtship.

Tuesday 3rd

Major Johnson of the Nabob's breakfasted here. Your Uncle as usual ever improving or making something or other comfortable at the Grove, he is at the moment busily occupied in ordering and making out the measurement of a charming Pandal in the back front of the House, to keep the Land wind and Rain from molesting us when at dinner – it is to be forty four feet long, and thirty feet wide. The Expense trifling as it is of Bamboo sent him from Vellore, and only meant for the Season. Colonel Ross has given him an aromatic Tat, which is to be placed in the breakfast veranda so as to have the land wind blowing on it, which when wetted we shall have the air come to us perfectly cool and highly perfumed, not only with aromatic herbs but Roses, Myrtles, Jessamines, and a variety of other pleasing flowers and shrubs – Will not this be charming? – we shall certainly think we are in the Garden of Eden. Then we shall require only require only the presence of Adamantine and Abel to complete the Picture.

Kitty Edington is dangerously ill – Johnstone is better to day – Grant dined with us.

This Evening we again supped at Hamilton's with a snug party of about ten – as we were coming home after supper your Uncle told us, poor Kitty Edington was no more – he had seen the summons for Interment while at Cards, but kept it from our knowledge – Alas! The poor unhappy Parents! – I pity and deplore this loss most sincerely – Indeed I do –

Wednesday 4th

At six this morning Betsy and I left the Grove and went to the Burying ground waited there till the Coffin was brought – the Company attended on the occasion was very respectful – of the Ladies were, besides ourselves, Lady Campbell, M^{rs} Malcolm, M^{rs} Baker, M^{rs} Wolf Miss West and Miss Humphries. I hear the unfortunate Mother is inconsolable. Miss Edington's Death was caused by a surfeit of new Europe Cheese. I hope you will be mindful and not eat to much of the new cheese for it is really very unwholesome – I am particularly desired by your Cousin Eliza to guard you against such misdemeanor –

I am much afraid you have expended all your pen, Ink and paper – If so I shall send you an ample supply by the next Coolies –

The enclosed is the copy of La Belle's note to me – do not notice it in our publick letter – read and burn it.

We are well – Your Uncle and cousin desire their love and best wishes to you – Remember us to George and the Bruce's –

Farewell, my dearest Nephew – I am your very affectionate Eliza: Davidson.

The Grove 4th June 1788

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P. M. Wednesday 4th June 1788

Journal Continued

Kings Birth Day A large dinner given by the Governor on the occasion to the Settlement – Your Uncle, like an amiable Husband and Father, preferring the sociable company of his family to that of dissipation and bustle, favored us with his Company – he, and Johnstone my ship mate, agreeably to the toasts of the Day drank their full Bumpers on every Salute – Sir Archibald being unable to entertain so large a company as were collected for the day, he Judiciously deputed M^r Holland to undertake the management of the Table.

This Evening we attended the Conchée Lady Campbell for the first time sported a Turban, Caps Hats, &c, &c, & all now give away for this more convenient Asiatic head Dress. The Governor is again complaining of the pains in his Ears. Tomorrow ort next day the Family are to go to Ennore for a Month or three weeks; in the absence of the General M^r Holland was the conducting of the Government.

M^r Stuart, Cosby, and Hamilton followed us from the Conchée and supped here. Poor M^{rs} Edington has not been seen to Shed one tear since her cruel loss – Anderson is greatly alarmed for her – She with the Colonel and her , are at Major D– Campbells.

Thursday 5th

Major Smith of the Artillery by the by, he is soon to go to your place, and the Evergreen Old Andrews breakfasted here, who, with his oratory, prevailed on your Uncle to dine with him to day, to Toast I imagine his favorite Clarinda. – The only Beau we had to dine with us was honest Johnstone

At four this afternoon Maj D– Campbell came and summoned me by the desire of M^{rs} Edington who told M^{rs} D– Campbell is she would not be angry she was “sure if she saw me she should shed tears”. As I had equally with herself been unfortunate, she imagined my speaking to her would yield her comfort – I accordingly took Betsy and went to her without the loss of a moment: the sight of Betsy distressed her greatly as she put her in mind of her Darling Kitty – On embracing Betsy, M^{rs} Edington for the first time since her Daughter’s death she dropped two large tears. As my amiable Eliza whom this scene struck most forcibly means to communicate the particulars at full length of this Melancholy picture to Miss Bruce in her letter tomorrow, it only rests with me to say, we left poor M^{rs} Edington at half past nine greatly composed, and altogether in the mending way. You will my Sandy, think it was wrong your Cousin touching on such a subject to Miss Bruce: but your Uncle thought not, as Eliza Bruce and Kitty Edington are considered as kindred Angels: and the Reflection at this distance of time lead to a soothing melancholy.

When we came home we found waiting for us Beaux without number – among whom were M^r S^t Leger, Colonel Capper, the amiable Boyd, Grant, and Captⁿ Welladvice.

Friday 6th

Mes^{srs} Landon and Peace favor us with their company at our breakfast Board – Your very obliging favor conveying to me the accounts of your being “In the best of Health and Spirits” tho, it was a long time forth coming – yet it was not the less acceptable – particularly as it contained a confirmation of the reestablishment of your Health. Expect no wigs from me my friend, my old ones are perfectly worn and as for my New ones I mean to give them to those who will wear them gracefully without finding fault with their Length, Width, or Depth, &c, &c, &c, ha, ha, ha.

You really are a charming Advocate in the cause of your fair favorites La Belle is now the subject of every Circle – where ever we go, this is the almost the first topick of Salutation – well – you know the Secret I suppose – So do I – Pray when it is to be? – Is the day fixed? – She is a lucky Girl indeed! – thus they run on appearing as if each of them envied her situation – If Fortune and Connexion with the G–or can make her happy she must be amply so: but how far her affection is concerned, I am perfectly ignorant.

There is not a single white Feather in the place, but as soon as I meet with any you shall not be forgotten. I shall shortly dispatch you a few more necessaries.

Your Uncle dined to day at Sir John Menzies – in the Evening attended the concert, which is sadly fallen away. Corbett dined with me, Johnstone is gone on board to take his Tour of Duty. Betsy and I again visited M^{rs} Edington who is still in a very dismal situation; Time with the assistance of the Supreme Being can only restore her to peace of mind, and reconcile her, to her cruel loss.

I am told for certain M^{rs} Oakes is going home with M^r Maunselle's family the end of the Year, it is imagined Oakes is to accompany her, but this is only as yet a mere supposition. Supped here Captain Dallas, Rainbolt and Grant. God Bless you, I am really tired and sleepy.

Saturday 7th

The Land winds are charming cool since the last rains – this is a Delightful Morning. The Snuff arrived about 10 oClock this day, after you Uncle has tried it, I shall tell you what he says of its quality. Many, many, thanks for your attention.

This being you know your Uncle's favorite day for inviting company – we had to dine with us General Horne, Sydenham, Boyd, Major D– Campbell, Cap^m Cosby, and Captain Rand, with a few more – An Excessive warm forenoon this – indeed we could hardly breathe for the heat: and had it not been for the charming Pandal M^r D. has raised which extends west of the steps towards the Tank between forty and fifty feet it would have been intolerable. Eliza and I sat with our guests till near 6 oClock when we thought proper to give them the slip to take an airing, we paid our neighbour the Hughes a visit where we drank tea. On our return home, we found waiting to see us the Raphael Tribe – Boyd, stayed to supper, his young french friends joined him, with Captain Dickson of the Indus made our family party. Your Uncle being fatigued with entertaining his friends, left us to our Evening Beaux and retired to the Arms of Somnus.

Captain Stevenson I heard arrived at Madras this morning, he is well. The Ameer it is thought will not die this bout, his Doctors are Indefatigable in their care and attention.

Sunday 8th

Betsy and I as usual attended Divine Worship – On our way home we called at the Ruddimans, to our great surprise we were ushered into M^{rs} R–'s room, where we saw her in her Bed, supported I believe with no less than a dozen of Pillows, her head muffled up with handkerchiefs, and Caps, which so entirely covered her head that we saw only a very small part of the tip of her Nose and her painted lips. We were obliged to go to the foot of her bed to see her, for she would not give us even a side glance – She expatiated on her illness and on her H–'s inattention to her, and concluded by saying, she could not live long – We stayed with her half an hour, then took our leave, promising to pay her another visit in the Evening. We left your snuff with her, the ever worthy doctor being at the Durbar we did not see him – Do not notice this affair to any one, but I am sure they are completely miserable – Dined here Captain French and a M^r Rozier. A. M. Campbell, [*Archibald Montgomery Campbell*] Cap^m Read and Cap^m Buchanan paid us a flying visit before dinner. In the Evening agreeably to my word I paid M^{rs} R– a second visit, who I found in the same unpleasing pining way as I did in the morning – Eliza and I left her, and proceeded to M^{rs} D– Campbell's I found her guest M^{rs} Edington much more composed; and on the whole in a better way than I could have expected to have seen her. It was near 10 before we came home – our only supper guest was Captain Welladvice. No news to day of consequence.

Monday 9th

The Andrews of all Andrews came here to breakfast; and politely presented Eliza, with a pretty little Acheen Pyebold horse – I think when the animal is broke in, he will suit her very nicely – he bears a good character for temper.

No Europe ships, they are a long time making their appearance, I do long for them indeed most anxiously – Dined here Grant, and Ruddiman – the latter is pleased with the Snuff, and with your remembrance of him.

This Evening we passed at home with a few sober friends, Hamilton, Hughes and Welladvice.

Now for a little chit, chat, – Yesterday there was a party at M^r Petrie’s to dinner – among several toasts given of Ladies and Gentlemen – Miss Brown was given by A. M. C– A sly Cap^t C fellow sitting opposite was asked for a Gentleman, he, the Wag, gave M^r Andrew Ross – so thus matched Bumpers were drunk to their healths. Cap^{tn} Cosby gave Miss Humphries she was paired with Colonel Capper – these with some other toasts did not fail to occasion, merriment to those present.

Tuesday 10th

M^r Skardon and M^r Raphael were our Breakfasters. M^r D– is gone to M^r Holland’s to breakfast and to make an Official Report.

12 oClock – Your favor of the 7th my kind friend, I have just perused – I am happy the coolies arrived safe – and that the News papers &^c, &^c, &^c, please you – You rate my little attentions too highly my Sandy – If they please, and prove acceptable, I shall think myself amply paid. I am glad you approve Miss B–’s Turban. The “amiable”, the “Excellent” the “Pleasing” “G–a” must become, every thing she wears in the opinion of every Body – but more particularly in the Eyes of a F – r. I delivered your Compliments to your Cousin Eliza – she smiled – and desired me to thank you.

We dined without any Beaux – Your Uncle dined at the Tavern a Chezvous given by Archy Brown. The Evening we passed in visiting M^{rs} Hughes and supping a home with M^r Ewing.

Wednesday 11th

Nothing new this morning – M^r D– Dines out again, to day at M^r J Holland’s. You have not noticed young Powney – Have you got the papers I sent by him accompanied by a few lines? – how is Hippy? Is the Grey well? –

Remember me to George kindly and to all inquiring friends. Half past 2 oClock

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P. M. Wednesday 11th June 1788

Journal continued

We visited this Evening the Campbells and the Edingtons – M^{rs} E– is still very indifferent her nerves are exceedingly irritable, if left alone I should not be at all surprised if she ever went distracted – Poor unhappy woman! – She feels very wretched, and accuses herself of having kept her Daughter in this Country; She has likewise taken a great dislike to Doctor Anderson on the supposition that he might have saved her Child – As we were coming away M^{rs} Oakeley La Belle, with the Dying Swain A. M. C– made their entré – They are to be married sometime this month, the day is not yet fixed on. I am told the young men here have made a Parody on the Ballard of John and Jane – it is called Numps and Boards * she loves his Hoards, &c, &c. Apropos, I heard the other day you had a new song at Trichinopoly, Entitled John, and C– – If you can procure me a copy of it you will oblige me – Getty and Cornet Leslie supped at the Grove. Sir Archibald I am told is greatly better for the Ennore Air.

* an allusion of some joke the young men have among themselves.

Thursday 12th

No visitors this morning – we dined infamille. Corbett has almost deserted our dinner and suppers for some days past owing to the warm weather and Indisposition. There is only one set of the Rivals here which is engaged. But when our Indiamen arrive, I will endeavor to procure for you both the Duenna and the Rivals – likewise the Court Calendar for the present year. I am happy to find you are so well off for writing Utensils – I have a supply ready for your use, when I find you are in need of them. My friendship will ever induce me to anticipate your wants.

We dined entirely in the family way – In the Evening Just as Betsy and I were stepping into the carriage, M^{rs} Hughes made her appearance, we took her with us and prosecuted our Airing

– on our return we found with you Uncle M^r John Holland Sir John Menzies and Corbett. Your good Uncle has given me a Court Calendar for you, which with our other things I shall shortly send.

Your Cousin Grant breakfasted here this morning. M^r Davidson dines to day with the new T.M., he of late has given several entertainments – which I doubt not will make him more popular than he has hitherto been. – No staved Cat is now to be seen staring out of the Kitchen Window, nor is the Kitchen Chimney smokeless – Gomond has by his Chevoux obtained the reputation of an honest Hospitable Landlord: formerly you know he was styled a miser. – Tho, as he has only invited those who have been hospitable to him. A M^r Colt has applied the old Proverb to him – That “He only gives those apples who have got Orchards”. Your Uncle returned about 6 oClock and after redressing attending a card party at Sir John Menzies at Mer Vue: while my Eliza stayed at home received the Beaux, among whom were Mess^{rs} Cosby, Grant, Stuart, Harrington, Rev^d M^r Bell, Colonel Capper, &c, &c, &c.

The news of the day is that Miss Tanner is certainly to be married on the 21st instant – her Spouse is said to be only about twenty one a good looking young fellow – M^{rs} Kindersley and Miss Nancy West are going to Chingleput to be present at the celebration of the Nuptials. So I hear the fair C–a is called the Magnet of all Hearts – this is a pretty compliment to her – I can almost guess the Author of it, and I dare say she merits this, and a great deal more: I likewise hear she is named C–a Rajah * * * Braming woman of the Rock – Good gracious! what a sad Griffen set you have among you – indeed it would be highly necessary for the whole set to visit the Presidency once a quarter purposely to polish their manners – they may in truth be justly looked on as the Bones of all Bones – But hush my friend, not a word, nor a hint of all this to the Lady I am talking of. You must not shew my Journals always – nor leave them in the hands of your favorite Friend – Whatever I say to you, I am not desirous a third person should be acquainted with tho, my Sandy, ever so Meritorious – Do not be offended, I indeed mean not any harm, but I have my reasons for guarding you: as to reading any part of my journal you think proper, you have my free permission – may I request of you my friend not to notice the above in your P–n letters.

Saturday 15th [*incorrect should be 14*]

No visitors this morning – M^r Boyd on second thoughts jud[g]ing very properly that a select Evening party would be more agreeable to the Ladies than a numerous dinner Company, put off seeing his female friends to day at his house – You Uncle dined there, those invited did not amount to more than forty – when M^r D– returned (which by the by he did before six) he told us the Cups were delivered in due form to Major Cuppage, after filling each of them to the Brim with 14 bottles of Claret M^r Boyd pronounced a flored speech on the occasion & drank the Major’s health, and that of the Prisoners, the Gentlemen all standing – The two Senior Prisoners Major Smith, and Captain Dalrymple presented the Superb Cups to Major Cuppage who passed them round the Table to the Toast of Gratitude and Honour and the health of Major Cuppage.

In the Evening about four Betsy and I went to the Fort on business finding Your Uncle ready to leave Boyd’s he accompanied us home at nine M^{rs} Oakeley and Miss Humphries paid us a visit – just as they made their Conjée the Beaux flocked in like Grasshoppers do, in a close Evening – We were obliged to extend our Table laid for four to fourteen some left us. Poor Stevenson’s Arab brought down here to run at our Races died the other day – he was I heard a fine animal his master will, I doubt not lament his untimely end. It is whispered La Belle is to be joined in the Bands of Holy Matrimony on Tuesday – She told Betsy she would write you soon.

Sunday 16th [*incorrect should be 15*]

No Church to day – Your Uncle having posted the Horses for his Jaunt to Ennore, where he is gone to see Sir Archibald. The under written lines were made on M^r Boyds chevaus – pray my dear Sir, what do you think of them? – I think they are smartly hit off –

x Doggerels on M^r Boyd's Cuppage Feast
14th June 1788

When jovial Hugh, the Cups produce,
Replenished the purple Juice,
Such Jollity ensues!
What talking, roaring, dinging, laughing,
What social Mirth, what noble quaffing
None suffered to refuse.
At length each Guest exceeding clear,
Filled with good Meat & Wine & Beer,
Celebrating honest Cuppage;
Real home to take their fill of sleep,
Inconsequence of Drinking Deep,
And dream it is the Cup – age

Corbett for the first time these ten days past favored us at dinner with his Company. M^r Davidson returned at half past six – I was sorry to learn from him the Governor is still poorly he was so indifferent while at dinner that he was obliged to quit the Table – The General and his family are to sup at M^r Petrie's on Tuesday, this confirms more strongly my supposition that La Belle on that Evening will be M^{rs} A. M. Campbell. Supped here M^r Hamilton and d'Jong the lively young Frenchman.

Monday 16th

Who do you think breakfasted with us this morning? His first visit too – Allen – he looks exceedingly well and as one of our old Beaux, I really was happy to see him once more at the Grove – He, my friend, gave us much pleasure by acquainting us of your good Spirits, but he added you looked thin, tho, he said you told him you was well – I hope you are honest in your declarations otherwise, I shall be very angry with you for not telling me the true state of your health. Allen mentioned you most kindly – he said you never was unemployed that you had made a good proficiency in the Persian – You may be assured, my dearest Sandy, interested as I feel myself towards you, I cannot but be happy to hear of your well doing – I shall not express to you all my Heart abounds with – Fearing I may make you Vain, or, as some would say, I spoiled you – Tho an old woman and an Aunt. Allen further reported you was very fond of Horse Exercise and that perhaps you rode more than was required of you – probably the Exercise may be too severe; you know the adage, “Too much of one thing is good for nothing”. So it may be in respect to riding, or any other violent exertions: In this Country a Modicum should always be observed – as far as duty will permit. He added you were remarkable for riding on full speed: that whoever met you, saw you on the gallop; and a few days ago on dismounting at the Bruces you were out of breath.

Dined here Andrew Ross, Cap^{tn} Brown, Cochran, Cole, Johnstone of the Ranger who is come back to us &c, &c. Allen promised to dine here, but being fatigued he sent an Excuse. By the Bengal paper I see Miss Jessy Brown is married to M^r Henlock and Miss Cruttenden to M^r Pott her Cousin; both Civilians.

This Evening we passed at Neighbour Hughes in company with the Garrows. Letters from the French Islands received yesterday by the way of Pondichery mention the arrival of the Tuscan ship there which carried the Lewins &c, &c, &c – they were all well – only a Month and twelve days their passage – M^r Shalding much improved in his health, Major Alex^r quarrelled with the Captain, and was near throwing him over board. During their passage having forty passengers besides Servants, they had almost consumed all their water and provisions – which I suppose was the cause of the mighty Alexander's fury being levelled at the Captain; This Great Major to mend the matter fell desperately in Love with M^{rs} Ells and

wanted to behave very Rudely to her.

Tuesday 17th

M^r Davidson breakfasted out. M^r Grant favored us with his company and Hamilton came after breakfast was over. The Ameer is nearly well – and removed to his Garden house called Ameer Baag on the plain. By all accounts Miss H– is for a certainty this Evening to become a Wife – From the Rooms last night La Belle took her departure in the Gentleman’s Carriage while M^r and M^{rs} Oakeley followed them –this must be they say a sure sign of the approaching Event – I have not heard of any marriage so much talked of as this of our friend’s. The next month will probably be Miss Taylor and M^r Deputy Secretary Clerk. Dined with us M^r Johnstone only. In the Evening we supped at M^r Petries – the Company near thirty, the Ladies were M^{rs} Casamajor, M^{rs} D– Campbell, M^{rs} Oakeley, Miss Humphries, Eliza and I, in compliment to this chesvous a very neat Pandal was raised, the Supper was sumptuous no expense spared. La Belle not yet married as it was imagined – I indeed believe the day is not known – Sir Archibald not being well enough himself to come out, he and family did not favor Petrie with their presence.

Wednesday 18th

My dear Lydia’s Birth day – in compliment to her we had a few friends to dinner, Stevenson and Allen were of the number, the Company only amounted to seventeen. – This time two years I hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing her, and your dear Sister – God grant we may all be well, and that they may yield us a happy meeting.

In the Evening my dearest Betsy and I called on M^{rs} Hughes and then paid M^{rs} Ruddiman a visit we found her much better – The worthy Doctor looks very much cast down, he inquired very kindly after your health, and told me he would shortly address you. On our return home we found your Uncle all alone, Corbett and Johnstone retired to sleep – the Evening being exceeding close and warm, your Uncle who, you know, is ever finding out the coolest corners, had the supper table laid on the Bank of the Tank where we supped comfortably reaping the advantage of the gentle Zephyrs pleasingly fanning us while we quaffed an ancient Maderia.

Thursday 19th

Your Uncle is just returned from M^r Hollands where he carried Allen to introduce him. M^r D– while there found himself attacked in a very odd way with a tremor and giddiness: I suppose it bilious, tho he will not allow it. He was a little intemperate yesterday and in the evening lay out in the Sea breeze after an intense land wind: this no doubt has operated to affect your worthy Uncle’s health. It is a pity my friend anything should ail him for he is I am told the life of every company where he is invited.

I hear Sir Paul Jodrell has received a donation from the Ameer of five thousand Pagodas for Sir Paul’s attention to him during his illness. I was favored with your letter yesterday – M^r D– and your Cousin desire to be particularly remembered to you. Our Love to George. Grant is well, he has a Large Chevans to day for our good friend Stevenson. How do you like the Lounger? – the third Volume shall wait on you on Tuesday next. Betsy has cut her Thumb so bad, she is afraid, she will not be able to write these ten days –

God bless you my favorite Nephew – I am with confirmed esteem, and tender affection,

Your faithful Aunt &c, &c. Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 19th June 1788

Notice the Poetry

M^r Alex^r Falconar –

pages 101 – 104

P. M. Thursday 19th June 1788

I was not able my friend to dispatch my Journal yesterday owing to our having Company – In

future you shall hear from me on Tuesdays, the day before the Courier, as Doctor Bell's Lectures will engage me the best part of Wednesdays for three months to come which will prevent my dispatches to you in their usual routine. –

Dined with us in famille Captain Buchanan of the Ranger, M^{rs} Baker and M^{rs} Moorhouse paid us a visit this Evening; The former is going to the Northward until Jan^{ry} when she means to bid Adieu to India's Shore. Our supper party were composed of our Family only.

Friday 20th

Charming gloomy day this. We are going this instant to Town (9 o'clock) where we are to remain till the Evening – we dine at Sir John Menzies by particular invitation, to meet Captⁿ Welladvice and the Chase's, with your old General in my return I shall agreeably to my daily custom resume my pen to give you my friend the transactions of the day. –

We returned from the Fort at half past six – our party at the Baronet's were just the Baker's Dozen – the dinner very excellent, this for Sir John is remarkable, for he is famous or rather infamous for having bad dinners. In the morning, in the Fort I had a visit from Allen and Grant, the former was so roasted by Grant and your humble Servant concerning Miss B– that he went away quite disconcerted, but before he took his departure he exclaimed – yes, I tell you frankly I admire Miss B–, tho, I am not in Love with her – poor Allen! I was sorry we distressed him so much, I say we, but upon my honor, it was Grant more particularly. Allen is indeed a good young man and I think well disposed.

Supped with us Grant, Stevenson and M^r Arglis. Poor Bob Latham!!! – I heard of his death this morning, the suddenness of it really shocked my feelings – I am afraid intemperance has been his Bane – Miss H– was very partial to him; she must be sensibly affected by the loss. I have not heard of her marriage yet; some think it was to have been to day, others say it is to be on the 25th, and some imagine she is already married.

Saturday 21st

Little Mackay breakfasted with our family. I am again in Town, seated in the back yard of our large House opposite a Pipe of Madeira to see its contents drawn off into bottles: every body being busy around me I the only still person. I have recourse to my pen to have a little chat with my dear Nephew, knowing I could not be more pleasantly employed or more to my satisfaction.

In reply to your favor of the 15th I have only to say I am happy the news papers afforded you amusement; I sent them with that intent. Stevenson's visit was said to be that of pleasure only and to see his friends at Arcot, Vellore and Wallajabad. But the real intent I believe was to endeavor to negotiate with Major Young I know not the Event.

It is now 11 o'clock. Ha, the Peon with a letter – from whom but my dear Sandy – Many thanks to you for it, this packet is the more acceptable, because it was the least expected, two letters in one week to my shame, is what I could not have hoped for – Having already noticed the unhappy Latham, I shall not say a word further here. As to our good friend Boyd I sincerely wish he would follow the paths of prudence, and sobriety – he has in a manner promised me amendment – but when it is to take place I am in the dark – however, since my last confabulation (except the day of the delivery of the Cups) he has not I am told trespassed – His good sense will I flatter myself at length withdraw him from Inebriety and ill Judged hospitality I wish him from the bottom of my heart well – therefore, I am the more concerned for his too mistaken liberality which in the end may proved fatal not only to himself but bring ruin on his family.

Be not my amiable friend sorry for my headaches, they are often occasioned by the heat of the weather, otherwise thanks to the Almighty, I am perfectly well. Your Uncle is well. Betsy has a cough which I hope will shortly leave her. Many thanks for your acceptable affectionate wishes to my Dear Lydia – were she here, how proud it would make her to have a worthy Cousin's kindest wishes. –

M^r Grant accompanied me from Town to the Grove to dinner – Your Uncle dined with

Corbett in the Fort – In the evening we meant to have supped at M^{rs} Moorhouses's, but as we were just going into the carriage, we were prevented off by a Deluge of very heavy rain – after making several attempts to go we were obliged to put it off, and supped comfortably at home, Johnstone with us – the Entertainment at the Moorhouses's was given on account of a reading Rehearsal of the Rivals. M^r D– and Corbett stole away from the Rehearsal and supped with us.

Sunday 22nd

Allen Breakfasted here on his way to the Sydenhams – he spoke of you very kindly. Your Uncle dined to day at Ennore at M^r Wooleys, while Betsy Miss K–, Corbett and Johnstone made the social Grove party: This being the Anniversary of our arrival, we did not fail (as the Men say) to crack a bottle to the Healths of our Shipmates – M^r D– returned from his Excursion at half past eight, he told us Sir Archibald since he has begun to take a few glasses of wine rather freely is greatly better – previously to it by living Low, he found himself weak and spiritless.

We had not supper company notwithstanding, we passed a cheerful Evening by ourselves. This day I dispatched a Cooly with your Hats, Books, &c, &c, &c, – all of which I shall hope will arrive with you safe: with your things I have put up the Heiress, may I beg of you to present it to the Charming Clarinda with the unbounded thanks of M^r Alscip, and M^{rs} Sagely for the loan of it.

Monday 23rd

After breakfast and everything removed – who should come to breakfast but the ever tardy Boyd – followed by Getty – as I had again to order the things back, and to resume the business of tea making.

Miss H– still single – various are the reports of the Place regarding the Settlement made by A.M.C– on her – some say 10 thousand pounds, others again say 15 thousand has been settled – to her how this marriage is talked of would I am sure make you sorry – she certainly has not in the business conducted herself with her usual Propriety.

While in the Fort M^r Grant paid us a visit he told me Kipping and Major Tonyn were arrived at Madras. M^r Ruddiman dined with us, he said he heard from the Ameer that A.M.C– was certainly to be married this Evening – his Highness had it from A.M.C– himself. The Evening we passed at home with a few friends; the Garrows and the Hughes were of the number – No Europe ship yet –

Tuesday 24th

Eliza and I paid an early visit to the Asylum, found the Small pox still prevalent among the Children – from thence we came home, Greenhill breakfasted here, he told us Miss H– was married yesterday at 6 o'Clock in the Evening – wishing to be kept perfectly private the Party drove through all the by streets of the Fort to go to Church – however, with all their great caution they were discovered – I wish them most Happy – A.M.C– has purchased his Wife Dearly – therefore, it must be her fault, if they do not draw the Yoke in Unison: their foolish and unnecessary Secrecy has been derided and laughed at by the whole Settlement – Betsy means to give you, and Miss B– a few line by to nights post. I pray you will not notice what I have said of the New married couple, to your fair friend.

We dined as usual, by ourselves. This evening we visited M^{rs} Duffin, and M^{rs} Moorhouse – at the former place. I was informed of Miss Hoar's marriage to Lieu^t Hughes – they were in so great a hurry to be United, they would not wait for Doctor Bell's going up; but prevailed on Captain Brounker to read the marriage Ceremony –

We supped at home with a large company of Beaux – to mention their names would be rather too tedious – Allen, Mason, and Grant were of the party. Farewell till tomorrow. –

Wednesday 25th

The great, little M^r Kipping breakfasted here this morning – he made no inquiries about you to me – does he correspond with you now? – Remember me kindly to George tell him I am

happy to find he is perfectly recovered make my salams to the Bruce's, and other friends. Your Uncle and Cousin Eliza desire to unite with me in cordial wishes for your every blessing.

God bless you my Sandy – Your affectionate Aunt Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 25th June 1788

Upon my word, so you ever shew my Journal to – I shall not tell you the Name. 4 o'Clock – Eliza, your Uncle and I have this moment received favors from the Bride, white Ribbon trimmed with Silver fringe –

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P. M. Wednesday 25th June 1788

Journal Continued –

Here is you Indefatigable Aunt my dear Sandy, come to proceed with the continuation of her daily Narrative – Having sent off my Journal and the Courier to the post Office, Eliza and I dressed, and visited poor M^{rs} Edington; who we had not seen these ten days past – I was happy, unfortunate woman to find her very calm, and on the whole more resigned to her Fate than I ever before saw her. The poor Colonel seems even more to feel his dreadful loss, his wife's melancholy situation, and his attendance on her, had for the time busied his mind, and helped to Lull his grief – They were very fond of Kitty – she being their only Daughter, and the hope of the family, it is not therefore matter for wonder their being so sensibly affected. On our return we found here Ewing, Cosby, Hamilton, d'Jony: M^r Boyd likewise came and joined our supper party. I was told this Evening the older M^r Webb is appointed in the room of Latham to Maduara. Captain Cosby has some thoughts he will have in his power to accompany his sister home – he told me he expects to receive a summons from his Father to return to Europe by the Ships of this Season.

Thursday 26th

I have been very poorly towards the morning I was taken ill with a fixed pain in the pit of my stomach, and tho I am now better, yet I am not quite exempt from it: 11 o'Clock – A note from Stuart, announcing the arrival of the Carnatick Indiaman, Captain Corner – when Corbett's note arrives with the particulars, Betsy means to forward it to you this Evening. Heaven grant us all my Sandy, happy tidings of our dearest Friends. Hamilton is here, the Gentlemen are tiffing on pork steaks, while I am writing and anxiously longing for my Europe letters.

M^r Grant dined here, all the news we have heard Betsy has undertaken to communicate to you which she hopes will prove (not olds) but news. This evening agreeably to M^r Boyd's wish we supped with a party of thirty people, the Company and supper Brilliant; Allen was one of the Beaux there. When we came home I found a small packet from my dearest M^{rs} Chitty containing three letters, one of them from your dear Brother Peter to you, which with Betsy's and mine shall be sent for your perusal tomorrow. I am better this Evening God be praised. Pray tell us how your amiable mother, and her sweet family are –

Friday 27th

M^r Duffin and Grant came here to breakfast – I heard the former say the Ameer is again ill, and he imagined his Highness could not long survive – the water is again rising. After breakfast we had a visit from M^r Mitford and Captain Corner – the latter brought me a letter from M^{rs} Devaynes announcing her having sent me a present of a Cap and Bonnet, the latter is called the Shepherdess of the Alps. Nothing new to day. Betsy writes you a few lines with Europe enclosures from dear, dear, England.

Dined only the family. In the Evening M^r D– went to the Fort; visited Captain Corner and conducted him to M^r John Turing's; there he saw the Miss Wittle's – your Uncle says they are Very Small girls, rather pretty than otherwise; one about fifteen the other sixteen – Stuart, and

Leslie came in the Evening and took pot luck with us.

Saturday 28th

M^r Oakes and Cosby made their appearance at the fag end of our breakfast; the former told us M^r Vaughan is appointed to Maduara, and not M^r Webb as it was said at first; I believe M^r Webb might have been appointed, but he did not wish to accept of the Paymastership.

Tomorrow we are going to dine at Ennore, at Sir Archibald's – the General is on the Recovery. I believe that family mean to lengthen their stay there till about the 10th or 15th. Dined here Grant, Stuart, Leslie, and Corbetts Jones. Nothing novel have I heard from these Beauxs. I have taken two Tickets in the Madras Lottery for you, I hope they may prove fortunate and win you the prize of 5000 Pagodas – How happy it would make me to be the conveyer of such propitious tidings to you. –

After dinner to day we had very severe and heavy rains, which lasted for three or four hours, attended with Lightning and Thunder – M^r Duffin who came to see my poor servant Betty (and who has been ill for some days) was here all the time of the Storm – I hope the rainy weather we have had this season will moderate our Land winds, which are intense the time they last, tho hitherto we have had daily Sea wind. We supped at home by ourselves.

Sunday 29th

The weather having been boisterous and rainy yesterday, and the Roads of course heavy we postponed our Jaunt to Ennore till a future day. After breakfast Betsy and I went to Church, where we had the pleasure to see M^{rs} A.M. Campbell, being her first appearance in Publick: This Evening and the two following ones she is to receive visits. In our way home we visited the Miss Wittles, and M^{rs} Ruddiman – the former are not handsome, but they are what is much better diffident and amiable – the eldest of the two is rather the finest girl in my opinion – Eliza admires the youngest. The Miss Wittles are unlucky in missing M^{rs} J. Turing with whom they were to have lived; not finding her in India the poor things are to be much pitied: when their Uncle Captain Corner goes to China, their situation will be unpleasant – some Lady or other must protect them. M^{rs} R– is better in health tho, not better I believe with her worthy husband. The Ameer is again fitting and otherwise indisposed. We dined perfectly infamille.

The Evening we passed at home – Captain Allen and Grant supped with us – Allen told us you had written him a long letter, complaining of his breach of promise to you &c, &c, &c.

Monday 30th

As Eliza and I were going out of Church yesterday, your favor of the 26th was put into my hands – the first part of your letter seems serious; and you appear to be afraid I should throw away my Wigs on those who would not do me justice to wear them – I only meant to rally you my friend, nothing else I do assure you – My New Wigs – shall be preserved in Lavender for your use only – Tho, I say this, I am fearful they will be entirely out of fashion before you can possibly have occasion for any of them.

You flatter me highly by saying if my Journal is not received in the usual day it causes disappointment undisenable – You surely my amiable Sandy set too great a value on them, they are only meant to pass a short time that you may have to spare from your more necessary, and pleasurable avocations, likewise to inform you of the welfare of those friends, I am vain to think you dearly regard – At all events if they prove such a source of entertainment as you are pleased to say they do, you may rest assured their not being dispatched punctually arises from the Intervention of unforeseen Causes.

What could have injured the unfortunate Lounger? – is it much damaged? The song you wish for, is not to be precured for Love or Money – I am told you have desired Allen to get it for you, I wish him Success. I am happy the Burrowes' are liked – I make not the least doubt they will render themselves agreeable. – Major Burrowes conduct to your late Cap^m I was informed was noble and generous. I shall write to M^{rs} Burrowes for to thank her, and her Lord for their attention to you.

Breakfasted here Duffin and Captain Archy Brown. Dined with us Courier Johnstone and M^r Millingchamp. This evening we supped at the Garrowes the party small, not above fifteen people. Does Miss Bruce at any time mean to visit M^{rs} A.M.C- ? It is said the invitation has been very particular from this quarter to her.

Tuesday 1st July 1788

M^r Baker our old St Thomé Beau breakfasted here – the dear revered man it is a pleasure to see him with Snowy locks: he is instructively sensible and Pious: such an aged amiable character is almost a miracle in this climate.

We dined without company. In the Evening Eliza Miss R- and I draped for the Oakeley's Chesvous, in our way there called on the Bride, but as herself and husband were on the eve of going into their Carriage, La Belle would not allow us to alight, they joined us to Oakeley house where there were a large party of forty four – M^r O- placed the Bride on his right hand at supper, between twelve and one M^{rs} M. Campbell made a motion of leave and stood up, but as none of the Ladies observed and no one seconded her – she was obliged to sit down again, this occasioned peals of laughter, and the young men were so pleased they applauded her by clapping their hands: in this applauding group Im, Grant, Stuart, Cosby &c. sat next each other and were conspicuous.

Sir John Macpherson it is said is coming out for certain to Bengal, this M^r Casamajor confirmed: he told me also the Miss Campbells were coming to India with a M^{rs} Murray wife to the Commissary General. Good night my friend, I am indeed much fatigued.

Wednesday 2nd

M^r J. Turing breakfasted at the Grove.

I have been ruminating whether anything has escaped me; and have applied to your worthy Uncle for the aid of his recollection. He says the packet by the Carnatick was, he understands very small – that the bulk of the letters are on the Albion. General Meadows leave was prolonged it is thought with the view of succeeding Sir A.C. M^r Davidson has had a few lines from his friend M^r Brodie, who was soon again to write: he does not mention, nor has your Uncle, hitherto, learnt anything regarding his own situation: Nor does he expect it till after the arrival of the Ravensworth, which would probably be in England, about the middle of March. It bodes my good man Hope Lord Macartney being at present, they say, the Oracle of M^r Pitt. For the rest I refer you to the Courier. What do you hear of Tippoo? let me know. I shall endeavor to procure your white feather in Captain Corner's shop tomorrow. I hope your Cooley is safely arrived by this time.

We are all well – You Uncle and Cousin Eliza beg to be affectionately remembered to you. Our love to George – and best wishes to the Borrowes' and Bruces.

Farewell – my favorite Nephew – I am with sincere affection and friendship your Aunt &c,

Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 2nd July 1788

M^r Alex^r Falconar

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P. M. Wednesday 2nd July 1788

Journal Continued

Sir John Menzies dined here, I heard him say General Hoare means very shortly to leave this for his station, the business he came on being nearly finished. We passed the Evening at home, at 9 o'clock M^r Grant, made his appearance, and after we had seated ourselves at supper and in the in the act of eating M^r Boyd with a cavalier pleasant manner hailed us – immediately after followed d'Jong, and a Captain Edie a very ingenious man commander of the Country ship Earl Cornwallis. Sir Archibald and family are to come to their Gardens on Thursday Evening and to return again to Ennore on Friday after Council. Tomorrow we mean

(if we are alive), to be the first at Captain Corner's Shop – Adieu.

Thursday 3rd

We arose at Gun Fire this morning dressed and sallied to the Fort. M^r Davidson and Eliza in their Chariot, Miss R– and I in the postchaise. We reached Captain Corner at half after 6 oClock and had the pleasing satisfaction of being the first at the show; Caps and hats are of the newest fashion – Betsy has given K:R: a pretty French hat for his fair favorite, do not you notice this to her: Andrew will present it to her as a donation of his own – Betsy's attention has greatly flattered and pleased the old man. I have purchased as much scarlet cloth as will make you two Coats – not a single white feather to be seen, I mean of the round kind such as you require. After shopping we went to Boyd's where we got our breakfast – the rest of the forenoon till 1 o'Clock we passed at our small house in the Fort.

Dined here a M^r Wood. In the Evening we supped at M^r Hamilton's with a small party – no news to day of any kind – I had almost forgot to tell you M^r Peace is alive, and is arrived safe and well at Madras: he and Dashwood and a quarrel which was made up by the intervention of Friends.

Friday 4th

Breakfasted here M^r A Ross – he is really a curious being; he and I had a long confab concerning his darling favorite – his friendship to her, is great indeed – he never talks of her but she expresses herself in the warmest manner: he told me if she would allow him to be her Father he would be a happy man: he showed me a letter from Miss Bruce where–in she mentions her not having any intention of visiting Madras. I am sorry to find the good Colonel Bruce is still ailing.

M^r Corbett brought out M^r Macan to dine with us. This gentleman is the Custom House Master of Calcutta, and just arrived from Bengal – Your Uncle dined with Sir J. Menzies. In the Evening we supped at M^r Holland's – where there a prodigious large and brilliant party of about fifty or sixty persons: the entertainment was given to the Bride – most of the Ladies were pretty women I think you would like to hear their names, among the pretty women I remember M^{rs} Oakeley, M^{rs} Oakes, M^{rs} Moorhouse, M^{rs} Baker, M^{rs} Balfour, ~~M^{rs} Oakes~~ M^{rs} Maunsell, M^{rs} D– Campbell, M^{rs} A.M. Campbell, M^{rs} Overend, M^{rs} Porcher and Miss Davidson – among the la, la. M^{rs} Chamair and M^{rs} Maule. Our shipmate I think since her change is grown rather distant and more reserved. I hope she may not turn a fine Lady.

Saturday 5th

Breakfasted here M^r Boisdaune and the Miss Whittles – the young Ladies are come to pass the day with Betsy. I am told Major and M^{rs} Maule are going to separate, the lady is going to her Brother at Bengal, her husband remains here. I believe the Major to be a sad fellow; and in my opinion he ought to be sent to Coventry: the bas[e]ness of his conduct to his poor wife has been shocking, the unhappy woman is much to be pitied for she is reputed to be an amiable character.

Tomorrow we are going to pass the day at Ennore. We had a few friends to dinner here today among whom was Stevenson, he is ever much engaged, he seldom comes to us – I told him so, he pleaded guilty, and begged I would spare him – I delivered your many remembrances. After we got up from table and the Gentlemen all gone, the Miss Wittles with Eliza little R– and I took a walk to M^{rs} Hughes' where we drank tea and then parted with our guests, I could not prevail on them to stay to supper. – Our Evening party were the Duffins, Hugheses, Hamilton d'Jong and half a dozen others. I am really fatigued my friend with Entertaining Company to day. M^{rs} Horse Baillie was delivered of a fine boy they say this forenoon. M^r George Smith's Daughter Aurora is coming out to Bengal on a coast ship, while here I am to guard her: likewise a Miss Brown sister to George Davidson's paramour.

Your ever kind and affectionate favor of the 2nd my dearest Nephew, I have received, and shall reply to it tomorrow.

Sunday 6th

Breakfast being over, and every thing arranged for the family, I am only come my dear Sandy to tell you we are on the wing for Ennore – Adieu then for a while –

We returned to the Grove about half past eight in the Evening – our Jaunt was pleasant owing to our having three reliefs of horses, the last stage Lady Campbell stationed her Carriage and horses which made our Journey easy for us – We had the pleasure of finding the Governor almost well and in pretty tolerable spirits. The dinner party consisted of their own family: A.M.C– was there but not his wife. On our arrival at Ennore we were told an Indiaman was arrived, they had heard the Salute – soon after the Governor had the Master attendant’s note announcing the arrival of the Earl Cornwallis – the particulars of her passengers &c, &c, you will see in the Courier. After tea we took our leave, as we passed Baron Reishals Bungalo we stopped to look at it; I think it is one of the neatest thatched structures I ever saw, M^r Petrie’s and M^r Wooleys are in the same style but on a larger Scale – Ennore is much improved since you visited there.

We had no letters by the Cornwallis M^r Corbett writes his son that all our friends in Gower street are well – Supped with us only Rainbolt. I must now wish you a very kind goodnight, my Eyes are not to be kept open, no, not even by Friendship.

Monday 7th

I am really very crossed this morning angry with everyone that comes to speak to me – I believe this is an unlucky day, or, I must have seen some ill favored person that has caused me to be unpleasant to myself. M^r Grant, M^r Macan, and Mason breakfasted here. Now my Sandy, I will endeavor to compose myself and acknowledge your last favor– I am much obliged to you for your affectionate concern for my health, I am at present thanks to the Almighty very well again – In future I shall not tell you of my Ails, as I only alarm you by informing you of my Indisposition.

I am happy to find my young friend Peter is to go to his Uncle – May Heaven prosper him, my prayers for the success of your dear amiable family shall not be wanted. I am sorry the young rogue is not more explicit – my saucy Alex^r I am told is very fond of him, Eliza will tell you all about them, she had it from Miss Whittles.

I shall not make any further comments on the subject of La Belle C–, I own, I feel myself much – But still I wish her most happy.

We had no dinner company stop in the Evening we had a visit from a young man you expected and wish to have seen last year, a M^r Ban – he left the ship he came out in at China, and has engaged himself as third officer on Board the Argyshire, a Country Ship, a few days ago he arrived here, we only saw him this Evening, he brought your Uncle a few lines from Sir Hector Munro – I wished you had been here, as I believed he could have informed you of the welfar of your family: in a day or two he is to leave this for Vizak and China. M^r Ban and Captⁿ Read were only of our supper party.

Tuesday 8th

M^r D– breakfasted out this morning. We are engaged this Evening to M^{rs} Balfour’s ches –vous – Your Uncle is just come from the Governor’s and M^r Maunsell’s, he there heard of poor M^{rs} Brooker’s Death – this will give the Bruces much concern – Dined in famille. M^{rs} Balfour’s entertainment was elegant – the Company consisted of about forty people, M^{rs} A.M.C– the Queen of the night – Allen was of the number. It was one oClock before we came home – No news to day.

Wednesday 9th

M^r Getty and Major Johnstone of the Nabobs were our breakfast Company. I long to hear if your Cooly with your shoes, hats, &c, &c, has reached you.

Betsy has this moment got a letter from Miss Bruce – which speaks of your indisposition– what is the cause of your illness my Sandy? – I hope ere this Salutes your hand, you will be

restored to health – On the receipt of this do let us know how you are – Remember, it is my positive Command.

Farewell – Heaven preserve you, for all our comfort and happiness. I am with affection and attachment your friend and Aunt Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 9th July 1788 M^r Alex^r Falconar

The enclosed Buckles will I think, answer to wear with the new shoe Buckles. Remember us to George, and the Burrowes not for getting the Bruce's. Eliza writes you by the post – your Uncle desires his Love– take care of yourself and health. E:D:

pages 114–121 [omitting letter on page 120]

P. M. Wednesday 8th July 1788 [*incorrect should be 9*]

Journal Continued

By this Evening's post I have despatched Betsy's and my Packets, with the Courier, or Saturday my friend, when you receive them, I think you will be a little puzzled which to give the preference of a perusal – though, I think my Sandy, I can guess which of the three stands the best chance on your list –

Supped here Cosby, Stuart, Grant, and Hamilton – Cosby leaves this in the course of this week with the General. I have heard some news which I shall endeavor to recollect by tomorrow, for the present Adieu –

Thursday 9th [*incorrect should be 10*]

After breakfast this morning or rather for noon the business of the house having detained me till 12 o'Clock we paid the Fort a visit to see if I could execute M^{rs} Patterson's Commissions – on our arrival in Town we went to Captain Corner's shop there I met Young Captain Cosby, M^{rs} Chase and others – while employed in surveying the things your kind favor of the 7th fraught with affection and friendship I was honored with. I will (as it is late in the day) postpone my reply to it till the morrow

Dined here M^r Macan.

In the Evening we supped at the Hughes's, the Duffins, Kindersley's, Miss Ann West, ourselves, with three or four old Rusty Trusty bachelors formed the party: tho, we were not very jovial, yet we were free, easy, and sociable. The news I meant to have communicated to you my saucy Eliza, has snatched it away from me, saying it would be olds – if confined in my Journal, till next week – so my friend to please both parties I was obliged to relinquish my Budget, as I have the week before me, I shall not despair of my Journals making a good figure in the News way.

Friday 11th

I have been very busy all this morning, indeed I do not know when I am otherwise – But to day, I have been particularly engaged, receiving and dispatching things to Vellore and Arcot. I am now my favourite Nephew to answer your Melancholy, tho, pleasing favor – I do most heartily my amiable friend participate and sympathise with your kind benevolent heart in the welfare of your Dearest Mother – Nay a perfect resilience and confidence in the Divine goodness which we have often experienced, and in the divine Wisdom, which we adore and venerate quiet every anxious wish and turbulent emotion of our Souls, and preserve them in the state of cheerful serenity, which Philosophy without Religion vainly labours to introduce into the restless mid of men.

Let us try then by forming just notions of our present state to determine what must constitute our greatest happiness: Let us consider ourselves as placed here only as Sojourners – let us endeavour to act our part well, study to do good, happiness will then follow and we shall be prepared for the sublime state and for those Regions “from whose Bourn born no traveller returns”.

You are a young man, you have a number of years I hope to live – why should you not my dear friend, as well as many others do well? and withal have it in your power to assist your honored Parent, and her sweet family. Let us, as I said before, put our entire confidence in the Almighty, who is all Powerful, Beneficent, and most Merciful.

Why apologise to me my friend for your serious reflections – reflections that do you so much honor – I should indeed not offer myself worthy of being your friend and acting Mother were you to deprive me of friendships communications – I hope you will ever with freedom and without restraint unburden your heart to your Aunt, she will always be happy to be a sharer in your Sorrows, as well as in your happiness: But let me not be too grave.

Being obliged to quit my pen for awhile, I must unwillingly postpone the reply to the rest of your letter till tomorrow.

We had no dinner Company to day. This Evening we visited M^{rs} Edington who is still but so, so, in spirits. On our return home, found here M^r Millingcham[p] engaging your Uncle at a Game of Chess – in which the latter came off Victorious –

Colonel Kelly and a M^r Laler an young officer that was in love with Miss Coleman have had a quarrel respecting Miss Hoare, now M^{rs} Hughes, M^r Laler is to be tried by a Court Martial – I am not well informed regarding this business, therefore cannot tell you the particulars of it, but if you ask the good Allen, he will better relate the circumstances – I may however, ventured to say the Result perhaps may not do much honour to the Colonel.

Saturday 12th

Breakfasted here M^r J. Mackay, having settled everything for the family I conveyed the gentle Eliza to M^{rs} A.M. C-'s where she is to pass the day – after leaving her there, I proceeded to town to draw of the remainder of the wine – you cannot think my Sandy, though Eliza's absence is to be so short, how much I and her Father miss the Dear Girl – Indeed, it will be a sad day to me whenever we are obliged to part – I am again interrupted and prevented going on in reply to your favor.

M^r D-, Miss Raphael, and I had dined the fruit brought on the Table when Boyd made his entrée – this occasioned a fresh bustle, the dinner ordered back for his honor, who to do him justice is ever entertaining.

It is now six in the Evening – Sir J. Menzies has just sent word to your Uncle, that a Europe ship is insight– perhaps it may be the Albion, or the Ceres —tomorrow I hope we shall have some news to send you.

At Eight at night I set out to M^{rs} A.M.C-'s to bring my Betsy – at nine we came home, here we found waiting for us Mess^{rs} Grant, Capper, J. Balfour, and Archy Brown – all of whom stayed to supper – at half past 11 the Company had scarcely retired when M^r Halls now announced the Arrival of the William Pitt – she has had a charming Passage, having left the Downs on the 5th of April – the particulars of her Intelligence, your Cousin Eliza will communicate to you by tomorrow's post. The W- Pitt is the last ship but one of this Season – my spirits are so flurried I cannot say more than to wish you pleasant Slumbers.

Sunday 13th

This morning we had to Breakfast with us Lieu^t Connor – this ceremony being over, having your good Uncle at home Betsy and I proceeded to church where we saw M^{rs} Overend, who looks dreadfully ill: she is greatly altered in her appearance. Divine Service ended, we paid M^r Boyd a visit, to see him and to procure all the news we could muster, which tho, little, Eliza means to send you this Evening.

It was past 2 o'Clock before we got to the Grove, here we remained a short time, then dividing the family we went out to dinner: M^r D- and Corbett two Major Johnsons of the Nabobs, Eliza and I to the Baronets at Mer Vue – the former resides behind the Castle south of Sir J Menzies. Our party were the Garrows, Captain Hodgson of the Cornwallis. M^r Hamilton, on ourselves with three or four others. At six in the Evening we returned home – Allen and Yrnschild supped here: the former said he had got a letter from M^r Macfie of the

10th date – A la mode Macfie: he is to indulge me with a sight of it – but it is to be a profound secret; therefore do not you notice it to your friend Mac— for if you do, I shall assuredly be a sufferer.

General Horne with the Chases called here, the General's visit (shortly no longer a General) was to take leave: some one day this week he bids adieu to Madras.

Monday 15th [*incorrect should be 14*]

Betsy and I having lightly breakfasted we went into the Fort to look over Captain Hodgson's new things, there I purchased for you a set of the European Magazines for the year 87, which after your Uncle has perused, I shall forward to you. As Betsy has written you a few lines acquainting you with the arrivals &^c, &^c, of this leaves me perfectly barren of news – Miss Tanchet who was to have been accommodated by us, is gone to M^{rs} Balfours – M^r Grant who obligingly went to bring her on shore, had much trouble and fatigue in arranging everything for this young Lady and a Miss Paul: however I deem myself fortunate in being so handsomely quit of my intended charge.

Captain Stevenson and Captain Read supped here – the former told me that he certainly embarks for Europe on the Ranger, and in the April ships of 99, he means to return here – Miss Fisher he does not expect this season as he only wrote for her by the Ravensworth. Stevenson mentioned you kindly – and said he thought you did not look hearty – Do, I beg of you my dearest Nephew, tell me what ails you, for I am very anxious for your health – indeed I am –

Tuesday 16th [*incorrect should be 15*]

No morning Company – A note from Hall – Ah: the Ceres, she left the Downs on the 6th April – Madras at present is quite lively, ever since Sunday there has been four salutes each day for the ships and their Captains. The letters from M^{rs} Chitty such as I think may prove entertaining to you shall be sent to you: the rest of them you shall peruse when I have the pleasure of your company –

Good Eliza will send you all the news we have heard this Evening. A letter just received from George informs me you have been sometime past confined with a Bowel complaint – you must be assured your repeated indisposition cannot but alarm us – why my Sandy keep your confinement a secret from your dear friends? Ruddiman has recommended change of air for you, therefore when you think you can travel with safety, pray let me know that with your worthy Uncle's aid I may request leave of absence for you – in these cases nothing like taking care of ones health in due time – I beg of you to be particular in your account of yourself, for both Allen and Stevenson agree in your not having a good state of health.

Dined here Macan. Another note from Hall, announcing the arrival of the General Coote. In the Evening we paid M^{rs} Balfour, Miss Tanchet and Miss Paul a visit, they visited us in the morning, Miss T– is a very very plain woman, Miss Paul rather pretty, this young lady is a sister to the two unfortunate girls that were lost in the Halsewell. This formal business being over, we proceeded to Lady Campbell's to see the Rehearsal of the Rivals – as much as we saw of it was very imperfectly done, Poor Captain Lang is very ill – Miss Dents I hear are beautiful and accomplished – Alas poor Miss Dents – to be with such an Uncle – Apropos one of the late T.M. sisters is married to a friend of A.M.Campbell's, a M^r Addison, it was to have been a Gretna Green match

Wednesday 16th

After breakfast this morning your Uncle and we attended M^r Bells lectures – Miss R– Betsy and I were the only Ladies present the Gentlemen likewise were very few in number – the introductory discourse was instructive and amusing. I was sorry M^r Bell did not this second course meet with more encouragement. After the lecture we came to our happy calm retreat the Grove.

No one dined here. In the Evening we paid our visits to M^{rs} Trent and the new M^{rs} Campbell, and then finished our Career by supping at the Kindersley's with the Bride and Bridegroom – the company not very large – there I had the misfortune to lose poor Sir Alexander's Picture – every search was made in vain: however I shall live in hopes yet of its coming to light.

Thursday 17th

Breakfasted with us M^r Ross and Beatson – the former has amused and gratified us exceedingly by shewing two Volumes of the most Beautiful drawings of shells I ever beheld – they are done by a M^r Martyn in England. M^{rs} Casamaior last night was safely delivered of a daughter. It is currently reported Sir Archibald and family have taken their passage on the Manship, this is I am told certain they have engaged the whole ship. Sir George Stanntan is appointed Controller over the China Supercargoes with a handsome salary – M^r Hudleston has received for his services (£4000) four thousand pounds Sterling these being particular Friends of Lord Macartney it is of course supposed his Influence has been exerted.

The Airly Castle and Bridgewater detained till the end of April to bring final Dispatches for Bengal and Madras. The Ambuscade sloop of war till the same period to bring Government Dispatches.

What can I say more? Dined here in the family way M^{rs} A.M.C– her Lord and Master, Captain Read, Boyd, Grant, Corbett – Stevenson disappointed us Ramsay better. Our evening party were Stuart, M^r Robertson, chief officer of the General Coote and brother to my friend Captain Robertson, Captain Stevenson (who came to make amends for his forgetfulness) and a Stranger. Stevenson is resolved to go on the Ranger to Bengal, he is not sure of his proceeding on her to Europe, that vessel's fate is to be determined by Lord Cornwallis after her arrival at Calcutta – The Ranger came here yesterday without making her voyage to Negapatam –

I am favored with your letters of the 13th and 14th – I shall reply to them in my next Journal.

Friday 18th

Breakfasted here a Lieu^t Nagle, Allen and Cornet Leslie – General Horne is not yet gone. The enclosed letter this moment come to hand, if it is from your amiable Mother, let me know how She is.

I will put an end to this long and intense business, which will require all your temper to have patience to peruse it – owing to unavoidable interruptions, I did not dispatch this with the Courier. The enclosed pencil is of the newest fashion – besides the pencil it contains a knife, therefore send me a fanam that it May not cut Love.

I pray you will not over exercise yourself till you are in perfect good health – and till you have recovered your wasted strength. The Cambrick shall be sent tomorrow. Your uncle, and my Eliza are well, they desire their love to you – Remember us to G. Davidson, the Bruces, Macfie and other friends – God bless you my amiable friend – I remain with sincere affection, your attached aunt. Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 18th July 1788

M^r Alex^r Falconar

Second volume of E300/2

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P.M. Friday 18th July 1788

Journal Continued

At last I dispatched my usual and weekly Narration – the interruptions one is subject to, at this busy season of the year, are not to be described – supped here Hamilton and Captain Buchanan of the Ranger – I am told T.M. – I Campbell is come to the resolution of accompanying his Uncle to England – will not this intelligence cast a damp on the Heart of the all amiable —? I am sure it must – M^{rs} A.M.C – I believe will also be of the party in the Manship.

Saturday 19th

The Colours are up, and the Signal made for an Indiaman – Breakfast being removed I am come for one moment only to tell you of the arrival of the Boddam Captain Elliot – Eliza, means to send you the list of the passengers &c &c this Evening. We are now going to the Lecture, where we may hear something new and entertaining – God bless you, and adieu till the Evening. It must have passed three when we got to the Grove, the Lectures are postponed until the 15th of August, hoping they will be better attended, besides it was wished by Lady Campbell that M^r Bell would defer them. By the Boddam your Uncle received a letter from M^{rs} Chitty with specimens of the children's writing – Alex^{r's} would I am certain make you smile, such pothooks and hangers; surely were never seen – Lydia, Mary, and Juliet Chitty, will write exceeding good hands – as for giddy Harriet, as yet I cannot form any opinion. Dined here of the new comers Captain Robertson's brother, and M^{rs} Nixon's brother, a M^r Braham, with Allen and Sir J Menzies. No particular news. This Evening we had such an innumerable swarm of Beaux, were I here to mention them I am confident your patience would be exhausted in perusing their names: tho I must tell you, Allen was one of the number. I believe my Sandy, I am never to acknowledge your favors – I am again under the necessity of delaying to answer them till another day. –

Sunday 20th

M^r J de Fries and a young East Indian, a M^r Ardly, breakfasted here – the latter's father was about 20 years ago in Council at Madras – he died and left this young man his natural Son five thousand pounds which has since accumulated to near 25,000. Your Uncle and I are his Sponsors.

As usual Betsy and I attended Divine Worship – the Congregation was thin, and the weather warm – The Governor of Tranquebar arrived at Madras this morning, M^r Cochrane has engaged our large house to accommodate this great man. Sir Archibald and family leave Ennore on Monday evening to remain.

No one dined here. In the Evening we went to the Asylum, where we met the Duffins by appointment – after seeing the children we parted to our different homes. M^{rs} Oakeley, the new M^{rs} Campbell of the 75th Regt, M^r Beafield, and a M^r Abbot made us a visit of ceremony – The Garrows and Grant supped here with our family party.

I sent your half p^s of Cambrick by Saturdays post – to day I have dispatched some news papers of late dates – what could your friend want the Cambrick in such a hurry for? – I hope he finds it to his taste – I could not procure any for less than 16 Pagodas, therefore I did not imagine one pagoda would make any material difference in his purse. Six more Volumes of the Indian Courier I have received and they shall be sent you by the next Cooley.

Monday 21st

This has been a sad fatiguing morning– after breakfast Betsy and I went to town to see the Shops of the Cerés, and the General Coote, neither of them had anything worth our particular attention: tho, I must say, the procuring of your long looked for feathers, amply recompensed our trouble – One feather two pair of patent Gloves, with one pair of Boot garters go in this Evenings post, if you are scrupulous to wear the Gloves, give one pair to your Smart friend Macfie, that he may keep you in Countinnence. Before we left the Fort we called on M^r Smart, he shewd us a sketch of the Governor on card for M^r D– he also shewed us poor Kitty Eddington's picture which he has done entirely from memory – it is a fine likeness – the unhappy parents are much pleased with Smart, to them the picture must prove a great source

of comfort. Smart leaves us for Bengal in Sep^r M^r Benfield has taken his passage on a Tuscan ship for Europe in about a months time he is to quit this place; it is imagined that it has been told him his absence would be agreeable. One of the Miss Whittles is going to be with M^{rs} Mcleod, the other to remain with M^{rs} Garrow for the present.

Dined here M^r Ardly, and M^r J de Fries. The evening we passed at M^r Hamilton's, our party were the Garrows, the Miss Whittles, Colonel Trent with a few others. Colonel Trent who had been at the Rooms said they were pretty full, there were many more Ladies this evening than has been of late. I am sorry to tell you our Concerts are I believe no more – the last was on Friday, only two Ladies were present, and they went away after the first act.

Tuesday 22nd

We had no visitors this morning. Now to reply to your letters, you ask me for the numbers of your tickets – will you not excuse me, if I keep them a secret? I am very superstitious – you know my friend, they have not seen Daylight, since I have had them, which is ever since Feb^{ry} – no, no, I cannot indeed tell you my dear Sandy, until they are drawn – I am most happy to find you are on the recovery – Do enquire of the Medical men the cause of your repeated illness – for you used to have before you came to this climb a good constitution – and inform me likewise with their opinions – At any rate I think change of Air will do you service: Captain Ramsey who has been severely ill with a similar complaint with yours, he is now getting better, but his indisposition preceded from his sad irregular course of living – I have read over your letters I find, I have answered them all – ah! The Buckles, I had nearly forgot them – they were your Cousin Eliza's choice believe me – I should not have chosen them so Enameled, had I had anything to do with them –

1 o'Clock – I have this moment got a letter from M^{rs} H Burrowes – full of apologies for her truly long silence – she says “We have seen little of M^r Falconar lately, from his having been indisposed, but I believe he is now well”. I shall now address her, I only waited for her letter. She does not my amiable nephew know how much I regard you.

M^r Corbett only dined with us. Your Uncle was assisted by Sir Archibald to meet the Tranquebar Governor. No news either foreign or domestic. This evening we passed at home – M^r Robertson with three or four more supped with us – M^r Robertson sent me this forenoon a hooker stand which M^{rs} Chitty charged him with, the upper part of it painted by my sweet Lydia for her Father it is a very pretty thing, and well executed – it really does my dear girl great credit.

Wednesday 23rd

M^r Robertson who slept here was our only breakfast guest this morning. A great entertainment at the Maunsells this evening for the A.M. Campbells – we are invited to the feast – How do you like your Boot garters? Last night I got two pair more for you – No Cooley yet, but I hourly expect him. Be prudent with your health – take no liberties with yourself in riding or eating any thing indigestible till you are perfectly strong – I beseech you to adhere to my request, I am certain the Doctors will tell you the same – I also beg you will wear a piece of the nice flannel I sent you some time ago within your waistcoat, which will prevent your getting cold, while your Bowels are weak you will be liable to it; when your complaint is perfectly removed permit me to recommend you to take a teaspoonful of Brandy in your morning and Evening tea or in your water – this I have given with success – it fortifys and strengthens the stomach and bowels.

God preserve and bless you my friend – I remain with sincere affection and friendship your Aunt. Eliza: Davidson

The Grove

18

23rd July 1788

Remember us to George – Eliza, and your Uncle desire their kindest regards to you. Make

my salams to all enquiring friends and to M^r Macfie, tho unknown to him – Stevenson is very well. Your Godson is grown a fine Black Boy. Horses, Birds, Dogs are well – Martha not married yet. Paul's wife not likely at present to increase his noble family – You must now I think be satisfied with our family Intelligence – are you not? – adieu; adieu.

pages 127 – 134

P.M. Wednesday 23rd July 1788

Journal Continued.

Having sent away our Moor with my dispatches to my dear nephew all hands dressed in our new hats, caps, feathers, and handkerchief &° &° of the newest fashion and attended the Conchée, but once we reached the Garden house we were overtaken with a severe squall of wind and rain. However we proceeded to Lady Campbell's to the destination. Alas, of all our fine millinery – there we were obliged to remain till half past two waiting for the weather's clearing up, which it seemed to do in a small degree. After leaving the gardens we continued our course as I thought, to the Maunsells, rain pouring all the time attended with much thunder and lightening, my omitting to tell James we supped out was unlucky for he had passed M^r Maunsells house a mile before I found out we were on the road to the Grove. How unpleasant, and how uncomfortable is this said I to Eliza, to be obliged to go back for a formal supper? – there was no help for it go we must – when we were there, we, particularly Betsy, who appeared as a drowned fowl, poor girl her new Cap, and handsome feathers were all ruined by the rain. It was a sad Evening truly – We did not sup till near 12 oClock, it was full two before we got home heartily tired and discomfited with this Evenings jaunt. A deluge of rain accompanied us to the Grove.

Thursday 24th

This morning we had to breakfast with us Colonel Ancker, his Aid-de-Camp and Secretary with Majors Cochrane, Vigors and Raphael. The Governor is a genteel handsome well bred Gentleman, he has been fourteen years of his life in England where he kept the best company – his person pleasing his manners easy and polite – you would greatly like him, Our Governor is very attentive to him every honour due to a Governor is fully paid to him. Captain Vigors is grown very lusty, his trip to the only Country in the world, the Country of Countries (England) has perfectly re-established his health. After my company went away (owing to your Uncle's absence on business I had to entertain them solely) about 12 oClock Betsy and I went to the Fort where I purchased George a smart hat with feather &°, also some books and soap for you.

We returned and dined in famille. In the Evening we had to visit and sup with us Stevenson Cavalry Montgomery, a Lieut Bruce lately from England, Grant and a few more. To Stevenson I delivered your unbounded good wishes, he desired me to remember him kindly to you; he inquired after your health; I said you had been ailing he advised me to get you down here, for two or three months to restore your health – If you do not recover fast, I hope my Sandy, you will not be so foolish (because you have fixed the time in your mind for your coming here) as to remain at Trichinopoly to the prejudice of your health – take the council of the Doctors and act accordingly.

Your favor of the 21st I have received. Thanks without number my amiable friend, for the kind affectionate value you set on my Journals – I am most happy they give you that comfort, and amusement you so feelingly express.

You afford me much satisfaction by telling me you are once again on the verge of mixing in the Beau monde – God of his infinite mercy grant he may enable you to enjoy its every innocent pleasure with comfort and peace.

Friday 25th

No breakfasters this morning. This days post has conveyed to me your very acceptable favor

of the 22nd containing the copy of your sweet sisters pretty affectionate letter – the perusal of which my friend, tho melancholy has gratified me exceedingly – your Uncle and Eliza likewise are greatly pleased with the charming manner she speaks of her honored departed Father, and of her darling dear Mother, the account of your Brothers, and sisters, and of the different situations your brothers are placed in; in short, the whole information of your amiable family are very pleasingly communicated – this excellent girl, I pray will be preserved to prove an everlasting solace and comfort to your respected Mother.

I am really much pleased with M^r Peter Davidson's conduct – as he is unincumbered with a family, I hope to God he will shortly have it in his power to serve your family most essentially. Now you have had so full an account of your dearest friends, I shall flatter myself you will keep up your spirits; and as there are so many kind friends to assist your beloved Saint of a Mother; you may rest assured every thing will turn out, by and by to your ease and happiness

Corbett being ill and confined to his room we, and your Uncle only were of the dinner party. In the Evening we visited the Miss Dents and Miss Squires, I shall leave Eliza to give you an account of them.

Supped here Robertson, Stewart, M^r Millingchamp, and a M^r Thackery – this later gentleman is appointed an assistant surgeon to your Garrison the little I have seen of him, I think he is fond of entering into discussions, is very positive, and argumentative – But he is young and may improve after seeing more of Life – I only mention him to you, to put you on your guard: He is rather an handsome figure.

Saturday 26th

M^r Robertson who slept here was our only breakfast Companion. I have not heard any thing new my friend this day. We had a few people to dine with us. Corbett still confined. This Evening M^r Bemezet and M^r Wrangham with Robertson and his brother the Lieutenant supped here – Wrangham enquired kindly after you, and told me about the bile you got from that Vile Brute the old Grey – God be praised, you have so well escaped without your leg being broke – I shall hope in future you will be more cautious how you go near horses. I heard the other Evening Colonel Kelly is sent to Coventry by the Officers for his conduct regarding M^r Loler – the Court Martial is begun and it is thought the Colonel will appear in a very unpleasant light.

Sunday 27th

M^r Kipper breakfasted here, he said Major Tonyn is going under him to the Northward to procure Saddles and other accoutrements for the Cavalry. About nine Eliza and I went to Church and were the only two that had on the new fashioned hats with crowns much higher than Miss Bruce's Cap sent her by Andrew Ross (a propos, how does Clara like it? I know she must become it) I do assure you they are very smart Betsy was killingly so – the Beau and Belles fixed their eyes on our heads while making to our seats – Lady C– and her sister were looking at us with the tail of their eyes every now and then, Stuart and Willis paid us Homage and were bowing to the ground as we passed them – So much for the Chapter on Hats.

I am favored with yours of the 25th. I am well pleased you liked the Gloves &^c, &^c. We would have made the watch chain, but imagined Miss Bruce perhaps would finish it more to your taste. As soon as I knew of the Europe Dispatch I made you acquainted with it, if you had written immediately you would have been in full time, for the Dispatch is deferred till Sunday the 3rd of next month.

Corbett still in his room, Miss Raphael gone home, your Uncle dined at Sir J Menzies, while Eliza and I dined Tête a tête. This Evening we paid a few visits returned, and supped, M^r Hamilton and your Uncle came here from Mer Vue at half past ten, and joined us.

Monday 28th

We got up early, dressed breakfasted at Hamiltons, and proceeded to Town to visit Captain Elliot's Shop – What things we saw there, were but few, and those few very indifferent –

Except Hams and Cheeses, the Captains have brought very small Investments this Season. Colonel Sterling from good authority (a M^r Tatem a Director) told some of his friends that your worthy Uncle would have satisfaction done him by the Company – God in Heaven grant his words may prove true. Your Uncle's reestablishment and your appointment in the Civil Line would indeed render me as happy as a poor Mortal could possibly be in this transitory world.

M^r Davidson dined out today at M^r Casamaijor's – Corbett being rather better joined Betsy and me. The evening we spent at home, while M^r D– and Robertson went to the Rooms for these two days past we have had little else than rain – No news.

Tuesday 29th

M^r Raphael and Robertson breakfasted here – You Uncle told us the Rooms were very gay and lively last night and full of Company, he went principally to learn news and to bring us as an account of them.

Your Cooley arrived safe at 5 o'clock this Evening with the 15 Pagodas for the Cambrick and the shoes which I shall endeavor to change for a size less.

We have at last got the Albion safely Anchored – she has brought us letters from Gower Street and Scotland and one for you – which with our letters from your dear Mother, Eliza forwards to you by this evenings post.

Your Uncle dined to day at M^r Petries, he has been engaged out ever since Saturday – and tomorrow he is invited to M^r Holland's. The evening we passed at home, Grant &c supped here.

Wednesday 30th

We are just returned from the Races – not much short, and little company, as usual more Gentlemen than Ladies. Major Close's Arabian the winning horse.

Very, very, much engaged with my Europe letters – yet, I cannot refrain speaking to you with my pen a few words en passant. We dined in the family way, joined by Inviled [*invalide*] Corbett; Your Uncle gone out. Being too fatigued for the Conchee we passed the Evening at home. Allen, Grant, Boyd, de jong and Robertson supped with us. I was really rejoiced to receive your large Packet for my dear Sister (your charming Mother) Your Cousin Eliza has announced tis safe arrival by this Evenings tappal. God bless and protect you – I am much tired.

Thursday 31st

We again attended the Races this morning – very little sport – as Betsy write you a few lines by the evenings post giving you an account of the Races, and as I am much employed I will not herein make further comments.

Dined with us Johnstone of the Ranger and Raphael – In the evening we had no one. The coolness between the Governor and Sir J Menzies entirely made up by the means of your Uncle and M^r Petrie; and Sir John is to go on the Manship with the family – Is not La Belle fortunate to be able to proceed to Europe so pleasantly and as soon? The Oakeley's are to be also of the party on the Manship. No news of any kind but what you know – What of Tippoo? what is he doing do you hear? –

Friday 1st August 1788.

Stevenson, Allen, de Fries, and young Ardley breakfasted here – I shall give Stevenson a few letters of Introduction to some of my friends, your Uncle also means to introduce him to some Gentlemen of his acquaintance.

Dined with us only Johnstone, Corbett again confined,. I heard this morning Tippoo is retiring very quietly to his own Dominions – you will hear ere this reaches your hand, that Captain Dunwoody has got the thanks of the Board for the gallant behaviour of his Detachment. I am told Lord Cornwallis has demanded the Gountoor [*Guntur*] Circar in form from the Soubah of the Decan – some people think this may involve us in a War – God avert this cruel calamity of War – Indeed, Life is not worth having when it is kept in constant

uneasiness – Supped here Grant and Cavalry Montgomery – poor fellow; his knee is very stiff from his fall.

Saturday 2nd

M^r Karn and Captain Archy Brown who leaves Madras this evening for Tanjor breakfasted here this morning. Most part of this forenoon I have been busily employed in writing to M^{rs} Chitty.

Dined here Boyd with a few others – just before dinner I received a note from Stevenson which Eliza enclosed to you this Evening – about 8 o’Clock Stevenson came, he told me from the conversation he had with the Governor he had come to the determination to remain in the Country, tho, at present there was no occasion for his service yet, a few months hence there might be great changes in the Politics of India – take no notice of this business till you hear it from other quarters. Stevenson and young Offany supped here.

Sunday 3rd

Torin and a young Stranger of the name of Palmer breakfasted here – the former is to accompany M^r Petrie to Tanjor on an Embassy to the King – they are to leave this in a few days. Some think Tanjor will be sequestered and put under the Board of Revenue on account of the Rajahs want of punctuality in the payment of his Kists.

Dined with Eliza, Corbett, Miss R– and self M^r Kippen, he embarks on the Ranger either tomorrow or the day after for Masulipatam. This Evening Betsy and I visited the Asylum and the Hughes, afterwards they came to sup with us. Received visits from the Miss Dents – the eldest in particular is a very affected girl, she makes a point of asking every Lady and Gentleman she converses with if they have been in England, or on board an Indiaman – this Lady, recommended M^{rs} Woolf an English Education, and added a few months in England would be of great use to her – is not this strange? they are personally showy women, but their particular conduct makes them much talked of: Miss Dent always holds her fan up to the edge of her eyes when in conversation, and when eating she introduces her meat &c, &c, under her fan into her Mouth –

Monday 4th

Kippen breakfasted here and took leave of us – the Packet not closed yet. I have nothing interesting to communicate today. Your Uncle dined at M^r Maunsell’s at a great Entertainment for Governor Anker, Sir Archibald Campbell the Council &c – Johnstone, Eliza, Miss R– and I made a party quarré. In the Evening again visited the Asylum, on our return home we had the pleasure of receiving Colonel and M^{rs} Sterling and Miss Farmer, sister to M^{rs} S–, the former I like exceedingly she is a pleasing well bred woman: the latter tho, not at all pretty, has the appearance of good nature and affability. We supped, as we dined a la Coutume –

Tuesday 5th

Sydenham, Allen, and Yarnchild were our morning visitors. I hear Colonel Kelly and his Officers are at variance, in so much the Colonel threatens to have them all tried by Courts Martial – Johnstone is on the wing, he embarks this forenoon for Bengal: – He is just gone poor! fellow! I so far sympathized with him, my eyes glistened, Betsy caught the Infection and Your Uncle looked grave and interesting. –

Dined in famille. In the Evening we all went to M^r Chamier’s Concert the party small the Ladies were besides ourselves M^{rs} Porcher, M^{rs} Maule and M^{rs} A.M.C. – the two latter Ladies gave us three songs each. M^{rs} Charmier and Porcher played a Duet – the whole was pleasant the Evening was concluded by supper and songs from the Gentlemen.

Wednesday 6th

No company this morning. Packet not to be closed till the Evening. On Monday I hope to be able to send your things, likewise G Davidson’s – who I dare say, is not pleased with me for my delay, but I hope, Europe Dispatches will plead my excuse – Your requests my Sandy shall be complied with – Indeed I have been greatly occupied with letter writing, and you

have not been forgot in them – Your letters to your Sweet mother, I have taken particular care of, and have sent it to M^{rs} Chitty under cover to Peter Corbett Esq^r India House being the surest way of ensuring their safe arrival in Gower Street. It is now 1 oClock – I am just favored with your letter of the 3rd enclosing your dear Mother’s letter – which I shall peruse and return with due care – I have much to say, but will not detain this any longer – God bless you my dearest Nephew – I am your most affectionate and Sincere Eliza: Davidson

P. S.

Betsy and your Uncle desire their affectionate remembrance – the former says, she shall shortly, very shortly address you – My best compliments to all friends – Excuse all Errors, for I am in haste to dress for the Conchée, and supper at Raphaels.

This Journal was unfortunately lost, and [*next word illegible*] a few Days after by M^r Hay Adjutant to the 13th Batt^{ln} whose orderly found it on the Warriore Road : However the Elegant and prudent Writer has nothing, to apprehend from this Circumstance; Since the few who may have seen it, will as much admire the Graces of the former Quality; as they will wonder at the novelty of seeing so many Pages &c &c: void of Scandal, & so replete with innocent and ingenuous Remark.

Nor has the Correspondent any Reason to regret this accident; since surely any Inference that could have been drawn from the letter must be to his Advantage. A.F.

M^r Alex^r Falconar

13th Aug^t ‘88

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P. M. Wednesday 6th August 1788

Journal Continued

My long detained Journal I have my amiable friend dispatched this Evening – in it you will find a curious medley of circumstances, tho, many of them may be old to you, yet, the other incidents may prove amusing on perusal.

We visited this evening M^{rs} Casamajor, Lady Campbell’s Couchée, and supped at M^r Raphael’s in the Black Town, at this latter place the company not large and yet, there were as many as their Hall could Contain – The Ladies were M^{rs} Porcher, M^{rs} Urille, M^{rs} Migell, M^{rs} Raphael M^r Raphael’s sister, with Eliza, Miss R– and myself – among the Gentlemen besides your Uncle were Colonel Ancker, Stevenson, Porcher &c. &c. &c. The supper as is usual among these kind of people, large and heavy – The Entertainment altogether went of better than I could have expected from the reserved style of the Ladies in the Black Town. Our drenching Friend the Rain unpolitely and against our Consent accompanied us out and home.

Thursday 7th.

M^r Torin and Greenhill breakfasted here – the former leaves this for Tanjore in the course of next week.

I have perused your dear excellent Parents letter, an heart of Stone must be affected at the knowledge of such uninterrupted and most unfortunate series of Events – Good Heaven! How nobly has she combated with her misfortunes, and how like a Saint has she comported herself amid the buffets of ill fortune without murmuring – I hope she is now in that calm and resigned state of mind peculiar to such exalted characters – God grant her future days may be serene and happy. I lament I am not near her – had I been so blessed, my time and attention should be dedicated to have consoled, soothed and comforted her. The happenings those around experience in rendering their friendly offices to her, makes me envy them, and causes me to repine at being debarred the satisfaction of giving her that Consolation that I am prompted to do, not only by duty, but more particularly form friendship and inclination. I had an account of her sufferings by the Ranger, but my Sandy, not wishing to aggravate your

affliction, I kept it from your knowledge, thinking it would be better to communicate it by your amiable Mother's pain.

We dined to day entirely infamille. In the Evening we dressed for Lady Campbell's entertainment which was a dance and supper – It was a pleasant Evening the new Ladies were present, all except the Miss Dents danced – as your cousin Eliza means to give you an account of this nights Entertainment, as her letter will reach your hand before this, I shall not here trouble you with my remarks on the occasion only to observe that next to the Queen's Ball it was the most brilliant Fête Lady Campbell has given. The occasion said to be in compliment to M^{rs} A M C– and Colonel Ancker.

Friday 8th

Allan and a Lieu^t Macleod were our breakfasters this morning – the latter said he was acquainted with you but it was month since he had left Trichinopoly. I met Ruddiman at the Governor's the Evening before, he told me he had got a letter from you – mentioning to him the cause of your Bilious attacks – he wishes to see you exceedingly, he told me change of air, diet, and relaxation from duty and study would greatly re-establish your health – he therefore hopes that you will not be unmindful of yourself, and if you are well enough to postpone your visit to the Grove till the end of the year, well and good, but if otherwise you had better not trifle with your constitution – these, my Sandy, were the good Ruddiman's words – In complaints similar to yours, Castor Oil has been found of great use – two table spoonful of it in chicken broth in a glass of Madeira – or in Honey you will not find it disagreeable in taste – I think I sent you a pint of Oil some little time ago. The character Doctor Pasley gave of this Medicine was that it gave relief without ruffling the Habit. We had to dine here Governor Ancker, Boyd, Colonel Capper, M^r and M^{rs} M. Campbell with a few more the only news I heard to day, was that Sir Paul Jodrell and the Ameer have quarrelled, which had made the former come to the resolution of returning to Europe this Year – the Armeer still continues but La, la, –

This Evening we passed at home, and had the Supreme satisfaction of entertaining the lively elegant M^r De Fries and the charming M^r Ardley – without metaphor or Joke really two hideous little fellows – Eliza, Miss R–, and I had these beaux all to ourselves – Your good Uncle was naughty, and did not join us.

Saturday 9th

We had no breakfast visitors. Poor Corbett has been severely ill for several days past, he is much reduced, his pains are occasioned by an inward complaint which at times makes him a great sufferer. He is also poor Mortal afflicted for the first time with a Dicander which the Faculty call the Hemorrhoids. Dined here Grant Torrin, Braham, young Montgomery with one or two others. While at dinner I was made most happy by a note from A.M.Campbell obtaining for me Sir Archibald Campbell's consent for our shipmate William Sheafe's going to Europe on the Albion to his Father and Family. This unfortunate man about a month ago was sentenced to be shot for Desertion, but as his good luck would have it, he drew the lot for Transportation – accordingly he was sent here and confined in the Main Guard till an opportunity offered to send him to Bencoolin – After his arrival at Madras he addressed me two or three times requesting me to intercede in his behalf with the General for his returning to his Parents – By my speaking to M^r A. M. Campbell on the subject he kindly undertook and managed this affair for the poor fellow very cleverly – I do assure you my friend the Satisfaction I experience of being the humble instrument of this poor fellows happiness – I hope the indulgence shown this miserable Creature will be the means of securing his reformation hereafter.

In the Evening Eliza and I sallied out in our Postchaise to the Fort stopt at the Main Guard sent in a note to Sheafe acquainting him of his good fortune – then proceeded to A, M. C–'s intending to thank him for the kind part he acted – they both at ½ past 8 being invisible and very lazy dressing we left a note of thanks then came home. Received to supper Stevenson,

Grant, R– Johnstone, and de’ Jong. Stevenson is going to join Major D– Campbell’s Reg^t at Arcot – M^r Grant is to accompany him for a few days.

Sunday 10th

Robertson returned again yesterday from the Ship where he had been on duty – after Breakfast we went to Church – which was very thin of Auditors: I did intend to have told you of the text, but I really could not hear the words: tho, M^r Millingchamp is very distinct, to day his voice failed him. On our return to the Grove we found Corbett much better, and able to dine with us, he and Jones with the family formed our dinner party.

The Evening we passed at home, Allen, Yearnchild, and Hamilton supped here – No news to day. Poor Stuart has been very ill – but is now much better. Wilks and Major Close are returned from the Northward. James Campbell has a brother here a Midshipman on Board one of the Indiaman, he is short; and resembles M^{rs} Doctor Campbell more than either M^s Cass or I Campbell.

Monday 11th

This morning we all went to the Fort to breakfast with Boyd, and to see a new apartment of Millinary brought in the Portuguese ship lately arrived here – really the best and most elegant collection of Gowns, Caps, Hats and Bonnets I ever beheld and in charming order – M^r Boyd had the goodness to have all these things arranged in his Hall for the speculation of the Ladies – and likewise an elegant Breakfast prepared for the occasion. Lady Campbell, M^{rs} Malcolm with many others attended – Lady C– has presented Betsy with a very fashionable elegant Dress – M^r Boyd also gave her a sweet pretty Cap, and Dirom a Bouquet – Do not you think she is in high luck to be thus Decorated at so cheap a rate?

Your Uncle was detained by Sir John Menzies to dinner. Betsy, Miss R– and I dined by ourselves – Corbett not one of the room having his pains returned again. In the Evening I was obliged to go in the Fort on some business with Boyd – leaving Eliza to receive the Hughes and the Duffins they with Sir J– Menzies and Doctor Bell passed the Evening and supped. I am told the Ameer and Sir Paul have made up matters – the latter is to remain in the Country, he is to have one thousand pagodas monthly and M^r Benfield’s Garden House besides – this is no bad bargain of the Knights. I dare say he will not now care how soon the Ameer may make his exit.

Tuesday 12th

Breakfast over your Uncle and Robertson are gone to Town – as Eliza and I were standing talking in the Back Veranda, one of M^r Grant’s Troopers presented himself before us with a note for your Uncle, as we were looking at the note, the man in a very abrupt manner said his master had ordered him without loss of time to deliver it to M^r D–, and added to our mutual sorrow and surprise that poor Stuart was Alas! no more!! – I shall leave your kind humane heart my dear friend to judge of our feelings on this Melancholy information – He was a good young man and in general estimation with all who knew him – M^r Grant I pity exceedingly they were sworn friends therefore Stuart’s loss must cause much affliction – On the 29th of last month he supped here and was in high spirits; little did I think It would have been the last time we were to see him at the Grove – Poor Stuart! – Eliza’s spirits as well, as mine, are quite sunk – for the present I must my Sandy lay down my pen – How transitory are our lives!

On what a thread depends our Destiny.

Adieu – my heart is heavy, and I am much depressed; but my affection and friendship ever alive for my Dearest nephew.

At five this Evening Eliza, Miss R– and I dressed in Mourning and proceeded to M^r Grants to pay our last attention to poor Stuart’s memory – when we got there I could hardly stand my limbs trembled most immoderately – the funeral was attended by very respectful Company; the number of Gentlemen I dare say amounted to near one hundred, we were the only Ladies – Grant’s man led the way with Leslie at the head of them and proceeded in state with

muffled Drums, Music, &c, to the Burying Ground. I do assure you, I have not seen this long time so well conducted, and so truly respectable an interment – Poor Boyd and Grant greatly affected –

After this melancholy office we returned to the Dear peaceful Grove, with hearts and minds greatly distressed – We were engaged to see the Rehearsal and to sup at Lady Campbell's, but afflicted as we were it was impossible. Your Uncle was obliged to attend. The under written lines are I think pathetick and well adapted to our Departed friend –

“Oh let us here one tender tribute pay
To early worth untimely snatched away”.
Good night, God bless you.

Wednesday 13th

No morning company– my spirits lower to day than yesterday and for the life of me I cannot get poor Stuart from my mind.

Dined only the family. In the Evening Eliza and I went to see the unhappy and most afflicted Grant he has moved next door to Major Close's, he poor fellow is much cast down, most severely does he feel, and regret his favorite companion and friend – Such calamities as these are sometimes necessary to soften and meliorate our hearts and render us capable of feeling for others Woe. With some persuasion I got him in the Carriage with us and brought him here, I also got his friends Wilkes, Leslie, and Montgomery to be of the party – We proposed Cards to the Gentlemen, but all would not do – he slipt off without saying a word – M^r Stuart's Death was so sudden and unexpected it will cause the impression made on Grant's mind to last for a length of time.

Sir J. Menzies, Stevenson and Captain Allen of the Albion joined our group.

Thursday 14th

Nothing worth your attention passed this morning – We dined by ourselves, your Uncle dined at Colonel Moorhouse's where he went to Rehearse with M^{rs} M–, Captain J. Campbell and M^r Boisdaine.

This evening we dressed and went to M^{rs} Malcolm's dance given at her house in the Fort in Compliment to M^{rs} A.M. C– and Colonel Anker The Rooms and the Verindas elegantly lighted with variegated lamps, the Company a select party, the new Ladies all except the Miss Wittles present – The youngest Miss D. .t danced, but did not make the figure I expected – the Evening altogether very agreeable – M^{rs} Malcolm endeavors to make every thing pleasant to her guests was very delightful.

Poor Grant absent from a Scene where the Idea of the past pleasure he experienced in the Society of his Estimable friend, would have only oppressed his Mind. Boyd likewise not at Malcolm's, he has not been any where since Stuart's demise.

James Campbell told me he was to leave Madras Saturday night after the Play to accompany Petrie and Torin to Tanjore – he no doubt will call at Trichinopoly –

Friday 15th

Breakfasted in famille. John Wales tells me the Colours are up for an Indiaman – if it should be an Europe arrival Eliza shall forward you the news.

I was only favored with your kind letter of the 11th yesterday – I shall reply to it in my next Diary – this much I must say, I am sincerely concerned for the loss of my Journal – the accident is unpleasant dash I hope in future you will my friend take better care of them. stop indeed I am exceedingly sorry.

We are all well – your Uncle and cousin desire their best love and regard. Remember us kindly and affectionately to George Davidson.

On Monday your Cooley shall be dispatched. Best salams to all friends. I am truly tired.

Adieu – forget not your faithful and sincere Aunt, Eliza: Davidson

The Grove

15th August 1788.

I shall send you a Copy of my lost Journal – I return my sister's letter with many thanks for the perusal.

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P.M. Friday 15th August 1788 –
Journal Continued.

After many attempts to Dispatch my Customary narrative, I at last this evening succeeded – I am always vexed when I am prevented forwarding it in its usual course, knowing how very anxious you ever are when deprived hearing from the Grove. Disappointments however trifling often prepare our minds for misfortunes of more importance.

The Lord Macartney Bengal ship arrived here this forenoon, the list of Passengers Eliza encloses for you this Evening; she likewise will address you a few lines tomorrow informing you with the changes and appointments taken place in Council this day – We heard of Stevenson's good fortune when it was too late in the Evening for either of us to tell you of it by this night's post. We supped this Evening at M^r and M^{rs} Duffin's the party small. No letters from M^{rs} Chitty.

Saturday 16th

Major Montgomery and M^r Place breakfasted here – It is now past 10 o'Clock, I am come to reply to your favor of the 11th. I noticed to you at the close of my last, how sorry I am at the loss of my poor underscored Journal – as I am well convinced it proceeded entirely from a circumstance that might have be fallen anyone, and likewise how much you must feel for this unexpected casualty, I shall drop the theme coming, hoping if picked up by a Gentleman he like a man of honor will return it to you; if by a Native, It will be of no consequence– I am happy there was not anything in it that could offend any Body living –

You may say your health is mending I am most happy at it, ah! long may you my dear friend experienced this inestimable Blessing without interruption. – You wish me to say “something pretty that may encourage and induce Sweet Mac to visit Madras” – You well know the situation of our house, in a late letter of Betsy's she told you how the Rooms are disposed of– But, my Sandy, I know Grant will be happy to accommodate Macfie, and while he is here; I shall end ever to pay him every attention in my power. I shall ever regard him for his kind conduct to you – A character like M^r Macfie's must always be a steamed: from what I have heard of him, I am sure he will be a great favourite of mine.

You must not be offended with good Ruddiman, he has not an hour to himself, so entirely does the Ameer engage his attention and attendance. I am sorry to hear that you have been obliged to leave off the Persian study – I think as you have made a great proficiency in it, if you were only to study once or twice a week, it would prevent your forgetting it, and might also prove of utility hereafter to you – I do not mean by this you should apply to it as studiously as to injure your health, God forbid, but merely to retain what you have acquired, and by degrees make a further progress: for after all the pains, labour, and expence, you have incurred; it would be ten thousand pities to give it up entirely – you may lay it by for a few Months till you are better and your health more established, but my dear Sandy resume it by all means – Besides it is a study your Uncle earnestly wishes you to pursue and attain. After your visit to Madras you can give it another trial.

Ask Eliza means to give Miss Bruce an account of this night's performance tomorrow, I shall not here intrude on you by a repetition – The House was full, the Play afforded much Amusement, the performers gave general satisfaction to all beholders. We supped at Lady Campbell's with many strange Ladies from the Lord Macartney –

Sunday 17th

Breakfast removed we Dressed and sallied to church – owing to last night's fatigue very few attended Divine Worship – After prayers we paid a few visits then came home – Stevenson in a kind and friendly manner came and took pot luck with us: he leaves Madras early tomorrow morning for his new Station – Major Montgomery and Cavalry Montgomery accompany him to Arcot.

M^{rs} Hammond is at last become Mother of a fine little girl; it is four days since she has been confined and I did not hear of it till to day – our intercourse with the Mount is so seldom we scarcely ever hear anything that papers there till they are perfectly stale–.

The Bridgewater who is to bring answers to our letters by the Ravensworth, overshot the Port, and is now at Pullicat; she left England so soon after the other Ships I can scarcely think she has brought us publick answers: I hear the Government mean to Retain her to carry the October dispatches. The Evening we passed at home young Montgomery who came to take leave of us our only Beau, Eliza, and I his only Belles. Corbett still confined. Your Uncle Lazy, from the fatigue of acting and want of his usual rest

Monday 18th

M^r Raphael brought his Daughter here this Morning she had been home for two or three days holyday, no news this forenoon. Dined here Sir John Menzies and Doctor Haig of the Lord Macartney – No Packet arrived from the Bridgewater, she is still at Pullicat –

This Evening we supped at M^{rs} Douglas' at the Mount where I have not been a long time –Our Party were the Garrows and the Miss Whittles – Doctor Adderston's health is so impaired that he is obliged to go to sea – his Complaint nervous. Pray, how comes it that M^{rs} H.... and M^{rs} should be jarring? every body here are speaking of it. This has been a sad stupid Day.

Tuesday 19th

Allan and Griffin Ardley Breakfasted here. We had a few friends here to dinner, Grant also –previous to our going to dinner I had a note from your Uncle (who was in Town) bracket saying as the Bridgewater would be in, and being naturally desirous for letters begged I would Apologize for him to the Company – about 5 o'Clock your good Uncle returned, the Packet not coming onshore of course he came without our letters – At 8 o'Clock we got our Packets, and indeed they have given us much satisfaction. Your Uncle it is thought by his friends will have ample justice done him, M^r Devayne's letters to M^r Davidson or very kindly expressed, indeed I have now great hopes of every thing turning out to our wishes – M^{rs} Devaynes writes Betsy very affectionately as you will see, much maybe hoped from her on your account – M^{rs} Chitty, my darling Cousin, also promises to enforce my request in behalf of my “favored young man” as she styles you – So I hope, my dear Sandy, by the aid of our great God, we shall still have many white days to enjoy– I am truly and greatly comforted by these Dear kind letters – Join your prayers with mine, my amiable friend, for the continuance of our good fortune – I am in such spirits the House is not big enough to contain me – My excellent friend and amiable children, are all well in Gower Street.

*

* M^r Wilkes, Grant, and Leslie supped here. M^r Grant appeared to night on a sudden in great spirits– I have not as yet heard any publick news. Tomorrow I am in hopes to be able to give some more information –

Wednesday 20th

Again prevented sending my Journal – the Lectures the Bar to my wishes. This Day closes a full twelve months since left us – that was a sad doleful day my Sandy to your friends at the Grove – should it so happen we were all fixed on one spot, how happy I should be – I hope Fortune will smile on us; I am sure we have experienced enough of her cruel Frowns.

We have been all this day out in the Town, and dined at Sir John Menzies, did not return to the Grove till past six in the Evening. Miss Vanderpoole is to come on shore tomorrow and to be our guest till she can procure a passage to the Cape, this Lady is a sister of M^{rs} Richard Lewin's; the Bridgewater not being able to land her at the Cape, caused her present visit here. Croens is said to be coming on an Imperial ship – I believe the letter Eliza enclosed to you last night is from him or your Brother Peter.

Mess^{rs} Hamilton Sir J. Menzies and a young man by the Perry supped here.

Thursday 21st

M^r Hamilton, Colonel, and M^{rs} Trent breakfasted here. Your kind hearted Uncle is just going to Town to conduct Miss Vanderpoole to the Grove – Lewin's latter Conduct does not merit so much attention from us: he has not written a Syllable. I hear Kings commissions in the Nature of Brevets are to be immediately issued to the Company's Officers; some suppose they will be signed by Lord Cornwallis.

Anderson our Physician is taken by the hand by Sir J. Banks, by this means the Company has sent him many publications and some plants from his Majesty's Garden, also the true Cochineal Insect. This ship has brought advice of pretty good authority of the Decline of M^r Dundas's power: M^r Pitt must they say give him up. This is almost all the publick news I have heard, except that a Packet is to be taken up to bring the ulterior Advices of the Season particularly Replies to the Ravensworth Dispatches.

I omitted telling you that the amiable Lady McCartney waited on M^{rs} Chitty to tell her that his Lordship was to return from Ireland in a fortnights time enough to support M^r D-'s interest. The good and zealous Brodie writes to your Uncle. "I can only say by this conveyance that I have received your letters by the Ravensworth; and that I hope the Materials you have sent me will furnish the means of proving to the people in power here that after an honorable Service of 27 years unimpeached and unimpeachable they whose wantonly listening to the voice of Malice and falsehood to remove you from Council, because they had discovered your Hair was Black. If the Bars to Masulipatam and Vizagapatam can be taken off I apprehend an Appointment to Council to be no object". – So far M^r Brodie.

M^{rs} Chitty says twice in her letters to me that she hopes to see M^r Davidson reinstated with honor and that our remaining days will be honorable, peaceful, and happy. Old Corbett writes to M^r Davidson "Your dispatches are arrived after the bustle of the New Election I shall abstract for the use of each Director, your case particularly what concerns M^r Daniell and the Box – I think you quite clear and absolved by the act of Parliament in Regard to M^r Daniell – and you cause good in regard to the Box – My zelous and constant endeavors shall not be wanting" – All this my friend looks well for your much injured Uncle: who has I may be permitted to say on this occasion from the first moment of his removal and unmerited Disgrace shewn a Magnanimity and Resignation which would become a Roman.

The Bridgewater is not to be retired but ordered to China the return passage by the 15th of September – Colonel Elphinstone with his Regiment are to be ordered to return to the Coast from Bombay –

To save your Uncle some trouble I went the forenoon to the Fort and conveyed Miss Vanderpoole to the Grove – she is not pretty, but seemingly good tempered, how long she will stay with us it at present uncertain – she occupies the Billiard Room –

This Evening Eliza, Miss R– and I made our visits of form to the Miss Campbells – Allen, and Grant supped here – the Grove in great good spirits –

Friday 22nd

Sir J. Menzies and Greenhill breakfasted here – The Contractor Indiaman past the Fort the night before last, and is at Pulicat – no other news – We shall not omit drinking a full Bumper on the 26th instant – You see my friend how constantly you are in our minds. I dispatched your cooley on the 19th with a few things for you, and G. Davidson. Yours of the 12th is duly

received – more of it her after. Be not uneasy about the one hundred Pagodas, it is mine, and, it is yours, keep it, my friend; it will assist to bear your expenses down here – notice not this matter in your next.

We are well Eliza and your Uncle join in Love to you – not forgetting George Davidson – Adieu, my favoured young man – I am with true affection, and friendship, yours, &c, &c.

Eliza: Davidson.

The Grove 22nd August 1788. M^r Alex^r Falconar

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P.M. Friday 22nd August 1788

Journal Continued

This evening we dined at home – M^{rs} Casamaijor and her sister made us a visit of Ceremony – Miss C– is not so Saucy as her sister, in her person low, and withal has an impediment in her speech, which is distressing to hearers; however, she has greatly the air of a Gentlewoman – Major Wynch and M^r Millingcham supped here – It was told to me by a Gentleman M^r Clark, and Miss Taylor would certainly soon become man and wife.

Will not you be surprised to hear me say that La Belle has not paid me a half hours visit since her Union – No, not even returned me her marriage visit – is not this Strange! – it is passing Strange! – she and her Husband have dined with us twice and I will, taking the good nature side of the question, do her the justice to believe she thinks she pays me a Compliment by not being on ceremony with me. – I am afraid she has fallen too much into the Indulgence of a young married Woman this is surprising in a girl of her of her sense and discretion.

Saturday 23rd

Major Johnstone of the Nabob's our only breakfast guest – After which, at half past 8 o'Clock we proceeded to Town to the Lectures, M^r Bell intended to have exhibited experiments of Electricity, but the Sea Breeze settling in entirely baffled the project; as consolation for our disappointment for good Divine gave us a very serious and learned Lecture on Astronomy – Very few people present, only seventeen, eight Ladies and nine Gentleman: poor encouragement for Bell you will say –

Dined here Allen, Braham, and a few others. I have not heard anything new two day. The evening we passed at home, several visitors came to see us, among whom was a Captain Adam, a Frenchman – he commands a large Indiaman in the french Service. I shall reply to your favor tomorrow, for the present accept of my Blessing.

Sunday 24th

Major Johnstone of the nabobs again hailed of breakfast board, he is going to Europe in October. We all attended Church, which was full of Ladies, six of them were of the C..... family – M^r Millingcham gave us a charming discourse, the subject our great want of attention to our Maker and neglect of the Sabbath and Publick Worship indeed the good people here deserve the Lecture, but poor Millingcham will not gain the smiles of the Gay and Tonish for his advice to his flock.

Now to reply to your letter – I was truly glad to hear you had found my last Journal, I hope my Sandy, in future you will not trust such a valuable manuscript as mine must be to the Shallow cavity of your Green Jacket – I am sorry for good M^{rs} Bruce I hope her ankle is on the recovery – make my best Salams to her and the family. It is reported here that the late T. M–'s visit to the Southward is with Some Design – If it be so, do not keep me in the dark.– I am concerned to hear you talk so precariously of your health – May the Supreme Being avert your supposition –, but my amiable friend, should you be so unfortunate as to have a relapse, hesitate not a moment to apply for leave to come down – Your health is the first consideration, when you are in possession of it, the rest of the good things of this world will follow – for without it, you can neither mind your duty, or enjoy Life –

The evening we remained at home – Captain Parker of the Bridgewater and old man about 50 and withal ailing, our only supper Beau.

Monday 26th [*incorrect should be 25*]

M^r Grant breakfasted with us. M^{rs} Chitty has by the Ravensworth received the Extract of my letter by the Talbot concerning your Sister Lydia, she is a Dear kind hearted woman, and writes about you and your family in the kindest manner imaginable; Eliza begs I would allow her to send you the different extracts of M^{rs} Chitty's letter, therefore my favored young man, you must depend on her pen to give you pleasure.

We dined in famille – Corbett is almost well, for these three or four days past he has dined with us.

In the evening we had a visit from M^{rs} Moorhouse and her Brother the latter is going to the Northward with a strong Detachment that is now here under marching orders – I told you before they would demand the Guntoor Circar from the Soubah, for this purpose the Troops are I understand to be sent. The Bridgewater is to convey them Major Offanys Regiment – 50 Artillery, and 350 Lascars. Supped with the family and Captain Read.

Tuesday 26th August 1788

“Joy to thee, my Sandy! joy to thy friends! joy to this happy morn that gave thee Birth; let this Auspicious day be ever Sacred, no Mourning and no misfortune happen on it: let it be marked for triumphs and rejoicings”.

These are my wishes – Such happy days may you always experience.

No breakfasters this morning– the destination of the Bridgewater depends on the Answers this Government receive from Bengal – we dined by ourselves. The evening we passed at home, Mason and Offany supped with us, the latter is going on the Expedition with Colonel Edington who is to command. I have not yet heard what further force is to join him.

Wednesday 27th

This morning after breakfast we attended the Lectures some part of which to women are particularly dull – For my part I am always very happy when they are over – an hour and a half sitting in a formal circle requires something very amusing to keep one's attention awake. After the Lecture we visited Captain Parker's Shop, nothing there worth seeing – about 1 o'Clock we returned to the Grove – dined in famille – The news of the day, Willis set to be appointed Paymaster, Commissary, and Agent to the Detachment, and probably to retain his Postmastership. What a lucky fellow. What will not a good Frontispiece Do in this world – In the evening we made Courtesies at the Conchée and introduced Miss Vanderpool – the company at Lady C-'s were Gay and Brilliant – we concluded the night by supping at M^r Hamilton's in the company of about 15 people.

Thursday 28th

M^r Andrew Ross, Landon, & Kindersley breakfasted here – old R... is an odd creature forever immersed in Publick, and Private politics –

Dined here Grant with three or four others. Your dear good Uncle having a bowel complaint owing to his having ate something that did not agree with him was obliged to be confined to his Room, and of course prevented his presiding at his Table – In the Evening we (leaving your Uncle at home) proceeded to Major D- Campbell's entertainment given in honor of christening of their last Boy – Besides the Governor's family I was informed the persons invited at this grand Fête amounted to one hundred the Ladies were all most elegantly dressed, the house being small the company did not appear to an advantage– every Room and Veranda were quite full. In the Garden there were three large Tents pitched for accommodation of the Guests at supper the front was Illuminated with variegated lamps, in the centre over the doorway of the Tent were placed the three Initials of the childs name – A.H.C Archibald, Henry, Campbell – the Sponsors Lady Campbell, M^{rs} Casamaijor and James Campbell quarter general: which at supper a severe shower of rain hailed us, and forced its way in many parts of the Tents, this put the Ladies to the rout and broke up the

party an hour sooner than intended – We returned home at half past 12 o'Clock – and thank God, found M^r D– much better –

Friday 29th

M^r Grant breakfasted here he told me that orders were yesterday issued that all Supernumeraries are again ordered to join their Corps; and added the change would affect you– this information distresses me much –I have written to Lady C– requesting her kind exertion in your behalf – I hope I may succeed – I am waiting for her answer most impatiently. – You shall hear further from me tomorrow. I am indeed very low in spirit. Eliza writes you a long letter. Remember me to George, and M^r Macfie – God in Heaven bless you and may you prove our comfort and happiness – Adieu, adieu – Your most affectionate &c, &c, Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 29th August 1788 M^r Alex^r Falconar

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P. M Friday 29th August 1788

Journal Continued

Dined here M^r de'Jong who stayed and supped – No answer yet from Lady Campbell: The Evening we remained at home; our visitors and supper guests were Sir John Menzies, Captain Bartlett, Yrnschild and a young man, a Protège of Sir John Menzies a M^r Perry.

The Troops are to be embarked on the Bridgewater and a large Pegue Ship tomorrow, they are to sail next day. M^r Colt is appointed Postmaster, in the room of M^r Willis; the latter is to continue paymaster at the Guntoor Circar, even after the place is taken: Major Wynch and Captain Read are going with the Detachment; Read, secretary to Lord Eddington; this, he owes, not only not only to his own good character, but also, my friend, to his knowledge of Persian. Adieu!

Saturday 30th

M^r George Mackay breakfasted here – M^r Davidson, Eliza, Miss Vanderpool and Little Miss Raphael, are gone to the Lecture – having Company to dinner I stayed at home, to arrange matters for the purpose. Last night, I heard, to my utter amazement, that Captain Vigors had parted with his wife; By regular Articles of Separation – She is to have a separate maintenance, and to live in the Black Town.

We had a few people to dine here, M^r Grant and M^r Wilkes among the number: Your Uncle brought us the news from the Fort, of all the homeward bound chinamen, having reached S^t Helena, safe, in March and April, the Busbridge, who sailed from hence the 9th of Janry, was only seven weeks on her voyage to S^t Helena, having arrived the 2nd of March – such a quick passage as this, has scarcely been heard of before: this intelligence, was brought here, by a country ship, from Bencoolin, who conveyed from S^t Helena, dispatches brought to Bencoolin by the Lord Hawksbury Indiaman. The Henry Dundas was also of the number. I am favoured with your most affectionate letter of the 27th this moment; (12 o'Clock) and shall, if I can, reply to it in the course of this Journal.

This evening, we supped up at M^r John Turing's – the Company invited were about thirty; the Entertainment was given in honour of the anniversary of M^r Turing's and M^r Saunders wedding day – these gentlemen married two sisters, the same day; and the same ceremony served the parties – M^{rs} Chase presented M^r Chase with a little girl this forenoon; the Mother and child (as it is usually said) or as well as can be expected. Alas! No answer yet from Lady C– I shall give her another days law – if I do not hear from her in that time, I shall wait on her personally.

Sunday 31st

After breakfast we went to Church – M^r Millingchamp's last lecture, has, I believe, frightened

the people away from going to it – to day there were only beside Eliza Miss R– and I, four ladies and but a few men– after prayers we returned to the Grove. Lady C– not yet sending me a line, puzzles me exceedingly – I shall certainly wait on her tomorrow morning, and try all I can for you – I am very anxious for your continuing at Trichinopoly; particularly, as you, I am certain, wish it yourself: but do not set to your mind on it my dear Sandy, as we poor Mortals are prone to disappointments – Should you be obliged to remove to Tingar, I hope it will be only for a short time, as your Uncle will make a push to get you in the Cavalry, on the first Vacancy –

Dined in famille. In the Evening we had to sup with us Mess^{rs} Wooley, de’Jong, Allan and Sir John Menzies – M^r Wooley has most graciously presented Betsy and me with a Lottery ticket each happy shall I be if they prove fortunate. –

Monday 1st September 1788

After breakfast, this morning M^r D– waited on the Governor, as it is usual for him to report his Employ on this day; and I, on Lady Campbell on my way to the Asylum; both of us, my dear friend, solicited for your remaining in the Cavalry; if that could not be affected, – to have you appointed to the European Battalion, till a vacancy happened in the Cavalry, when you would be reappointed to Burrowes’ Regiment. The Governor, earnestly solicited by your Uncle, requested him to speak to Colonel Malcolm and desire him, to manage the business – Your Uncle has taken much pains in this affair, and the good Malcolm, has promised to do all in his power, to fix you at Trichinopoly. I hope we may succeed – I shall be most truly sorry if you are obliged to quit your present happy station: Lady C–’s letter, Eliza transmitted this Evening: it seemed the consequences of your Uncle’s Application.

M^r Grant supped here; he said, you could with ease effect an exchange with one of the Officers of the European Regiment; In case we fail in our attempt here, do you endeavor, with Sweet Macfie’s kind aid, to arrange this business – in the mean time, I think you had better write to Captain Flint, if you think it practical, for leave of absence for a few days, that you may have time to transact this matter, such a mark of your attention will be well taken.

Tuesday 2nd

Breakfast the family only. Being very anxious for your fate, I have written a few lines to Colonel Malcolm; when I receive his answer, I shall enclose it to you.

I heard last night, the following marriages are on the Carpet.

Captain Alex ^r Campbell to Miss West	M ^r Lander to Miss Ann West
Captain Ramsey to M ^{rs} Thewles	M ^r Ben Sullivan to Miss Dent Junior
M ^r J. Garrow to Miss Whittle	M ^r John Wynch to Miss Whittle Junior
Captain James Campbell to Miss B.... – your fair friend	M ^r Clarke to Miss Taylor

&c^a &c^a &c^a –

I shall reply to your last favour in my next – I long much to see you! – God grant no unforeseen event may prevent our having the happiness of seeing you here, after the Monsoon. – The enclosed are the copies of the letters I had written to Lady C– and Colonel Malcolm.

I shall address M^{rs} Burrows, if please God I live on Thursday – Remember me to the Bruce’s, and to George.– tell the latter, he has cause to be displeas’d with me – but really I am greatly engag’d with variety of employment. I hope the Cooley is arriv’d safe and George likes his Hat, coat &c. Eliza and your Uncle desire their Love to you. God bless you my amiable friend. I hope to send you favorable tidings tomorrow. Farewell – I remain with friendship, and attachment, your faithful Aunt Eliz: Davidson

The Grove 2nd Sep^r 1788

The Lottery commenced drawing yesterday – your tickets were not drawn, this evening perhaps we may have some account of them – 6 o’Clock Malcolm’s kind note is come in good time to be enclosed with this – God bless you and be happy –

M^r Alex^r Falconar

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P. M. Tuesday 2nd Sept^r 1788

Journal continued

My mind, my dear friend, is now easy—this evening I dispatched my Journal and with it Colonel Malcolm's kind note – you cannot think the Struggle we have had to keep you at the old rock : However, it is now settled, and I am not a little vain of having gained our point. Tiagar for a young man is not an eligible situation; it is too retired either for Improvement, or to allow one to be comfortable— beside there are other inconveniences which I shall mention to you when I have the happiness of seeing you at the Grove. We passed the evening for wonder entirely by ourselves.

Wednesday 3rd

This morning after breakfast we equipped ourselves and attended the Lecture – M^r Bell is endeavouring to show us how the rarefied Air would exalt the Balloon, Lo, and behold the gause took fire and away it went to the ceiling of the Government House very nearly setting the Cloth of the roof in Flames: this caused much alarm to the Ladies who were for leaping over the Veranda – providentially no mischief ensued.

At the lecture, the honest Robertson came up to speak to me about you, an afterwards resumed the subject at Wooley's where we dined – the Colonel in on this particular occasion has behaved in the kindest manner; and said every thing had some to me that could give me comfort. All that he told me he wished you to know, Eliza writes you by this evening's post. He said he would appoint you to a Seapoy Battalion as you would get five Pagoda's p^r Month more than in an European Corps. Your Uncle thinks you have been too much exercised in the cavalry, and this respite will be of service to your health.

I asked Colonel Malcolm if the indulgence shown you would prevent you having leave to visit Madras the end of the year for two or three Months – he kindly said unless any nothing very particular happened that could be very easily managed – Is he not a good fellow, my Sandy? –

At Wooley's the party was small. The evening we passed at Mer Vue – the company Mess^{rs} Hamilton, a griff from Bencoolin, M^r Parry, Sir J. Menzies, and our family. I have the pleasure to tell you the ticket your Uncle gave little Alek has turn up a prize of 20 Pagodas – and your Uncle and Corbett a joint Prize– also of 20 Pagodas. Ours, Eliza's, yours, and mine are still in the wheel.

Thursday 4th

No morning company. I have kept my word, and wrote M^{rs} Burrowes a long letter, I just en passant thanked her and the Major for their please to you; Perhaps M^{rs}. B– may mention to you her having heard from me.

I have re perused yours of the 27th. I find I have already acknowledged some parts of it – you ask me if Lord Macartney is likely to succeed to the Board of Control – Yes many here think he has a good chance – I hope to God he may, it would be no unfavourable circumstance for us.

As you wish to know when will be the most proper time for you to come here, if I am to advise, I think early in December would be the best time, and you can then you can stay here till the end of Feb^{ry} as at that period this place is almost gay and the climate is cool and pleasant. I shall flatter myself you will on the occasion derive a large share of Rosy health: it may not be improbable while you are while you are [*here*] we may have pleasing tidings from Europe regarding your Uncle, as well as yourself.

Dined only the family. In the evening we had several Beaux both old and young – Our tickets are all safe in Fortunes grand wheel – I have not seen M^r Grant these four or five days – I shall send to know how he is tomorrow – I apprehend he is not well.

Friday 5th

Nothing remarkable this morning. Your kind favour of the 1st I was honored with yesterday – I am glad the Cooley reached you safe – I am pleased you like the Books, pray tell me how you relish the Sorrows of the Heart? – I shall take care to forward Croesus letter. So Clara could not decypher the Quipos – in Eliza, Wilkes, and Leslie read it as easy as if it had been their A.B.C. – You are a sly rouge my Sandy – it was by memory only you found out the lines of the Quipos – if it were as you say, you have indeed recollected them to a T – M^r Corbett is now nearly well, he and your Uncle dined at Sir Paul Jodrels. Our tickets still safe and the five thousand Pagodas not yet drawn – does not this look well? – I wish you may get it with all my heart – I shall be most happy were it the case – This evening we passed at Hamilton's the party very small: I was told there by a Gentleman that Tipoo was in motion to the Southward – Heaven defend us from War – oh! How I shudder at the Idea – News from Europe is arrived at Pondichery as late as May. The war rages between Turkey, Russia and here Ally the Emperor: The Emperor alone has an Army in motion of Two hundred and twelve thousand men. The French King and his Parliament more at discord: This is all I at present know of.

Saturday 6th

Nothing knew this morning. Your Uncle, Eliza, and little Raphael are gone to the Lecture – I stayed at home not being quite the thing for an Excursion – I am not absolutely ill, yet not perfectly well. Eliza left her father in Town who dines at the Governor's she returned to the Grove with Miss Raphael and Grant, the latter had been Bilious but is now entirely well. This evening we had a few people to supper with us – no less than six young Ladies were of the number – ask I daresay you will be curious to know them, I shall just give you their names only – Miss Ann West, the Miss Whittals, Miss Vanderpool, Miss Raphael, and Miss Davidson, though, the last, not the least. Our Beaux are not worth mentioning as they were neither Gay nor Smart underscored old – three old married Ladies were of the party also, but as I know your curiosity will not lead you to be very anxious about them, I shall not intrude their names on you.

The Troops safely arrived the 1st of the Month at Northpillu near Ongole, Tippoo it is rumoured is making great preparations and collecting his Force in his Country.

Sunday 7th

No Church owing to a cold I have caught, Duffin has desired me to keep at home. Your favour of the 4th I have received. Tho you are for the present out of the Cavalry, yet, you must be pleased at being kept at Trichinopoly – Keep a good look out whenever you think a vacancy see will happen in the Cavalry, let me know of it without the loss of time – How do you manage now? do you still Mess with the Amiable Macfie? – tell me of all your arrangements &c^a, &c^a. Was the favored Clara sorry at the Idea of losing her friend Abel? We dine in famille. In the evening we had Grant, Wilkes, Dirom, and Boyd to supper – M^{rs} A.M.C – I hear is in a thriving way: her situation will I imagine interfere with her going Home.

Monday 7th [*incorrect should be 8*]

Breakfasted without any interlopers. This forenoon I was favoured with my dear Sandy's most anxious letter – be assured everything that can be done to keep you in the Cavalry was urged; but the orders from home were positively for bidding all Supernumeraries therefore, as several of the Seapoy Battalions are Defective in Officers the General was obliged to supply them with the Supernumeraries of a different Corps. Colonel Malcolm told your Uncle when Corps are deficient in no Service in the World are Officers allowed to do duty with other Corps. Thus situated there was for the present no Alternative, but to endeavor to fix you at Trichinopoly anyhow till a vacancy happened in the Cavalry: I make no doubt when an opportunity offers, by your Dear Uncle's Aid you will again be appointed to Burrowes Regiment – you must for a while bear with the change – perhaps you may not at all remain in

the Military long – be that as it may there is no fear I hope of your reinstatement in the Cavalry here.

You could not “my favoured young man”, be more solicitous than I was to get this business settled to your wishes; I felt all your uneasiness; and till it was determined on your remaining at Trichinopoly, I had not a quiet moment. I believe Mahon as well as Colonel D. Campbell’s Nephew are in the same predicament with yourself.

If you are resolved to come down, let your leave be on the plea of your health, I have told Colonel Malcolm that you have at times been seriously indisposed – and by the time you return, there may be great changes in the Corps at your Garrison. I think on Reflection you’re being on the spot in case of Vacancies will strengthen your play of Appointment. I am much better. We passed this day at home without Company. Adieu, God protect you.

Tuesday 9th

Nothing new this morning. Grant breakfasted here.

It is now 12 o’Clock at noon – your long letter of the 6th has this moment hailed me – My best exertions shall not be wanting to promote your happiness – I shall neglect your interest, no not for a moment. Your Uncle and Eliza salute you.

I shall more fully answer your favour in my next. My love to George. My grateful Salutes to the Bruces and the Burrows. Tomorrow I shall see Malcolm and tell him of your wish to be appointed to the 7th Battⁿ for the present only.

God bless you – and do not forget to Love your Affectionate Aunt – Eliza: Davidson.
The Grove 9th Sept^r 1788. M^r Alex^r Falconar.

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P. M. Tuesday 9th Sept^r 1788

Journal Continued

Ere this my Evening’s dispatch reaches you, I shall flatter myself your mind will be perfectly at rest – at the same time, my Sandy, permit me to assure you, my feeble endeavors shall not be dormant in the actual Service of sincere friendship – you shall hear how your business goes on, as I proceed in it.

We had a few evening visitors, among whom were Doctor and M^{rs} Ruddiman; the latter had not before been here these four Months. M^r Ruddiman inquired after your health, and whether what he had presented for you had been of use to you: I told him you were better, but not yet entirely well – I think you my friend had better write the worthy man a few lines.

Wednesday 10th

Having finished on morning repast, we went to the Lecture – M^r Bell’s experiments on the Airpump were very entertaining and curious, after an hour and a halfs attendance on the good Doctor we went to our small house in the Fort; while there, I made inquiries if Malcolm were at home, being told he was and alone, Eliza and I waited on him, I told him your request of wishing to be in the 7th Batt^{ln}, but in case he could not accomplish your appointment in that Corps, in such predicament to the 20th – Malcolm nothing on his part should be wanting he would do all he could, but he should at all events keep you at Trichinopoly till a vacancy happened. I asked him in case you were not appointed in the Course of these two months to a new corps if it would be necessary to prolong your leave; in that Situation could you not come here, – he said most certainly. I further requested should a vacancy happen in the Cavalry to remind the Governor of you, and the claim you had before a new cornet – to all my earnest importunities he kindly assured me everything, as far as is it rested on him he would with pleasure do for you. I shall on Sunday after Church wait on Lady Campbell, and will plead your cause my dear friend as your Mother, the same as if you were my little saucy Alexander – Your worthy Uncle on Monday means to solicit good Sir Archibald likewise with the Eloquence and Rhetoric of a kind Father – I shall hope with our zealous exertions

you will attain the Sanguine wish of your heart.

We dine in famille. The evening we passed at the Governor's – in our way we waited on Lady Campbell (being Conchee night) at Garrows the Company were made up mostly of Ladies; there were ten Ladies and only five Gentleman, this for India is something remarkable –. One of my tickets N^o 2612 came up today a prize of 20 Pagoda's. One of Eliza's shares with Grant, and one with Corbett are Blanks; but she is still rich in tickets, therefore I hope she may have a handsome prize. Your numbers are 3403. 3495. besides having shares with me in N^o 24. and 3395. – Eliza tells me you have shares in her three whole tickets N^o 2280. 3416. and 3710.– I pray they may prove Lucky numbers to you.

Thursday 11th

No visitors this morning. I have read over your favour of the 6th, and have only to assure you again, your concerns are mine, and that I shall strictly attend to them.

We dined entirely by ourselves – The evening also we spent at home – M^r Davidson and Corbett went to Sir J. Menzies where they played at cards and supped – we had no visitors, our party were composed of females, Miss Vanderpool, Miss Raphael, Eliza, and your humble servant. Not having seen anyone to day, I have not heard a word of news of any kind.

Friday 12th

Just as I had arranged matters for the day and come to my Secretaire the Peon brought me your favour of the 9th. My Journal of the 9th also will I think reconcile your mind for the present to your unpleasant and unavoidable situation. If the Governor could have allowed you to remain in the Cavalry I am certain he would have cheerfully have done it. You and other others have been appointed in the Company's Service by this Government, it was imagined at home the appointment were or would be rescinded – the Appointments in India being entirely by the Court of Directors: therefore, to oblige those appointed in the service, and to make it appear to our Masters there were only the usual compliment of Officers, the General was obliged to do as he has done, in removing the Supernumeries for a time – You cannot now my Sandy be displeased with Sir Archibald for his conduct, as he could not act otherwise –And his motives are the best, we ought to praise and not condemn him. Colonel Malcolm told me that tho, from a point of Interest some gentleman had been allowed to do duty as Supernumeries tho, some of the Infantry Corps were incomplete, it was a thing not permitted in any service in the world: that therefore, the Governor had come to an absolute resolution of rectifying it.

If you were to come here just now – it would make the General fancy it was from disappointment and vexation, than for any other good cause– but my Sandy, if you are not appointed to a Battⁿ in the course of these two Months, to lengthen your leave you can then apply to visit Madras – And Malcolm I know will have the goodness to assist in the business. Can “my favored young Man” suppose that your personal Application could do more than what your Uncle and I can could in your absence: he does not approve of your coming for the present to Madras; as he thinks it would hurt your Interest. Do not you remember Popes' Maxim? “Whatever is, is right”. Be patient my friend, and rest assured your good Uncle and I shall not be Idle in promoting your Establishment.

I should b sorry J. Campbell's visit should prove without a meaning poor C– I most sincerely pity her.

We dined alone. In the evening we visited M^{rs} Chase, and her little Daughter who is the very picture of her Father. Nothing done yet to the Northward. M^r Robert Mitford has lost Seventeen hundred Pagodas of hard money, one of his black writers decamped with them. Miss Dents are talking of returning to England on the Bridgewater Chase is to engage their passage. Supped here de Jong and a Captain Macdonald from Tanjore.

Saturday 13th

Major Johnstone came to breakfast here–I did not attend M^r Bell's lecture, your uncle having invited company to dinner; I was under the necessary to remain at home to prepare Dinner

&c^a &c^a.

Eliza, her father and the little Cojee came home about 2 o'Clock, they told me the lectures are over, M^r Bell finished with a Panegyric on Lady Campbell, M^r Petrie, &c^a subscribers well adapted to the purpose.

Mary has got a prize to day of a poor 20 Pagodas. Your tickets yet safe, and the Wheel very Rich.

Dined here Boyd, Allan, Grant with some others. Overend is hourly expected, I hear he is coming down here to settle an affair of honor – The unhappy wife looks very ill, she is grown thin; and cannot retain anything she eats. Boyd, MacDonald, M^r Johnston and de Jong all of whom dined here likewise stayed supper.

Sunday 14th

Eliza, and I, after breakfast went to church, just as the service began the Miss Dents made their appearance – Their singular headdress attracted the notice of every one present – Their heads and faces were so entirely hid no creature could discover the smallest part from their heads to their waists. Their Bonnets were fringed with a thick kind of Tiffney gauze which hung down to their middles I can only compare them to walking Statues: – In my life I never saw anything so preposterous.

On my way home I waited on Lady Campbell – I thanked her in your name for the part she took in your behalf– I then requested her further kind exertion with the General, in getting you reappointed in the Cavalry when an opening happened – I urged your great desire to get into the line were you had taken so much pains to learn your duty I do assure you my dear Sandy, tears filled my eyes in pleading for you – her Ladyship saw how much I was interested for your welfare, she kindly promised to mention all I said, to the General: and I make no doubt should there be a vacancy you will be appointed in the Cavalry. Your Uncle means to see the Governor tomorrow when he will speak to him regarding your heart's wish. We dined in the family what. This evening we paid visits to M^{rs} Hughes, and Duffin, came home entertained Mess^{rs} Allan, Yrnschild, and a M^r Parfict the Purser of the Bridgewater. Your Uncle's old Servant, Patchappah who had lived with him upwards of twenty eight years died last night suddenly – he was in the Fort yesterday seemingly in perfect good health and then made his last Salam.

Monday 15th

I have not heard anything new as yet this morning. On Friday I Dispatched by a returning cooley the Humanist's Magazine, your Uncle gave it me for your entertainment. We dined without company. In the evening for the first time these thirteen Months, we visited the Rooms, we went there entirely to introduce Miss Vanderpool – they were thin of company, only eleven Ladies and a few Gentleman. Miss West and Captain Alex^r Campbell are I hear quite off – Mason it is said has supplied his place.

Your uncle went to the Governors this morning on purpose to speak to him on your business, but was not able to find Sir Archibald disengaged: tomorrow he means to make another attempt.

The enclosed is a fashionable chain, tho, not gold, is much worn by people of rank and fashion in England.

Tuesday 16th

M^r D– waited on the Governor at the Levée and mentioned you particularly to him, (before your uncle spoke to the Governor, Malcolm told M^r Davidson the General, in consequence I suppose of my particular application to Lady Campbell had mentioned you to him to keep you to the Southward) he said you should not be forgot: he had no objection to your reappointment to the Cavalry on a Vacancy. About 2 o'Clock I was made happy by a very

kind note from Lady Campbell which I send for your satisfaction; indeed her Ladyship's exertions in your behalf shall not be forgotten by me. In the evening Betsy and I went to Lady Campbell's and thanked her personally for her goodness, and shall do the same to the Governor when I see him. I shall now hope from what Sir Archibald, Lady C and Malcolm have said your wishes will be accomplished.

From the latter place I called at the Asylum and brought Little Miss Betsy Duer to the Grove. Supped with us M^r Neil Campbell and Grant. God bless you— I am really fatigued, both in mind and Body.

Wednesday 17th

M^r Popham favored us with his company to breakfast. The Courier is not yet come to the gardens; tho, it is now past 2 o'Clock – in the afternoon – It will be full of french news when it does come out from the press; for some arrived yesterday from Pondichery.

Ramsey is going to Cuddalore to escort J. Campbell down, I believe he leaves Madras this day. I am told J. Campbell does not mean to accompany his Uncle to Europe, next year he is to take his departure with his Brother and sister Casamaijor. Return me Lady C's pretty note. We are well – I Cannot help thinking you have forgot your Cousin – she is more generous and will not admit of the charge. Your share with a Eliza N^o 3416. came up yesterday a B-l-a-n-k. Do not you wish me to have done? I shall obey you stop. Adieu – I am, my Dearest "favourite" Nephew's most attached and faithful Aunt, Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 17th Sept^r 1788

Ten days before your leave of absence expires remind me of it. By the cooley I have sent besides the Magazines, a Basket of salted Whittings, and a small Box or very fine Raisins. Remember me to George affectionately – To the Bruce's and Borrowes, likewise my best wishes.

M^r Alex^r Falconar

pages 166 – 169

P.M Wednesday 17th Sept^r 1788

Journal Continued

Having completed and dispatched my Journal, we dressed to attend M^r Andrews little Boy's christening – but a mistake having happened by mismanagement the ceremony is now postponed till next Saturday evening. The remainder of the Evening we passed at M^r Hamilton's in a sociable party of about a dozen – Your share with me N^o 3395 is today drawn a Blank – I hope my friend those in the Wheel may prove more fortunate.

Thursday 18th

Breakfasted here the Duffin family – after which I accompanied them to the Asylum and I had the pleasure to shew the Children to an advantage, they being employed in their various occupations: Some in making Lace, others writing, a few more reading, and about twelve others practicing hairdressing. From this busy scene I returned to the Grove near 11 o'Clock, and about half an hour after I was favored with M^{rs} Burrowes and your letters – M^{rs} Burrowes writes very kindly and mentions you in a very pleasing manner; you may be assured my Sandy, when I hear encomiums on you it does not give me a little pleasure – and I have that faith in you but I am sure you will certainly continue to gain never to lose the good opinion you have acquired of those who have the pleasure of knowing you.

My last will fully convince you my amiable friend of the propriety there is in your deferring your Jaunt till the end of next Month– particularly as I have spoke to Malcolm on the Subject. After all that has passed, they would think me fickle were I at this moment to apply for your leave; besides, your being here when the Governor goes away will be better, as I can then further Solicit for you, and if unfortunately no vacancy happen; I shall endeavor have you put as high on the list of the Governors recommendations as possible. I am sorry you have written

to Flint before you heard from me, but it cannot be helped – you must now tell him that you are advised to stay at Trichinopoly till the end of next Month before you proceed to Madras, as you will then be better able to undertake the trip. Your Uncle and I shall arrange with Malcolm for your coming down for your health: you will find in my Journal that Sir Archibald has desired Colonel Malcolm to keep you to the Southward.

Major Burrowes' conduct is very flattering – I shall shortly reply to M^{rs} Burrowes' letter, and shall take the opportunity of thanking them for their goodness – I shall hereafter Love Burrowes for his attentive friendly behaviour to you. Being now late I shall defer acknowledging the remainder of your favor until tomorrow.

We dined and supped entirely Sans Company. In the evening made two or three visits – heard not any word in our excursions. I had nearly forgot to tell you M^{rs} Hammond with her infant Daughter passed the day here – the little one is a fine Babe at present resembles her Mother.

Friday 19th

A charming mild English morning. M^{rs} Hughes has just left us she came trotting down here to look at some of my Caps for M^{rs} A.M. C-'s Ball, which is to be on Thursday next: given in return for all the Entertainments they received after their Marriage.

What could J.C- mean by his visit to the Southward? – if it were only to try the power he had over poor C...a, I think it was ill judged off him to give one pain whose fault is only in Loving him too well. It was currently reported here he had his Uncle's consent to act as he thought proper in the business. M^{rs} Bell's good fortune gave everybody here much pleasure – Dame fortune for once has bestowed her favour on proper subjects. M^r Petrie got a prize of 500 Pagodas this day. How lucky some people are – the sum is almost so small, Petrie I am sure can feel whether he obtained it or not –

Dined as the preceding day. The evening we spent at M^r Casamaijor's the company were large, and for a formal chesvous it was pleasant. Your Uncle having an Eruption resembling an Erysipelas under both Arms, preventing him from pushing on his Coat conveniently; he stayed at home, and amused himself at cards with a party of his own. Your share with Eliza N^o 3710, came up this day a prize 20 Pagodas.

Saturday 20th

Captain Macdonald breakfasted here – and Grant dined with us.

By a letter from Governor Ancker to the hon^{ble} M^r Cochrane it is said the Kings of England, Prussia, Denmark, and the Republick of Holland have entered into a Treaty offensive and Defensive – That Negapatam is to be restored for Trencamalay –. If this Intelligence prove true it will further tend to immortalise the Name of Pitt. There is a black Report here of General Meadows having arrived at Bombay: it is Confidantly said he will succeed to the Government of Madras in December. To day your Uncle received a Europe letter by the Airly Castle by the way of Bengal.

In the Evening we attended the Christening of M^r Andrew's child, the Sponsors were Mess^{rs} Lucas, Boyd and M^{rs} Davidson – the child's name William Lyon: After the ceremony went to Wooley's where we passed the rest of the Evening.

Sunday 21st

Breakfasted and attended the Divine Worship accompanied by Miss Vanderpool, Eliza, and Miss R – After lunch we visited Smart there we saw M^r Mason's and M^{rs} Lind's Pictures, they are fine likenesses, Mason's in particular is a speaking resemblance of him.

M^r Braham Dined here. The evening we passed at home – had the felicity of entertaining Mess^{rs} Grant, Wilks, de Jong, &^c, &^c at supper. M^r Lord and Major Close are appointed to go to Callastray to settle some dispute between the Rajah and Nabob.

Monday 22nd

Kingscote and Allan gave us their company to breakfast. It is expected the William Pitt will touch here from Bengal in October – M^r Russell's family which is confidently said are to embark on her for Europe.

The two prizes of 2500 came up yesterday – one of them went to Bengal, the other fell to the lot of M^r Torriano's Dubash. Duce take the Blackies they are running away with all the rich prizes.

We dined without your Uncle. Sir J. Menzies laid hold of him in the Town. The evening we passed Myrtle Grove. The company were the Governor's family and Sir J. Menzies.

Tuesday 23rd

M^r Raphael came to breakfast at the Grove. I have not heard anything new – everything and everybody seem perfectly peaceable around us. I long my friend to see you – Indeed it is a long time since I've had that satisfaction. Eliza is replying to your last favor. I shall dispatch this a post sooner – perhaps you may wish to hear from me earlier than the usual time of my dispatches.

Your uncle and Cousin desire their affectionate remembrance to you – remember me to George kindly – mention me likewise to the Bruces, Burrowes, M^r Macfies &c, &c, – Adieu, my Dear Sandy. You have the prayers and best wishes of your faithful and Affectionate Aunt. Eliza: Davidson.

The Grove 23rd Sept^r 1788

M^r Alex^r Falconar

pages 170 – 173 [excluding a letter inserted on page 172]

P. M. Tuesday 23rd Sept^r 1788

Journal for the present concluded –

All after sending away Eliza's and my dispatches to you and George we dressed and sallied to the Hughes, where we passed the evening and supped – the company invited were few besides our family the only lady Miss Ann West – the small chesvous was given in honor of their little Daughter's birth Day.

None of our tickets have made their appearance in this day's drawing. Goodness I am sleepy – pleasant dreams attend your Slumbers.

Wednesday 24th

M^r Getty breakfasted here, he kindly enquired after you – M^r Sadlier I am told is to go by the orders of this Government to receive the Guntoor Circar in form from the Nizam's Nail.

M^r Benfield is either suspended or dismissed and ordered to be sent home.

Dined here a french Supercargo introduced to me by Corbett. This being the Conchée night we of course paid our devoirs at the headquarters; from thence strange to tell, proceeded to the Ruddiman's where we supped: the honest Man made many friendly enquiries after your health, as indeed he always does when we meet – Poor Ruddiman! a dark cloud seems ever hanging over his Manly Countenance.

Thursday 25th

Our morning visitors were Mess^{rs} Andrews, Ross, Captains Massy and Dalrymple – old R – s visit was merely from curiosity to enquire after Southern news – and what of C. . . a, and the A. D. C – finding he could not obtain any satisfaction to any of his questions he took his leave saying “I am glad She is Free ha! – ha! – ha! ha! she is free Good morning Madam” – and so repented away this wonderful old Beau pushed off his boat – not a little pleased with the Idea that his favorite C..a will now become the wife of some worthy object, who will value her more than the heartless Spineless C——bell.

Your last of the 21st came to hand yesterday – I am sincerely glad my Journal of the 17th has afforded you some comfort – I am ever truly happy my Sandy, to procure for you that peace and tranquillity which you merit, and which I ever am solicitous of obtaining for you – My friendship, and my wishes my dear friend for your every success, go hand in hand – but my powers are small – What a pity it is, that those who have liberal and feeling hearts, should not be blessed withal to enable them to do acts of generosity and Benevolence – You enhance

so highly my little Maternal Offices oh! would it were in my power to assist you more essentially. Have a little patience I shall ask Malcolm to procure me your leave to visit Madras, as soon as I obtain it I shall forward it to you with inexpressible pleasure. I am well pleased the chain reached so apropos— and that it so met with your entire approbation. So you will not “easily forgive me” – I rejoice I am at this distance – else I should dread your wrath – but as it is, it affords me amusement – Are you really in earnest? – I shall flatter myself however, when you see me you will join with the Poet—
 “Altho to my share some female errors fall,
 Look at my Face, and you'll forget them all”.

Am I not vain? and yet, I am confident it will be so –
 Dined here Grant and Little Mahan who is come down to push his interest – But I am happy before hand with him. In the Evening we dressed and attended M^{rs} A. M. Campbell’s ball the particulars of which I shall relate to you tomorrow. Adieu, for this night.

Friday 26th

No breakfasters this morning. Last night at the Ball I had a few minutes confab with the General, he has behaved to me in the kindest manner imaginable – he has my Sandy, promised me to mention you particularly to General Meadows and to put you in the list of his recommendation. But he added he was pretty sure a vacancy would soon happen when you would be appointed into the Cavalry: He further said he would settle every thing to my wishes. The rest of our conversation I shall reserve for you as a bon bouche when I have the heartfelt satisfaction of seeing you at the dear peaceful Grove.

M^{rs} A. M. Campbells ball very very gay and brilliant, it was almost a general Entertainment to the Settlement, we did not break up till past 2 o’Clock – Two Farces are in agitation – Cross Purposes and Three weeks after Marriage. I am in hourly expectation of your Leave. We females dined alone – Your Uncle was detained by Boyd to dine with him. At 7 o’Clock, my good Man arrived; and surprised me by putting your leave into my hands – I shall not tell you what I felt on seeing Malcolm’s handwriting – The sight of my poor absent Boy could not have given me more pleasure – Owing to M^r Davidson’s kindness in speaking in the morning to Malcolm your permission was expedited at least a day sooner – I think I see your ardour, and warmth on opening your leave – with a fine flush and mantle on your countenance runing to Macfie then [*next word incomprehensible – hicing?*] away to the Rock to communicate the pleasing intelligence and received commands. – “Madam”, I set off providing I live on Wednesday – then turning round, Adieu – Dear Clara – Heigh ho!– by the by you must now love the good General for he seems most kindly bent to serve you – therefore chub for I shall not absolutely hear another Syllable against him.

Supped here Mess^{rs} Grant, Close and Lieutenant Lewis. Alas the 5,000 !!! gone, gone, gone.

Saturday 27th

Will be my last Journal for some little time – Tell me of your arrangements, and where [*I*] am to send you the conveyance – On Wednesday I suppose you will take your departure from Warriore – if you can tell me the day you are likely I Eliza and I shall endeavor to meet you on the Mount Road in our post chaise –
 Your ticket N^o 4315 drawn a Blank yesterday – Remember [*page torn*] George, the Burrowes, and Bruces. Eliza is busily employed in addressing her your fair friend, she joins her Father in affectionate remembrance to you not forgetting G. D., Farewell, may the Supreme Being protect and bring you safe to us is the fervent wish of Your Devoted and affectionate Eliza: Davidson.

The Grove 27th Sept^r 1788.

P.S.

If you can contrive to leave Chingleput after dinner we shall then be able to meet you on the next day in the morning on the Mount Road before Breakfast – My Best Salams to your amiable friend Macfie –

23/27th Sept^r 1788 Alex^r Falconar

[The Journal is now discontinued and all the letters to Alexander Falconar follow. The earlier letters, bound in the middle of the journals are transcribed first]

page 3

My dear Sandy,

The Ranger arrived this morning, I have not as yet heard any particular news – you shall hear further from me tomorrow. Heaven bless you praise your most affectionate Eliza: Davidson
The Grove 1st Feb^{ry} 1788
I shall send some of my letters for your perusal –

Alex^r Falconar

pages 4 – 5

February 2nd '88

My Dear Sandy

Agreeable to my promise I have taken up my pen to tell you of the news by the Ranger – The Town Major M^r R– Mitford and all the Campbells are dismissed from their several stations – Poor Stuart and Wilkes are to be ordered to join their Corps, the worst of all news is that the generous Stevenson is I am afraid to lose the Command of his Regt – and two other of the Captains – Burrowes, Tonyning and another Colonel are to have the command of the Cavalry – This is a sad thing for you but you must hope for better days.

I have had a letter from M^{rs} Devaynes, she has not touched on the subject of my application, but I hope by the Swallow I shall hear from each of them. Lady Macartney has written me a kind answer which I herein enclose for your perusal –

No mention made of your good Uncle – I am taught to expect something will be done for him by the Dispatches of this Season.

I have had a short letter from your dear amiable Mother – she tells me your poor Father is in a bad, alas! very bad state of health – I have heard M^r Johnstone has got a letter for you which he is to bring me when he comes on shore it is put up with some of my letters in a Box M^{rs} Chitty sent me – Be not my dear Sandy, my friend, disheartened – for God's will be done – Your friends will not be inattentive to your Fortunes – Your Uncle is ever good and kind – my Dear Sister's, your worthy Mother's favor I send for your perusal – which with Lady Macartney's return again by the post.

I shall if I can dispatch your Cooley this evening Hippy too shall accompany him. After M^r D– has perused the news papers I shall send them to you my Journal also you shall have to entertain you by the next opportunity. Before I conclude allow me to request you will keep up your Spirits consider you have many looking up to you, ever your, Let me have a line from you to tell me you are well.

God bless you my amiable friend, may the disposer of all events strengthen and fortify your mind to bear with the Calamitys of this World – adieu your ever Affectionate &^c &^c Eliza Davidson

The Grove
2nd Feb^{ry} 1788

page 9

My Dearest Sandy

I have this instant got yours of the 6th (1 oClock) From the best motives in the world I did not send you your most excellent Mothers letter sooner which I now do agreeably to your request – Exert all your resolution my friend and submit like a Christian to the Decrees of Almighty God – he is all wise and Merciful.

May Heaven bless you and prolong your Life to comfort and protect the best of Mothers and her Children. Farewell yours Ever Eliza: Davidson Betsy's kindest remembrance attend you.

This goes enclosed in your Uncle's letter.

The Grove 19th Feb^{ry} 1788 M^r A Falconar

pages 11 – 12

My Dear Sandy

At last I dispatch your Coolies with two Boxes, two Baskets, and a chair, all which I hope will reach you safe – Hippy also accompanys your men – I send his keeper to take care of him on the Road – you know he is a favorite of mine.

B– has written you as fully as time and opportunity would allow her – as I mean to write to you by the post, I will not here add more than I am evermore your affectionate &c, &c,

E. Davidson

The Grove 12th Feb^{ry} 88

A list of things in the Boxes and by the Coolie's

- 6 Pictures or rather Prints
- 2 China Mugs
- x 2 P^{rs} of Ribbons
- x 2 Parcels of hair Powder
- 1 tin box of pomatum &c
- x 1 China tea chest for G Davidson
- 2 Silver plated Goblets
- 2 Caddys of new tea for your own use
- 6 P^r Silk Stockings
- 2 China cane Hats
- 1 Little Bottle of your favorite smelling salts
- x 6 Volumes of India Courier
- x 11 Volumes of European Magazine
- x 1 Volume of Grays Poems
- x and all M^{rs} Chittys news papers
- 50 Ganjam oranges

Turn over

Rubber

Journal Books –

Arm Chair,

M^{rs} Chittys Journals I will send by another opportunity, as I now want them to answer.

Only notice such things as I mark in the margent – and Hippy. You will find B....'s Packet in the Box.

The Grove 12th Feb^{ry} '88

page 13

My dear Sandy

Hippy with the India Courier and other things you wrote for I dispatched yesterday Evening. I hope to hear soon from you and that your mind is calm and resigned to the Dispensation of the Supreme Being.

I herein enclose you a Caledonian watch String which your Cousin Eliza desires you will wear for her sake. Tartan is much in vogue here just now. I am still busy with my Europe letters, but I hope next week I shall be able to send you my Journal – Major Alexander sold his House and Gardens yesterday to M^r Hughes and Cap^{tn} Judson promoted yesterday a Major and is to go soon to Trichinopoly.

Betsy by her fathers desire has written a few lines to Miss Bruce. We are well – Your Uncle and Cousin desire their best and affectionate remembrance to you – The latter will shortly address you – God Bless you my friend praise your very faithful and affectionate Aunt &^c Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 13th Feb^{ry} 1788 .

Remember us to George Davidson, I have sent by your Coolies a Tea Chest for him which you will do me the favor to present it in my name. Is your poor Leg perfectly well? – Do tell me – Put a ring to the watch string to hang the watch key, I have none to give you one of yours will do.

M^r Alex^r Falconar

page 20

My Dear Sandy

Yours of the 20th with one from George of the same date are this moment received (1 oClock) I am really concerned to find by poor George's letter you have kept yourself so closely confined – I had flattered myself your Religion Philosophy and good Sense would have combined to have made you bear your affliction with becoming fortitude – But alas I am indeed sorry it is otherwise –

These lines are merely to request of you my Sandy If you have any regard for your friends in this World that you will immediately Raise yourself from your present lethargy, and thank that God who is the best judge of what is right and fit for us for his mercies and pray that he may take care of you for the sake of those Dear friends that are left behind looking for your filial support and assistance –

Pardon my energy – I shall send my Journal next week – I hope to hear to hear good accounts of you soon. In the mean time I remain your sincere, and affectionate Aunt &^c

Eliza. Davidson

The Grove 23rd Feb^{ry} 1788

I have got a Bill for one hundred Pound for you, which I shall send to M^{rs} Chitty to send it to your Dear Mother. Your Uncle and Cousin desire their affectionate love, the latter will shortly write you. Hippy by this time must be with you. Do for God's sake be mindful of yourself .

My love to George my grateful thanks wait on him for his friendly information and kind attention again I beg of you to be happy.

pages 25 - 26

3rd March

My Dear Sandy,

Your kind letter of the 27th I have before me – I hope in the course of this week I shall be able to send you the long promised Journal – nothing but my Europe letters, the great attention I have been obliged to pay the Anstruthers, and your late distress would have prevented my writing you as usual – for when ones mind is afflicted such medleys as mine must have appeared in so trifling a light, you could not I am sure have relished it.

I am glad the Books, Hippy, &c, &c, pleased you I hope they will afford you my friend amusement in the loss of refinement.

I did not hear you was made an Ensign of Infantry till your letter informed me – You are still as you was you receive the same pay and not in the Cavalry as before – and I am told those that were in the Cavalry are very likely to be continued by the Court of Directors – I have written very strongly by the Henry Dundas to my friends to have you appointed in the Civil Line here – I hope to God I may succeed, when I am at leisure I shall send you the extracts of my several Letters.

How far we may have a War, we are yet in a state of uncertainty tho I believe every necessary precaution is taking to prevent Surprise. I hear General Conway with a Reg^t are gone to Trincamaly, this news arrived here only yesterday. Sir Archibald it is reported in Jan^{ry} next at all events will leave India – not being pleased with the Court of Directors.

Before this reaches you Stevenson will be arrived – the shortness of his stay would not allow him to be here often, but I did not omit thanking him for his particular attention to you – The Henry Dundas sailed yesterday afternoon – with many of our friends – I will herein enclose you a list of those passengers I recollect –

As I am very particular in my Journal I shall not lengthen this. You may rest satisfied your interest shall be attended to –

Your Uncle and Cousin are well – It is a long time since the latter has heard from you – They Both of them Unite with me in Love and best wishes to you, and beg to remain your unalterable and Affectionate Aunt &^c &^c Eliza: Davidson

The Grove
3rd March 1788

Tell me particularly and faithfully how you are – George has alarmed me much – For Gods sake, and for the sakes of your dear Mother, Sisters, and Brothers, do be careful of your health – Remember me to George kindly, and to the Bruces. – The enclosed is a copy of the Letter I wrote your worthy Mother – Adieu again my Sandy, be of good cheer I beseech you –
E. D.

M^r Alex^r Falconar

pages 30 – 31

8 March '88

Dear Sandy

I have agreeably to my word reserved my pen to reply to yours of the 2nd –
Your Uncle has seen Colonel Malcolm and mentioned your wish to be continued in the Cavalry which he has little doubt will be complied with – for tho they have appointed you to the Infantry Corps, you are to do duty with the 4th Reg^t of Cavalry till the pleasure of the Court of Directors be known – Sir Archibald having very particularly recommended all those Gentlemen that he has appointed it is to be hoped they will be allowed to remain in the Service.

M^r Davidson spoke to the Governor also on your subject all the Gentlemen appointed Officers during his Government were ordered to be reformed, on the plea of their being

supernumerary, and because they were appointed in disobedience to their Orders. The Governor by the Henry Dundas has given his reason at large for again on this particular point not complying with their Orders. He says there were Supernumerary Officers to some Corps by being lent, but that on his being made level of the Subaltern of the Army there are not any Supernumeraries. In Europe you know a Company is Commanded by a Captain, a Lieutenant, and two Ensigns. In the Native Corps in this Country one Subaltern has the command of a Company. Sir Archibald Campbell like a good General as well as a great man, argues to the Directors – “Gentlemen, your Establishment must be complete and ready for actual Service the moment there is a break, your Settlements are from that instant in danger. I therefore recommend most earnestly of these Gentlemen, who are fine young Men and have given up their other pursuits in Life depending on their Appointments. I ventured therefore to Continue them as I cannot be responsible for your Government unless your Army be complete”.

You will find therefore my Dear Sandy, the Arrangement concerning Mahan and you is only temporary, and on Vacancies in the Cavalry, your Uncle most probably will be able to get you reinstated in the mean time you stand fast. Indeed before your Uncle’s Application you will see by the enclosed Note from the late T. M. that your remaining to act with the Cavalry was intended.

If you find any difficulty about your pay M^r D can get it arranged between M^r Johnstone and M^r Andrews of Caddalore who pays Tiagar..

Make yourself as happy as you can – You shall again hear from me, I mean as usual – At present accept the united affectionate remembrance of the Grove and I beg to remain your eternally affectionate, &c, &c, &c, Eliza. Davidson

The Grove 8th March 1788

I shall hope you will write to Captain James Campbell, and thank him particularly for his kindness to you – On my speaking to him on Wednesday Evening, he has mentioned you very kindly to the Governor, who has promised his nephew his interest in your behalf – Captain Campbell having dined here today has informed me all the Governor has said to him regarding you which is pleasing as it is flattering to my peace of mind –
M^r A Falconar

page 36

My Dear Sandy

I am just come from the Fort with a note from Boyd to your Uncle mentioning the arrival of an Overland Dispatch – And good News: All Peace and Quietness. He has promised a Courier Extraordinary to night – If I receive it in time for the post, I shall forward it.
Your ever affectionate Eliza: Davidson

The Grove
16th March 1788

PS Your friends at the Poor Grove seem entirely forgotten – What have they Done my friend? Can you tell

7 oClock – Sir Archibald who has paid your Uncle a friendly visit just gone has told M^r D– all the news, a note from late Town Major also full of Intelligence, all of which your ever worthy Uncle has made an extract for me and you – Is not this kind of him Indeed it is – I am just going to the Kindersleys where there is to be a little Dance – Adieu E. D.

(M^r Alex Falconar)

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The Grove 19th April 1788

My Dearest Sandy

Alas! I am greatly concerned to find by your letter of the 16th you have been so severely ill – but as you flatter me with hopes of your soon being perfectly well, I shall endeavor to be as easy as the circumstances will admit till I hear from you again – which I hope will be as soon as tomorrow, or next day – Do write, if it were only one line to acquaint us how you are – God Bless you, my prayers shall not be wanting for your every success – with kind affectionate remembrances of Your Uncle and Cousin – I am always the same – Your faithful and attached Aunt Eliza Davidson
For God's sake take of yourself –

page 71

My Dear Sandy,

These lines will be delivered to you by the Coolies that convey your things – they have in charge two Tubs of Sugar Candy, a Box of Tea containing six canisters, a Box of necessaries, and your Kitty–Sol. I hope all of them will reach you safe – Miss Bruce's Turban accompanys your things, which you will do me the favor to forward to her – I hope you will never again get tipsy – I hope also you know my Sentiments on that subject – The Coolies are paid in full. Tell me if you like your shoes and Boots –. God bless you my friend . Bear in remembrance your Affectionate Aunt Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 5th May 1788

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Grove 17th July 1788

My dear Sandy,

The enclosed is Colonel Fullerton's speech to the House of Commons in behalf of the Company's officers. I have received your letters, am really happy you are recovering your health. My Journal shall be dispatched on tomorrow – Adieu .

I am your very faithful and affectionate Aunt &c

Eliza: Davidson

Eliza meant to have sent the Copy of the enclosed in her own hand writing but was unavoidably prevented – she sends her love, The Cambrick shall be procured tomorrow if possible. Do my dear young man take care of yourself. –

page 124 .

The Grove 21st July 1788

At last, my friend, I have procured you a white feather; which with your black ones, you may now Plume yourself on being the best feathered Cavalier in the Reg^t. I have also sent you two pair of fashionable gloves, they are quite the Ton here, as well as in Europe, a pair of neat

Boot garters accompany them, I could not get more.

I hope you are now well, your Uncle and Cousin write with me in kind remembrance to you. Tell George I shall not forget to send him a coat and hat.

Adieu – your ever affectionate Eliza Davidson

I have two more white feathers in reserve for you – if you like to present your friend Macfie with one p^r of the Gloves you may, I have two p^r more for your use – The feather box goes in this evenings post, take care of the Box. I enclose this with the gloves.

page 172

My Dear Sandy,

Your wishes are complied with – Your kind Uncle is just come from the Fort, 7 o'Clock, and has made me most happy by giving me your leave – My good fellow do come to us, do fly to the Grove, your friends are ready to receive you with open Arms – It is late I cannot now add anymore –

God bless you, prays your Affectionate Aunt Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 26th September 1788 –

Your Uncle and Eliza salute you Remember us to George &^c, &^c, &^c

page 174

My Dear Sandy –

Joyfully do I now send you the poor green palakeen that naughtily carried you away from your dear friends – I shall flatter myself at this Period you will recognize it with pleasure. – Indeed, I feel more than I can well express at the happiness of seeing you again amongst us. I imagine you will be at Chingleputon Thursday forenoon – and on Friday, if it pleases God, Eliza and I shall hope to pick you up on the Mount Road – Pray leave Chingleput so as we may bring you to breakfast with Your Uncle.

M^r Davidson and Betsy join me affectionately in love to you. God Bless you, I remain your attached and devoted Aunt –

Eliza: Davidson.

The Grove 6th October 1788

Need I tell you my dearest Sandy, how happy I am in Idea, at the thought of seeing you.

No, you feel I am sure for me – We shall on Friday set off as early as possible to reach you – that is, Your dear Aunt, and Eliza trouble yourself not about the Boys – they are paid in full – Adieu! Adieu! – They are waiting Supper for me.

Your affectionate Et tres heureuse Eliza

M^r Alex^r Falconar

pages 175 – 176

The Grove 8th April 1789

My Dear Sandy

I have been in such continual hurry since the moment you left the Grove what with my Europe letters, and Packing up for your Uncles Departure that it was not in my power sooner

to sit pen to Paper, but ask in Lisa has written you three letters: they will fully make amends for my silence.

At last, I dispatched yesterday forenoon your Cooley with your Breeches and Jacket, the latter done by M^r Macfie's directions: Had you desired me to have consulted sweet Mac the Jacket would have been finished some days since. Burrowe's Taylor being absent from Madras, your Taylor was not able to proceed with it.

I long my friend to hear from – Could you not have contrived to send me one line while on the road?

Your poor Uncle embarked on Sunday after dinner, he left us in bad spirits. Mess^{rs} Grant, Corbett, Wilkes and Jones accompanied him on Board the Dragon; on their return, they made us happy, by telling us, that M^r D– was greatly recovered; and on the whole they left him composed and cheerful, seated in his large Chair on the quarter Deck.

Since your departure my spirits have received a severe shock – Your, and your Uncles leaving us, have not added little to my dejection – God only knows when I shall again be as usual – I have sent Smart's sketch of your Picture packed up nicely to M^r Ewing's care to M^{rs} Chitty, who will forward it to your Angelick Mother. I have also my dear Nephew negotiated with Chase for a set of Bills in England, for one hundred pounds; and have sent the first Bill to my Cousin to receive the money and to transmit it to Scotland. I enclose you Chase's note, for you to see the interest he has charged on the exchange. M^r Corbett being disappointed, he could not oblige me with the Bill he has promised. M^r Neal has not yet sent the money he said he would – write to him about it, by and by – I have been obliged to borrow to make your Bill.

I ha[ve – *hole in page*]sold our Bay horses to Major Young for four hundred Pagodas – William I have discharged and recommended him to the young Major, he, William, and the four Bays left the Grove yesterday, Evening.

Your Mourchi often comes to see me. I have bought a Persian book for you which he said you greatly wanted it. He desired his best Salams. No news yet from the old Nabob.

The Dublin sails this Evening, poor little June Carins is gone on board. Wooley is come to Saint Thome at old Bakers to be near Duffin – He is still in much danger Captain Vigars and Miss Squire are going to Bombay in a day or two. The young Lady says, while she has so good an Uncle, she shall never marry.

What are you doing all? Is the Detachment to take to the Field? How happy I shall be to hear of the Contrary. Tell me all about yourself, Servants &c. &c. &c you cannot be too particular, you know, it will always give me pleasure, to hear of everything that concerns yourself.

Remember me affectionately to George, to the Burrowes and Bruces. Eliza is well desires her kindest love to you. I beg as a favor, you will not shew my letters to any one – No, not even to Miss B– God Bless you my amiable friend. I am your attached affectionate Eliza:

Davidson

M^r Alex^r Falconar

pages 177 – 180

My Dearest Nephew –

On the 11th I was favored with your long looked for kind letter of the 10th – Need I think you say, the receipt of it affords your Cousin, and Aunt, pleasure? You must surely know, the knowledge of your welfare must ever yield them much satisfaction; Continue then my

amiable friend, to give us as frequently, as time, and opportunity will admit of, the consolation of a few lines only under your hand, assuring your dear friends, of your being in health and spirits, we shall then be as comfortable and easy, as our situation and Destiny will suffer us poor mortals to be.

Your Cousin Eliza, was highly gratified to find her letters made you any way gayer, and easier, in mind – She means to address you often with all the news of this place. I expect to hear from your worthy Uncle either today, or tomorrow, if I do; you shall certainly partake of the good news immediately.

Accept of my unbounded thanks for all your kind wishes – I am confident my Sandy, if any one's prayers prove propitious, yours must, Your numberless Virtues cannot be hidden from the Almighty, and all powerful Creator.

I am indeed much vexed, you did not find Burrowes on your arrival at Warriore – What did the Major mean by refusing to send two Horses for you? Did he send you any? Or none at all? Give him and his Lady my best Salams .

I shall flatter myself by the 13th you will have received the Jacket, B-s and Bason , with its stand – I requested the man would hasten to you with all Expedition, he faithfully promised to fly to you. Be not dull my good fellow, on our accounts – We are well, and shall live in pleasing hope of seeing you ere we take my departure from hence.

Your affectionate and ever welcome favor of the 11th, I had the heartfelt satisfaction of receiving last night after our return from Rapheal's, where Grant and us supped – By the stupid management of my people in Town, I did not get my letter till the late hour of one o'Clock this morning.

So you are encamped on the Plan – And “intolerably hot” – Heaven protect and preserved you – May you be its peculiar Care. –

We are told here you cannot March for want of Money, and water – the Country is so parched up, that it is morally impossible for the Detachment to take the Field – this is the prevailing report at this place: You must know, whether there is any foundation in it.

The Grove is dull indeed – it misses its Master greatly, and woefully laments the absence of both the Uncle and Nephew – G– is very attentive, and seems to be partial to solitude – He has only dined out at the Governors two or three times, he has been at the Rooms once, he has constantly supped at home, his breakfasts are frequently abroad owing to duty. He is our constant Beau, and seems to be at perfect ease – He told me this morning that he has written you.

If this reaches you before your departure from Trichinopoly, and if you have not sent away the Palankeen – if you have any Idea of coming here ere we leave this; in that case, you had surely better keep the Palankeen, as it will be a convenient Vehicle for you to come down in – otherwise, send it down with four Coolies.

As Major Burrowes has been so extremely pressing in his invitation, it is to be hoped, after the Campaign is over, you will accept of his kind offer for many reasons I would wish you to be of their family.

I shall trouble Colonel Bruce with the charge of our letters to you, be not afraid concerning them, I think you ought to direct yours to his care likewise.

If the Books are sold, I shall see what I can do for you. Do you manage “that Machine” well – I have ordered a small table for you exactly the size of the little Chefs table it is promised me in three or four days when done, I shall send it to you with the Paymasters Book. I shall forward the Courier to you tomorrow. Give my love to poor George – tell him I shall be indeed very happy to see him, you both must come together. Corbett has only been here twice since your Uncle's departure. Eliza's kindest remembrance await you –

Adieu my dearest friend, May the cup of prosperity long be yours, unimbittered by any mixture of peculiar affliction. – God bless you, prays Your faithful and affectionate

Eliza Davidson

The Grove 14th April 1788.

Poor Hippy is lively and well. excuse haste.

pages 181 – 182

The Grove 13th May 1788

My dearest friend,

I had the felicity of receiving your favor of the 8th in the Fort, from whence I am just arrived – I am not my Sandy, at this juncture able to answer either of your late letters but the day after tomorrow, if I live, I shall endeavour to give you the wanted satisfaction.

I must now tell you, on my way to the Grove I called on the excellent Ruddiman, read that part of your letter to him concerning the Powders and the bad weather. Ruddiman desires me very earnestly to inform you, that if you are in any way unwell to leave of doing your Duty, he says you really do not seem to understand the bad consequence ensuing from such conduct. The Powders are composed of Mercury, if the pains in your side continue, you ought he tells me most certainly to take them, but then you are to confine yourself – if otherwise you may venture to take one of the powders, now and then, only on halting days; even then, you must be careful and not expose yourself to the Air. The water, he, Ruddiman, recommends to be boiled, and after settling to be drawn off from the sediments – he requests barley water and Madeira may be your drink in the course of the day – Madeira, Barley, Mango and Currant Jelly, Raspberry Jam, with Castor Oil, shall be sent you tomorrow – I have this day by accident picked up a servant for you, a smart looking man – I think he will answer your purpose – he is, by his talk fit for every thing, and can do every thing – in short he is a none such.

The weather is insufferably hot – I am not easy about your health, indeed you would pity my sorry anxiety. Eliza sends her best regard – Your Cousin G– is as usual
God of heaven bless you – I remain, Your affectionate &c

Eliza: Davidson

Alas! Poor Cairns is no more – M^{rs} Davison likewise is dead. I am told R– Johnstone is absconded no more Europe arrivals –

pages 183 – 187

The Grove 15th May 1789

Not wishing to be worse than my word, this being the Day I promised in my last to dedicate to my amiable friend; agreeably to it I am come my dear Sandy to perform the pleasing task of conversing with you and to reply fully to your affectionate favors of the 2nd and 8th instant. The long halts you make between your almost every letter ever leads me to imagine some unpleasant circumstance has happened to occasion your silence – Knowing you are not in the best of health, can you wonder at the anxiety of your friends, I have my friend often told you, may [*bottom of page torn*] requested as a favor one line, and frequent from you would prove salutary cordial to us. You notice in your last letter by saying “To day again no letters from either my Cousin or you. Alas at this since so few letters to me argues something unpleasant”!!! If you are so uneasy at not hearing from us, whom thank God are well; what must be our sensations knowing you are indisposed, when you are silent? – You see how very catching is bad example, if you were more diligent in communing with E–, and her Mother, be assured they would not have been behind-hand with their friend: but by your conduct we had every reason to imagine our too frequent letters had occasioned us to be very troublesome correspondents, therefore we waited to better assured from your pen, if our conjectures were right or not – But happy to find we are mistaken.

I am sorry you did not give Colonel Stuart my letter; if you had, I am confident you would have been attended to.

In yours of the 2nd you say – “You are ever the same surprising Woman, in our own private matter my God! But know that at the time you thus oblige me, you equally distress me – then be not so lavish of your goodness I intreat you” [*next word illegible, page damaged*] as I do not perfectly understand this [*next word illegible, page damaged*] paragraph, when you are at leisure do pray oblige me by an explanation

I am sorry for poor [*name illegible, page damaged*] what is the matter with him? And what his complaint? Is he still at Trepotone Fort –

Tho, my Sandy you assure me you are rather better, yet, my mind is not at all easy – write to Ruddiman regarding your health be particular in your account of your ailments to him, he is very kind, and will be happy to give you every assistance in his person – he wishes much to hear from you.

Regarding Inverness rest satisfied your dearest amiable Mother with your Brothers and sisters are, all, all well – M^{rs} Chitty’s letters were dated in December, she then mentions your family all being in good health – Your remittance by the Henry Dundas was received by my Cousin and sent north safely to your sweet Mother. I have indeed informed you every thing regarding your family therefore you will I hope on that score be perfectly easy.

It is imagined here by the knowing ones M^r Holland will continue our Governor until at best, till October. The Valentine did not bring a word of Publick news, except what you have seen in the Courier Extraordinary nothing mentioned of Sir Archibald Campbell’s appointment of Officers. Your Uncle had one letter only, and that was from M^{rs} Chitty. Grant’s brother do not come out this year. Macaulay intends embarking for India either in the Rose or on the Duke of Buccleugh. The report respecting Lord Macartney not credited.

If I can procure you pistols like Grants shall I purchase them? They are excellent Grant says. I shall faithfully attend to your command concerning Boots, shoes &c &c.

I am again disappointed of a servant, the one I mentioned to you the other Day will not go, I really thought he was a good for nothing – Ever since you have written, I have been searching for a servant, but all in vain – the Madras people are insolent to a Degree – Grant has got a Lascar of poor Stuart’s if he comes in time I shall dispatch him with the Coolies. I shall still continue to look out for a servant for you, I pray I may succeed.

The Guglets I send you are better than Silver ones, as they will not be liable to be stolen, tell your Boy to wash them very well every day, with pebbles they will keep the water exceedingly cool by wrapping wet towel round them and keeping them in a draft of air. I hope the Boots &c will be acceptable to you. I shall order the Coolies to go to your quarters at Warriore, agreeably to your request. Pray did you pay cooley hire, for the Hack and the Shrub, if you have not, it is well for I have discharged those Coolies in full –

Your Uncle is well, in his letter of the 4th he says “I am obliged to my amiable nephew for his favorable mention of me; I shall be happy to hear from him; and do not let you and Betsy omit mentioning him.

I have written to George; one reason was on Falconar’s account”. In another letter he adds – Remember me my dear woman to Falconar in the most friendly and tender manner when you write ; thanking him for the very dutiful and affectionate manner in which he writes of me. In his letter of the 6th he says “I intended to have written Falconar to day, but it is near 12 at noon and I must go and see Henry Crawford who has called here on his way to Cofimcatah.”

On the 3rd they had at Vizak a slight shock of an Earth quake, but so trifling, that being engaged they were not sensible of it. It happened between 17 and 20 minutes after 12 at Noon. It was from South to North. It was felt in the Fort, and Waltier distinctly, accompanied by a noise exactly like a Carriage rumbling over stones. I enclose you a letter from your Monchie with his best salams Eliza presents her best and sincere regard. God bless you and bring you safe to your faithful and truly attached Aunt Eliza. Davidson

Poor M^{rs} Pearce is in a dangerous way the Governor is not well.

pages 188 –192

The Grove 23rd May 1789

Your longed for, and most anxiously expected letter, at last come to hand on the 21st instant – I did not my Sandy omit to offer and my most fervent Ejaculations to our great and merciful God for your safety and that he may always protect you from all perilous dangers is also my constant Petition to the all gracious Heaven

Indeed my friend I was made exceedingly happy by the receipt of your favor, and if you could continue to give either Eliza, or me, half a dozen lines more frequently you would save us abundance of uneasiness – Allan, Grant, Macfie, and others here fail not regularly to hear from their Cavalry friends. In your Reg^t – why then my friend cannot you give us the like satisfaction? At a period too my Sandy, when we are labouring under an uncertainty, and impatience for the safety of our dearest friend – How truly galling is silence – surely, you do not think us deficient in feeling, in friendship, in short in all the nicer sensations of the human Heart. Two days after we heard of the unhappy Engagement, and after every body here had been informed with the pleasing, and unpleasing, accounts of their friends situation, I was honored with your letter – However, as you my amiable Nephew seem safe, I was most contented and satisfied.

This whole place is in an uproar regarding this business, so unjust a cause, some have the boldness to say, the heads of this Government will pay for their easy acquiescence to the Nabob – Good God! What recompense is that to the Grave, and Innocent Victims, who have sacrificed their lives –

I am sorry you have been taking Ruddimans powders and exposing yourself to the Sun and De[*unclear word*] the good Doctor expressly forbade you to take them unless you could confine yourself – as they are composed of Mercury, if you were to get cold it would be bad. You told me you are well others say to the contrary – and certain it is you are not well: tho I know you wish to make us believe otherwise. For Gods sake, take care of yourself, and do not I beseech you play with your constitution.

I shall pay every attention in my power to your commission of your Boots and Shoes – What occasion was there to trouble Grant for Winkley, could I not think you have managed this business without your speaking to your good Cousin on this subject. – Winkley is here at the Grove – and shall do your Boots for you; If the Boots I sent you, do not suit, perhaps you can dispose of them to some of the young men – they are cheap, having only cost four Pagodas, if you do not approve of this plan, give them away. In the Box I dispatched on the 15th you will find a Silver tumbler, which I hope will prove acceptable.

I have caused a letter to be written to your Servant at Warriore to give the Dubash the dozen of Hock – tell me if you shall require more, come, don't be bashful – but let me know freely – You know, the Madras Boys, owing I imagine to your Blackguard Pariar Male Boy, think you a cross young Gentleman, therefore, they are unwilling to serve you –

The Servant now on the road hoped “Master will” take care of him. I told him he had nothing to fear, if was an honest faithful and attentive servant, he would have a kind master. You have been unlucky in your domestics, but I shall flatter myself you will be pleased with this last Servant.

Your good Uncle is well he ever mentions you in his letter to Eliza, he says “I hope in God, You have good accounts of the Cavalier always tell me when your Mama and you hear”.

I shall live in hopes of seeing you ere I leave this place I think I shall not go till the end of July – would you my Sandy like to accompany your Cousin Eliza and Aunt to Vizak, what say you to this plan.

I have no news – Grant and Stevenson all gone to pass two or three days at Ennore with M^{rs}

Moorhouse. I am afraid Grant finds the Grove very dull – Do not you think he must? I have often times told him of this. I think when you was here, Even you thought so at times. No more Europe ships, M^r Chase has two sisters coming out, one engage to a Captain Murray of the Cavalry the other to an old attachment, I do not know the Gentleman. Young is to be here on the 25th. He is to live with Stevenson, who has got Colonel Capper’s house on the Bank of the River. Major S– is free and easy, he has supped with us once since his return, he invited himself – he is waiting here for Miss Fisher, he has not had letters yet respecting the young Lady.

I shall sell your old Grey and I likewise mean to procure you a good Bandy Horse in return, I have spoke to Story to look out for one – I have made up a piece of long cloth into shirts for you, I think you will find them useful on your return here.

Eliza is well, or rather, as you call her, Miss D.

I enclose you a copy of Lydia’s letter for your amusement, after you have perused, send it to George Davidson with my love. I shall address him soon.

Do you receive the Courier regularly? I have begged Jones to dispatch yours and M^r D–s from his Office being the better mode for your getting them sooner. Courier Johnstone it is reported is absconded to Bengal. De Jong is here, on his way to Pondicherry he is sent to General Conway on Service.

I request you will as Lydia says, “answer this letter word for word” – Could I shed blessings as the “moon sheds dew”, my dearest Nephew should largely participate; but as I am not endowed with that happy power, I can only wish you what I cannot bestow.

Eliza Davidson

pages 193 – 194, including 194A and 194B

The Grove 27th May 1789

My dearest Nephew’s kind and most welcome favor of the 20th hailed me yesterday – when you do not hear so often from me, as you are pleased to say you wish, attribute my silence to some unforeseen accident: I confess to you, I am to blame in not mentioning the recovery of you good Uncle’s health, in future I shall pay more attention; and be afeared I never shall intentionally give you good causes for vexation.

You say “You will not believe that I write you often as I can”. Yes my inestimable friend I do believe you must religiously – But so great is my affection, and anxiety, unless I have a letter from you, once, in every three of four days, I am not satisfied. I must again repeat, Six lines, acquainting either E–, or me, of yourself only, will always most highly gratify us, as well as ease our burdened minds.

All your assurances of your being better is a mere joke – Can you my dearest friend be well when you are obliged to have so frequent recourse to Mercurial medicines? Oh no – you will some of these days repent of your imprudence. I have read those passages in your letter to the good Ruddiman tending to the management of your health, he said he did not at all approve your mode of doctoring yourself – and added, “I shall address Falconar directly on the subject, and I shall flatter myself he will listen (if not to yours) to my arguments”. So saying he took his leave. I pray heaven, the good Ruddiman’s humane administrations may have the proper effect.

Ere this reaches you, your Dubash must have arrived as also your Coolies, tell me how you like the Servant. If the leaden guglets do not answer I shall still send you the Silver.

I have got a few bottles of some exceeding fine Rynish or rather young Hock, which with some Hock I shall dispatch if I can tomorrow. I wish you would tell me, the things you most want at Camp. Some fresh fine Castor Oil shall accompany the Rynish.

You, no doubt expected abundance of Europe news and letters by this post – Alas! I am sorry

to tell you, you must be disappointed. The supposed Indiaman turned out to be a little Cruising Vessel from Tellicherry.

I have not anything entertaining to send for your amusement. Your Uncle is well, you are mentioned in all his letters, he tells Eliza, that he has written you.

M^{rs} Cairnes; Subscription is going on charmingly, it is imagined it will amount to ten thousand pounds – five thousand Pagodas, and upwards is already subscribed.

On Monday there is going to be an Outcry in our small House in the Fort, of many articles and lumber, that is better out of my way, the house is to be rented by Waddle the Hair Dresser, for thirty Pagodas p^r Month.

I am told Assine Chaun has paid largely for his Reconcilliation with the old Man – he was made much of, it is expected, he will now reign the whole and Sole Favorite at the Darbar – M^{rs} Geriche's sister a Miss Huttiman lately arrived here from Vizagapatam with M^r Geriche's family is shortly to be married to Doctor Roxburgh. The young lady though not handsome, is genteel in her person and nearly of Eliza's height.

M^{rs} Sydenham and M^{rs} Casamaijor are the only Ladies in a thriving way. The Cass are going home in Jan^{ry}, Miss L– Campbell is to go to her sister in Bengal. M^{rs} Cairnes I am told is to become an Inhabitant of the great Mount. M^{rs} Pierce is better, her malady is occasioned by spiting of Blood, she at present resides at Ennore for its salutary air.

I have not mentioned the Asylum to you since you left the Grove. I must now tell you it is greatly improved, the Children have all got a great stock of new linen; besides they are kept in good order. M^r Gerricker is appointed to superintend the charity; with a salary of six hundred Pagodas a year; I think when next you visit the Asylum, you will give me a little credit for the improvements I have made. M^{rs} Mackenzie is going to quit the School by her own choice.

Your poor Manchie often comes to enquire after your health; he says he longs to see you again, when he next comes here I shall deliver your message.

What of the Detachment you did not say a word about it in your last.

Give my love to good George when you see him, how is the poor fellow? –

Grant is well, is the same as ever – What of Burrowes, does not he mean to join his Reg^t?

Eliza desires her kindest remembrance –

Farewell, my Sandy, impress your memory at all times, with the assurance of my affection, and never forget,

Your faithful Aunt, Eliza: Davidson.

P. S. James and family leave me on Sunday next –

Cornet Alex^r Falconar

pages 195 – 198

The Grove 2nd June 1789

It is time my dearest Nephew, I should resume my silent pen to acknowledge and thank you for your kind and affectionate favor of the 24th of May. It is needless for me to assure you how much satisfaction I always derive at the receipt of your letters, as you must be, ere this, well acquainted with the Sentiments of my heart towards you: therefore; I shall not continue further to Enumerate them, but I must conjure you, as frequent as it may be in your power to remain as kind as you have been since your Stay at Colongoody – We now have the pleasure to hear from you regularly, once every four days. If you but continue thus good my amiable Sandy, your friends at the Grove shall never Murmur or censure your Conduct.

You have so repeatedly said you are better, it would be wrong in me not to be easy, yet, you can not be so well as you ought to be, and fit for the hardy Service you are in, when you are under the cruel necessity of both attending to your health and Duty it is I think unfortunate. If you were in possession of good Health, your Duty would be pleasure to you, and your

anxious friends would be contented – But as it is at present it is far otherwise.

I have so particularly talked to you about the Dubash, it is unnecessary to add more, except it is to ask you if you like him and if he is as well disposed as your Boy Sam, you took from hence. Are the Coolies with the Maderia, and Box arrived? I thought I had mentioned to you the day of their departure from the Grove. I am sorry for my remissness. The reason I sent the Pottatoes was as I was obliged to send a Cooley with the Dubash; I did not like to send him empty handed as I had nothing else to send, I imagined the Pottatoes tho not proper for you, would be acceptable to your Mess.

You ask me since "S– n is arrived how does G– t manage is he at the Grove?" Yes, my friend, he is at the Grove, but is often out – from friday Evening last, we saw nothing of him, till after breakfast this morning (Tuesday). As I am on the subject of your Cousin, give me your advice how to act in the following affair. A few days past I found in the Dogs mouth a slip of paper written on it two lines in these very words.

"On Tuesday 26th May lost her temper with the good Girl most indecently M^{rs} D– at dinner". I do recollect Eliza vexed me by a little foolish joke of hers which she was telling G–t at my expense, however it was so trifling a circumstance I never thought more of it till I had snatched the Paper from the Dog – Good Good! what would you suppose from my indecent behaviour to my D....r? Could you imagine my friend, I should forget the tender affectionate Mother, and gentlewoman to ill treat my favored Eliza –? I despise the Idea, as much as I do the illiberal Designer. But as a dear friend, tell me if I should take notice of it to G–t.

Boyd read me a part of his wife's letter, wherein she says the King cannot recover, they have been obliged to put him on a tight waistcoat. M^{rs} Boyd also adds M^r Pitt will certainly be kept in the Ministry owing greatly to M^{rs} Fitzherbert with whom M^r Pitt is a great favorite; from the moment M^r Fox was against her marriage with the Prince, from that instant she was prejudiced to his disadvantage and never invited him to her House. – It is said she hates Fox as much as she now regards the Sensible clever, and manly Pitt.

Poor Cruitzer is dangerously ill, Duffin has a bad opinion of his situation. The Colours * are really up for an Indiaman. God send us my Sandy our hearts dearest wishes tomorrow, I shall be able to give you the Europe news. It is curious, E– dreamt last night the Duke of Buccleuch now arrived with Macaulay on Board who brought us very large Packets.

* 6 o'Clock P.M.

Is it not strange an Indiaman should now appear? –

I have much more to say to you, but for want of time, I am obliged to postpone till I next address you, which shall be shortly.

The enclosures are the list of your Uncles Books, (prick off those you wish to have, and mention them in your next letter, you need not return the list.) and the Dramatis Persone of the Merchant of Venice, and a full and complete list of the Ships for this Season.

Our things went off yesterday at the Outcry tollerably well. Pray do you receive the Couriers regularly?

James and family left us on Sunday – I cannot help liking the poor foolish fellow he is sadly deluded by his wife. Watts has this day commenced our hairdresser – I hope he will behave more faithfully. My family is greatly thin'd since you left us.

Have you heard from the good Ruddiman? – I never see him but when particularly invited, he is an honest man nevertheless, I regard him for his attention to you. Eliza's best and affectionate remembrances await you. Your Uncle for ever begs to have his friendship presented to the amiable Falconar. If you see George give him my Love. I shall soon write him – Farewell my favored nephew Your sincerely affectionate Eliza Davidson

page199

The Grove 6th June 1789

My Dearest Nephew

I am indeed very thankful to you, for your very kind favor of the 1st instant. Your early communication of your proceedings was very satisfactory to us – I have not time to add more now, being just returned from the Fort, where we have been all this morning and forenoon*: it is now near 5 o'Clock P.M. – I shall address you soon – In the meantime accept the Blessing, and prayers of your affectionate Aunt E:D. * packing the wine &^c

pages 200 – 201

The Grove 8th June 1789.

My Ever dear Nephew,

It is now past 1 o'Clock Eliza and I am just returned from the Fort, where we had been, accompanied with M^{rs} Hughes, and Miss Whittal, with a design to see all the fine things out of the Rockingham, but in this plan we were overset, being informed by the Captain's Servant, the shop was not to be opened until Wednesday. If you had seen the visages of some of this party caused by disappointment, you would have been much entertained.

Have I, think you, been long silent? – You cannot imagine how very busy Eliza and I, have been since I wrote you – On Saturday last, from 10 in the morning till past 4 in the afternoon, we were in the Godowns up to our Ears in Straw, surrounded with nasty filthy Coolies packing wine &^c &^c –

I meant my friend to have written you at some length by this post, but Alas! I am prevented. Your kind favors of the 27th of May, the 1st and 3rd of June are duly received – and they shall be soon particularly attended to –

I do my dear Sandy, rejoice to hear such pleasing accounts of the Expedition – Thanks to the Almighty for his unbounded goodness and Mercy I shall not now further comment on this unfortunate cruel affair – but must request of you as soon as you deem proper to let me know, when you can come down here that I may solicit your leave – It is imagined here there will be no more fighting.

You must come here ere I leave this, I really wish to speak to you very seriously – and what is more, you must come with a complying disposition – My whole heart and Soul is fixed on the Business; and you my friend, I hope will comply –

Ruddiman dined yesterday here, he is not for your Smoking the Hooker, he says your Lungs are not calculated for it – he is a good fellow indeed, he has, and ever mentions you most kindly.

Rumly embarks tomorrow for Bombay, he is grown very Stout. M^r Grant is well. I hope you have good tidings from your dear family. Grant has not had one letter from Scotland.

Your Uncle is well – Eliza sends her Love and kind remembrance. My salams to George, he says he is Bilious – tell him to take better care of himself.

Your Monchi is well, and often pays me a visit – G. . . . does not like him.

Adieu – my Sandy, ever regard, Your Devoted Aunt E: Davidson

Rain is just set in the weather looks bad.

pages 202 – 205

The Grove 11th June 1789.

Your last favor my dearest Nephew was dated on the 3rd, since then I have not heard from you. Ten days silence appears to me an age. In my last, I told you I should soon and fully reply to your letters, accordingly I am now come to fulfil my engagement.

I hope ere this you have got your oil, and it has been of service to you. Ruddiman says you should only use the Machine "now and then at intervals". I shall herein enclose you his letter for your consideration.

The reason I noticed your request to G. . . . for Winkly's assistance, was, because I never see him pleased, (at lest I think so) to give you his aid. I may perhaps be greatly mistaken in my remark, it may be so – my notions of the matter may be wrong; I sincerely hope you may find to the contrary –

I made you "Laugh about the Hock". you say – pray explain yourself. I do not at this period recollect one Item of what I said – it must have been something very curious – You my Sandy are so grave a fellow, a little thing will not occasion you to smile I know.

I have disposed of the old Grey. I had him harnessed, and put in the Wigmalary both, together with the Carriage went off I think extremely well, some griffen in the Blacktown purchased them for 88 Pagodas. Our outcry in Town being mostly of lumber I thought the goods sold well, they fetched upwards of 13 hundred Pagodas.

Your harness being old I got rid of it, with the horse; and kept your Uncle's for you, one much stronger and nearly new.

M^{rs} Cairnes is gone to reside at the Mount at Colonel Moorhouse's, accompanied by Miss Cummings.

M^r Neilson Lieu^t Fire worker and three Artillery men were killed this day on the Battery in proving the Guns one burst and did unfortunately all the mischief.

12th June 89.

Writing to your Uncle the Europe news prevented my going on with my letter yesterday. Eliza told you all the occurrence from Europe that we had heard before the dispatch of her letter to the post office. In the evening we were told by Grant who had been at Boyd's, the very pleasing recovery of our poor King, the particulars of it, you will see in the Courier. (Supplement) Sir John Macpherson has had all his arrears of Salary paid off to a great amount by the Company. Macaulay is coming out on the Duke of Buccleuch as is Miss Fisher, and Miss Popham, the latter a natural Daughter of Popham's a fine girl.

I have had letters and Journals by both ships from Gower Street – those by the Europa mention all being well. Jannet was in Feb^{ry} last still with M^{rs} Chitty. She is only waiting till the weather is a little better and then to return. My Cousin has enclosed me letters from your sweet Mother and sister Eliza, to M^{rs} Chitty, for my perusal they shall be sent to you. Eliza is now in Gower Street, she got there the end of Jan^{ry} – M^{rs} Chitty is much pleased with her, and says, tho not handsome, she is mild, pleasing, and well disposed, not unlike as she calls you, "my favorite nephew." Eliza wishes much to come out, and it is settled between your good Mother, and my Cousin, that she is to remain to accompany her Cousin Lydia out next year. M^{rs} Chitty writes me there are 30 Writers and Cadets to be appointed this Season – Alas! she does not give much hopes but, yet; I hope to have some good news by the latter ships She amiable woman has not been idle in the service of love and friendship. I do not despair all yet will do well by the assistance of our Maker –

My letter by the Sullivan was dated on the 4th of Feb^{ry} – my worthy Cousin tells me your friends were well in Scotland, but your dear Brother Patrick was very ill with Bilious fever – at that period your Mother did not know of your Brother's indisposition – Your sisters Eliza and Jannet were greatly, dear girls, distressed with the melancholy accounts of his illness. The next ships will I dare say bring your particular relative to the amiable youth – God preserve you my friend, and support you to bear with the afflictions of this world – you have indeed had your share of the Bitter Draught of this miserable Life.

I long to hear from you – Eliza sends her affectionate remembrances – we are well.

Adieu my Dearest friend. I remain with sincere affection Your devoted Aunt

Eliza: Davidson

Grant is well he has not had any letters yet from Scotland. Cornet Alex^r Falconar

page 206

My Dearest Sandy

Your favor of the 10th I was honored with this morning, I cannot now fully answer it, being past 5 o'Clock P M – I have taken up my pen to request earnestly of you to come down to Madras. I have indeed much to say to you regarding yourself, which I cannot communicate to you on paper. It is my friend, also your good Uncle's wish I should see you, ere I take my departure north – nay more; my peace of mind depends on your coming here – your must not refuse me, I shall wait for you till the end of July – There is no reason for you to ask leave if you please, I shall personally ask the General for your permission to visit Madras, I shall manage all that is necessary – But come you must – Do not my friend refuse me; your affectionate Aunt solicits your compliance –
God bless you, praise your attached & faithful E: Davidson.

The Grove 14th June 1789 –

What has your Uncle written you Send me his letter – Eliza's best wishes attend you. M^r G– on Friday last went on a hunting Party, he is not yet returned.
Cornet Alex^r Falconar

pages 207 – 208 [*Alexander Davidson to Alexander Falconar*]

Waltier near Vizagapatam

15th May 1789,

My dear Falconar

I have been favoured with your very friendly and affectionate letter from Trichinopoly Plain. The indifferent state of your health, since you left the Grove, has been the subject of most sincere concern, not only to me, but to your remaining friends, whom I left with a heavy heart behind me.

It is heart breaking for a Young Soldier to leave a Detachment sent on actual Service; but health, is the first object, not only to yourself, but friends; if the Doctor advise it, hesitate not a moment, but let him report you sick to the Commanding Officer; haste to the best assistance, and get restored.

It may please God to re-establish your health – you may again be enabled to join your Regiment – and when the Service is over, have a Chance of still seeing M^{rs} Davidson and Daughter before they leave Madras.

Should our friends be of opinion your Constitution is too weakly for a Military life; I need not I hope say with what pleasure and happiness I shall receive you into the bosom of your family, and sincerest of friends at Vizagapatam.

I am happy to hear M^{rs} Burrowes is better; I suppose by this time the Major has joined; I shall be happy to hear from you, or George, once in eight or ten days; or when anything extraordinary occurs.

I have no doubt, under Providence, but we shall all shortly meet with health and happiness. God grant it.

Wishing you success, but above all health, I shall ever remain. Your affectionate Uncle & Friend Alex^r Davidson

pages 210 – 212 [*Elizabeth Davidson to Alexander Falconer*]

The Grove 18th June 1789

My Dearest Nephew

I wrote you last that I wished to see you ere I left Madras – I told you my Sandy I much wanted to speak to you regarding your self, I now have the pleasure to send you your Dear Honored Uncle's Especial Mandate for your relinquishing the Army – You cannot my friend have the smallest Idea, how happy this Event has made us – (The Elizas) God be praised for his unbounded mercies.

As you have gallantly served the Campaign, with sickness in your Bosom, no one dare now to utter one single word to your Prejudice. Men of sense and feeling will admire your conduct and as to what the thoughtless think it is not worth a rush – the opinion of the former are surely what we are to abide by.

As soon I am informed the Cavalry are ordered into Cantonments, I shall apply to General Horne for your leave to proceed to Madras – Order your things down directly, as they will take some time reaching us, and they ought to be at the Grove by the middle of July – God in heaven grant we may all succeed in our most sanguine wishes – If our lives are spared; I doubt not, with the assistance of the all wise, and merciful Creator, our ends will be answered–

Your prospects in the Army are very distant, your rise therein ever requires interest and Support, besides experiencing many truly unpleasant circumstances – at any rate a Merchant you will do greatly better, and I shall flatter myself, ere I die, I shall see you in possession of a moderate Independence, enjoying those comforts you so richly merit.

I have reperused your letter, I shall endeavor to answer your every paragraph – In the first place give me leave to thank you for the reading of your dear family letters, they have yielded me much satisfaction, the happiness your amiable Mother expressed in her letter, was truly pleasing. May she experience such comforts every day, and every hour of her Life, how pleased and contented I shall be. I shall pay due attention to your Europe letters, entrusted to my care, I shall I hope soon deliver them in the hands of the right owner.

I am sorry for Courcap's Leg – you had better send him to attend your Baggage on the road, he will perhaps answer your purpose on that service, he shall be rewarded by me for his care and attention to you. This, I am in duty bound to do as it was my wish he should go to camp. His illness being occasioned by fatigue I can not do less, therefore, be not you my friend offended.

This is my Lydia's Birth day which closes Her 17th Year. M^r Leslie only dined here, Wilks and Ruddiman were engaged. I wish you were of the number – hereafter, I hope we shall not be my Sandy apart.

Eliza wrote you all the news yesterday – we have not had any letters by the Nottingham. The Miss Kennedys live with M^{rs} Horne, in a few days they are to choose their own guardians – After the arrival of M^{rs} Capper one of the young Ladies are to live with her. They are mild, tho short, genteel looking girls. Miss Smart and Wells are La, la – the latter is a sister of the Clergyman coming out with the Squadron – the Lady is bound for Bengal. M^{rs} Trapond, is I think lively, I have not seen her enough, to give you my opinion of her.

Mess^{rs} Leslie, Cosby and Graham are going to China for their health.

Your Uncle is well – he left Vizack on the 8th to visit Ingeram and Maddapolam. I imagine he will be absent about a week from his Chiefship. Eliza is well – she desires her Love, and is all expectation of seeing you, as is your attached and Affectionate &^c &^c Eliza: Davidson P.S. I enclose you the good Ruddiman's Certificate pened from the bottom of his heart – Write me of your motions –

pages 213 – 214

[*Alexander Davidson to Alexander Falconar*]

Waltier, near Vizagapatam

8th June 1789

My dear Falconar,

M^r Ruddiman being of opinion that neither your Constitution, nor Habit is fit for the Army; it would be highly improper in M^{rs} Davidson, and me, to sacrifice you to an Imaginary Idol. I am therefore come to the resolution, after the present Campaign, of withdrawing you from the Military Line; and desirous that you should try your Fortune as a Merchant. With this view immediately after the Expedition is over, M^{rs} Davidson will apply to Col^l Stuart, and to the Adjutant General, for leave for you to proceed to Madras; when you will proceed with my family to the North.

Some such letter as the following will be necessary to be written, through the Channel of your Commanding Officer, to the Commander in Chief.

Sir The enclosed Certificate from Doct^r Ruddiman, together with the advice of my friends, and my own ill health induce me to relinquish with regret a profession in India, where I had hoped to have distinguished myself in the Military Service of the Honourable Company; and in which I already have had the happiness to obtain the good opinion of my Commanding Officer; But after repeated trials, *

The Southern Campaign being now accomplished, I request your leave to resign my Commission in the Company's Service to the Governor in Council. I am with respect &^a,
– If there be anything informal in the above, my friend Major Burrowes will put you right.

God bless you, Falconar, wishing to hear good accounts from you,

I am Your sincere Friend and affectionate Uncle Alex^r Davidson

* and repeated returns of my complaint I am obliged to address you.

Cornet Falconar

pages 215 – 218 [Elizabeth Davidson to Alexander Falconer]

The Grove 20th June 1789

My Dearest Nephew

Eliza informed you yesterday, with the arrival of the Rose, as we did not receive our Europe letters till late, added with Miss Smith's arrival, put it entirely out of either of power, to inform you with any tidings of our Dear friends.

Since you have been with us, it has ever been my lot to communicate to you both pleasant, and bitter events – And am truly sorry to notice the latter has ever most predominated – But God's will be done we poor helpless mortals must Bow down our Heads with Due submission to his Divine Decrees.

Death that unsatiated Fiend has seized another prey out of your family– Yes, my dear Sandy, he has boldly and unexpectedly intruded into the dwelling of your Uncle Davidson, and torn from you, your charming Brother Patrick – I know your tender and affectionate heart will be opprest with pangs at this information – more particularly on account of the suffering of your sweetest Parent – A tribute of sorrow is natural, is just, nature receives a severe shock in consigning our friends to the silent grave, we almost forget their immortal part, and yield to the first tide of grief: But my friend let it glide gently with resignation to the will of Heaven. Alas! how frail is human nature! selfishness too frequently reigns triumphant; we regret the loss of a dear and valuable companion and relation, instead of rejoicing that they are released from a wretched world; and land in the port of happiness –

Your loved Brother, the amiable Patrick you so much regarded, was in the course of three days illness snatched away by a cruel Bilious Fever – This unfortunate event has shocked

poor Eliza, and me, beyond expression –

Your worthy Mother, M^{rs} Chitty tells me, is, as well, as the unhappy loss she has experienced will admit off – and is all anxiety for your welfare – I fervently hope, when she hears from you, her troubled mind will be more calm, and resigned –

I had written this far yesterday, when a note from M^r Mowbray summoned us, with the Miss Smiths to dine in town, as the young Ladies were under the necessity to embark in the afternoon – Half past 5 o'Clock we accompanied them to the Beach, I found on my return, it was too late to finish my letter, so as to reach the post office in time.

Your sister Eliza is with M^{rs} Chitty, she is a great favorite among them all – Janet is still with my Cousin, who daily expects her to return to your dear Mother. Next ships I pray God may bring you good and full accounts of your honored Parent and family.

The Rose has brought out nothing new. It is strongly reported General Meadows will be our next Governor. No regent is to be appointed, the King is perfectly recovered, M^r Fox gone in the Country exceedingly ill, caused by disappointment.

The Rose spoke with a trading vessel off Bombay, from her they understood, that Tippoo has used the French on the other coast severely ill, he has turned them out of their little port, torn their colours and trampled them with his feet – Further particulars you will learn in the Courier.

A Lieu^t Corry met with a sad accident a few days since, he arrived in the Nottingham from England, as he was going to conduct his wife on shore, the Boat happening to go rather too near the Rose while she was saluting the Fort, one of the wads stuck him, and carried away a part of his Ear, and otherwise much bruised him – Poor fellow! I am glad to find he is doing well.

Tomorrow I shall apply for your leave, and also Gerorges [*George's?*] – You cannot my friend think how much my heart is lightened since the change your good Uncle has made in your situation – Your Saint of Mother I know will be happy at the Idea of your removal and Ever to rejoice in this event – I shall expect to see you here ten or fifteen days at most, after you obtain your Permission.

You will find it hot traveling, I shall post a Carriage for you at Chingleput, a pair of Horses at Vendalore, I shall, accompanied by my side companion pick you up at the Mount. Your uncle tells me he will receive you with open Arms –

God bless you my Sandy –

I am your affectionate and Faithful Aunt Eliza: Davidson

The Grove 21st June 89 – I enclose you a copy of my Mary's letter – As your sister is therein mentioned, it will give you pleasure.

page 219

Grove 23rd June 1789.

My Dear Sandy –

I enclose you Colonel Malcolm's note – I have also written a few lines to Colonel Stuart by this post to hasten your departure from Trichinopoly – I hope you will fly to us, be assured, your success in life shall be my peculiar care. – If you know with what joy I write this, you would I am sure reward your Aunt –

I am favored with your letter of the 18th – Adieu – Your affectionate E: Davidson

Your Uncle is well and your Cousin

[*letters to Alexander Falconar now cease*]

page 220 [presumably written by Major Stevenson to young Eliza Davidson]

[at the top is the number 1]

Permit me, Miss Davidson, with the greatest respect and with the greatest Submission to Your sincerity and humanity to offer my Life and Soul to your disposal –
Do not to be alarmed at my past irregularity is if You will deign to dispose of my future hours I may Safely assure you that they Shall be govern'd by the most anxious & Earnest desire to be approv'd and regarded by You - I am Sensible of my presumptions: but on imp[rest of word illegible] by [next three words illegible], and depend on the Excellence of your disposition to pardon any impropriety and disparity that may appear to you in this declaration. If I am unfortunate in my ambitious hopes, I am sure Miss Davidson will be So generous as to bury them in oblivion from moment of perusal – If I dare aspire I Shall make your Mama my Confidant immediately.

page 221 is blank

page 222 [written by young Eliza Davidson]

I have perused Major Stevenson's Note and feel myself greatly honored by the compliments he has paid me. As candor on occasions like this is highly necessary as well as honorable let me acquaint him that my affections have been long engaged – Tho this situated I am not insensible to the merits of M. S. I hope therefore the good opinion he has entertained of me will not be lessened by this Frank and ingenuous Declaration – He may rely on my Honor and Secrecy –

page 223 is blank

page 224 [presumably written by Major Stevenson to young Eliza Davidson]

Pardon my blindness & vanity Miss Davidson – Pardon my folly & presumption – The Enigma is [next word illegible] with Candour & Generosity & with unmerited [next word illegible] to the bold professor – I hope it has not offended & that any part of my conduct may not have made an unfavorable impression in the mind of Miss Davidson, where I must ever be ambitious Approbation – Neighbour [next word illegible] will retire to his Arcott [next word illegible] in Sunday & in the way will have the honor of taking leave of his Neighbours at the Grove.

page 225 is blank

page 226 – 227 [Colin Macaulay to Elizabeth Davidson]

My Dear Madam

before you read any more I do most particularly expect that you will be upon honour with me, and not hint a Syllable of this to Miss Davidson; for in a question whether her own happiness only is concerned no motive ought to influence; besides I have most unanswerable reasons which you may learn more at leisure; –

I had resolved indeed to have spoken to you last night, but your accompanying Miss Humphries prevented it;

a state of anxious and uneasy suspence I find too much for my Philosophy and no longer to be supported; – the many inconsistencies in my Conduct since you & I first had the pleasure

of being acquainted, have not, I know well, escaped your penetration, and have perhaps been most evident, when I strove most to conceal them; my partiality (but why, when I exact candour on your part, should not I be equally candid on mine) or warm affection for you charming Daughter have principally contributed to produce them, I am yet to learn how far I could hope for Miss Davidsons approbation or disapprobation of any such declarations, but before I hazard either I feel it a duty to know how far it will be agreeable to you that I should speak to her; – or whether (if you approve of it) it would be now prudent to do so; if you disapprove be assured I shall attempt nothing that may lose me the place I hold in your esteem; but whatever your resolve may be I again most earnestly intreat that you may not show this to Miss Davidson; was I not well assured that no consideration of rank or fortune from both which you know I am excluded; will ever weigh with you against your Daughter's Happiness; I should never have the presumption to give you the trouble of answering this; If you approve I can say a Thousand things to you more at leisure, if not I have said a great deal too much; in any event it shall my endeavour not to interrupt our pleasing harmony, believe me to be

My Dear Madam with the sincerest esteem Yours very faithfully C Macaulay

page 228 [Colin Macaulay to young Eliza Davidson]

M^r Macaulays Compliments to Miss Davidson, that he may indulge the wish which he last night deprived her of, and ease her Mamas apprehension, he sends her as nearly as he can recollect the Copy of what she had to read. tho' there are few things he would not sooner undertake, than run the least wish of giving offence to Miss D– yet it may sometimes be prudence to be impertinent;

“Breathe softl y Winds, be hus'd each under noise
tis sweet E...a tunes her gentle Voice;
at Cards she sits the gentlest of her Kind
her eyes beam sweetly forth her gentle mind.
her mind where purest innocence we view
pure as mild April soft descending dew,
how oft have I a solemn purpose made
And call'd in sober reason to its aid;
yet still when next I viewd her lovely eye
reason & prudence pass'd unheeded by
"from lips like hers what precept fail'd to move
for soon they taught me twas no crime to love."
Many happy returns of a new year, et Le prie
un petit sauenir dans nos prienes aujourd'hui.

page 229 only has a name on it

page 230 [young Eliza Davidson to Mr Macaulay]

[at the top is the number 6] 88 Grove Wednesday Morning 2nd January 1788.

Lad [? unclear] Lady

Miss Davidson returns her compliments to M^r Macaulay, is much flattered by his polite Attention as well as for his kind wishes.

But she earnestly begs that the pleasing Harmony subsisting between him and his Friends at

the Grove be not interrupted by a Billet which she finds it difficult to reply to whether written in jest or earnest.

Miss Davidson recommends an Alteration in the two last lines of M^r Macaulay's little Sonnet where he quotes Elôise: not poetical, but conveying her Sense: –

But from her Pen, this precept received, Pass not Friendship's bound – or, be deceived.

page 231 – 232 [Mr Macaulay to Elizabeth Davidson]

M^r Macaulay begs leave to trouble M^{rs} Davidson for the last time upon this subject; – When he promised that their intercourse should undergo no interruption, he fears he promised upon a refinement too disinterested for human nature; he however indulges the pleasing idea of once again passing many happy days in M^{rs} D–s charming society, – he earnestly hopes that she will forget the past, and still permit him to be the bearer of her letters to Europe: he can assure her with much sincerity, which she may safely give him credit for, that few things could afford him equal pleasure with that of having it in his power to be of the smallest use, or to give the least satisfaction to M^{rs} Davidson, – he therefore particularly requests that she will still with freedom command his services, and give her directions as she had originally intended with respect to her Children, of whose situation he will send her the best accounts he can. –

before he is for ever silent he thinks it necessary in Justice to Miss Davidson to declare upon the faith & honour of a Gentleman, that he never received the smallest improper encouragement from her; indeed to M^{rs} Davidson who knows her Daughter incapable of it, any such strong [*illegible word*] must be wholly needless; it is only introduced here because tho' implied, it is not sufficiently exprest in his former letter. –

as to acknowledgement of Civilities &^c it would be as unnecessary for him to make them, as it would be tiresome for M^{rs} D– to peruse them; – he shall ever retain that sense of them they deserve; and if in his inferiour line any exertions, or explanations can aid M^r Davidson's cause, he hopes, he need not now say that M^r D– may rely upon them.

page 233 [T M Gordon to Alexander Davidson]

My Dear Sir,

It is impossible for me where my happiness is so much concerned to conceal any longer my sincere attachment to your Daughter which induces me to take the liberty of addressing you on The Subject, and to solicit your permission to pay my addresses to her should I be so happy as obtain your sanction, as well as that of your amiable Daughters, I shall ever consider it the most fortunate event of my life, – and my Study for ever after shall be to show how Sensible I was of the inexpressible felicity of being united to the most accomplished of her Sex, and honor of being connected to so worthy a family, believe me with regard.

My Dear Sir;

Your most obed^t humble Servant [*initials not quite clear*] T. M. Gordon June 1790

page 235 [[Alexander Davidson's reply to Mr Macaulay copied out by young Eliza]

Dear Sir,

You do Miss Davidson a great deal of honor by your good opinion of her. Her Affections have been long irrevocably engaged.

Let not that circumstance interrupt the friendly intercourse that has Subsisted between you &

my family. As M^{rs} Davidson, myself & family shall always be glad to see you as a friend.
I am ever Dear Sir Your obedient Hum^{ble} Serv^t A D

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