

The Letters of Charles Dickens: Supplement – II

References (at the top left of each entry) to the earlier volumes of the British Academy-Pilgrim edition of *The Letters of Charles Dickens* are by page and line, every printed line below the running head being counted. Where appropriate, note and column number are included.

The Editors gratefully acknowledge the help given by Donald Hawes in the annotation to the present Supplement.

ANGUS EASSON
MARGARET BROWN

II.313.6. *To* GEORGE JERDAN,¹ [26-28 JUNE 1841]

Mention in *To* William Jerdan, 28 June 41. *Date*: after the Edinburgh dinner, 25 June.

¹George Jerdan, fourth son of John Jerdan of Kelso; writer and attorney; factor to local landowners, 1818; *m.* Sarah Smith, also of Kelso, 1819; by 1826 was proprietor of the *Kelso Mail* and agent for the Sun Insurance Company. William's younger brother and the only one to remain in Kelso; two elder brothers had both died: John Stuart joined the army and died at the Cape of Good Hope in 1822, and Gilbert moved to Glasgow and died in London, 1827.

II.313.7. Replaces N and catalogue extracts.

To WILLIAM JERDAN,¹ 28 JUNE 1841

MS David H. Kilmer.

Royal Hotel Edinburgh
Thursday Twenty Eighth June | 41

My Dear Jerdan.

Your letter is coming to me, I have no doubt. I am very sorry that I shall not be able to get to Kelso, but I have written my hearty thanks to your brother.²

The dinner was a very brilliant affair indeed – they say here, the best on record.³ It included all parties and persuasions. They were obliged for lack of room to turn away nearly a hundred applicants for tickets, and besides the diners we had more than a hundred and fifty ladies. Blackwoods are going to publish a good account of the speechifying.⁴ When they do, I'll send you one. Meanwhile I forward you two papers, wherein the reporting is dismal.⁵

It's November here. – I hope it may be June in London.

Always | Faithfully Yours

W. Jerdan Esquire

CHARLES DICKENS

¹William Jerdan (1782-1869; *DNB*); 3rd son and 7th child of John Jerdan and Agnes Stuart; his father was a rather easygoing, though respectable, small landowner of Kelso, Roxburghshire. William was editor of the *Literary Gazette* 1817-50; from 1820 a leading figure in literary society: see Vol. I, p. 207, also Jerdan's *Autobiography* (4 vols, 1852-3).

²See last.

³The dinner in CD's honour held at the Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh, on 25 June: see Vol. II, pp. 310-11 for full annotation.

⁴In fact they did not do so.

⁵The *Caledonian Mercury* gave a brief report and the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* a slightly fuller one: see *ibid.*, pp. 311-313.

VI.92.12.

To JOHN DELANE,¹ 2 MAY 1850

Text from facsimile in University Archives, Autographs and Historic Manuscripts catalogue, 2003.

Devonshire Terrace
Thursday Morning | Second May, 1850.

My Dear Sir

I cannot receive your very kind note, without writing this line of cordial acknowledgement, and of hearty assurance that I reciprocate all your friendly feelings.

As you ask me about Household Words,² I will not hesitate to say that I have no doubt an occasional quotation³ would do it good. Slips are always sent with the number, for this purpose.⁴ It is doing wonderfully well, but there is a great deal of filth to be carted away;⁵ and such help as you offer is very valuable in the youth of so extensive a design.

You have made the Dean⁶ (I am afraid he is a reduced one)⁷ perfectly happy.⁸

Believe me | Very faithfully Yours

John Delane Esquire.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹John Thadeus Delane (1817-79; *DNB*), editor of *The Times* 1841-77: see Vol. VII, p. 145n. This is the first known letter, though CD had met Delane by 1847 according to Forster.

²The first number of *Household Words* was published 27 Mar.

³In May 50, seven extracts from *HW* were printed in *The Times*: 9 (two), 13, 16, 27, 30 (two) May. On 16 May, an extract from CD's "The Begging-Letter Writer", *HW*, 18 May 50, fills a column.

⁴The slips of *HW*, printed, like proofs, on one side of separate sheets, allowed extracts to be cut out for the printer, while the number itself was kept on file intact.

⁵CD speaks metaphorically of the reforming tasks of *HW* and *The Times*, but *The Times* had recently been attacking the inefficiency of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers (e.g. 19 Mar, 6 Apr) and two of the extracts from *HW* stressed the filthy state of Smithfield Market (*ibid.*, 9, 13 May).

⁶Gilbert Elliot, DD (1800-91); Rector of Holy Trinity, Marylebone (1846-50), during which time he and CD became friends; his appointment as Dean of Bristol was announced in *The Times*, 1 May; was opposed to the Romanising movement: see Vols VI, p. 538n and XII (Addenda), pp. 627 and 631 (two new letters of 1850 & 1851), which throw light on CD's earlier relationship with the Dean.

⁷It was proposed that all Deans should have a stipend of £1,000 (a reduction in many cases) and that rules about residence and plurality be enforced (Elliot's predecessor had been Dean while Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge): see *The Times*, 23 and 30 Apr 50.

⁸Perhaps a reference to *The Times*'s leaders about the Gorham Controversy (see Vol. VI, p. 30 and *n*) and the consequent reaction of High Church elements. Priscilla Sellon (1821-76; *DNB*), Superior of the Plymouth Sisters of Mercy, had requested the Lord Chief Justice to stand down from her committee, following judgement in the Gorham case, a demand which *The Times* (16 Apr) characterised as "an act of disaffection to the English church" and evidence that those so acting were endeavouring to thrust Anglican articles and formularies "into meanings nearly akin to those of the Romish theology". For CD's own unhappiness under Elliot's successor and move to St Marylebone church, see Vol. XII (Addenda), p. 631n.

To ARTHUR RYLAND,¹ 25 MAY 1854

Text from facsimile in John Wilson Manuscripts Ltd. catalogue, 2003.

Tavistock House
Thursday Twenty Fifth May | 1854.

My Dear Sir

I have gone over the list² with great interest, I assure you, and am extremely glad to have the pleasure of hearing from you again.

Mrs. Dickens and her sister unite in kindest regards.

Always My Dear Sir | Very faithfully Yours

Arthur Ryland Esquire.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ Arthur Ryland (1807-77), solicitor: see Vol IV, p. 29*n*. Founder of the Birmingham and Midland Institute in 1853.

² A list of people to ask to give readings or lectures in aid of the Institute (above) compiled by the Canvassing Committee; Bulwer Lytton was among those applied to: see Vol. VII, p. 478 and *n*.

X.12.18.

To THOMAS P. BALL,¹ 11 JANUARY 1862

MS Peter Trusedale.

Exeter,² Saturday Eleventh January 1862

Dear Sir

I think your Poem on Prince Albert's Death,³ a production of very great merit – full of lofty feeling and expression, and quite apart from the common-places of such an occasion. It does you infinite credit, and I congratulate you upon it very cordially.

Dear Sir, Believe me | Faithfully Yours

Mr. Thomas P Ball.

CHARLES DICKENS

¹ Possibly Thomas Prideaux Ball, 22 Onslow Sq., W. Brompton.

² CD read at the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter, on 10 and 11 January.

³ Prince Albert had died on 14 Dec 61; CD postponed his readings for that week in Liverpool until 27-29 Jan 62. Ball's poem has not been traced and was probably unpublished; a poem by Robert Lytton, "A Great Man", was published in *AYR*, VI, p. 421 (25 Jan 62).

XI.161.29. Replaces catalogue extract ^(*ms*) Vol. XII, p. 737.

To HENRY GLASSFORD BELL,¹ 21 FEBRUARY 1866

MS Carol Chapman.

GAD'S HILL PLACE, | HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT.
Wednesday Twenty First February 1866

My Dear Sir

I beg you to accept my cordial thanks for your "charming volume."² I have read it with great pleasure and admiration, and with renewed remembrance of a certain elegant sandal-wood box³ that stands among my books.⁴ Do not think me remiss in not having written to you sooner,

for "I have been too unwell to do much."⁴

My daughters (the younger of whom is married) beg me to send you their kind regard. "It is not very unlikely that I may have the pleasure of seeing you in Glasgow⁵ before long."⁴

Henry Glassford Bell Esquire.

Faithfully Yours always

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Henry Glassford Bell (1803-74; *DNB*), of Glasgow, sheriff and man of letters: see Vol. V, p. 428n.

²*Romances and Minor Poems*, 1866, which was in CD's library at his death (*Catalogue of the Library of CD*, ed. J. H. Stonehouse).

³*The History of a Sandal Wood Box: written by itself.*, priv. printed [1848]. Written by Mrs Bell for her daughters before her death in Dec 47: see Vol. V, *ibid*; not given in Stonehouse however.

⁴CD's heart seems to have been causing some anxiety at this time; Frank Beard (his doctor) had prescribed iron, quinine and digitalis earlier that month: see *To Georgina*, 9 Feb 66 and *To Beard*, 16 Feb 66 (Vol. XI, pp. 155-6).

⁵CD gave readings there on 17, 19 Apr and 18 May 66; but they may not have met after all as Bell had suffered a bereavement: see *To Bell*, 19 Apr 66 (Vol. XI, p. 189 and n).

XI.223.8. Replaces catalogue extract ^(aa)

To THE MARQUIS TOWNSHEND,¹ 15 JULY 1866

MS Carol Chapman.

Text from facsimile in Albersheim's catalogue, 2002.

GAD'S HILL PLACE,
HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT.
Fifteenth July 1866

Dear Lord Townshend

I regret that I cannot have the pleasure of dining with Lady Townshend² and yourself on the Seventeenth, as "I have left town for the Season and have family visitors here."⁴ Your kind note reached me only today, in consequence of my having been on a ramble.³ Let me assure you that your remembrance was very welcome to me.

The | Marquis Townshend

Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

¹John Villiers Stuart Townshend (1831-99), 5th Marquis Townshend since 1863; CD had known him since 1856, when as Viscount Raynham he had been Treasurer of the Royal Hospital for Incurables: see Vol. VIII, p. 106.

²Lady Anne Elizabeth Clementina (1847-1925), daughter of James (Duff) 5th Earl of Fife; they married 17 Oct 65.

³There are no letters between 11 and 15 July; CD may have been with Ellen Ternan.

To MRS ROSS CHURCH,¹ 6 AUGUST 1867

MS The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

GAD'S HILL PLACE,
HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT.
Tuesday Sixth August, 1867

Dear Mrs. Ross Church

I have read your book,² and I think it evinces your possession of *considerable power*. I cannot honestly say that I find your power to be always well directed, or that I do not find many evidences of its being impetuously and daringly used. But I have not the slightest doubt of its existence within you.

You will excuse my adding that I think you unwise in freely touching forbidden topics.³ If I also object that you do so with a certain "coarseness", I do not use that word in its conventional acceptation, but as meaning with an absence of that very great delicacy of art which can alone carry so difficult a load. Your general idea too, of the dissipated part of such a life as your hero's, is (so far as I know) not like the Truth, and suggests something worse. Similarly, he very often speaks as educated gentlemen (to say nothing of this gentleman's being imaginative too) do not speak.⁴

It is very remarkable to me that while you are indignant with men⁵ for making laws unjust and oppressive towards women, you do not see that the cruel persecutors of erring women are their own sex. Against the cruelty of women to women, men are mostly powerless. And yet in the very same breath you indicate this last lamentable fact.

The opening of the book is very good indeed, both as an indication of character and a piece of construction. Gerald's father and mother, both highly meritorious. The father's death, excellent. Ada (except that she does not swim as well in philosophical waters as in those of the Isle of Wight) very good too. All about her child, natural and affecting.

I write with difficulty, being laid up with erysipelas in the foot,⁶ which puts me into a highly inconvenient attitude. But I desire to lose no time in telling you what you ask me to tell you – the truth to the best of my belief.

Always | Faithfully Yours

CHARLES DICKENS

The last volume looks as if it had cost you the least pains?

¹Florence Marryat (1838-99; *DNB*), daughter of Capt. Frederick Marryat (1792-1848; *DNB*); married Thomas Ross Church, June 54; prolific novelist, playwright, actress and singer: see Vol. VII, p. 67 and later vols.

²*The Confessions of Gerald Estcourt*, 3 vols, 1867.

³These topics include marital separation, elopement, Estcourt's living with Julia before making her his first wife, and suggestions of various vices and sins in high society. According to Michael Sadleir, during the first part of her writing life Florence Marryat was regarded "as a purveyor of dangerously inflammatory fiction, unsuitable for reading by young ladies, yet highly to their taste" (*XIX Century Fiction*, 1951, I, 299).

⁴Estcourt is often outspoken, using slang expressions and mild expletives (for which he is sometimes rebuked).

⁵Ada, who eventually becomes Estcourt's second wife, passionately expresses her indignation at the treatment of women in conversation with him (e.g., Vol. I, Ch. 10 and Vol.

2, Ch. 10).

⁶Described in *To Forster*, [6 Aug 67], Vol. XI, pp. 407-408; presumably the condition CD later ascribed to his over-walking in the snow, Feb 65: see *ibid.*, pp. 18-19 and below, *To Mrs Ross Church*, 17 May 70.

XII,313.1.

To SAMUEL JOHNSON,¹ 15 MARCH 1869

MS Garth Johnson. *Address*: Mr. Samuel Johnson | 28 South Castle Street |
Liverpool.

26 Wellington Street, Strand, London.
Monday Fifteenth March 1869.

Sir

I must distinctly inform you that I cannot in any way whatever enter upon the consideration of the circumstances you state to me. They are associated with complicated affairs of other people, of which I have never had the slightest knowledge, and with which I have nothing to do.²

Your obedt. Servant

Mr. Samuel Johnson

CHARLES DICKENS³

¹Samuel Johnson (1820-1899); Liverpool printer and book publisher whose business appears to have failed c. 1861; since then he had moved from job to job including bookseller, photographic artist, clerk in a brewery; he married twice and had 14 children but at this date his first wife had died leaving him with eight children of whom the youngest was 12 years old.

²It is possible that Johnson hoped to get back into publishing himself, or to advance either his brother's or one of his elder sons' careers with CD's help.

³CD was on the Provincial reading tour of Oct 68-Apr 69 which ended in his collapse at Preston on 22 Apr; he read six times in Liverpool in Oct and it is probable that Johnson heard him; on 11 Mar CD, who had learnt of the death of his friend, Sir James Emerson Tennent (see Vols VI, p. 701*n* and XII, *passim*), rushed south after his reading in York, cancelling a second reading in Hull on 12 Mar in order to be at the funeral that day. CD's next reading was in London on 16 Mar.

XII,320.1.

To MRS ROSS CHURCH, 29 MARCH 1869

MS The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND,
Monday Twenty Ninth March 1869

My Dear Mrs. Ross Church

Let me assure you that I very highly esteem the honour you propose to render me, and that I truly feel the terms in which it is proffered. I accept it with all my heart.¹

Unfortunately it is quite out of my power to make any safe appointment for any day in the next month or in May. My "Farewell Readings" (which will not be finished until June), keep me perpetually travelling in all parts of the Empire; and within a few hours of my being brought back to London to read there, I am spirited away again, at the cost of immense fatigue, to read elsewhere. This will go on until the

appointed list is read out.

Believe me always | Very faithfully Yours

Mrs. Ross Church

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Her new novel, *Véronique: A Romance*, dedicated to CD; copy at Gad's Hill on CD's death (*Catalogue of the Library of CD*, ed. J. H. Stonehouse): see Vol. XII, p. 406 and *n.*, where we quote part of her dedicatory letter.

XII.370.14. Replaces catalogue mention.

To MRS LYNN LINTON,¹ 19 JUNE 1869

Text from G. S. Layard, *Mrs Lynn Linton, her Life, Letters and Opinions*, 1901, pp. 160-1.

26 WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND,
Saturday, 19th June 1869.

My Dear Mrs. Linton

Although your article on our old friend is interesting as a piece of personal remembrance, it does not satisfy my desires as a review of Forster's book.² It could hardly be otherwise than painful to Forster that I, one of his oldest literary friends, and certainly of all others his most intimate and confidential, should insert in these pages an account of Landor – or touch the subject – without a word of commendation of a biography that has cost, to my knowledge, a world of care and trouble. I find from your letter to my son that you do not think well of the said book. Admitting that the life was to be written at all, I *do*. And it is because I think well of it, and wish highly to commend it on what I deem to be its deserts, that I am staggered and stopped short by your paper,³ and fear that I must turn to and write another in its stead.⁴

I want you to understand the case on my own presentation of it, and hence I trouble you with this note.

Believe me always | faithfully yours,

CHARLES DICKENS

¹Eliza Lynn (1822-98; *DNB*), journalist and novelist known as Mrs Lynn Linton after her marriage to W. J. Linton, 1858; close friend of W. S. Landor, at whose house she first met CD in 1849; regular contributor to *AYR*: see Vol. VII, p. 114 and later vols.

²Forster's *W. S. Landor: a Biography*, pubd June 69: see Vol. XII, p. 352 and *n.* CD had asked Mrs Lynn Linton to write a review for *AYR*, no doubt because he knew she was a very old friend of Landor's.

³According to Layard in his *Life* (above), the article she wrote began with the words: "The Life of Walter Savage Landor has yet to be written".

⁴CD wrote a review himself, recommending Forster's book and describing Landor himself with affection and understanding; it appeared in *AYR*, N.S. Vol II, No. 34, 24 July 1869: see "The Uncommercial Traveller' and Other Papers", ed. Michael Slater and John Drew (*Dickens' Journalism*, 2000, Vol. 4, pp. 396-403).

To MRS LYNN LINTON, 21 JUNE 1869

Text from Swann Auction Galleries catalogue, Oct 2002.

OFFICE OF ALL THE YEAR ROUND,
Monday Twenty First June 1869

My Dear Mrs. Linton

I had not the least intention of returning you the enclosed paper,¹ and had ordered it – in right of our long association – to be placed to your credit in the business account. That order I shall certainly not cancel (except under compulsion) but you are perfectly free to publish the paper nevertheless.

Believe me Very faithfully Yours
CHARLES DICKENS

¹Clearly Mrs Linton had asked CD to return her review of Forster's *Biography* of W. S. Landor. *Fraser's Magazine*, N. S. Vol. II, July 70 published an article by her entitled "Reminiscences of Walter Savage Landor" in which she endeavoured "to redress, by my testimony, the unjust balance of public opinion by which he has been weighed only according to his demerits"; although she mentions both Forster and Dickens, nowhere does she refer to Forster's book; no review with the opening words quoted by Layard (*To Linton*, 19 June, *n*) yet discovered.

XII.528.23. Replaces catalogue extract ^(aa).

To MRS ROSS CHURCH, 17 MAY 1870

MS Free Library of Philadelphia. Address: Mrs. Florence Marryat Church | 58 York Terrace | Regents Park | N.W.

GAD'S HILL PLACE, | HIGHAM BY ROCHESTER, KENT.
Tuesday Seventeenth May 1870

My Dear Mrs. Church

"I have been much inconvenienced and pained this last week by a neuralgic attack in the foot to which I am sometimes liable, and which originally came of over walking in deep snow.^{a1} The moment I can stand after such a seizure (which in the present case is this moment of writing), I have recourse to change of air. But I shall be back here on Sunday, and happy to receive a call from you on that day between 2 and 3, if that should suit your convenience.

Faithfully Yours always
CHARLES DICKENS

¹In Feb 65; see Vol. XI, pp. 18-19, and above, *To Mrs Ross Church*, 6 Aug 67, for a similar attack.