



Edinburgh 1. April 1843

My dear friend

By the the last Packet
I was anxious to write, to thank you for your kind
letters, & to inform you of our having received the
Preserves, also the Moccasins & Magazines which
you so kindly sent to me - but was prevented partly
from the then depressed state of my spirits & partly
by the hope that you would write by that month's
Packet. I now tender you our warmest thanks for
them. - This is a common-place phrase but believe
it to be literally sincere. The Strawberries & Cherries
are particularly delicious. With the Moccasins I am
quite pleased; the Indians have certainly displayed
both ingenuity & neatness in their workmanship.
I tried them on; they fit well & feel very comfortable
being too starchy however for every day's wear, I prefer
keeping them for a drawing room curiosity & as an
additional remembrance of the donor.
I presume you have received the letter containing

The melancholy intelligence of my father's death. It brought to my recollection a wish that you expressed; "that it might be long before I met with any more serious bereavement than the partial loss of Marion." This you wrote just about the time he died. His death has been keenly mourned by all of us especially so by my mother. I forget whether in any former letter I mentioned that we have lately heard more regularly from him, in his last received, he communicated his intention of visiting us this spring. When we fondly hoped that once more in his native country, & in the enjoyment of all the comforts which it affords, & which in his earlier years he was accustomed to, that he would be induced to remain amongst us. — But inevitable are the decrees of Providence. My mother's dearly cherished anticipations were doomed to receive a heavy blow. His widow, poor creature! is left a stranger in a strange land to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband, & to provide for her two boys. We have written begging her to endeavor to obtain a proper person to take charge of her property, & to come home to this country, where her children's education will be properly attended to. — Mr. Greer arrived in Paris on the last night of the bygone year — your parcel was handed to me about 10th. — I was at the time busily employed.

finishing some part of our mourning. It was indeed a dull New year to us. You mention how you spent your time on Christmas day—how differently was my time spent; on that day, for the first time in my life, I was attired in the sombre dress which I now wear. At first I thought I would be constantly melancholy as long as I wore it; but I find it like all other things—once habituated to it, & you feel quite unconcerned.

Your letter forwarded by Mr. Paves has this moment been handed to me. It has delighted me to find that I can be serviceable to you altho' it should be in a very trifling way. I have not seen Mr. P. but probably he intends calling before he leaves.— Mr. Greer has been visiting his friends at the north: he called last week & politely offered to take charge of anything we might have to send, so I shall not be at any loss for some one to take charge of the parcel.

You will probably have heard of the death of Mr. George Boyd. He has not left a will—consequently his brother John & his sister have become joint heirs of his property.— The former is going to reside at the Royal Terrace. What alteration it may make on their business establishment is not yet decided, but it is probable that Mr. Chree will retire, as his health is at present very bad.

I observe you still continue to contribute to the "Covenanters" & your spare devoted to the arranging of some larger work: if it is

believe me to be not less interested than at any former period. ~~This is in~~
 You have several times mentioned your intention of revisiting
 Scotland - may I ask when you intend doing so? - Supposing
 you were to come & find us as we are at present, you would
 perceive a great difference since your last visit. The light-
 conversations which we used to enjoy so much in the evenings
 have now totally ceased, whether from want of people to chat
 for with I cannot tell, but I rather think it is from want
 of inclination. My duties are now of a more responsible nature
 Mother is so very frequently from home, & father has had
 several severe bilious attacks this winter - so that I
 am hurried from one occupation to another without method
 or regularity. Besides for some time past there has been
 a web of difficulties weaving itself around me, & the more
 earnestly I struggle to be freed from it, the more deeply and
 entangled in its meshes. This is a mysterious way of writing
 but in a few months, if spared, I shall either be free, or placed
 in such circumstances as will render concealment unnecessary.

This is my reason for asking if you intend coming again to
 Scotland: in one sense I would be glad to see you but in another
 I consider it would be productive of much misery to me. It
 is far from my intention to dictate to any of your arrangements -
 you will ever receive a hearty welcome here - I merely throw out
 a hint, or rather a wish, that situated as I am at present I would
 .. I don't now how to finish this sentence. Had I enjoyed the privilege of being