

The Letters of Henry Crabb Robinson,
Wordsworth Library, Grasmere

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I. Introduction

Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867), the noted diarist, traveler, and friend of nearly every important literary figure of the first half of the nineteenth century, considered the Wordsworths of Rydal Mount, along with their relations and friends in the Lake District, London, and in various other locations, as his most important social circle outside his own family. His friendship with Mary Wordsworth (1770-1859), whom he first met in 1812, spanned more than 45 years. Initially, William and Dorothy were his primary correspondents, but after Dorothy's mental condition deteriorated in the 1830s, Robinson transferred his attentions to Mary. If any letters passed between Robinson and Mary Wordsworth prior to 1833, they are no longer extant, nor are they mentioned in Robinson's diary. Between 1833 and 1858, however, 129 letters (some attached to letters to other recipients) have survived, with 83 written by Robinson and 46 by Mary Wordsworth. Ninety-two of these letters reside at Dr Williams's Library, London, the primary depository of Robinson's massive manuscript collection. In 1927 Edith Morley relied solely on this collection for the texts of Mary Wordsworth's letters that appeared in Morley's two-volume edition of *The Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson with The Wordsworth Circle*. In those two volumes Morley also included portions of Robinson's letters to Mary Wordsworth likewise belonging to the Robinson collection at Dr Williams's Library. However, the 37 letters by Robinson to Mary Wordsworth, now residing in the Wordsworth Library, Grasmere, all composed during the final ten years of Mary Wordsworth's life, were not known to Morley in 1927.

How these letters became separated from the primary collection of Robinson's correspondence at Dr Williams's Library (and thus escaped Morley's notice) remains a mystery, but the result has been that the contents of these letters have likewise escaped the notice of scholars of the Wordsworth circle and Crabb Robinson. Though diligent in publishing Mary Wordsworth's letters (all known letters were in print by 1993), scholars have been content to rely almost exclusively on the brief portions of Robinson's letters to Mary Wordsworth that were published by Morley in 1927, along with excerpts from his manuscript diary and reminiscences that appeared in Thomas Sadler's *Diary, Reminiscences, and Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson* (3 vols, 1869) and Morley's *Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and Their Writers* (3 vols, 1938). These publications, though providing most of what we know of Robinson's relationship with the Wordsworths and their circle, have resulted in a highly selective and largely one-sided view of that relationship, especially Robinson's friendship with Mary Wordsworth. Scholars have, for good reasons, privileged the letters of Wordsworth and his likeminded, exuberantly creative sister Dorothy over those of Mary, just as, for similar reasons, they have privileged Mary's letters over Robinson's. Yet it is Robinson's letters, far more than Mary's, that reveal the depth of their friendship; the breadth of their shared (and, at times, varied) interests in matters of literature, religion and politics; the careful chronicling of the activities and opinions (both good and bad) of their wide coterie of friends; and a genuine concern for their families, both immediate and extended. According to Morley, their correspondence 'shows the writers setting down their thoughts and feelings in unrestrained freedom of intercourse' (*Correspondence*, I. 27). This 'unrestrained freedom' was easy for Morley to see, since she had access to the complete texts of the letters at Dr Williams's Library of both writers. Unfortunately, her truncated versions of Robinson's letters essentially reduced his correspondence to a compilation of literary anecdotes. Morley clearly saw that the letters that passed between these two friends added much to our knowledge of literary history, for both writers were proficient in recording matters of importance related to Wordsworth and his literary friends. However, a proper accounting of their friendship, concerns, and opinions can only be ascertained

through a careful reading and contextualizing of the complete texts of all the letters that passed between them, an accounting immeasurably enhanced by the hitherto unknown texts of the 37 letters by Robinson to Mary residing in the Wordsworth Library.

Overview of the Robinson Letters at the Wordsworth Library

This collection consists of 73 documents relating to Robinson, including one printed notice concerning the Wordsworth monument in Westminster Abbey; two copies of the itinerary of Robinson's tour with Wordsworth of Italy in 1837 (one attached to the 1850 letter to Christopher Wordsworth, Jr.; three notes by HCR; HCR's copy of a portion of a letter by Wordsworth to Dorothy, 1812; one letter from Catherine Clarkson to HCR, 1853, attached to a letter from HCR to Mary Wordsworth; an extract from Robinson's will concerning the Wordsworth family; and 64 letters by HCR to various members of the Wordsworth family and circle. Morley did see the letters that passed between Robinson and the Rev. John Miller of Bockleton (included below), composed between 1850 and 1858, placing brief extracts from these letters in an appendix to volume 2 of her later publication, *Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and their Writers*, (3 vols, London, 1938), pp. 832-36. At that time the Robinson-Miller letters were in the private collection of Miss Emma Hutchinson.

37 letters by HCR to Mary Wordsworth, 1837-58

12 letters by HCR to Rev. John Miller of Bockleton, 1850-58

4 letters by HCR to William Wordsworth, Jr, 1846-59

10 letters by HCR, one each to Catherine Clarkson, 1837; Dora Wordsworth [later Quillinan], 1847; Dorothy Wordsworth, 1837; Edward Quillinan, 1848; Derwent Coleridge, 1853; Henry Thomas Lutwidge, 1843; Mrs Thomas Arnold, 1850; Christopher Wordsworth, Jr, 1850; Rev. George Armstrong, 1851; Thomas Carter, 1855

1 letter by HCR, undated, to an unknown correspondent

II. Calendar of the Robinson Letters

1. [Copy by HCR of a portion of a letter by William Wordsworth to Dorothy Wordsworth, May 1812.](#)
2. [Note by HCR, dated June 1833, affixed to margin of MS by Dorothy Wordsworth.](#)
3. [Note by HCR, dated June 1833, concerning a Mr Graham.](#)
4. [Note by HCR, dated June 1833, concerning the Smiths.](#)
5. [HCR, Marseilles, to Mary Wordsworth, Brinsop Court, near Hereford, 6 April 1837.](#)
6. [HCR's itinerary of his tour of Italy with Wordsworth, September 1837.](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 74]
7. [HCR, Dover Street, \[London, Edward Moxon's office\], to Mary Wordsworth, \[no address\], 2 September 1837.](#)
8. [HCR, 2 Plowden Building, London, to Dora Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 20 October 1837.](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 75]
9. [HCR, \[Rydal Mount\], to Henry Thomas Lutwidge and Mrs Lutwidge, \[no address\], 5 January 1843.](#)
10. [HCR, Athenaeum, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 12 November 1846.](#)
11. [HCR, \[30\] Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[London\], 22 December 1846.](#)
12. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, to William Wordsworth, Jr., \[London\], 28 December 1846.](#)
13. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to William Wordsworth, Jr., \[London\], 1 January 1847.](#)
14. [HCR, Kendal, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 31 January 1847.](#)
15. [HCR, \[30\] Russell Square, London, to Dora Quillinan, Rydal Mount, 20 May 1847.](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 76]
16. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 5 June 1848.](#)
17. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 13 July \[18\]48.](#)
18. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 22 July 1848.](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 77]
19. [HCR, Bury St. Edmunds, to Edward Quillinan, \[near Rydal Mount\], 10 August \[18\]48.](#)
20. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 16 December \[18\]48.](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 78]
21. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 22 February \[18\]49.](#)
22. [HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, \[London\], 22 March \[18\]49.](#)
23. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 19 May \[18\]49.](#)
24. [HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 12 July 1849.](#)
25. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 3 December \[18\]49.](#)
26. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to William Wordsworth, Jr., \[no address\], 3 May 1850.](#)
27. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 7 May 1850.](#)
28. [HCR, Bury St. Edmunds, to John Miller, Bockleton, 4 July 1850.](#)
29. [HCR, Rydal Mount, to Mrs Thomas Arnold, \[Grasmere\], 21 August \[18\]50.](#)

30. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Christopher Wordsworth, Jr., \[no address\], 18 October \[18\]50.](#)
31. [Itinerary of 1837 Tour of France and Italy by HCR and William Wordsworth.](#)
32. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, 1 December 18\[5\]0.](#)
33. [HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to the Rev. G. Armstrong, 2 February \[1851\].](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 79]
34. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 13 September \[18\]51.](#)
35. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 23 December 1851.](#)
36. [HCR, Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 27 December \[1851\].](#)
37. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 9 February \[18\]52.](#)
38. [HCR, Edinburgh, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 2 September 1852.](#)
39. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, 4 October 1852.](#)
40. [HCR, 10 Western Cottages, Brighton, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, 24 November 1852.](#)
41. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, \[Bockleton\], 14 January 1853.](#)
42. [HCR, at the Athenaeum, London, to the Rev. John Miller, \[Bockleton\], 1 April 1853.](#)
43. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Derwent Coleridge, 19 April 1853.](#)
44. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, 4 June \[1853\].](#)
45. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 25 June \[1853\].](#)
46. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, near Tenbury, Worcestershire, 10 \[and 17\] October 1853.](#)
47. [HCR, \[London\], to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], \[5 November 1853\].](#)
48. [Catherine Clarkson, \[Playford\], to HCR. \[London\], undated \(attached to previous letter\).](#)
49. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 26 February \[1854\].](#)
50. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, Ambleside, 22 December 1854.](#)
51. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount,\] Ambleside, 9 January \[18\]55.](#)
52. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 29 January \[18\]55.](#)
53. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Thomas Carter, Rydal Mount, 17 February 1855.](#)
54. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 17 February 1855 \[attached to preceding letter.\]](#)
55. [HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 17 September 1855.](#)
56. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 17 November 1855.](#)
57. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 1 February 1856.](#)
58. [HCR, Athenaeum, London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 4 April 1856.](#)
59. [HCR, Athenaeum, London, to the Rev. John Miller, \[Bockleton\], undated \[c. late summer or early fall 1856\].](#)

60. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to \[Mary Wordsworth\], \[Rydal Mount\], 20 October 1856.](#)
61. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, \[Bockleton\], 22 November 1856.](#)
62. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 20 April 1857.](#)
63. [HCR, Bury St. Edmunds, to the Rev. John Miller, \[Bockleton\], 3 September 1857.](#)
64. [HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 4 September 1857.](#)
65. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, \[Bockleton\], 12 January 1858.](#)
66. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 5 March \[18\]58\].](#)
67. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 3 August \[1858\].](#)
68. [HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, \[Rydal Mount\], 21 August 1858.](#)
69. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 9 December 1858.](#)
70. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to William Wordsworth, Jr., \[no address\], 1 February 1859.](#)
[chronological order continues with letter 80]
71. [HCR, \[no address\], to unnamed correspondent, undated.](#)
72. [Extracts from HCR's will concerning the heirs of Wordsworth \(in the hand of William Wordsworth, Jr.\).](#)
73. [Printed documents relating to the presentation of the Wordsworth Monument in Westminster Abbey c. 1853-54, of which HCR served as a member of the Committee and of the special sub-committee, working along side Matthew Arnold and John Ruskin.](#)

Related Letters from Other Archives:

74. [HCR, Dove Cottage, to Catherine Clarkson, Playford Hall near Ipswich, 2 September 1837.](#)
75. [HCR, Bowness, to Elizabeth Jesser Reid, \[no address\], 25 July 1842.](#)
76. [HCR, Rydal Mount, to Henry Taylor, 24 December 1847.](#)
77. [HCR, Archaeological Institute, Lincoln, to Mrs Elizabeth Reid, \[no address\], \[26 July\] 1848.](#)
78. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, to Henry Taylor, 1 February 1849.](#)
79. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, to Revd Dr Christopher Wordsworth, \[Lambeth Palace\], 22 April 1851.](#)
80. [HCR, 30 Russell Square, to Angelina Georgina Burdett-Cootts, Torquay, Devon, 11 February 1859.](#)

III. Acknowledgements

My thanks to Jeff Cowton and the Wordsworth Trust and Library, Grasmere, [for placing the following transcriptions on the Library's website](#). My thanks also to David Wykes, Director, and the Trustees of Dr Williams's Library for permission to quote from Crabb Robinson's unpublished diary. The task of locating and transcribing Robinson's letters residing outside the collections at Dr Williams's Library, London, is a part of the ongoing work of **The Crabb Robinson Project**, General Editor Timothy Whelan, Assistant Editor James Vigus (<http://www.crabbrobinson.co.uk>). This is currently the largest project of the Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies, a research collaboration between the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary, University of London, and Dr Williams's Library, London. The Project's primary task is the publication (through Oxford University Press) of the complete texts of Robinson's *Reminiscences* and *Diary*. Phase One (2013-2018) of the Project will include the publication of the *Reminiscences* (4 vols) and an introductory volume of essays on Robinson. The publication of Robinson's massive *Diary* (1811-67), integrated with his numerous travel diaries, will occur during Phase Two and Phase Three of the Project. The print edition will comprise approximately 30 volumes. Professor Whelan was assisted in the transcribing of the letters below by a Franklin Travel Grant, sponsored by the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA. Editorial work on the whole Project was launched by a workshop held at Dr Williams's Library on 12 July 2013 and funded by a British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Grant awarded to Dr Vigus.

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Citations

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IV. Note on the Text

These letters are presented as they appear on the page, retaining original spellings, punctuation, abbreviations, and superscripts. Any insertion by the editor has been placed within square brackets []. The editor has used a few special characters to reflect certain aspects of the MS:

<—>	deletion (mark-through) unreadable
nor did it	deletion (mark-through) readable
^possibly^	interpolation above the line of text
[]	blank space in the text
< >	unreadable text

V. Transcriptions of the Letters

1. Copy by HCR of a portion of a letter by William Wordsworth to Dorothy Wordsworth, May 1812.¹

I shall without preface come to the point upon which our attention ought to be fixed.

I solemnly deny that I gave to M. a Comm^d to say any thing whatever to C. from me All that I did say had a reference merely to an apprehended Connectⁿ between himself & M ~~nor did it~~ wch I was convinced must prove injurious to both nor did it ever enter my mind that by any possibil^y what I then mentioned could any way affect the friendship & *intimacy* between C & me. Of course & inclusively ^And that I may meet C's statement in detail^ I solemnly deny that I ~~gave to M or C~~ commissioned M. to say to C. that I had no hopes of him I also solemnly deny that I s^d C. was *in the habit of* running into debt at little Pot-houses for Gin In the manner I ~~do~~ also affirm as sacredly that tho' in some of the particulars enumerated by C. as hav^g wounded his feelings there is *something* of the form of truth, there is *absolutely nothing of the spirit* in any of them. As for instance that I asserted that C. had been absolute nuisance in my family. It is little less than morally impossible that I should have ~~used~~ ^~~uttered~~ used^ used these words, but it is absolutely impossible that either by these words, if used, or by any resembling them, I could mean to expressⁿ the impression of my mind & heart concern^g C. ~~As that I could have meant more than~~ And the As the feelings of my family in respect to him So that in every Sense in wch the parlars <-> enumerated by C. & the whole of them conjointly could as evidences of unworthy behaviour on my p^t give pain to C., if he <-> knew what I said, under what circumstances I spake, with what motive & in what spirit, *I do give a most solemn denial to the whole.*

I have with the utmost severity of Self examination looked into my own heart & Soul upon this occasion And I ~~stand on~~ stand acquitted before my conscience of all blame, except that I freely acknowledge an error of judgem^t in having suffered myself from any motive however kind to the parties whomever pure to speak to a man upon so delicate a subject whose conduct is so little governally [sic] by the universally admitted laws of Friendship & regulations of Society in similar cases

Hoping to rec[eiv]e from C. an assurance of his entire & absolute faith in this my disavowal I have to add that I fully believe in the truth of his statem^t as an expression of his Convictⁿ that M did say all he has ascribed to him But whe^r the agitation in wch C. ~~states~~ ^represents^ himself to have been ~~may from the~~ from the first moment M touched upon this business, may not have occasioned him to mistake it in some important points Or whe^r M may not have mistaken me; Or how the misapprehension which actually subsists, originated: — These are points which I do not deem it necessary to enter into The Love & Affection wch I entertain for C. and wch I trust he entertains for me do not need and require a solution of these difficulties

If however C's mind ^is^ still <-> ~~doubts~~ & troubled by doubts & misgivings ~~as to~~ the part I have taken my The the sincerity simplicity & integrity of this ^dis^avowal what I have hereby made I must then in satisfⁿ of my ^own^ honour require his consent to the first proposed interview between M & ourselves, tho' aware that this wo^d of necess^y lead to an

¹ WLL, Wordsworth, W and D/ 4/236 and 236.1. In the letter 'M.' is Wordsworth's friend, Basil Montague; 'C.' is Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

opening of the points in difference between himself & M. Which I think ^in itself^ very inadvisable

Sho^d this however be rendered necess^y by the state of C's feelings I beg that no further steps may be taken till he has closed his lectures which he is as the point of commencing.²

² Here is Robinson's account of the episode between Wordsworth and Coleridge from his diary on 8 May 1812:

I delivered C's message to W. and this led to a long conversation, And to a commission which W. gave me. viz. in answer to C's message to say to him the following:

1. That he W. denied most positively having ever given to M – any commission whatever to say any thing as from him W. to C – that he said nothing to M. with any other than a friendly purpose towards both C. & M. that he was anxious to prevent C's going into M's family because he knew that such an intimacy would be broken as soon as it was formed And lead to very painful consequences. Under this impression only he spoke with M. But he takes blame to himself for being so intent upon attaining this object as to forget that M. was not a man whose discretion could be safely trusted with even so much as he did say to him.
2. He denies having ever used such a phrase as *rotten drunkard*, such an expression he could not as a man of taste, merely, have made use of.
3. Neither did he ever say that C. *had been a Nuisance in his family*. He might have in the course of conversation And in reference to certain particular habits have used the word nuisance which is a word he frequently makes use of, but he never employed it as the result or summary of his feelings towards C. He never said *he* was a nuisance.
4. Further he wished me to inform C. that he no longer wished to confront him & M. He was content to leave undetermined who had erred, but he expected from C. that when he, W. had made this declaration, he, C., would give him credit for the truth of it and not continue to use that language about him which he had done.

These points I distinguish from the rest of W's statement because they are those I did afterwards repeat to C. Except perhaps the conclusion of the last which I might not distinctly state to C.

W. added other remarks which I was careful not to repeat as they could not tend to the reconciliation so desirable, And perhaps so important to the future happiness of C. W. did not deny having said he had no hopes of C. And with respect to the phrase rotting out his entrails by intemperance he does not think he used such an expression, but the idea might be conveyed in what he said And M. might give that as the conclusion from all he said W. also denied & indignantly that he ever meant to drive away C. by indirectly informing him though M. of what he did not chuse to communicate himself. This I also stated to C. W. did not deny having said, I have no hopes of him I have long had no hopes of him. But I would not say so to C. because I would not act as if I had hopes. Besides he has lately done more than I expected And exerted himself beyond my hopes. On my observing to him that C. possibly might require that W. should make his election between him & M. W. replied he could not do this. He had never acted on this principle And had he done so he should have quarrelled with every friend he has – but added he if M. should assert that I said those things which I now deny then I will never speak to him again. Excepting the last line [remainder of sentence marked through] W. observed that C. had probably been so much pained by being forced to contemplate certain truths respecting himself that in refuge he sought to load him, W., with the blame. C's habits had in fact been of a kind which he, W. could not have endured but for the high estimation he had formed of C. W. with no faint praise then spoke of C's mind, the powers of which he declared to be greater than those of any man he ever knew. From such a man, under favourable influences, everything might be looked for. His genius, he thought to be great but his talents still greater. And it is in the union of so much genius with so much talent that C. surpasses all the men W. ever knew. In a digression to which this remark led, W. observed of himself that he on the contrary has comparatively but little talent, Genius is his characteristic quality. If Genius (in this relation) be creation & original production from the stores of individual mind And talent shew itself in the

2. Note by HCR, dated June 1833, affixed to margin of MS by Dorothy Wordsworth.³

NB: Miss W: has omitted to mention that it was at Fontainebleau we heard the firing of cannon which announced the birth of a child who still lives and may possibly <—> live to perform an import[ant] part on the public stage It was the Son of the Duke of Berry – Soon after created Duke of Bourdeaux And now by his partisans in hopeful anticipation, entitled Henry 5th

June 1833. H.C.R.

3. A note by HCR, dated June 1833, concerning a Mr Graham.⁴

The M^r Graham here mentioned was not an Englishman but a North American. He committed forgery when a very young man And was convicted He for a time swept the streets of New York chained; but being well connected, obtained a pardon on the condition of leaving the country. Arrived in England, he was reduced to extreme poverty, from which he was relieved, by obtaining employment as the Emanuensis of a Gentleman, a M^r [] who became so attached to him that by will he gave him a large sum (some say £300) and G: became a Law student in London – here he formed literary connections And acquired a certain éclat among Templars, the members of the Academies &c &c &c

His money being in his own hands, he went on the Continent where at the Gaming table he spent all he had It was on his return that we met him. [He] had met with M^r Sparkes, at whose expence he travelled – When in Paris he borrowed £15 of M^r Monkhouse which he promised repay me for M: He gave me an address where no one knew him – And made all sorts of evasions – But I had already learned his character – Soon after my return, he sunk into poverty. He became a newspaper reporter – he edited the Somerset-house Gazette he translated Göthes memoirs from the French, pretending to translate from the German – I not knowing him to be the workman exposed the imposture & fraud in the Westminster Review – The book amounted to literary swindling – But he soon after was detected in

power of appropriating & assimilating to itself the product of foreign minds & by so imbibing & adding to it's own possessions the attainments of other minds – then I have always given to W. and C. the respective superiority in Genius & talents. W. also wished to inform C. that he had not opened his letter because it was written *before* he had sent to C. that he wished to receive from him a dry statement of the assertions of M. And he wished to be spared all other subjects (This I did repeat And I stated also to C. that W's manner was not *insulting* or unfriendly when he said this, for I found that C. had so interpreted W's former message & note to C. L. to this effect) W. also intimated no objection to see C. but would rather not see him alone he was fearful of those bursts of passion – or rather weakness of which C. is capable. On one occasion, he stated, that in a large company Sir Henry Englefield attacked him C. in a gross way on his lecture at the Royal Institution against Lancaster, C. instead of defending himself burst into tears. (This led W. to observe on the false sensibility & tendency to tears in the present age. What, said he, would our glorious ancestors have thought of a First Lord of the Admiralty who cries in the House of Commons when he speaks of the Lives lost on a Shipwreck Or of an Attorney General who when prosecuting men for high treason (the Soldiers taken in the East Indies) is so affected that he can not proceed).

These are a few only of the many things said to me by W.

³ WWL, DCMS 90.29.

⁴ WWL, DCMS 90.35. Robinson exposed Graham as an imposter (Robinson excoriates his inability to translate from German into English, having relied on a French translation!) in 'Review of Memoirs of Goëthe, written by himself', that appeared in the first volume of the *Westminster Review* (April 1824), pp. 370-382.

frauds of a more perilous character – he quarrelled with Ugo Foscolo who repressed his challenge on the ground of the *infamy* of his character And the excuse was allowed by professed duelists – At length he narrowly escaped the gallows by flying to America, a forged bill of exchange being traced to him And on his flight being attended to Liverpool by a poor Irish reporter, ~~a friend~~ he treacherously cheated his generous friend by imposing on him a second forged <--> bill – Soon after his return to America, he was killed in a duel – his early history was known to Price the Manager of Drury Lane Theatre, who had promised to keep his secret but ~~was~~ ~~dr~~ when G. had again fled Price was released from his promise

H. C. Robinson

4. A note by HCR dated June 1833, concerning the Smiths.⁵

The three M^r Smiths, mentioned here and in other parts of the Volume were the three sons of a respectable silversmith in the Poultry, London – Through this casual meeting I formed an acquaintance which still continues. They form a family I very much respect The eldest, who is somewhat lame was a tea-dealer and affluent; And retired from business – but too early – For he married and had a larger family than was looked for: he retired into Devonshire where he entered into a partnership in which he was not prosperous – he is now out of business, lives in the country near Exeter in economical but happy retirement – his name is Edward – The second brother [] is a Country clergyman in Sussex or Surrey – He is married, is in comfortable circumstances And as his brother Edward says, as happy as man can be – The third Son Crafton in talents by far the superior one of the three, has been the least fortunate He went into business when very young, soon after his return from the Continent And formed a partnership with a German Merchant. They failed And he left upwards of £10,000 which he had inherited from his deceased father, besides a part of the fortune of his brothers – But he lost nothing in character – he had friends with whose assistance he went to *Trieste* – From thence to *Fusine* where he now carries on a profitable manufactory of paper under the protection & favor of the Austrian government – I visited him there in 1829 – I found him unmarried, but seemingly living very happily – Connected with a partner, forming a small and agreeable society – he whispered to me that he had no intention of dying there; that he hoped & expected soon to recover all he had lost, And repay his brothers what they had lost through him he spoke of his Italian journey And of his meeting with the Wordsworths with great pleasure And said that having been a few days of [sic] the party, he was proud of appropriating to himself a portion of the dedication of the Memorials

H. C. R.

June 1833. / –

⁵ WWL, DCMS 90.35.

5. HCR, Marseilles, to Mary Wordsworth, Brinsop Court, near Hereford, 6 April 1837.⁶

Marseilles 6th April 1837

Ma chere Maman – As I pass among the intelligent for the Son of M: votre Mari Both of our characters require that you should not disclaim the revered title. Whether I owe mine to any strong personal resemblance as to my filial assiduities I cannot pretend to determine Perhaps the latter In fact, M le Pere not having the full possession of his eyesight or entire use of his fingers I have undertaken to relieve him of a portion of the labour of writing by narrating the history of our journey leaving him to put in the Sense and the Sentiment that generally occupy but a minute space in a traveller's diary – We left *Paris* on Sunday the 26th glad to escape from the tumult of the gayety And I [am] not quite sobered from the intoxicating pleasure of riding in my own phaeton carriage – we set out in chilly & cheerless weather which seems resolved to stay by us – We made but half a day's journey to *Fontainebleau* 7 & ½ posts – (A post is about 5 miles[]) Here I bore in my mind that we had in this place 17 years ago heard the cannon announce the birth of a Son of France – He was called *The child of miracle* It will require a greater miracle to place him on the throne of his fathers 27th – We advanced 15 ¼ p. to *Cosne*, having seen nothing worth recollecting but the pretty scenery near *Nemours* The 28th took us to *Moulins* thro *Nevers* 13 & ½ p: but instead of Stern's Maria we met with nothing better than unsociable travellers in the public room, except a military bavard whom vanity rendered usefully loquacious On the 29th we slept at *Tarare* a town pent in a valley on an eminence rather romantic but wretchedly cold here & elsewhere we had a difficulty in getting sufficient bed clothes And Mons^r made the discovery that the spring had gone back since he left *Westmoreland*. This day we went 18 posts On arriving at *Lyons* next morning we found to our mortification that the river was too low for navigation we spent the latter half of the day in climbing up the hill to make our pilgrimage to *Notre Dame de la Touviere* – A sight interesting from the vast extent of the second city in France & from the monuments of superstition in the votive offerings not of the peasantry only By an inscription authorised by the governm.^t it is affirmed that *Lyons* was saved from the *Cholera* in 1832 by “the intercession of our lady of *Touvieres*”!!! – We began the current ^ended the last^ month by posting on the left bank of the *Rhone* – 11 & ¼ p: to *Tain* – The backwardness of the season robbed us of the pleasure we were entitled to expect And on the 1st of this month we first came to an object both new to us and having an historical interest At *Orange* is a grand triumphal arch erected in honour of the victories of that arch Whig-radical *Marvus* And a sadly dilapidated Roman theatre – 15 ½ p: But the next day presented a far more congenial object to the <—> in the *Vaucluse* of *Petrarch* – We left our carriage in the venerable & decayed Ex-papal city of *Avignon* & were driven to the poets asylum & haunt – This famous spot is a ^naked^ valley at the end of which under a rock like Mawm cove rushes out a stream of great beauty – And lofty & wild rocks give an earnest & even savage character to the scene But it is treeless & nearly grassless And I therefore could not fancy it the residence by choice of the writer of the first perfect Sonnets – Sonnets preeminently soft and sweet, even to[o] effemine [sic]. St John the baptist on the contrary might have dwelt there, but he co^d not have found wild honey there, for there can be no bees where there are no flowers. 10 ½ p. next morning we rambled abo^t *Avignon* – were amused by the display of national & professional character in the *Invalides* where the governm^t have allowed the veterans of the French army to erect a wooden pyramidal monument in honour of *Buonaparte* – Indeed the

⁶ WLL, Wordsworth, W and D/7/515.1.

walls of the garden are covered with inscriptions ~~in~~ triumphantly recording the conquests & victories of the French <paper torn> And under this title is found the battle of Waterloo!!! On the same day we proceeded <paper torn> Seeing by the way the most beautiful aqueduct the romans have left us, called the *Font du Gard* – <--> the vicinity of N: has the very finest roman Aqueduct, so the city itself has a very fine temple – And ample remains of a noble Amphitheatre Few places in Italy contrive as much to gratify the learned architect – And as far as antiquities are concerned an unlearned traveller's curiosity might be well satisfied – As if however to try the superior power of nature over art – two little girls had curiously placed themselves ~~on~~ before one of the entrances into the Arenes & were plucking the wings of a dead bird – Their beautiful eyes so fascinated the poet that had we been on our homeward not outward bound voyage, And could I have bribed to assist in the atrocious theft I believe he might have been wrought on to seize the little innocents not indeed like an ogre to feed on them; but with the more laudable purpose of improving the Westmoreland breed – Jestng apart as far as the obtaining a distinct notion of antient art in architecture belongs to the motive & inducement for a tour into Italy, the journey may be consid^d as ~~being~~ having attained its purpose – 7 posts

8th – At Toulon On the 4th we were detained for clean linen & by the antiquities &c all the afternoon And we went only 3 & ½ posts to *Tarascon* enjoying a refreshing breeze & shade after being alarmed by sultry heat in the forenoon – Suffering extremes of heat & cold within a few hours, for at Orange we required a fire in our sitting room – The 5th afforded us a delightful drive before breakfast to *St Remi* where some beautiful antiquities a Mausoleum & Arch of triumph adorn an otherwise interest^s & fertile plain at the feet of a ridge of picturesque rocks – but the rest of the day was woefully unpleasant – We were molested by dust & wind. We drove thro' a cheerless and wearisome country white earth grey trees (olives) And no grass at all it was yellow [as] in the Autumn of 1822. We just touched ~~at~~ the handsome town of *Aix* but we made the annoying discovery that we had lost probably by theft our *Sabot* (dray chain) And we went on in some anxiety to Marseilles 14 posts Here we had a day of acceptable rest of which I endeavour to make some use by beginning this letter. This famous city & sea port rendered the day amusing A handsome quay A < > population And in the vicinity a very fine view of the city – Yesterday we had by far the most agreeable drive thro' a country highly romantic – The low lands of this extremity of France are fertile but unpleasing – The *olive* being the ugliest tree in nature except the vine but the rocks on this spot are wild even to grandeur. – We found this celebrated ~~military~~ naval depot charmingly situated – We had a delightful breeze in the Evening And enjoyed a view of great beauty from the adjacent heights – We had the comforts of a good inn and tho Spring angers, it must come And tho I have now put on my Macintosh for warmth now Yet I have thrown off my Winter dress W. felicitades [sic] himself in having provided himself with both Winter and Summer clothing And tho' a cold has hitherto molested him ~~Yet~~ as well as myself Yet as mine is leaving now – I am assured that his will not resist the influence of the mild climate that sooner or later must open itself to us – Tomorrow we hope to enter Italy we have only 20 posts to make before we reach *Nice* the first Italian city We shall then have traveled nearly 100 posts say 500 miles without an accident or serious annoyance We eat drink & sleep well – Save only once or twice befuddled ourselves with a bottle of wine wch < > to 5d And on the whole have endured the toilsome passage thro' France with laudable patience if not enviable high spirits – I leave my friend to give a more interesting account of his personal feelings – he means to put this letter in the post before we leave France Therefore I close I wish I co^d say – This morning “to fresh fields and pastures new” Alas pastures we have not seen for many a day – And the fields are any thing but fresh

Comps to your brother M^{rs} Hutchin[son]

Love to Sister and brothers &c &c H. C. [R. is missing – paper torn]

6. HCR's itinerary of his tour of Italy with Wordsworth, September 1837.⁷

Itinerary
Of a tour in Italy
1837

performed by W. W. and H. C. R.

March	19 th	Steam boat to Calais.
	20 th	Posting to Samer
	21 st	----- Granvilliers [sic]
	22 ^d	---- thro' Beauvais to Paris. NB: Feuillet.
	26 th	----- Fontainebleau
	27 th	---- thro' Nemours to Cosne
	28 th	----- to Moulins
	29 th	----- Tarare
	30 th	----- Lyons
	31 st	thro' Vienne to Tain
April	1 st	thro' Valence to <i>Orange</i> The Arch
	2 ^d	to <i>Avignon</i> – Excursion to Vaucluse & back to A:
	3 ^d	by <i>Pont du Gard</i> to <i>Nismes</i>
	5 th	by <i>St Remi</i> to <i>Marseilles</i>
	7 th	to <i>Toulon</i> La Croix de Malta
	8 th	to Luc.
	9 th	by Frejus to <i>Cannes</i> good inn
	10 th	<i>Nice</i> Hot des Etrangers
	12 th	thro' <i>Mentone</i> to St Remo
	13 th	thro' <i>Tina le</i> to <i>Savona</i>
	14 th	<i>Genoa</i> Hot de Londres (Cox from Philadelphia)
	17 th	to <i>Chiavari</i>
	18 th	thro Sestri to <i>Spez̃zia</i>
	19 th	by <i>Carrara</i> to Massa
	20 th	to <i>Lucca</i>
	21 st	to <i>Pisa</i>
	22 ^d	to <i>Volterra</i> by Vellurino horses
	23 ^d	to Castiglionaccio – Posting to <i>Siena</i>
	24 th	to Radicofani bad inn
	25 th	by Aquapendente & lake of Bolsena to Viterbo (bad inn)
	26 th	ROME Theed (Sculptor) Miss Mackenzie the Colliers Dr Carlyle Hare Lady Westmoreland Bunsen Kastner Gibson < > Ticknors
May	13 th	Excursion to Tivoli & back with Dr Carlyle
	17)	Excursion to Albano & back with Miss Mackenzie, including <i>Monte</i>
	21)	<i>Cavo, Nemi Ariccia</i> &c
	23 ^d	Posting to <i>Terni</i>
	24 th	----- after visiting the Falls – to <i>Spoletto</i>
	25 th	----- to <i>Perugia</i> (walk to <i>Cortona</i>)
	26 th	----- to <i>Arezzo</i>

⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/1.

- 27th with Vellutino horses to Bibiena & Ride to *Laverna*
28th Ride to Bibiena – Vells h[orse]s to Musclea ride to *Camaldoli*
29th To Musclea & *Ponte Sieva* Vells horses
30th Posting to *Florence* after excursion to *Val Ambroso* Mayer, Niccolini,
Hare, Mad. Landor
- June 6th Posting to *Bologna* Hot: Suesa
8th ----- *Parma*
9th ----- thro *Piacenza* to Milan
11th Excursion to the *Certosa* & back
12th Excursion to the lake of *Como* and back – The Ticknors
13th Posting to *Bergamo*
14th To *Pallazuola* & *Iseo*
15th Excursion on lake to *Rovere* & back by night
16 To *Brescia* & *Desenzano*
17th On the Lake Garda to Riva
19th On lake to *Desenzano* – Posting to *Verona*
20th to *Vicenza*
21st to *Padua*
22d to Mestre and *Venice* The Ticknors
28th to Mestre, *Conegliano* & *Logerone* [sic]
29th Thro' Valley of *Piave* & over mount^s to *Sillian*
30th ---- to *Spittal* (Carinthia)
- July 1st By Vale of *Liessen* [sic] over *Katzenberg* to *Tweng*
2d By *Taurin* mountain thro' *Werfen* & *Galling* to *Hallein*
3d Excursion to *Konigstein* & back
4th Posting to *Salzburg*
6th *Ischl.*
(Excursion in *Salzkammer Gut*)
7th Walk to *Weissbach*
8th Row on lakes *Aller* & *Mond* Sea to *Schiefling*, drive to *Gemund*
9th Drive to *Traunfalls* & back
10 Row to *Ebensee* walk & ride to *Ischl* drive to *Aussee*
11th Excursion to three lakes & back And drive to *Halstadt*
13th Row on lake, drive to *Ischl* posting to *St Gilgen*
14 Posting thro' *Salzburg* to *Frauenstein*
15th ---- thro' *Hohenheim* to *Griesbach*
16 ---- to *Tegernsee* & *Holzkirchen*
17th ---- to *Munich* The Ticknors *Oldenberg* Dr *Thompson* *Brentano*
21st To *Augsburg*
22d *Ulm*
23d *Stutgard*
24th *Besigheim*
25th *Heidelberg* – Mrs *Benecke* Mrs *Niess*, *Schlosser*
28th thro' *Manheim* & *Wurms* to *Mayence*
29th to *Coblentz*
30th thro' *Andernach* & after Excursion to *Lakensee* & back to *Bonn*
31st thro *Cologne* to *Aix la Chapelle*
- August 1st to *Louvain*

2d ---- *Brussels*
3d On rail road to *Antwerp* & back by *Malines*
4th ---- to *Lenze*
5th thro *Lille* to *Cassel*
6th to *Calais*

On steam boat -- return to LONDON

[on back is written: '*Directions for Continental Tourists*']

7. HCR, Dover Street, [London, Edward Moxon's office], to Mary Wordsworth, [no address], 2 September 1837.⁸

N.B. It is dangerous to attempt reporting the feelings of others – I do think it a very pleasing portrait – but it has one great fault And unhappily the original is exposed to the same reproach She is no longer at all *interesting* And if she goes on as she does, she will soon be vulgarly healthy – no charming languor – no affecting paleness – nor any thing to prompt to pretty speeches or elaborate expression of sympathy – You will be ashamed [of] her, if she do not take care, when she returns –

H. C. R.

I ought to add that M^r W: is about to write a few lines to dear M^{rs} Clarkson And I shall then make a regular letter of it – I hear from the *late* Miss Maling – Now the happy wife of a young Gentleman under 30 – Miss M: is several years older than your adopted Son, so the difference cannot be very great you know – M^{rs} *Wimbridge* has heard from M^{rs} Clarkson And thinks that both M^r & M^{rs} Cl: will in their grandchild and daughter in law (also niece you know) find objects of so great interest as to ^be^ substantially consoled – M^{rs} Cl: has written an *admirable* letter says M^r W. now no one who is in despair or in danger of sinking under sorrow writes admirably –

My kindest regards to dear Miss W: I have read her letter to M^{rs} C^{ge}: with surprise & pleasure.

⁸ WLL, Wordsworth, W and D/7/535.1. From Robinson's diary, 2 September 1837: 'I had engaged to call on Wordsworth at Moxon's and was there by 11. He approves of my going to Hereford and I am to order places for Friday – I then made calls westward.' After his entry on 3 September, he adds this addendum to 2 September: '(2nd) I forgot to say that on Saturday I wrote two letters one to my brother informing him that I had not been able to make any use of his money – The other to M^{rs} Clarkson to which W: wrote an ante-script – I wrote a few words of consolation and I gave a rather favourable account of M^{rs} Wimbridge.' Robinson does not mention adding the above note to Wordsworth's letter to his wife and daughter.

8. HCR, 2 Plowden Building, London, to Dora Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 20 October 1837.⁹

2 Plowden Building
20th October 1837.

My dear Dora

For so I must write as I presume your eyes are as squeamish as your ears And you have twice reproved me for calling you Miss – It is a hateful because a mean sneaking little monosyllable And only to be tolerated because it serves as a stimulus to that state which lawfully dispenses with it. The Germans have a noble word And I may say, *Mein Fraulein* that I am very desirous to be informed of the last days of my fellow-travellers' journey And of the cause of the change in our plan – For that purpose I send you a history of my movements; you cannot but follow my example.

I trust you recognised and felt the wisdom of my determination to take French leave of you – Thursday and Friday were both cold and cheerless so that it was really my duty to remove any slight inducement that might remain for your making an excursion on the Wye I left the books at your Uncle's inn And to prevent mistakes left a second note at the Post Office for your father.

On Saturday the 16th I had a very delightful drive from Hereford thro Ludlow Shrewsbury & Chester to Liverpool. The weather rather better than I wished, for I wanted decidedly bad weather to justify my conduct to myself. I passed by a couple of *waters* – (*pond* being too low and *lake* too high for them –) One has so sweet a name *Ellesmere*, that I will not think that there must not in some points of view be a beautiful picture also – On the 17th at Liverpool I heard a rational and wise Sermon from M^r Wordsworths passionate admirer Madge the Unitarian – I should have been more amused perhaps had I gone to hear the very eloquent preacher McNeil something like it, who declared with due theologic fervour Geology to be “the fashionable high-way to eternal damnation” – This I was informed by an auditor – At L: I joined my brother, returned from a joyous meeting at Leeds at which a numerous & excellent family terminated a long family contest by a voluntary compromise of contending claims & a cordial reconciliation – On Tuesday the 19th we went on the rail road to Birmingham – And alone of the intermediate Stations I fell in with *Sedgewick & Hutcheson* and had just time to recite to them *Motions and Means* – They both confessed their previous impression that such a theme was not capable of being so poetically treated – They are both men of intellect, not of mere knowledge of details which so many of their associates are And could appreciate

“Nature doth embrace
Her lawful offspring in Man's art.”

We went on to *Worcester* the same day and the next day we had a glorious drive under a genial Sun thro' the vale of Gloucester to *Bristol* – I wish your father had been with us. A finer and complete illustration could not be found of a position that he had occasion to repeat very often on our journey of The great superiority of English Scenery over the Scenery of France and Italy – Of course in such a comparison neither the Sea shore nor the valleys of the Alps or other Mountains are meant to be included And the whole Corniche road and the vallies of the Piave &c in Styria will retain their just preeminence in our recollections – On the 25th it

⁹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/2. From Robinson's diary, 20 October 1837: 'I wrote several letters today M^{rs} Finch being too ill to receive me at Tunbridge Wells I have written to invite myself to Walter next week – I also wrote and gave to Talfourd a letter to Dora Wordsworth giving an account of my journey from Hereford to Liverpool &c till my final return to town.'

was also a very fine day. We slept at Clifton the night before And we could have gone that day to Chepstow And I thought of the possibility of my falling in with your party, but dared not make such demands on good fortune as a journey for such a reason would have required.

We spent a few days with some relations and friends at Bath, all of whom were among the original supporters of Roebuck, but lately only one out of four voted for him. It lessened my pleasure at his being thrown out, the learning that he lost his seat for the very best Speech he ever made in the house, that against Sir Andrew Aguecheeks Sunday bill Every syllable of which speech I believe would have been approved of at Rydal Mount

We next went to Oxford and devoted a long day to the more striking beauties of that Ultra-Tory and Semi-papistical University – Writing down the *semi* brings to my mind an incident I heard yesterday – There was lately a squabble at Leeds about the *Corporals* between the Clergyman and the Churchwardens – If you do not know what the Corporals are, ask your mother; if she do not know enquire of your reverend brother. The Churchwardens complained that he had wasted the Sacramental wine by throwing down all that was not drunk. He replied that he had done so, for he would not pour back into a bottle *the blood of Christ* And since he could not consume it by fire, he had thrown it on *consecrated ground!!!* Now I would lay a wager, having heard nothing about him, that he is a [serious?] Anti-Catholic.

I passed thro' London without even coming to chambers And went down to Bury with my brother. There I saw W. Clarkson who called on us. He spoke cheerfully I took care to divert his mind from the most painful subject by talking of the forth-coming life of Wilberforce which will probably give occasion to his public animadversion. W's sons being very anxious to exhibit their father as the leader not of parliament only which he was, but of the abolitionists, tho' Clarkson preceded him many years in climbing that 'obstinate hill' – M^{rs} Clarkson <-> had not spirits to see any of us And sent her sister with a kind message & enquiries about M^r Hutchinsons health. I concluded my [little-go?] by a visit to Witham from whence I returned on Saturday. I have not yet seen Talfourd, and of our common acquaintance only Moxon, except that I yesterday dined with M^r Strickland Cookson with an agreeable party of Unitarians – His wife I find was a dissenter And intimate with the relations of my nephew's wife – She is a spirited woman – And seems to have adapted her husbands politics (liberal conservatism) And has perhaps given him her religion liberal Unitarianism – But I found that tho' a conservative on English questions the Unitarians are all so on the Church Question She is like myself a Radical on the *Irish* Church Question. This pleased me

From her I learned or rather from M^r S. C. that you are to be in London during the Winter – I hope you will be where I may call on you. Miss Lamb I believe continues well

With my affectionate regards to your dear Mother & M^r Wordsworth
Most truly your's

H. C. Robinson

9. HCR, [Rydal Mount], to Henry Thomas Lutwidge and Mrs Lutwidge, [no address], 5 January 1843.¹⁰

M^r Crabb Robinson will have great pleasure in waiting upon Captain & M^{rs} Lutwidge on Thursday the 12th, unless unknown to him M^{rs} Wordsworth should have made some

¹⁰ WLL/1986.13.42. Robinson closes his diary on 11 January 1843 with the following: 'I dined at M^r Roughsedges. The party consisted of the Wordsworths, Quillinans, Lutwidges and the Miss Briggs! I need not say therefore whether more good things were spoken or eaten – However the dinner was excellent and the rubber of whist agreeable. Home late.'

engagement for him on that day, of which without case, he will immediately inform M^{rs} Lutwidge – for M^r Robinson considers himself as a mere dependant and appendix to his friends at the Mount

5th Jan: 1843/–

10. HCR, Athenaeum, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 12 November 1846.¹¹

12th Nov. 1846
Athenaeum.

My dear friend

Ten minutes ago at the door of the club I met your son William, he had just left his card for me And was on his way to an hotel preparatory to his setting off for Brighton. I exchanged but a few words with him – He had however time to deliver a sort of unintelligible message about my not having written &c &c – I must therefore at once begin a letter which I shall probably finish tomorrow.

On my arrival in town on Saturday, being just seven weeks after I set out I found among 34 letters to read three which had a connection with one subject. Those from D. Q. [Dora Quillinan] & H. M. [Harriet Martineau] were written in a tone of so great satisfaction that it would seem fastidious in me to express any dissatisfaction And as it could do no good I will abstain from it.

I thank you however for all your kindness & trouble in all things – And especially for your attentions to my friends M^r & M^{rs} Austen who are quite proud of the notice you took of them

Before I proceed to the object of this letter which is to give you a brief account of my journey, I will just say that I was enabled to make it by hopes that in the end have not been frustrated my brothers health is so improved that he has even forgotten to mention it. But I never forget that he is at all times liable to a renewal of his disorder.

I sat out on the 20th of Sept^r & proceeded by steam to *Antwerp* – The successive *nights being passed at sea, Liege, Bonn, Coblenz, Mainz, Heidelberg, Strasburg, & Basel* – This enumeration will point out the happy change in travelling. Formerly it used to cost me three tedious days between Cologne & Antwerp or Ostend – Now it is an affair of a single day – And in like manner I have spent three wearisome days between Heidelberg & Strasburg – In Switzerland the Rail Way system at Baden Beyond Zurick mighty works had been undertaken, which merit the poet's indignant censure – I crossed the Alps over the *Splügen* for the first time – There is one point of great celebrity on that road the *Via Mala* which by the engineers skill has been in fact a *via buona* – It combines the sublimity which extreme peril once enhanced, with perfect safety – In like manner, the adjacent *Pfeffer* baths have been rendered accessible with ease – They are two marvellous spots – The Devils-bridge on the S^t Gothard Pass is between them in horrid grandeur

We passed thro' Chur & entered Italy at Chiavenna – from whence I went to Colico And there embarked on the lake of Como – M^r Wordsworth may recollect my spending half

¹¹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/3. Robinson writes in his diary on 12 November 1846: 'I was employed at home in the forenoon over my accounts till I went to the Athenaeum. At the door I met with W: Wordsworth junior on his way to Brighton. At the Athen: I began a letter to M^{rs} Wordsworth ...'

a day with an old Gent who lives on the mountain above Menaggio He is still alive And I had a particular reason for wishing to see him – So much so that I returned to Menaggio from Milan in order to do so.

I should have said that my journey as far as Como was made with a friend & two ladies – They were going further – And we separated at Como as they were going to Leyano – My visit to M^r Mylius was a delightful one I had a long day alone, rambling over the mountains And I reached a point where I could see at once the lakes of Leyano & Como And I overlooked the road we travelled Anno 1820 – I was nine days in & about *Milan* which has undergone no change since our tour – In Switzerland the only material alteration has been in the erection of splendid hotels at *Basel, Zurich, Lucerne* – These I saw & enjoyed; for tho' they are called dear, the advance injuries is not equal to the improvement in the comforts afforded – At Milan we heard of the disturbances at Geneva; And I was apprehensive that on our return we might find Basel in a state of revolution – But the late change at Geneva was affected with unexpected ease – Credit must be given to the Rads for having not abused their victory. The fact is that at the head of their party are several very rich people who must be conservative whether they will or not – And therefore the ejected government consisting of honourable men have joined their victory against the Ultra-rads – This is a bit of politics by the bye.

12th Nov: cont^d

My return varied from the outward journey only in crossing S^t Gothard & the lake of Lucerne instead of the journey before stated – And from Basel instead of the journey before stated – And from Basel instead of entering France I went to Freiburg & Baden Baden – This last place is not the most fashionable watering place on the Continent – But it was become like a “City of the Plague” when I was there Forty years ago I spent several days among picturesque scenes And I was glad in a single day to renew my acquaintance with the most eminent – I then went to *Heidelberg* where I spent three days And to *Frankfurth* where I spent four – At both of these, I had friends I went again to *Schlosser* who lives at the former Monastery on the Neckar – M^r W: will not have forgotten the evening we spent there. The S's asked after him – I found Schlosser rather better in health & spirits. He is so intense a Romanist that they say his health rises or falls with the prosperity or adversity of the Holy See and he is accused of being a partizan of the Jesuits I was told that he was not friendly to the reforming Pope. The latter imputation wo^d include an inconsistency – But it does not seem probable – Indeed there would be no pretence for alarm, before his holiness proceeds to teach Holy Doctrines & Holy rites. Hitherto he has only indicated a wish to reform the flagrant iniquity of the Roman courts of Justice – He is about to introduce publicity in his court which I deem of more importance than trial by jury It is said that the Pope will reform the finances also – And correct an abusive disregard of personal rights – Now there is no heresy in all this – Certainly a reforming Pope is of all novelties the most strange & unexpected Only to be equalled or surpassed by the fact that at this moment *Dan OConnell* is the great support of the English government in Ireland. The moment he declared, that tho' as staunch a friend to repeal as could be, he yet would obtain it by moral force only. For it would be too dear at the price of a single life he became the Aegis of great Britain in Ireland – Parliament must vote him a statue when he dies--!!!

At Frankfurt I found some of my earliest friends still living – I made a diversion coming home And visited Spa which once was what Baden Baden is. And a pretty country it is – I also spent a day at a very pretty little spot near Liege Chaudfontain All this a very ^fine^ country And my journey a renewal of my old habits. I took the rail to Ostend And made the voyage in 5 ½ hours. The ~~village~~ voyage was lengthened by a fog – so that “half it's strength it put not forth” – This reminds me that I put *Paradise Lost* in my portmanteau And read it through during the journey.

If this does not excite *your* desire to be again on foot, it will set others a longing – Indeed the facilities of travelling encrease so much faster than the infirmities of age; that I still hope I shall deem myself seven years hence young enough to visit Greece – I am not quite young enough now And I was decidedly too old in 1830 – This is no paradox except in words: But a substantial truth.

Your letter mentioned Miss Fenwick being at M^r H. Taylor's – And I was on the point of writing to her there; but I thought it safer for it to make an enquiry of Lady Rolfe And on my calling I found her ^Miss Fenwick^ there Looking I think better than I ever saw her look – I am invited to dine with the Rolfe's tomorrow which invitation I always enjoy.

13th

There, I have given you an account which has at least the merit of brevity.

I have just heard from Bury that M^{rs} Clarkson is on a visit at her Sisters – I have heard from herself that she is an improved health. She must feel relieved from a great burthen, at the same time that will be a mixed Sensation & burthen that has been born a half a Century becomes a part of the body and of one's self the good old man has died full of years & honour. I shall probably go down to Suffolk for a few days next week to see her. My brother is enjoying marvellously good health considering the attacks to which he has been subject.

My best remembces to all friends

Affectly your's

H. C. Robinson

11. HCR, [30] Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [London], 22 December 1846.¹²

Russell Square
22^d Dec. 1846

My dear friend

I am sadly vexed and put out by what I have just heard And am forced to communicate my vexation to you – The occasion concerns you in a far less degree than it does me – It is this –

The business meeting which I informed you of postponed for a week that is, till Wednesday, the 6th of January – Now this change of time tho' it does not take away the

¹² WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/4. Robinson writes in his diary on 22 December 1846: 'I then called at young Walter's in his new house 68 Russell Square. Saw only M^{rs} Walter and M^{rs} Charlton. I engaged myself to dine with them and proceeded at once to Printinghouse Square. There I first learned from M^{rs} W: that M^r W: had been and was still suffering from an alarming knot in the throat, rather under the chin which there is a fear may be cancerous – and his appearance manifested disease – From himself in the presence of his son John and M^{rs} W: I heard an interesting and painful account which cannot be put down here, of circumstances which receded poor Alsager's death – and which caused W: to feel no surprise at his death – so strange had been his conduct. This led to confidential communications connected with the management of the Times, in its financial, not political or literary department. Then at the Athenaeum from whence I wrote to Lady Rolfe informing her of the uncertainty of the time of my going to Rydal. Then to M^{rs} Wordsworth telling her of what Davison had told me in the morning, that the Williams' Trustees Meeting is postponed till the 6th of January –'

desire of attending the Meeting in some degree lessens the obligation And therefore at first it occurred to me that I might at once give it up And set off, giving notice to you, as if nothing had interfered with the original intention But then I recollected that I had engaged myself for Christmas day And for an indefinite day afterwards – I having undertaken to take M^r Donaldson the great *philologer* our Bury grammar School Master to breakfast with M^r Rogers one morning.

What a pity that the electric telegraph is not already in play between Russell Square and Rydal Mount! How nicely I could hear & reply to all you have to remark on this – There is no other mode for the present than the vulgar one by post. Do tell me as soon as you can whether it would in any great degree disturb your Christmas Schemes & prospects were I to set out on ~~Saturday~~ Thursday the 7th of January? I pray you to tell me with perfect frankness how this suits.

I should probably leave you even then before the bride & bridegroom ~~return~~ of come to see you But I have no very distinct knowledge of their plan.

I expected that I should have some intimation of the silversmith of whom M^r — The name has unhappily gone from me – will purchase a tea pot – but I have not –

Shall I bring you any of the paper which I brought you some years ago?

I have had a note from Lady Rolfe who means to send by me a parcel for M^{rs} Quillinan She gives a very good account of Miss Fenwick

I have just called at Sam: Rogers's – He is now on a visit at the Duke of Bedford's

With best remembces *al solito*

Aff^y your's

H. C. Robinson

Pray tell me something about M^r Cookson – How is he? Will he be in the North when I come Does his improvement go on? The last account I heard was a good one But that was before the late severe weather came in – That must have tried him.

12. HCR, 30 Russell Square, to William Wordsworth, Jr., [London], 28 December 1846.¹³

30 Russell Square
London

My dear friend

This is a mere note of business: I wish you to know that I have heard nothing about the Silversmith, nor has M^r Graham called

¹³ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/5. In his diary entry on 28 December 1846, Robinson repeats himself in his reference to the younger Wordsworth: 'I spent this forenoon at home reading and looking over papers. I went to the Athenaeum where I spent part of the day and dined. I wrote letters to Wordsworth junr and to M^{rs} Clarkson and then I went to Prynne's – he was gone out of town and will not return until I shall be gone to the North. This vexes me and I must apply to my brother for money. I had an agreeable chat with M^{rs} P: and M^{rs} Bayne *de omnibus* – Called late at Kenyon's but he was out at dinner. I saw Donaldson to-day at the Wyndham and I left a card at Roger's begging him to fix a day for D's breakfast with him. I also wrote to W: Wordsworth jr about my wedding present and to M^{rs} Clarkson about Taylor's officious [sic] life of her husband there will probably be no other.'

Probably your mother may have told you that my visit has been postponed this year even beyond the Wednesday after Christmas day, of which I told you myself – The meeting of the Trustees is to take place on Wednesday the 6th of January – And I mean therefore to leave London either on Thursday the 7th or Monday the 11th. This will shorten my visit, as I have money to pay on the 1st of February.

It would be a pity if I should not be able to order the plate before I leave town – You will now have time to write to Brighton.

I beg my respects to M^r Carter

Your faithful friend

H. C. Robinson

Moon is the name of the Engraver who sent us Miss Gs print of y^r Fathers portrait – We have the small ones, but want the large size –

13. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to William Wordsworth, Jr., [London], 1 January 1847.¹⁴

1st Jan: 1847
30 Russell Square
London

My dear friend

I write to inform you that I have settled the momentous business of the plate to my own satisfaction and probably therefore to yours.

The four tea-table articles have as you are doubtless ^aware^ a different relative value when you make the estimate of the value *in use* & the value *in exchange* Vide Smith's wealth of Nations passim. In *use* they rank – Tea pot-cream jug Coffee pot & sugar bason – In exchange they rank Coffee pot, Tea pot sugar bason & cream jug

I found on examining into the relative value in exchange – that the Coffee pot & cream jug are very nearly of the same value as the Tea pot & Sugar bason – And therefore in conformity with my original wish I purchased 2 os. 1 & 4 – If M^r Graham do not buy N^o 3 Some other friend will be glad to do it.

I have orderd them to be engraved as the Tea pot already has been And I mean to bring them with me in a box.

M^r Graham shews himself to be a man of taste in the choice of the form & ornaments tho' they are rather more florid than I should have perhaps selected – They will be admired by the hyperborian natives.

I believe I shall set out on the 11th And I have made some pecuniary arrangements which will enable me to remain at Rydal till February, when I expect to meet a friend at Birmingham on my return.

I am faithfully your's

H. C. Robinson

W. Wordsworth Esq^f

¹⁴ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/6. Robinson begins a new year with his entry on 1 January 1847: 'I lost nearly all the morning looking over my accounts from the year which my infirmities render a disagreeable task wch I continue notwithstanding that I may not forget thro' disuse the first three rules in arithmetic. I also wrote letters to *Wordswr*: junr about the plate bought for him ...'

14. HCR, Kendal, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 31 January 1847.¹⁵

Kendal 31st Jan 47

My dear friend

The accompanying letter was put into my hands by M^{rs} Nicholson – unless, which is most improbable you answer in the negative, you will yourself find the answer to M^{rs} Coleridge.

The names of Wordsworth & Coleridge will be inseparable as long as they live in History And therefore M^{rs} Coleridges wish on the present ^occasion^ seems very natural – It makes one grave, the being thus forced to think of that period when we the many shall be utterly forgotten, And only a very few remain floating on the memories of men, but I rejoice in having known & in still knowing the few.

My address at Liverpool will be *No 7 Brunswick St Castle Street* – But I shall be the first to write I have no doubt.

I found the Cake very delicious – The taste was hardly out of my mouth the whole journey.

A cordial greeting to your whole circle, in its widest extent

Aff^y your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

15. HCR, [30] Russell Square, London, to Dora Quillinan, Rydal Mount, 20 May 1847.¹⁶

Russell Square
London
20th May 1847.

My dear friend

I cannot resist the desire to write a few lines to you, tho' it must depend on the state of your health and spirits when this letter reaches Rydal whether it ought to be given to you. I have just received a short letter from your dear husband which has raised emotions, by no means *conflicting*, but which tho' concurrent cannot but weaken each other. *Sorrow*, at the sad state of your bodily health, and *envy* that envy which when combined as now with affection & esteem, is more properly *admiration*. He writes me word that you are "calm & happy" with "affections as alive as ever" "willing to live & resigned to departure[?]" &c &c... In truth, you

¹⁵ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/7. This letter occurs during Robinson's travels to the Lake District and beyond in January 1847. He writes of his travels in his diary prior to his entry for 9 February: 'My annual visit was unusually curtailed this year. I went late and instead of 4 weeks, staid little more than two. The only occurrence of note was that *William Wordsworth* brought his bride to his father's on the 30th of January. On the following day I left Rydal, having to join Edwin Field on a Mission in favour of a projected Unitarian College. This took place the Monday at Liverpool and a whole week was spent between Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham of which I have written a short account.'

¹⁶ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/8. Robinson's last letter to Dora before her death that July. He writes in his diary on 20 May 1847: 'I went to the Russ: Institⁿ to read the Times and I wrote letters today to M^{rs} Quillinan, a taking of leave, having received a very kind & also a cheerful letter from Qu: speaking of her as happy and resigned – a remarkable letter under such circumstances.'

are (supposing the very worst which is uncertain,) but a step or two in advance on that road which we are alike travelling ... And when I think of all the consolations that attend you in your present affliction And draw a comparison between you to day and myself tomorrow I have not the assurance to offer so insolent a feeling as pity – I have never felt and have seldom even seen what a sick bed is; but perhaps on that very account entertain an exaggerated [sic] apprehension of its terrors – I would gladly sacrifice years of my life, if years are now in store – being now in my 73^d year, to enable a faithful friend to write of me what M^r Quillinan has written of you – I have no doubt that the cheerfulness you are able to exhibit is in a great degree the effect of a resolution to leave with you, dearest friends, husband, father, mother brothers as many sources of consolatory recollection as can be brought within a small space of time.

If your life be not spared until I am enabled to revisit Westmoreland permit me to take this farewell of you with the assurance of my perfect esteem; which indeed is felt by all you know you [sic]. But all is uncertain. Here is my eldest brother now in <--> ^London^, whose death I considered as certainly immediate several years ago – And he is imperfectly enjoying himself He is gone out with my second brother But I could not wonder were a fit to have taken place since he left me this morning

My tenderest regards to all your friends now so anxiously administering to your comfort

Your affectionate friend

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Quillinan

16. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 5 June 1848.¹⁷

30 Russell Square
5 June 1848.

My dear friend

I venture to write to you again because I have something to say that will give you pleasure to read.

I went down to Mortlake on Saturday in order to take a tea-dinner at 7 with H: Taylor. And there I saw Miss Fenwick looking as well as I think I ever saw her look. It was really quite refreshing to look at her And indeed I could not do much more, for it happened that the Baron & Lady Rolfe came to take tea with them just as I went And there came Aubrey de Vere and several other friends so that the conversation was general. I learned however that you were returned to Rydal And tho' I cannot say that her account of you all was precisely what I could wish, yet I am induced to write in the hope that you will be able to rejoice at the good account of our excellent friend.

But I have not a good account to give of dear M^{rs} Clarkson. I have written twice lately to <--> her And had no answer. This may be explained by the state of her fingers She writes with difficulty – And therefore puts off writing longer than she intends. But I shall not be deterred from writing a third time should I have the power of writing any thing consolatory before she writes of her Rydal Mount friends.

¹⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/9. Robinson's diary provides a brief gloss on the above letter: 'I went from R[ough]'s to the Athen: where I wrote a short note to M^{rs} Wordsworth and after calling on Field I called on Donaldson and Miss Denman and arranged a meeting between them on some business, which if it end in business will be useful to Miss D.'

I breakfasted with Rogers this morning He is just as he was – And last week I called on Miss Rogers – She tho' she will never be what she was only a year ago yet she is greatly improved and now can feel pleasure when called on.

Just now – for I actually write at the Athen: tho' I date in Russell Square – D^r Whewell has stepped in – M^{rs} Whewell is quite well.

I have named all our common friends here – Except Moxon and him I saw a week since – Well also.

You almost reprov'd me for writing politics in my last letter, saying you did not understand [sic] what I wrote, but supposed the Gentlemen did – I wont therefore do more than say that I now think there is some chance that *war* may be averted.

It seems not absolutely <--> impossible that the National Assembly of France may frame a strong government that the French people will obey.

I say it is *possible*. So it is *possible* that the Emperor of Austria may consent to waive his claims on Lombardy & Venice, for he will be told by everyone that were he to succeed against Italy, the French would enter as their allies – And then a general war would assuredly follow.

At home our prospects are gloomy indeed But the govern^t is busy in carrying out the scheme of completing the reforms of the naval laws – Laws of trade &c &c &c

I can only now add my affectionate remembces to your dear husband And the few other friends – M^r Quillinan is the first of these – And from him probably I shall receive the first notice of the arrival of this letter. Have you yet seen the Eastern traveller? I hear that she is as business as ever? Her active industry is quite enviable, tho' you will often wish that the direction lay otherwise But to the Arnolds Roughsedges (their neighbours) Davies Harrison Cooksons, ~~& of these, the~~ M^{rs} Fletcher & Lady Richardson you will remember me.

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

17. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 13 July [18]48.¹⁸

30 Russell Square
13 July 48.

My dear friend

I went last night to a ball given by her Majesty's Antient Serjeant previous to his setting out on the Oxford Circuit – I went at 11 & came away at ½ p. 2. There I learned that the two new Vols: of Lambs letters will be out in a week. You will have a copy of course the instant it appears – And T: [Talfourd] is full of trust that his work will be approved of at Rydal Mount. My own impression is that the new disclosures will enhance the merits of the dear good man – in the estimation of all whose good opinion is worth having – A deeper shade of pity will be cast over & blinded with the admiration which will be neither dimmed nor tarnished by it.

¹⁸ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/10. Robinson writes in his diary on 13 July 1848: 'Ph[illips]: went with Wilkinson, and was present during the Massacre lately. He saw many horrid sights. I wrote to M^{rs} Wordsworth. I went to the Surry Institution to read the Times and I had an agreeable two hours chat with Hunter late.'

It was the first party I had been at for a long time. On the 27th of the last month as I came home late I stumbled against a door step And had a fall in which I received a sprain under the right ham And in consequence I have been nearly confined to my room for a fortnight And I shall not be able to continue my habit of taking long walks. I require nothing but rest I am told by my Surgeon, And I have not been at the Athenaeum now for a fortnight.

But now comes the best part of the story

I reckon the last two weeks among the happiest of my life – I have not had one sleepless night one dinner without appetite, or one moment of ennui – I have ~~fallen into~~ ^adopted^ the change of habits with the greatest readiness – I must explain this a few years ago I began to look over & destroy papers & supply their place by *reminiscences* but I could only do this at Bury – With my idle gossiping habits, here at London I could do nothing – And now, being thus confined within doors, otherwise in excellent health, I have taken to my papers with diligence And I have lost all wish to go out. But pray do not be alarmed And imagine that I am contemplating the perpetration of any act of authorship – Nothing of the sort – I find my materials scantier And my faculty of turning them to account feebler than I had supposed – But there will be a something left after me And that gives me pleasure I shall I expect complete my reminiscences of Germany before I go to my brothers, or to the Archaeol: Institute at Lincolne and there is this good in the employment, that it *is* employment Kenyon is coming out with a Vol: on Italy which I should expect will contain good didactic lines – I see little of him he is now at Bath but where I understand he has not seen the Savage – He is rather capricious & mutable in his social habits, but he has a very wide field for his friendly acts of kindness & hospitality.

Our friend Strickland Cookson retains his excellent health apparently – At least he looks well – I hear of you more thro' him than any one else.

We have had the Yankee Emerson lately here And I heard most of his lectures What a delightful countenance he has! How much better his smile is than his reasonings are – he has no reasonings. His thoughts do not rise one out of the other They are mystical & wild; but then he looks with such arch naivete that his eyes give this commentary on his words. “I know this to be nonsense or half sense as well as you. I am laughing at myself.” I send you my last note from dear M^{rs} Clarkson It will tell you more than I can say – It is singular: I write to her that you had asked whether she made any 2 marks on her own letters to Miss H: being sent back – And still she makes none you see – This may be mere forgetfulness – For you know she is three years older than I am And I do forget perpetually the daily incidents of life – It is not easy for me to recollect to day where I dined yesterday – So I suppose it is in part with all of us – There are certain privileged natures which are not only in intensity stronger than the rest of the world but also in ^larger^ extension. Such natures are subdued only by the noblest affections, love & grief at a temporary suspension of its exercise – my kindest remembces to all your neighbourhood – You may say to M^{rs} Arnold that M^{rs} Twining begins to smile again – She was looking sweetly at several of Emersons lectures.

It is too bad in me to tire your eyes with double service I meant to conclude with the sheet. But I could not – for I have not even thanked you for your kind account of all our common friends – And I have also this to add – Poor Miss Weston the Sen^r is improved in her general health but she will never recover the use of her legs it is thought – She is coming up to London from Brighton She has been already gratified by knowing of your enquiry about her – I am concerned to hear so sad an account of your daughter in law M^{rs} W. W. But really with a previous knowledge of the fate of her nearest relations no one can be surprised – And we can only hope for the poor husband [sic] fortitude – But this of course is for you alone.

There is no doubt H: M: is a person of marvellous energy – Were the judgement but equal to the power of action And the honest wish to exercise that power for the good of

others!!! She would be altogether admirable – But it does not lye in the course of observation that all excellencies are continued in any one individual The severest criticism I have yet seen of the book is in the last N^o of the Unitⁿ Magazine – The Christian Reformer – Because she is a Unitarian, they the U[]s are more annoyed than you Orthodox can possible [sic] be – My plans for the summer are unfixed – I shall go to my brother of course And also to Lincolne with the Archeol: Institute – Beyond this nothing resolved – Open to any rational proposal – I hope M^{rs} Davy is recovering now To her M^{rs} Fl: The As [Arnolds] &c I have written already to M^r Qu: To your dear husband &c &c as ever

Affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

18. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 22 July 1848.¹⁹

London
30 Russell Square
22^d July 1848

My dear friend

I think it right to give you notice that on Monday, as I purpose, I shall go to Lincolne to attend the Archaeological Institute If therefore either you or M^r Quillinan sho^d be filled with any generous impulse towards me during the week my address will be

*Archaeological Institute
Lincolne.*

I shall take a return ticket which will avail me till the 3^d of August – And then come home intending in a few days to go to Bury for a few weeks – Such are my plans – liable to many interruptions – I do not recollect having yet informed you of the accident that occurred to me on the 27th of last month – I stumbled over a projecting step of a *church* door – An evil omen you will say – And received an unpleasant strain – However the consequences were by no means serious – The worst were the fees I gave my attendant Surgeon. And his chief prescription was *rest, rest, rest*.

I kept within a full fortnight And I know not where I have spent a fortnight of more uninterrupted enjoyment – I was enabled to look over, arrange & make use of old German papers a job I never before could sit down to in London – So that I had not five minutes of either ennuie or fretting – My friends came & sat with me And I had a few parties of whist – Cookson was so kind as to drink tea with me several times – He is in very good health apparently – I managed however to go to a ball at Talfourds but I assure ^you^ I did not walz or polk – The Final Memorials of Charles Lamb are out – They have been sent me – But I have read only the warm hearted dedication – I approved of its being written without permission – And shall hope to hear that it And the whole work meets with your & *his* approbation – I dont mean the *his* which grammar would point out; but *his* whose feelings &

¹⁹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/11. Robinson provides a short gloss on the letter in his diary on 22 July 1848: 'I wrote today to M^{rs} Wordsworth as well as to my brother. Called on Fellows who recommends my calling on the Horts and M^r Close.'

opinions will be of more importce in the compilers & authors eyes than those of all other persons – But that even *he* sho^d be capable of forming a just judgement, it is necessary that he should be in the enjoyment of repose & ^health^ without which the noblest of faculties be inert.

One reflection occurred to me on looking at the outside only of these Vols: The letters of every man (unequal as they must be) will generally derive their character from those to whom they are addressed – If for instance *you* have any from Coleridge they would probably be among his very best And should be preserved as a counterpoise to letters of a less valueable class which he may have written to correspondents of a different character – I shall take the Vols: with me.

I forget whether I have ever spoken to you abo^t an admirable preacher at Brighton – Robertson of Trinity Chapel – he is a popular preacher there but without any degrading concessions to evangelical low-churchism – Tho' decidedly opposed to Tractarianism – Yet he gives the preference to what is called the high church I think him one of the most admirable preachers I ever heard – He set out last night for Keswick – He is most desirous And I assure you well worthy to see the Interior of Rydal Mount – I have given him a note to M^r Quillinan who will best know whether & when he ought to present himself – With your lamentable experience on this sad matter I fear you will look on him with a melancholy eye – he has been advised by medical men to abstain from preaching for a Season & seek a milder climate – I very much fear his case is one sadly resembling that of M^{rs} Will: Wordsworth And he is at times himself aware of it – But he is now in good spirits he is a man of manifold literary tastes & pursuits I made his acquaintce in Germany where he spent a summer for the benefit of his health –

If M^r Quillinan should have leisure I wish he wo^d take M^r Robertson *as my friend* to Miss Martineau of whose late work however he judges as y^o do By the bye M^{rs} Reid is now with H: M: One of the most generous & noble creatures that ever breathed I hope you will see her. I beg too that if you do & when you see H M or M^{rs} Fletcher or M^{rs} Arnold or Lady Richardson or M^{rs} Davy that y^o will be the bearer of my kindness [sic] remembces – To your husband Love &c &c as ever dear friend

Affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
Rydal Mount

19. HCR, Bury St. Edmunds, to Edward Quillinan, [near Rydal Mount], 10 August [18]48.²⁰

Bury S^t Edmunds
10th Aug^t 48

My dear Sir.

It was not forgetfulness of your letter so much as of my not having replied to [you that] I am to be reproached with: There was time for a rejoinder had the ~~time~~ ^occasion^ been given.

²⁰ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/12.

I have now a cluster of letters to be thankful for – But it <—> suits the scantiness of my materials to jumble together some notice of all – 'Tho' indeed the greater portion of what you & M^{rs} W: have written calls only for & sometimes admits only of an acknowledgement.

As I was driving in an Omnibus to Hampstead on Saturday I fell in with young Wigon – he told me he was on his road to the north. There was a time when he had wished to have another sitting from M^r W: in order to complete his exercise on the < > physiognomy. There is no form of plastic work that I like so much as the bas-relief *Medallion* (*Italici* [*Medalone?*]) The small medal certainly ~~fails~~ as a likeness is a failure But the expression is pure And the sadness will be understood. The next generation will be delighted with it.

You speaking more *slightingly* than I should have expected of *Blake*. Recollect they are not to be considered as works of art but as fragments of a shattered intellect. Lamb used to call him a "mad Wordsworth" Enquire of Mrs W: whether she has not a copy of his Catalogue – If she has not, enquire of me hereafter. Many years ago M^r W: read some poems which I had copied And made a remark on them which I would not repeat to every one. "There is no doubt this man is mad, but there is something in this madness which I enjoy more than the *sense* of W: Sc: or Lord B:—]" I had lent him when he died the 8vo Edit in 2 Vols: of W. W's poems – They were sent me by his widow with pencil marginalia which I inked over. He admired W: W: "tho' an atheist" And when I professed against this sentence it was thus supported – "Who ever worships nature denies God, for Nature is the Devils work –" I succumbed, for he always beat me in argument – he almost went into a fit of rapture at the platonic ode.

I enjoyed our Lincoln trip: It was a mere social enjoyment. I shall continue to accompany the learned body, until I am become quite intolerable And considered as a burthen – I cannot now even *learn* on such an excursion – *Teaching* was never my forte – My simple contribution consisted in repeatedly reciting

"How profitless the relics that ~~they~~ ^we^ cull."
&c &c &c

We made among others, a wild trip to Tattershall Castle And Boston Stump – The R: R: Comp: treated us with the journey over an unfinished road in vion sand trucks – And gave us a luncheon to boot – We had bishops deans lords & barronets And I enjoyed the excursion mightily. I shall stay here about a month – And how [I] spend the other idle months will depend on accidents – I had meant to go to Germany, but really the uncertain, perhaps perillous state of the country is a sufficient reason for abandoning the scheme: As to France; I have really no inclination whatever to go thither again – I mean in a few days to go to Playford – And that journey will I trust supply materials for a short letter to M^{rs} Wordsworth – you will have seen M^{rs} Reid by this time – her great worth lies in her perfect disinterestedness & great benevolence rather than in the judgement which directs that benevolence – When you fall in with her, just say I am *here* – She may favor me with a line – Indeed I am looking for one – To my dear friends at Rydal Mount The Miss Qu:^s Miss M: M^{rs} D& M^{rs} F & lady R. The Doctor &c &c &c say kind regards

Most truly yours
H. C. Robinson

E. Quillinan Esq^f

P. S. 10th Aug^t

Strange! That I should have been on the point of sending off the letter, without any mention of the Final Memorials – That would have been great injustice to the Serjeant, for it would have been naturally inferred that I disapproved of the work. That is not the ~~work~~ case.

One thing is quite certain – It will raise dear Charles Lamb higher in every man's affections whose love is worth any thing – This I have learned from the testimony of persons of opposite character. They who have ever loved & admired him will admire & love him more intensely The execution of the work evinces the kindest of dispositions And there is more than usual sagacity in the Serjeant characteristic of Godwin & Dyer – I say nothing of the style throughout And I abominate & detest that disgusting narrative of Wainwright. The Serj^t has forgotten that there is not only a time for all things but a place for all things

As far as it goes, this tale detracts from Lambs capacity of appreciation And those who like me may look for a prolonged existence as *Initials* in Lambs works And as objects of his attachment will feel themselves deteriorated And they ~~willing~~ experience the twisting of the Philistines – Were you a friend of the light hearted Janus? they will enquire with malicious curiosity. The faults of Lamb are so inextricably mingled with his virtues that one cannot fancy them away.

I hope our friends will not disapprove of the insertion of any of their letters --

My brother I am happy to say is in very comfortable health – But he cannot bear any exercise of mind, And that of the body is dangerous.

Things seem to be slowly *righting* & *settling* in France But in Italy & Germany one can calculate on nothing.

&c &c &c

H. C. R.

I mean to stay here a month at least –

20. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 16 December [18]48.²¹

30 Russell Square
London
16th Dec: 48.

My dear friend –

I hope you will not open this letter with the expectation of being amused or interested by it, for if you do, you will be sadly disappointed

I really feel that I have in setting down, nothing to do but to tell you that as my brothers health continues as well as any mans health can, who is subject to humiliating visitations of disease, I have reason to hope that I shall be able to make another of my Christmas visits, tho' I do not know that I shall be with you on the Christmas day.

However, I have no engagement beyond the 22^d when the Professors have a dinner which I am permitted to attend – And beyond that, no other engagement – I shall whether I hear from or [sic] you or not, ~~written~~ write to inform you of the precise day of my intended departure

²¹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/13. Robinson's diary for 16 December 1848 records begins with the following: 'I was occupied today in writing a few letters – I finished that to my brother and I wrote – this was at the Athenaeum – to M^{rs} Wordsworth announcing my forthcoming visit. Also to Will Wordsworth who is to come to me on Tuesday.'

I have this morning received a note from your son William who is to bring his wife with him on Tuesday & take a bachelor-dinner with me before he sets out on his journey home – This happens very conveniently as I am engaged or rather expected without being wanted, to attend a dancing Soirée at Serj^t Talfourds – It would be ⁱⁿdecorous to attend before 10 O'clock – Such are our London ways.

I had also the pleasure of seeing M^r Monkhouse here a short time since he promised to take a second breakfast with me ~~And~~ But I saw no more of him – he was looking the picture of health and seemed in capital spirits.

This is all I have to tell you in the way of anecdote except that I may say that Sam Rogers is in very good plight – I breakfasted with him *tete à tete* two days ago – It was a visit of business – he has been all alive in the single matter of business which I have ever originated in the course of a very inactive life and that is the establishing a Flaxman Gallery within the walls of the University College – Miss Denman generously gives to the college all she possesses of Flaxmans works And the college Council have acted with a corresponding liberality in the fitting up an appropriate building for these works – I undertook to bring this to pass – And I am within sight of land for the fund necessary to defray the cost of the undertaking, that is, repairing the casts and fitting them in the prepared walls tho' not raised is brought within such limits that I can confidently say the fund shall be raised.

There is another business in which I have taken an active part, but merely as one of many which is also in a fair [way] of success, but not so triumphant And that is the erection of a hall in college in memory of our Dissenters' Chapels Act 'This tho' founded by Unitarians is not to be an *exclusively* Unitarian establishment And our conduct has been so *unsectarian* as not to be heartily acquiesced in by the most Sectarian among us. And we shall elect in all probability a Principal who will be a Churchman And a pupil of D^r Arnolds This is not a thing actually done, but I am striving to do it – And my personal friends are the leaders – I have been in correspondence with M^{rs} Arnold on this subject And shall write to her either to day or Monday – And I have been in communication with Archdeacon Hare on the Subject.

The ordinary business of our Univ: College in connection with these has occupied most of my attention lately having no concern of my own that calls for any close or anxious attention It is lucky when an idle man can find harmless expedients for his otherwise waste activity.

But indeed without any personal business, or social occupations like those I have been mentioning, it would be disgraceful in any man to be unable to employ himself in the merely looking on & noticing the events of the day – Even the revolutions of our youth are exceeded in variety & complexity by those of the present age how events crowd & jostle each other! And yet there is now a fair prospect of a subsidence of the storm without any great national or political disaster

The news of the day is that Louis Napoleon has been elected President of the Republican [sic] by so vast a majority as to render all successful opposition vain – And why? Not because he is a wise or able man, but because he is the nephew of the Emperor And because the people of France will not have a Republic and know no other means than by electing a man of the most Anti-republican name imaginable – And the best feature in this business is that the French Stock has gradually risen and rises daily The unanimity ~~hoped for~~ thus exhibited promises peace & strength.

In Austria too, the new Emperor holds the language of a mild sovereign desirous to govern not despotically but legally And tho' such promises are very frequently disregarded when power is confirmed, yet they strengthen the popular power when disregarded.

In Prussia too the King has acted prudently in not attempting to exercise any kind of violence. The only fear is that he has succeeded too much to the spirit of the Times.

Italy is quiet And the Pope does not appear to have become an object of contempt because he has been the victim of democratic outrage. He will probably effect all the great objects which he announced at the commencement of his reign.

But enough – You will be ready to answer me – I do not understand politics
With my best regards to all your family – including M^r Quillinan

I am

affectionately your's
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
Rydal Mount

21. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 22 February [18]49.²²

30 Russell Square
22^d Feb: 49

My dear friend

Yesterday several questions were put to me concerning your health and M^r Wordsworths And generally concerning the well being of and the goings on in the Valley that lies between Grasmere & Windermere, that I was unable to reply to with the desired minuteness – And this led to a little self examination when I found that I had been somewhat remiss myself in writing And this has led to my sitting down now, tho' how I can profitably make up for my past neglect I really do not know. To compensate for not writing at all, ~~but~~ by writing a very dull letter is really a bad business – Yet how shall I avoid this? The subjects on which we both feel an interest of the same kind are so very few that I have to hunt about in all directions to find them.

One just occurs to me: I lately saw M^{rs} Austen – not the German translatress who corrupts the Queen's English by her foreign importations, but the Lady who with her invalid husband succeeded in alluring you occasionally to their hotel on the lake – She tells me that she interested M^r Wordsworth by reading to him some spirited letters from young Layard then engaged on a ~~voyage~~ journey in Assyria. M^{rs} A. thinks that M^r W. will be interested in the reputation into which Layard has suddenly started. He really revels in popularity Macauley And his *Nineveh* is the most popular book of the day except the Hist: of the Revolution of 1688 – And derives none of its attractions from party feelings – When I became acquainted with Layard, on the Imperial of a French diligence, he was a boisterous attorneys clerk, full of monkey tricks & practical jokes which I tolerated on account of his good humour & a certain strong headed plain sense

We travelled together in France; He was under Brockedon's care – He after that used to visit me in my chambers And I helped him forward in his desultory studies by the loan of books. When his clerkship expired, he refused to be a "Special Attorney" and instead accepted an invitation to Ceylon where an Uncle offerd to provide for him But he never reached Ceylon – He was for a time lost in the Arabian wastes – no one knew what was become of him. After years of yet unexplained wanderings he was heard of at

²² WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/14. In his diary entry on 22 February 1849, Robinson notes: 'I wrote also to M^{rs} Wordsworth chiefly relating the history of Layard and telling her of my troubles about M^{rs} Gregory.'

Constantinople, taken into the house of Sir Stratford Cannery – And having made a lucky hit in exploring the spot that is now supposed to be the seat of ancient Nineveh, he was encouraged by the minister in pursuing his researches And coming to Europe home he has managed in a few months to produce a book that every one praises besides some costly ^illustrated^ volumes of learned antiquities On account of these works, credit being given to him, for they were yet unknown, the University of Oxford has associated him with Wellington Blucher Wordsworth & other kindred spirits by making him a *D. C. L.* to the astonishment of his old friends & the secret & proud satisfaction of his Uncle & Aunt – Now if ever this book falls into your hands, these few statements may add to your interest in it – But if which is not improbable you never see the book you will think I might quite as well have kept myself to myself.

When I wrote before I had not seen M^s Coleridge I have seen her several times lately – She will soon publish a Vol: that will give an account of her fathers lectures on Shakespear &c – She has an interesting anxiety to redeem his memory from the charge of plagiarism – And I think she may succeed if she is content with insisting as she has done in the new Biogr: Liter: that he was no *conscious* plagiarist but that his intellect was confused to the degree that he did not distinctly know what was his own or not – But she is <--> unreasonably anxious to shew that he did not derive his leading ideas from the great German writers, for it would be no reprove if he did – And if it appears that his character of Hamlet is substantially that which Göthe gave to the world in his Wilhelm Meister before the year 1800, she will never persuade any one acquainted with Göthes & Coleridges writings that C: was not influenced by the early works of G— However, we must tolerate this excess of family feeling. I have not myself seen any advertisement, but I have heard that Derwent announces “*a life of Hartley*”!!! And I have seen in the Athenaeum sentimental paragraphs written about the funeral – Who could have written them I cannot imagine. Harr: Martineau is not sentimental nor is she on corresponding terms with the Athenaeum. – If any advice would be listened to certainly there would not be wanting those who would recommend at the most, a mere brief Memoir of some half dozen pages would be the herald of any posthumous writings – Formerly this was done when the subject of the Memoirs had led a useful & even honourable life, And a curtain needed not to be drawn over the wasted years which followed a youth of disappointed^ment^ – exciting expectations –

I have not lately seen M^r Rogers – Miss R: is I believe still at Brighton – He was when I last saw him in his usual mood – Kind in action, occasionally bitter in words – he has kindly seconded my scheme of having a Flaxman Gallery set up in our Univ: College – I have already paid in to the banker £150 – And I have *written* subscriptions to the amount of 130 – Among the last is £20 promised from our friend, which I must soon receive from him – we have lost a large subscription by the sudden death of Earl Auckland And a smaller probably from the death of M^r Tulk the brother of your neighbor M^s [Stoltisfosh?]

I was just able to shew my attention to the Doctor by informing him of the death of his brother in law – You will not forget to remember me to this family, as well as my older friends and acquaintance. (Continued after some hours)

I yesterday met in the Street M^s Twining with her daughter in law – M^s A. T. gave a good account of Fox How and its inmates – And her sweet smile has again become natural to her.

Of M^s Clarkson I have little to say – I have had a very few hardly legible lines from her – Yet I am told that when the heads of the late Anti-slavery meeting at Ipswich paid their respects to her as the representative of their former honoured leader, they were astonished at her eloquence.

I was about to say a word or two on politics, or the state of the world now, but this is almost a prohibited subject between us And therefore instead I will speak of the lowest object that just occurs to me to mention, and that is myself.

I am threatened with a change in my domestic arrangements which puts into peril my future comfort Your Son William will be able to appreciate the importance of this incident ~~better~~ than you can be

M^{rs} Gregory has given offence to the Landlord not without just grounds of offence I must own, And she is going to be removed from the superintendence of the house

Now, I have lived here into my tenth year – And at the age of 73 it is no slight evil to see every person I am accustomed to, removed out of the house – I am told that the new people will be better than the last – That may be the fact without my thinking so At all events the new Servants will have to be taught my ways, as well as acquainted with most of my <--> friends & Associates. This aggravates the painful Sense of my being so entirely dependent on others for comfort – It is only ^{now} that that sense is beginning to be painful. I have come to the conclusion that it is for my happiness that I should remove into a house, And be thoroughly domiciled with those who would *take care* of me – And in ~~wh~~ ^{which} house I might have the attendance of a man servant.

My thoughts now turn on the necessity of a change of life – I know very well the sort of persons I want, but I know not where to find the persons.

Did we know each other, there must be many who could promote my happiness as I might theirs But where are they? An advertisement in the Times will do no good – I have been kept from looking about me as I should have done, by the uncertainty of my brothers life – No one expected three years since that he would be alive now – And now, tho' his fits occasionally recur, now I am more anxious about my niece than I am about him – Sometimes I think that he may survive her & her sister – What a prospect is that for me – What an opening to the consciousness that my position will call on me to discharge duties which I am unable to discharge – Then, you will say, they are no longer duties – But there will be the need of me – And it will be humiliating for me to plead inactivity – But why weary & worry you with all this? – It is well my paper is at an end.

But with all this *egotism* be assured that I have not forgotten you & yours, And that it will give me great pleasure to have a good account of you & M^r W. So no more – as ever affectionately his & yours –

[no signature]

22. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, [London], 22 March [18]49.²³

Bury St Edmunds
22 Mar: 49

My dear friend –

I am come down to have the melancholy pleasure of dining with the bar at the Judges lodgings – both the judges are personal acquaintance – One, was my Junior on the circuit – Among the bar, not above two or three were here in my time – This does not make me sad by making me *feel* old – I am sufficiently aware of the fact and practical philosopher

²³ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/15. Robinson writes in his diary on 22 March 1849: 'I received a parcel from Armstrong with a letter complimenting me for my letter to him, but neither professing to be converted by it, nor controverting it – a forbearance on his part I did not expect. I wrote to M^{rs} Wordsworth today giving her an account of my friends here and of our London friends and I wrote a note to M^{rs} Gregory. My brother was tolerably well but Henry very poorly. The incident of the day was my dinner with the Judges. The Ch: Baron was very friendly and I chatted with him while he changed his dress – and his talk at the Bar table was lively & affable to everyone. Rolfe came in after dinner being detained.'

enough to perceive it without sorrow – I have left the bar 21 years! I perceive also with no painful sense of humility, how much better the men do business than I was able to do. You perhaps recollect M^{rs} Clarksons younger sister Anne Buck – She did not marry young – Her Son was first an Attorney's clerk – then lived with his mother on her farm, at length he married a cousin And was induced, I know not why, to go to the bar to which he was lately admitted but I do not see him on the circuit, tho' he lives in the town – Such are the incidents of life – They make us grave when we record them, not so much from a sense of evil or wrong, as of the insignificance or worthlessness of life.

Has it never occurred to you when musing on ~~some~~ of the most gloomy of the doctrines concerning the future destiny of the human race that it rather elevates unduly mankind in supposing it to be the object of Gods *everlasting* wrath – How I have been led to the expression of this thought *now*, it would be hard to say – It is very often in my mind.

I have found a family of Invalids – Of five individuals not one in honest hearty health – My brother had a slight fit the day of my arrival, but he was able to walk home he deems it prudent to keep within to day – I came here on Tuesday – Old M^{rs} Hutchison keeps her room till tea time – My niece & M^{rs} H: have both had the influenza. It seized the throat And M^{rs} Robinson has suffered severely – And the boy is kept from school by a cold.

I am myself well in health, but I have a slight lameness owing to having walked to[o] much I believe – I am come here to rest – for I find it impossible when in town I had a fall last July And every now & then I shall feel the consequences in a weakness in the muscles of the leg.

Really I ought to be ashamed of myself writing about one's own & one's family's infirmities – I should not have dared to write such a letter to a young friend – you will sympathise in some of these – I wont say, – complaints, but statements.

My lameness kept me from making calls before I left town – In particular, I did not see M^{rs} Coleridge which I wished – Her new Volume about her father will soon be out

Moxon I find is going to print a Vol: of Hartley Coleridges remains – As publisher his recommendation will have an authority which no friend's will have – he will not I believe suffer more than a few pages of biography For this sort of sketch by way of preface to works, the French have excellent models in what they modestly term *notice de la Vie de* Half a dozen pages of Memoir will be quite as much as is required to exhibit the respectable & amiable qualities of poor Hartley. His frailties may be well allowed to remain in the obscurity of a country residence

My lameness occasioned my not calling at the very last on M^{rs} Twining and on Rogers. When I last heard of him, he was at Brighton with his Sister – She is still capable of enjoyment in spite of many privations – D^r Aikin after his Paralysis used to say – “I must make the most I can of the Salvage of Life” There is an excellent little tale in the “Evenings at home” illustrative of the <--> felicity of those whose happy temperament enables them to *make the best of it* – And I scarcely flatter myself that I belong to this happy class – Indeed I need not keep it a secret for we are not a dignified class And owe more to apathy than to a wisdom for our exemption from suffering I am sometimes ashamed of my comfort.

Just before I left town the Second Edition of Layards Nineveh came out – I took the liberty to bring the copy destined for you to Bury with me – I shall return to London I have no doubt before you return to Rydal And as soon as I go it shall be sent you.

I must now make up for a past neglect, but it will come too late to be of any use – I *did* ask M^r Wood whether the changes in the department of finance would cause, as was reported, the removal of the Stamp distributors – no removals, he said, but modifications – And I inferred from his manner, they would be not in favor of the office holder – And as I came here, on Tuesday, I read in the Times of the day a paragraph, which I doubt not some “d—d good natured friend” has shewn William. In this as in other like matters a homely rhyme must be borne in mind “What can't be cured, must be endured.” Cold comfort! – For

endurance does not imply indifference Perhaps if I had had good news to communicate I should not have delayed so long.

And now, dear friend, let me close a *sad* letter I have nothing chearful to add at last, for of dear M^{rs} Clarkson I have heard nothing

To your dear Husband, your Son & his wife M^r Quilln: And all Rydal friends & acquaintance with due gradations my kind remembrances

Affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

23. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 19 May [18]49.²⁴

30 Russell Square
London
19th May 49.

My dear friend

I this morning received a letter from Bury containing an expression I did not hope ever to read under the hand of my niece – “*With joy & thankfulness*”]

After being nearly seven weeks in bed And reduced nearly to the condition of a skeleton, the dear child is now manifestly so improved in his health that without presumption we think we may hope.

He can now not only stand, but walk a few steps without great fatigue

His complexion is recovering its proper colour –

His pulse is becoming more slow – All these are decided symptoms of amendment

And the mother, Aunt, grandfather &c &c are all in a state of present joy. But even if he recover this summer so as to be able to travel, a series of trials & troubles await the family. All the medical men agree in opinion that he, the child, must not spend another winter at Bury – The house establishment must so far be broken up that the females, mother Aunt &c must quit – And what is my brother to do? I know no one more fixed in his habits than he; no one more incapable of adopting himself to a change of circumstances than he – And now he will be less able than ever to live alone – He wants some one to live with him And there is no one – Of course I mean a female companion I might be frequently with him certainly And will do all I can – but I should be of little use – He needs someone to watch over him, regulate his diet & ~~watch over him~~ ^in some measure control him^. He has a faithful man Servant – All the affection of your James, but no portion of James's intelligence But why trouble you with all this? Because I am full of it – I ought not to trouble you with this detail – I do it merely that you may know what it is that fills my mind now.

Yesterday I dined with the Baron & Lady Rolfe – Present Miss Fenwick, M^{rs} Coleridge And his intelligent daughter – It was a pleasant afternoon tho' Miss Fenwick was by no means in high health – She was to go today to M^r Taylors – talks of staying a couple of weeks there And authorises me to go over And see her – This I deem a privilege.

I have seen M^{rs} Coleridge several times before She is in good health.

²⁴ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/16. In his diary for this day, Robinson writes: ‘I wrote in bed my weekly letter to my brother in part. Soon after breakfast I called on Masqu: and at Miss Allens where was Miss Sophia Weston – I then went to the Athen: from thence I sent a note to Bromley, and a letter to M^{rs} Wordsworth with the good news from Bury –’

I have called several times on the Twinings without falling in with M^{rs} Alfred – But I hear a good account of her.

Quillinans Sonnet is approved of for the justice done to our excellent person I own I should have liked to see a Companion to it – Of the excellence of Miss [Sillons?] motives there can be no doubt – She is a good woman there can be no doubt – But it is unpleasant to see such goodness insidiously turned to a purpose by others by no means so good as herself – There is undoubtedly a deal of extravagance & cant in the Calvinistic party in the church but still honest Churchmen, placed at an equal distance from attending to Rome And a tendency to Geneva might fairly be scandalised by an ostentatious affectation of Romanist usages & denominations – As if to insult the genuine protestants – There was a very able article in the Examiner ^when the *row* took place^ in which the Bishop was somewhat roughly handled, but at the same time Miss [Sillon?] was spoken of in high terms of admiration This is as it should be

I hear indirectly that M^r Wordsworth & you are progressing – M^{rs} Austen was delighted with the Autograph letter acknowledging the Nineveh, from the poet.

Miss Rogers is considerably better than she was with kind regards to *all* as usual,

Affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
Rydal Mount

24. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 12 July 1849.²⁵

Bury S^t Edmunds
12th July 1849.

My dear friend

Mr Quillinan has kindly communicated to me the news of the last sad affliction which has befallen you – It was a consolation to me that you had borne with composure this new trial – I left Mathon with the impression that it was both a beautiful & a happy spot. And little thought that its head was so soon to be removed – I had told M^{rs} Clarkson that your brother was looking more fresh and lively than while I saw him in Hertfordshire – And the journey he took with us, tho' short was evidence that he could enjoy much even mixed society – The suddenness of the removal I cannot lament – Indeed I cannot imagine a death with more consolatory circumstances – Without pain, except for a very short time, surrounded by the objects of his warmest attachment with all the consciousness of leaving behind him none but those who will honour & respect him – And with such convictions & such hopes as he possessed – Really under such circumstances the field of condolence is on the very frontier of that of congratulation I should have enumerated among the consoling topics, the attainment of a ripe old age, And the human objects of life ^all^ possessed –

At the age at which *we* are now arrived, these occurrences are ever taking place – Death is never out of my mind – The expectation rather than the fear ever present – And what I daily see and hear tends to diminish its terms – I staid as you have heard but a couple of days in London And went forth to Playford – M^{rs} Clarkson has lost nothing of her old

²⁵ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/17. Robinson closes his diary entry on 12 July 1849 with this comment: 'I also wrote a few lines of condolence to Mrs Wordsworth on the death of her brother Mr Hutchinson. Read late Edinb: Review.'

vivacity – She is lamed in her limbs but not in her mind – She is carried from room to room & put into a little cart in which she is dragged about, And enjoys looking at her new made hay stacks – She fancies she can inspect her farm and direct what is to be done no one drudges her the pleasure – She listened with interest to all the details of my late visit and will not forgo the pleasure of dreaming about one day seeing you –

My arrival here was but the prelude to the departure of my niece with her mother sister & the precious child who is the centre of all their loves & all their hopes – But they are a melancholy party The only stout one of the party is old M^{rs} Hutchison aged 80 M^{rs} T Robinson & her Sister are both nearly exhausted by incessant watchings over the child. The change of air the sea breezes of Dover the novelty of the Scene the bouyancy of 12 years all have their salutary effect on him. It is to be expected that he will rapidly improve under all these favoring incidents But whether he has stamina for a long life or even to attain manhood I cannot say – I cannot even tell what the guesses of men of Science are And I distrust even their assurances – I can only leave it to a beneficent tho' mysterious dispensation.

My brother is & has been since my stay here in a very comfortable state – He desires to be rememberd to you, for he has been flatterd by hearing that you have not forgotten him

–

How long the party will stay at Dover I do not know nor what the future arrangements will be I wish ~~his~~ Henrys mother could bear the journey And that he were taken for a year or two to Madiera But I fear there are insuperable difficulties in the way of what might prove a renovation of his frame. I shall remain here at all events for a few weeks

–

Tell M^r Quillinan that I thank him for his references to the *Morning Post* I will search the file, for I believe it is kept here otherwise it is a paper I never look into –

Thank him for his details of local intelligence And remember me not only to your own hearth & its inmates but to all my friendly acquaintance The bride & bridegroom will have departed – The Fletchers Davys Arnolds Roughsedges Harrison Carr Martineau &c &c the inhabits of Loughrig I include in your own family

I am affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

[*affixed to the last page in another hand is the following: 'send this to y^r Aunt'*]

25. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 3 December [18]49.²⁶

30 Russell Square
3 Dec^r 49.

My dear friend

I rejoiced at the reception of your letter – Had it been addressed to any one the mere hand writing so clear and so firm would have given me pleasure, contrasted as it was with the hardly legible lines under my brother's hand received at the same time – But to receive so cordial an invitation from you was really a high enjoyment – You say you have hope that nothing will occur to impede my being with you at the usual time – Most anxiously do I wish this may be the case – But this is very uncertain –

I lately learned to my great astonishment that it is now *seven* years since my brother has sustained these severe epileptic attacks which sometimes by sudden blast carry off the sufferer – More frequently his mind perishes by “slow decline” – There has been one great consolation during this long trial His perceptive powers have been weakend But his moral feelings, his affections have never been perverted – And he has been for the greater part of the time quite happy – My visits to him have been frequent – Indeed I have placed myself at the Service of my niece, who is the most assiduous & kind of attendants – I go to Bury when she wishes for me, And I stay as long as she approves of it – She sometimes thinks that my presence is too exciting – I wrote to her on Saturday, informed her of your very gratifying letter, but that she, not I, should determine about my availing myself of your invitation – I need not say how much I desire once more to enjoy a Rydal Christmas – I shall miss certainly my walk to Grasmere before breakfast but the Sum total of enjoyment will not be sensibly diminished

I was lately at Brighton for nine days my great nephew is there under the care of his Aunt, for a change of air & a milder climate were prescribed – And his fond mother has no other consolation for the loss of her child's company, ~~but~~ ^{^than^} the consciousness of discharging a duty of affliction to her father in law – her own mother older than my brother is her companion – She is afflicted also by a stricture of the throat And is in danger of death from starvation – So sad a house is that at Bury –!

When at Brighton I saw repeatedly Miss Rogers – Her brother was with her – I dined once with her – It was a pleasure to her to sit at the head of the table And make a shew of doing the honour with her paralytic hands – a mere shew of course. On Tuesday I came up, taking the early train in order to breakfast in S^t James's Place – I was there in good time Such are the results of Rail Road Travelling

At Brighton I called twice on M^r Graham It really does one good to look on the benignant smile of his fine face – There is something very attractive & even gracious in his look His Son is gone to the South, I suppose for his health – He is expecting – I should say *was* – his daughter on whom his affections are now so concentrated – They spoke of her health as good now And I hope you share in the same favorable opinion –

²⁶ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/18. Robinson writes in his diary on 3 December 1849: ‘I left home early to breakfast with Rogers, Tagart, Henderson, Harness & Mitford – a lively 2½ hours. Then at the Athen: where I wrote two long letters – one to M^{rs} Wordsworth chiefly on the uncertainty of my going to Rydal at the Christmas as usual and the other to Mrs Coleridge who sent me a letter from Miss Fenwick. They both want me to write to Wordsworth to induce him to make a settlement on a niece of Southey who is in poverty. I wrote at length shewing that I ought not to do so as I do not know Miss Southey myself and could only write being set on by others – and this indirect & circuitous mode of making the application would be justly offensive.’

Brighton was very full & very gay when I was there – But gay people now give me no pleasure, not that I am myself *triste* This morning I have been breakfasting again with Rogers, having done so twice last week – He is more unchanged than you could have imagined – He retains his old habits – repeats his favorite passages from poets & prosaists, and tells again & again his old anecdotes, to his old associates –

He has a Knot who usually meet on Tuesdays at his house, of whom those one most frequently meets are his nephew Sam: Sharpe, Luttrell, Harness, Dyce, & Mitford three ecclesiastics of whom the two latter are *at large* And the first tho' an incumbent is quite as much of a <--> liberator as he is of a divine – D^r Henderson &c And of late I have joined them – At each of the late three visits Rogers has expatiated on the beauty of the head in the small folio Vol: I have seen the first two Vols of the new edition, but shall not appropriate it until it is complete M^{rs} Coleridge is looking very nicely –

I learn this morning from the Ecclesiastical sources that there is a forthcoming election at Cambr: of the Regius Professorship of Divinity And that Dr Christ: Wordsworth And M^r French Archdeacon Hare's friend are the rival candidates – The disputatious controversialists are eagerly bent on the impending trial before the Privy Council Judicial Comme of the great question of baptismal regenerations. Numerous secessions are threatned whatever the decision may be – Parties are growing daily more & more vehement & contentious

You will wonder that I should presume to send *you* a Hymn which was sung at the opening of the Liverpool Chapel lately, not written for *the* occasion, tho' ~~meant~~ composed ~~as~~ ~~an~~ for the Service of opening a place of religious worship I felt half ashamed of myself when I found it to be written by a person I know & very much dislike so I shall not be offended tho' surprised if you tell me *on the highest authority* that it is worthless and that I ought not to have thought it worth while copying –

If I am able to visit you, I shall have a melancholy pleasure in making frequent calls on poor M^r Carr. To whom as well as to the Arnolds Davys &c &c I desire my kind remembrances –

To your own family in which I included M^r Quillinan my especial & best regards – I believe I own him an answer to a short note in answer to a gossiping & rambling letter –

Affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

26. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to William Wordsworth, Jr., [no address], 3 May 1850.²⁷

30 Russell Square
3^d May 1850.

My dear Wordsworth

I lose no time in answering your note And in returning you the interesting document you sent for my perusal – As far as I am concerned, it only strengthens a sense which has occasionally oppressed of me, of my own incapacity to profit by the opportunities afforded me by the intercourse I have had with your father; Combining ^as he did^ a larger portion of intellectual & moral greatness than any individual with whom I have been permitted to associate And certainly one of the greatest & best of men that either my eye has beheld or my mind has dwelt on as a subject of contemplation –

My contributions will be few, very few & of very little value, And the consciousness of this humiliates me –

M^r Quillinan has been very kind in his frequent communications And I feel greatly obliged to him. I therefore wrote to him only when the afflicting intelligence was communicated I meant of course to write in due time to your dear mother – And I shall do so, but I thought it better to postpone writing for a short time

I regret not being with you at the interment had I known that I was expected, I should have been there – For tho' the attendance would have been itself one of pure sorrow; Yet it would have afforded a not unsatisfactory recollection for hereafter – If indeed it be not folly in one who is within a few weeks of 75 years of age to write of future recollections.

You make enquiries about a MSS by Barron Field – Will you excuse my obtruding an unasked for opinion?

I really do not think it worth your while making any enquiries about it I recollect many years ago hearing your mother speak of B. F's having made enquiries about some particulars of your father's life, because he intended writing his life! And she felt I believe somewhat indignantly – I recollect smiling only – Barron Field was not an unamiable man – he was what is called a smart or clever man And *at first* was one of the many who laughed at the *lake school* This I know And therefore being one day in company with him & Coleridge he asked me to introduce him to C:²⁸ which I flatly refused Saying that he had no right to be in company with a man whom he ridiculed – This however was soon at an end And he soon became a zealous admirer both of C & W. And tho he was the personal friend of C. Lamb – he was a sort of professed critic – And I dare say if he has left any MS about your father, it will not have a word that could give you offence, but not being a *profound* man, I dare say your father would not have been pleased at the thought of such a man sitting in judgement on him – But this is what during his life he was forced to submit to, And now that he is personally removed And that his works belong to the great body of the English Classics – Every body qualified and unqualified will take the liberty of writing about them – It does not

²⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/19. Robinson's diary entry on 3 May 1850 does not mention this letter, but he does discuss the letter's substance: 'I went to M^r Cookson who is one of the executors of M^r Wordsworth's Will and with whom I had an interesting conversation about Wordsworth's arrangements for the publication of his poems. He has commissioned D^r Christopher Wordsworth to write his life – a brief memoir merely illustrative of his poem, and in a paper given to the Doctor he wrote that his sons, son-in-law, his dear friend Miss Fenwick, M^r Carter and M^r Robinson who had travelled with him, would gladly contribute their aid by communicating any facts within their knowledge. But the property in these works remains with his family.'

²⁸ This seems to be in error; would appear Robinson meant to write 'W'.

appear to me that B. F's critical opinions at all come within the object of the note which your father left with D^r Christopher Wordsworth – This I apprehend referred only to the illustration of his writings which might be supplied by the family & friends – Many years ago I remarked to M^{rs} Quillinan that she ought carefully to measure up memorials – for a future edition And I have sometimes flattered myself that in my suggestions may have originated those *precious notes* deposited originally with Miss Fenwick And which will assuredly form the basis of a future *annotated* edition. Whenever such an edition appears I shall tender to the editor for his acceptance a few short notes – But to recur again to Barron Field – I am acquainted with his brother Frank who lives in the Regents Park – not the Cambridge brother – where he is I do not know – I can incidentally ask whether he knows of such a MS but I do not think it advisable to draw the family's attention to it – Let it sleep – I beg my most affectionate regards to your dear Mother & kind respects to your brother M^r Quillinan & M^{rs} W. W.

Very truly yours
H. C. Robinson

W. Wordsworth Esq^r [Jun^r has been added in pencil in another hand]

27. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 7 May 1850.²⁹

30 Russell Square
7th May 1850

My very dear friend

The sight of your hand writing was a great relief to me And your short letter confirmed the ~~solitary~~ consolatory feelings which every communication from Ambleside since the afflicting event has excited.

I have done all you wished. I have given dear M^{rs} Clarkson to understand that you have not written knowing that she has received from me all the intelligence as it has arrived She wrote to me a most thankful letter in return for the information that M^{rs} Hutchison [sic] as well as your Sons &c &c were with you. She knew that you had all the external sources of comfort that your situation afforded: And she was fully aware that the most efficient of all those that are *within* were granted to you in full measure.

I am most certain: They will not be withheld from you.

I have just heard of a most lamentable contrast to the example you have set us all –

An old friend of mine died lately – an amiable man I heard that his wife a middle aged lady remained after three months unconsolable, but she was at length forced to visit her sister in town – On my return from Bury I called And was relieved from a painful interview – She had returned ~~from~~ ^to^ the country I was told that had she seen me, she would probably have met me laughing & dancing the Polka!!!

Yet a very pious woman & full of Christian assurance This is no imputation on her sincerity or on the strength of the conviction that she & her husband, are, as it were *instantly* to meet again –

²⁹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/20. Robinson's diary entry on 7 May 1850 begins as follows: 'The bad weather did not permit my going as far as I wished. I went to the Ath: and paid my tailor's bill by the way. At the Athen: I wrote letters to M^{rs} Clarkson informing her of M^{rs} Wordsworth's situation – To M^{rs} Walter declining a very friendly invitation and to M^{rs} Wordsworth passing over in silence her letter but alluding to it. These and the papers filled up the forenoon.'

It is not she, who is to be blamed for her weakness, but you who are to be congratulated for the power which you have possessed to endure your heavy trial heroically –

It is also some slight comfort to know, that with scarcely a single exception the public voice has been loudly expressed in due honour of the great & good man who has been removed – The world can know him only in the one character – The kindred & the friends know him in both:

In due time I shall be most willing to be with you. I shall await an intimation from you And I shall be influenced of necessity by the state of the family health at Bury – During my more than a month at Bury my brother was well – He had been before I went alarmingly ill – It is now several years since I have feared that the necessity of being in Suffolk would render my annual visit at Rydal impossible Now that visit can never be what it has been but still I shall be most willing to renew it

I can give you no late news of the Arnolds To day is wet or I would call before I forward this I was told a few days since by M^r Penrose that M^{rs} A. could not see me

Pray thank M^r Quillinan for his most friendly communications – I will write to him soon To your Sons & him my kindest remembrances And to all friends my regards –

Most affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

Rydal

I sealed my letter without adverting to the kind intimation that I shall be expected in a few weeks – There is but imaginable impediment, my brothers health that would stand in the way – He is remarkably well just now – M^r Cookson must have misunderstood me – I certainly did not tell him that my brother had been ill –

28. HCR, Bury St. Edmunds, to John Miller, Bockleton, 4 July 1850.³⁰

Bury St Edmunds 4th July 50

My dear Sir

You will probably have seen in the Times an earlier announcem^t of the intention to do honour to the name of Wordsworth: I am unable to add to the information this circular contains; for I have in fact been but little in London since the first meeting at M^r J. Coleridge's – And I should be ashamed of having taken so little part in what has been done, if my being put on the SubCommee had been *my own* act which it was not. I have written more at length to your brother J. K. this morning – And here content myself with saying that D^r Chr: Wordsw: is now at Rydal preparing under M^{rs} Ws eye a memoir of our departed friend And that the Recluse – part 1. is to appear forthwith.

In the 5th Vol: of Southey's Life, there is a brief notice of our old friend E. H. but without any thing to betray his name And indeed very little to draw attention to the fact.

³⁰ Address: Rev^d John Miller / Parsonage / Bockleton/ Tenbury –. Postmark: 5 July 1850, Bury St Edmunds. WLL/1994.64.25.1. Robinson begins his diary entry on 4 July 1850 with these comments: 'I remained within all the forenoon. I was engaged writing letters – To J. K. Miller & John Miller – to J.K.M: at length on his calling on me and leaving a card without an address just before he left town – On the Monument to be erected to Wordsworth and on the short reference to Hamond in Vol 5 of Southey's Life without his name. To Jno M: very short on the Monument – Both letters on a circular of the subscription.'

I am
my dear Sir
with great respect
faithfully your's
H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller
Bockleton –

29. HCR, Rydal Mount, to Mrs Thomas Arnold, [Grasmere], 21 August [18]50.³¹

Rydal
21st Augst 50

My dear Madam

I wish to leave in writing my acknowledgement of having received from you £5 for the Wordsworth Monument – Lady Farquhar too has desired me to receive from M^{rs} Nicholson the £5 she had given not knowing precisely whether it was for the national or local testimonial

most truly your's
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Arnold

30. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Christopher Wordsworth, Jr., [no address], 18 October [18]50.³²

30 Russell Square
18th Oct: 50

My dear Sir

I feel quite ashamed, I assure you, of sending you the Itinerary of my journey with W Wordsworth so poorly accompanied as it must be, And the more, because W. Wordsworth seems to have thought that I might be able to make a contribution to your work, worth your acceptance. At the same time I am much relieved by recollecting that he himself cared nothing for the connection which a place might have with a great poet, unless an acquaintance with it served to illustrate his works. He made his remark in the Church of S^t Onofrio in Rome where Tasso lies buried. The place which on this account interested him more than any other on the journey was *Vanchuse* while he cared nothing for Arezzo which

³¹ WLL/1994.64.24.

³² WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/21. Two glosses in Robinson's diary are pertinent here, the first on 17 October 1850, in which he writes, 'All the morning at home where I also dined. I was engaged reading my journal of Tour with Wordsworth, but can find no materials for a letter to D^r W:...' The second appears in his entry for the 18 October: 'I devoted this day chiefly at the Athen: to the making a copy of my Itinerary in Italy with Wordsworth and writing some observations – few in quantity and not good, but it was a relief to me the having done it.' For another copy of his Itinerary in Italy, see above, no. 6.

claims to be the place of Petrarch's birth. Indeed a Priest on the spot on another visit said, it is not certain that he was born there, much less in the house marked with his name. W. W. was not without the esprit de corps, even before his official dignity and took great interest in Savona on account of Chiabrera – as appears in the “Musings near Aquapendente[?]” – perhaps the most beautiful of these memorials of the Italian tour “alas too few” – As he himself repeatedly said of the journey – “It is too late” – “[I have matter for Volumes, he said once, had I but youth to work it up” – It is remarkable how in this admirable poem meditation predominates over observation It often happened that objects of universal attraction served chiefly to bring back to his mind absent objects dear to him – When we were in that noble spot the Amphitheatre at Verona Nismes I observed his eyes fixed in a direction where there was the least to be seen, And looking that way I beheld too [sic] very young children at play with flowers And I overheard him say to himself “Oh! you darlings I wish I could put you in my pocket & carry you to Rydal Mount” –

It was M^r Theed the Sculptor who informed us of the Pine tree being the gift of Sir Geo: Beaumont This incident occurred within a few minutes after our walking up the Mincian [sic] Hill – And this was the very first observation Mr W. made at Rome.

It was a remark justly made on the memorials of the Swiss Journey in 1820 that M^r W: left unnoticed the great objects which have given rise to innumerable common place verses & huge piles of bad prose, And which every body talks about, while he dwelt on impressions peculiar to himself – As a reproach, nothing can be more idle & unmeaning – I expected it would be so with these latter poems, And so I found it – There are not more than two others which bring any thing to my mind –

The most important of these is the “Cuckoo at Laverna” I recollect perfectly well that I heard the Cuckoo at Laverna twice before he heard it And that it absolutely fretted him that my ear was first favoured – And that he exclaimed with delight – I hear it! I hear it! It was at Laverna too that he led me to <--> expect that he had found a subject on which he would write – And that was the love which birds bore to S^t Francis he repeated to me a short time afterwards a few lines which I do not recollect among those he has written on S^t Francis in this poem – On the journey one night only I heard him ~~repeating some~~ ^in bed composing^ verses And on the following day I offerd to be his Emanuensis, but I was not patient enough I fear And he did not employ me a second time. [H]e made enquiries for S^t Francis's biography as if he would dub him his Leib-heiliger – (body-saint) As Göthe (saying that every one might have one,) declared S^t Philip Neri to be his.

The painter monk at Camaldoli also interested him, but he heard my account only in addition to a very poor exhibition of professional talent, but he would not allow the pictures to be so *very poor* – As every nun ought to be beautiful when she takes the veil –

I recollect too the pleasure he expressed when I said to him – “you are now sitting in Dantes Chair It <--> faces the South transept of the Cathedral at Florence – I now recollect, tho' I had forgotten it before something of the fat monks recorded in the 15th Sonnet.

I have been often asked whether W. W. wrote any thing on the journey And my answer has always been – Little or nothing – Seeds were cast into the earth, And they took root slowly – This reminds me that I once was privy to the conception of a sonnet with a distinctness which did not once occur on the longer Italian journey. This was when I accompanied him into the Isle of Man We had been drinking tea with M^r & M^{rs} Cookson And left them when the weather was dull And there was nothing very exhilarating [sic] in the sight of the amiable old couple. Very soon after leaving them we passed the church tower of Bala Sala. The upper part of the tower ~~was~~ had a sort of freeze of yellow lichens – W. W. pointed it out to me and said “it's a perpetual sun-shine” – I thought no more of it – till I read the beautiful sonnet

Broken in fortune, but in mind entire

And then I exclaimed – I was present at the conception of this sonnet – at least of the combination of thought out of which it arose –

I assure you I never put my name more reluctantly than I do now – The only sentence I write with satisfaction is the assurance that notwithstanding all the diversities not to say the oppositions there may be between us, I had great pleasure in your society lately ~~And~~ Begging my Comps to M^{rs} Christopher Wordsworth I subscribe myself with sincere esteem

faithfully yours
H. C. Robinson

Rev^d D^r Wordsworth
&c &c &c

31. Itinerary of 1837 Tour of France and Italy by HCR and William Wordsworth.³³

Itinerary 1837

March	19	by steam to Calais.
	20	potting to Samer
	21	---- Granvilliers
	22	Thro Beauvais to Paris
	26	To Fontainebleau
	27	Thro' Nenours to Cosne
	28	To Moulins
	29	---- Tarere
	30	---- Lyons
	31	Thro' Vienne to Tain
April	1	Thro Valence to Orange
	2	To Avignon to Vaucluse & back.
	3 & 4	By Pont du Gard to Nismes.
	5 & 6	By St Remi to Marseilles
	7	To Toulon
	8	To Luc
	9	By Fregus [sic] to Cannes
	10-11	To Nice
	12	Thro' Mentone to St Remo
	13	Thro Tina le to Savona
	14-16	To Genoa
	17	To Chiaveri [sic]
	18	To Spezia
	19	By Carrara to Massa
	20	To Lucca
	21	To Pisi
	22	To Volterra

³³ This itinerary is attached to the previous letter, WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/21.

April 23 By Castiglionaccio & Siena
24 to Radicofani
25 By Aquapendente to Viterbo
26 To Rome
May 13 Excursion to Tivoli with D^f Carlyle
17-21 Excursion to Albano &c &c with Miss Mackenzie.

23^d To Terni
24 After seeing the Falls To Spoleto
25 To Cortona & Perugia.
26 To Arezzo
27 To Bibiena & L'Averna
28 To Muselea & Camaldoli
29 From Muselea to Ponte Sieve
30 From Ponte Sieve to *Val Ambroso*
& Florence

June 6-7 To Bologna
8 Parma
9 Thro' Piacenza to Milan
11 To the Certosa & back
12 To the lake of Como & back
13 To Bergamo
14 To Pallazuola & Iseo
15 Excursion to Roveri & back –
16 To Brescia & Desensano
17 On lake Garda to Riva
19 To Verona
20 Vicenza
21 Padua
22 Venice –
28th To Logerone [sic]
29 To Sillian
30 ----Spittal (in Carinthia)
July 1. Over Katzenberg to Tweng.
2 Thro' Werfen to Hallein
3 Excursion to Königsee
4-5 To Salzburg –
6 To Ischl – A Weeks stay in the Salzammer Gut— Viz.
8 Gemund
9 Trauenfalls & back
10 Aussee
11 Excursion to lakes – Then to Hallstädt
13 Thro' Ischl to St Gilgin
14 Tho' Salzburg to Trauenstein
15 To Miesbach [sic]
16 To Tegernsee & Holzkirken
17 To Munich
21 To Augsburg

22 ---- Ulm
23 ---- Stutgard
24 ---- Besigheim
25 ---- Heidelberg
28 Thro' Wurms to Mayence
29 To Coblenz
30 To Bonn
31 Thro' Cologne to Aix la Chapelle
Aug^t 1 To Louvain
2 ---- Brussels
3 ---- Antwerp.
4 ---- Lenze
5 Thro' Lille to Cassel
6 ---- Calais.
7 London

32. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, 1 December 18[5]0.³⁴

30 Russell Square
1st Dec: 18[5]0

My dear Sir,

You are unwilling to give me up these unfortunate volumes, unless I *insist* upon it – now insist is a word which it does not become *me* to use towards you, but I request it with more earnestness than <-> before And I couple with it another which will obviate the only plausible objection to your parting with the Vols: It is that you will accept in their place a very small Vol: which bears my name – The only book which I think fit to afford a “*pleasant remembrance*” of me – to any one. I cannot promise that it will be to you particularly pleasant, but it must be a better “forget me not” than Vols which shew me in your eyes as one of so lunatic a lover as to see “Helen’s beauty in a brow of Egypt” – You cannot dislike it so much as you do those Sermons – You may have some recollection of having heard of an attack on Clarkson the Slave-trade Abolitionist by the Sons of Wilberforce in the Life of their father M^r C: was then in a declining state, And at the solicitation of his wife my oldest friend, I interposed in various ways; And he came out of the contest triumphantly. I exposed the injurious Review of the Life in the Edinb: Rev. by James Stephen now the Right Honble Sir James – And was in consequence alienated from him, till then my friend 12 <-> years. But when he collected his articles, he withdrew all the offensive matter – We are on cordial terms again – I edited C’s own defence And added my Review ^in the Eclectic^ But it is not this which I offer, for I have it not; But my interference drew on me a coarse attack from the Sons that is, Robert who has gone to the full length of his tether And is a zealous Papist – And Samuel Bp of Oxford – This attack I repelled in “Exposure of Misrepresentations” And it is this little book which I hope you will not scruple to put on your book shelf – I do not expect it will have your commendation as it had Wordsworths – nor to hear from you what I did from the late Bp of Chichester D^r — who volunteered his assurance at a friends table – [“]That I had done good Service by my detection” – Too much of this already – I fear my apology is – That I would excite your curiosity And induce you to accept of my offer without fear of meeting with any thing that I ought not to send to you – I was not deceived by the

³⁴ WLL/2000.24.2.1.

Compliments I received, for I knew that they <--> were occasioned quite as much by dislike of the Ws as by any good will to myself – To be frank with you – This short note is a substitute for a longer letter I wrote on Saturday which contained Anecdotes fitter for blank page in the pamphlet than in a letter – More especially, as I do not know in what personal relation you may stand to *Dr Wilberforce*

~~H do~~ The little book does not attack the *bishop* I send it simply as affording the means of in some measure guessing my personal qualities – At least those I would rather wish not to be forgotten.

I beg my best respects to the members of your family – And am with the assurance of my sincere esteem

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

The Rev^d John Miller
Bockleton

33. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to the Rev. George Armstrong, [Bristol], 2 February [1851].³⁵

Bury St Edmunds
2^d Feb.

Dear Sir

Your letter has been forwarded to me here – I expect to return to London in the course of ~~next~~ ^the present^ week at all events in time to announce my ^own^ subscription to your “Infallibility not possible” ^at Chapmans^ – And any other if I should be able to procure any – I shall also immediately procure your pamphlet reviewed in the last Inquirer – I am very much pleased with the extracts and from them I infer that there will be more with which I shall harmonise in this pamphlet than in your larger work – I find that what I have just written does not well express what I meant to say – I have no doubt that I shall assent to every opinion advanced in this larger book; But I shall probably think that *this* is not the moment when such a view of the religious world is wanted – At least I shall not, if you join as I must infer you do, the herd of unitarians who are doing their best to spread a feeling of indifference towards the Papal Aggression – And this they are doing when they divert attention from the imminent peril in which the religious liberty of the world is placed, to what you are pleased to call the “similar & even the less excusable sins of all the Protestant Communion” That you should write these words in your letter to me proves that my Protest has been altogether in vain as far as you are concerned – Indeed on reading my own paper I am grieved at its feebleness – I have wanted the power of convincing amplification I do not wonder that tho’ you make a complimentary allusion to it, yet in fact it has left you altogether unimpressed by it. Otherwise you would not be able to see the *Borough School* in the presence of the threatned *Establishment of Popery* in this country – An establishment which if

³⁵ WLL/1990.57.9. Robinson begins his diary entry on 2 February 1851 with a reference to the above letter: ‘I read in bed for a short time the *Princess* – I was nearly all this day at home – I read the Inquirer having had a letter from Armstrong of Bristol in which tho’ he alluded civilly to my Protest yet he betrayed an insensibility to my argument by referring to the Borough School – I in reply tho’ I consented to subscribe for the republication of a pamphlet against Popery, yet I reiterated the argument of my Protest and declined being deemed to be of the same opinion with himself.’

permitted – And our friends are aiding the establishment to the utmost of their power – will go far towards the restoration of Popery as the religion or Church of the people. As there may be much that is poetical in what does not pretend to be a poem – So there may be And indeed is a great deal that is papistical in the Church of England, but that church cannot be Popery – It is the duty of all dissenters to forget their private wrongs until this pressing danger is removed – And that cannot be done without strengthening their ^{own} cause against ^{ultimately} the Anglican Church whose oppressions compared with the tyranny of the Romish Church are a ~~fly~~ flea bite to a “chastisement with Scorpions” – There is no doubt that what you hint is true ^{in one sense:} by that intolerance is more inexcusable in the Protestant than in the Romanist, but that remark does not at all run counter to what I have endeavoured to enforce – It *is* ^{more} inexcusable, because it is not consistent with the other elements of protestantism – But that inconsistency so weakens the power of being effectively intolerant that ~~it may~~ the intolerance may be despised were the Ch: of England broken up – Its members would go – many to the Ch: of Rome – many into infidelity – many (perhaps ~~as~~ many) into calvinistic congregationalism And very few would become rational Christians – Woe indeed to the Country & age which behold the Citizen's divided into two classes – that of the earnest conscientious bigotted Romanist – and that of the Antireligious suffragers [sic], with whom as the least mischievous ~~might be united~~ Unitarians & other varieties of serious free thinkers ^{would probably unite themselves} But here am I in others words repeating my *Protest* – So no more

I am dear Sir

with sincere respect

faithfully yours

H. C. Robinson

Rev G: Armstrong

I wish you would contrive to see the Times of last Thursday It has an admirable & short Art: on Papal Aggression

34. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 13 September [18]51.³⁶

30 Russell Square
13th Sept 51.

My dear friend

I accept your very kind offer And will take up my abode with you during the short time which will be left to me for this Autumn visit – Indeed the reasons for my wishing for a private residence do not now apply –

Much has been taken from the vale, certainly, but much remains And will remain during our lives – That is as long as you continue to be an object of interest to the visitor And I am capable of feeling that interest –

³⁶ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/22. Robinson writes in his diary on 13 September 1851: ‘I wrote a long letter to my brother and also to M^{rs} Wordsworth informing her of my intended departure but leaving the time uncertain. I called at Albebert's where was M^{rs} Cooper. I then went to the tailors and then to Moxon's – heard of Jno Wordsworth but did not seek him out. Then went to the Crystal Palace where I think I had more amusement than at any other time.’

Never was my impression of the transient character of all our enjoyments And of the means afforded for the fulfilment of our respective offices, as at this moment – This is as it should be – I am now in the habit of considering, not gloomily or with a sense of wrong, every thing as transitory & possibly as the termination of a Series In this the Epicurean & the Christian may agree And worldlymindedness & otherworldlymindedness to borrow Coleridge's felicitous expression concur –

Postponing indefinitely my visit to Bath I postpone only for days, or possibly hours my arrival at Rydal – One of the reasons why I am pleased at the change of plan proposed by you is that it leaves me more at liberty – I have now engagements which end on *Tuesday* here And I will decline all pleasureable proposals for a future day And nothing which does not partake of the character of an obligation shall make me voluntarily postpone my departure beyond the middle of next week, but I feel inclined to vary my course & come to you by the Western side and the steam boat up the lake – If you have any thing to suggest on this subject, or any thing you would wish me to do, you have time to write, but you must not calculate on my being here *after* the Evening of Tuesday I may leave before the post time on Wed: This uncertainty, were I a company visitor would be unwarrantable, but it is because I am not one, that I leave it thus

I am now going out And shall enquire to day at Moxon's about your Son & his children And perhaps a P: S: may tell you something about them – I have heard nothing yet –

So with all kind remembces to the few to whom they can now be communicated And with lively hopes of a speedy meeting

I am

as ever

affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

35. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 23 December 1851.³⁷

30 Russell Square
23^d Dec: 51.

My dear friend

The other day, seeing Strickland Cookson, I made of course, the usual enquiries concerning you & yours: He said he had just heard from his Sister –, but that you now did not often write – It fatigued you, &c &c.

I was sorry, not surprized at this – It is, it must be so with those of our generation, who retain the longest their old inclination's & tastes – The activity, perhaps I should say, the alacrity of our habits abates – And we have every reason to rejoice when our progress downwards is as gentle and free from disturbance, as is the case with both of us – This

³⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/23. Robinson mentions this letter and his 'lapse of memory' in his diary on 24 December 1851: 'I did not quit the home district till dinner time & I occupied myself writing to Galenga about his nomination as a candidate to the Athens under the name of [Mariotti?] – to M^{rs} Brown declining an invitation to Miss Cootts for *this* Christmas Day – to M^{rs} Clarkson and also to M^{rs} Wordsworth. The latter letter to my great annoyance I have found this morning – I suppose I sent off a blank.'

recontre with S. C. reminded me that I had been remiss of late – I have told you of my interviews with your admirable friend Miss Fenwick – And nothing has since occurred either to me personally, or to any of my friends which required me to communicate the knowledge of it to you, in order to impart pleasure – And I write now really to tell you that I have nothing to say worth your hearing –

Nothing upon that *one* subject which must occupy more of your mind at this time than any other, not involving any of your own kindred.

I am just returned from a call at M^{rs} H. N. Coleridges I was told at the door, that she was as well as she has been for some time – But that she saw ~~no one!!!~~ no one

It is now some weeks since her brother borrowed of me a Shakespear in large print – That her spirits, that is health of mind, was such as to enable her to desire to read Shakespear – was in itself a matter of <-> rejoicing. At the same time M^r Derwent Coleridge said, a hope had arisen, that the tremor might not be malignant – I have heard no confirmation or denial of this statement –

In my ~~own~~ ^fathers^ family I have had a sad experience of this deplorable malady – And I can give this cold comfort, if it be any comfort, and not the reverse – That the disease is often slow in its progress – And that under the defense And during its violent state, there are intervals of enjoying – My ~~bro~~ mother & my brother's wife sank under it, leaving several years during its continuance & progress –

24th Dec:

I meant to send off this letter yesterday, but I was interrupted in writing – Now I am reminded with sadness, that this is the day of the year when not long since, it was my privilege to reach your door – A distinction of which I was proud – I am so near the end of my career that it means nothing the saying that I can never forget it – and yet forgetfulness is the infirmity by which our declining years are mentally most distressed –

It is usually taken for granted that in old age, our affections & our interests shrink into a narrow compress And are confined within the limits of kindred –

That sign of old age is still wanting in me I never felt more solicitous or more troubled about the prospects of society in the whole civilised world than at this moment –

I recollect no national event so thoroughly distressing and even disgusting – It has all the flagitiousness of crime with all the baseness of vice The facility of the execution And the acquiescence of the nation prove its degradation.

It seems as if the liberties of mankind are doomed for generations.

“Oh grief that Earths” sole hope rest on a stray bullet – If that properly ~~called by~~ ^can be^ called a hope! Can any people be *so* saved?

I continue to hear a good account of the Rogers's – And Moxon I believe is going on well – M^r Cookson and family are I believe also well

You will not forget me altogether at your meetings this Season I hope. Dear Quillinan used to say in his jocular mood – “No Crabb, no Xmas” The ill sounding alliteration provoked the saying. I am afraid that Christmas as well as other festivals is more to the young than the old. But at that time remember me to the inmates & visitors in your house There will be scarcely any strangers to me in it – And to the few out of it The Arnolds, Davys, *Harrisons Cooksons* – M^r Carr, the Miss Quillinans &c &c And forget me not when you write to either of your Sons – By the bye – *say this – Miss Lee is arrived at Pau* – Where is your son John? But I must close

With affection and esteem as ever

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

P. S. 25th Dec:

Otherwise Christmas day –

I have not been disturbed in *this* way, so much for a long time as just now by finding on my table the accompanying letter – I could, to use a common phrase *have sworn* that I had sent it to you yesterday, And I have now apparently a most clear & indubitable recollection of putting into the post at the same time 4 letters – One of which was directed to you – I can only guess therefore that I sent you a blank – or a letter meant for some one else As you know my hand writing, at all events even if a blank you will discover me –

These lapses of memory are only significant as *symptoms* The *material* consequence is alone of no moment – And therefore when after an hour's search one finds what has been looked for, the comfort is a <–> poor one – For to borrow a shrewd analogous remark by Lord Orford – There is no use in curing a man of his folly, if you cannot cure him of being foolish – But you my dear friend, I now experience a like inconvenience in mislaying things – Let us console ourselves –

You are turned of 80 I believe – (M^{rs} Clarkson is) And I am not far off – And we must not ~~be~~ complain because we may not with the Pharisee with a spurious gratitude – ~~The~~ Thank God that we are not as other men are –

And so no more – I make no apology beyond an explanation./–

Let me fill up one of my blanks – I have just heard from M^{rs} Clarkson – She writes rather better than she did, but still with difficulty – Her whole letter is filled with expressions of her regard for and solicitude about the Wordsworths & the Coleridge's You are aware she is now an Octogenarian.

36. HCR, Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 27 December [1851].³⁸

30 Russell Square
27th Dec:

My dear friend

An invitation from you is so acceptable that I do not think any thing short of an absolute duty could have stood in the way effectually, of my being with you on the New Year's Day –

I like the setting apart of days – for tho' this like all ordinances will of course become superstitious to minds predisposed to superstition, yet the aversion to them nourished by my forefathers the Puritans provoked more than any thing besides, Bacon's well known saying – There be some, superstitiously afraid of superstition Therefore I should have been with you on the New Year's Day – (which dear Charles Lamb called every man's second birth day) – with especial pleasure, but for this circumstance

That on that day the Trustees of D^r Williams Library hold their annual meeting – When all the Trustees present, of whom I am One, have the power of distributing some

³⁸ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/24. Robinson writes in his diary on 27 December 1851: 'I had also an agreeable letter from M^{rs} Wordsworth and I wrote to my brother who did not write this week. He is becoming more feeble in mind every day. I should say that M^{rs} W: having invited [me] to go to Rydal by New Year's Day, I shortly excused myself on the ground of my having business at D^r Williams Library.'

small Sums in charity to poor Dissenting Ministers, and Ministers Wives – That is, they can nominate such persons as recipients – And this can be done only by those who are actually present – And besides this – My presence is required in order that I should propose as a trustee an individual whose election will thereby be secured and the election I consider to be of great importance to the future well fare of the Trust –

This is what W Wordsworth used to call a *Social* duty – And as I cannot be with you on the day, I will rather be with you, not in the company season, but in the early-spring when I hope M^r Carr will be happy to see me And not less than now –

I think with you that the affected concealment in Chester Place is very unwise – But I think that Edith cannot possibly have known that M^{rs} W. W. was in her close neighbourhood, for so short a time without calling on her –

I had heard of your Son W's accident, but was informed at the same time that it had passed off without any serious consequences whatever.

Your information that I had not sent you a blank letter only heightens my apprehension For I certainly put 4 letters into the post – And to whom then was the 4th letter? However it is useless *enquiring* I shall do the same thing to day probably

And now with kindest remembces to all *enquiring* friends, as ever –

Affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

I know not how you are all affected by the late outrageous events in Paris – I should say, France: for France will accept the Tyrant –

Shame on you, Servile heads to Slavery prone!

37. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 9 February [18]52.³⁹

30 Russell Square
9th Feb: 52

My dear friend

Nothing can interest you so much in London at this moment, as dear M^{rs} H. N. Coler: And not the less on account of the painful character of the interest – You remark & naturally on what seems the absurd wish to keep her dreadful malady secret; And yet this feeling is closely allied to another which is not so unreasonable and which we all rejoice in because it proves her case to be for the moment not so very bad as one might think tho it is as to the future hapless & hopeless

I have had from her lately several letters And written to her in answer And as she required, viz: *as if I were ignorant of her being an Invalid* This she requests of her Correspondents generally – Now if you could write to her in the same way, you would give her pleasure – Particularly if you could say something to her about Miss Fenwick – I have had a note from

³⁹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/25. Robinson begins his diary entry on 9 February 1852 as follows: 'I spent the forenoon at home writing in Reminiscences and reading anti-slavery reporter etc. I took an early dinner and wrote to M^{rs} Wordsworth making an enquiry for M^{rs} Coleridge who had answered my letter and assented to my proposal to omit the heading "To an unfortunate Woman" –'

her to day repeating her anxious enquiries about Miss F: And complaining of her ignorance abo^t the present condition of our excellent friend –

You are of course aware that M^{rs} H N C: is bringing out a new edition of her fathers poems – it will be in two volumes This occupies her mind And it is well the like should have her attention withdrawn from her own sad state And her consciousness of ^{^this^} makes her wish that all her friends should make no allusion to her illness when they write – You need not fear being tho^t unfeeling if you write as others do – you will be understood. She has in two letters, the last received this morning put a question, which she says none but you could possibly answer – She has little hope that you can – But she begged me when I saw you to ask, And as I may not see you till it might be too late for her to profit by the Answer I will mention the subject She wants to know *when* and *where* that very remarkable & beautiful little poem entitled “*Youth and Age*” vol II, p 82 of the 8vo Edit of her father's works was written And she especially asks whether *any & what part* was written in the north – Her own opinion is disturbed by having heard Miss *Hutchison* [sic] say that it was *no late* production – If you should chance to have any recollection on the subject, you would give her pleasure by the communication of it –

M^{rs} Clarkson continues as she was And is gratified by all the information I send her about you – I do not ask you what you think or feel about foreign politics – The events are so unspeakably base as well as disastrous nothing can exceed the villainy of the ~~Fren~~ President except the submission of the people The Sonnet on Fox & the others who bowed the knee “new born majesty” is far more true considered to be prophetical rather than historical

“Could ye not wait an hour?

“Shame on ye, Servile heads to Slavery prone!”

Yet many are willing to imagine apologies for the admirers and flatterers alike of the Uncle & Nephew.

Moxon is I hope going on well – I am glad he has now Coleridges work ~~& other~~ \leftrightarrow I wish that the works of the two great poets should march hand in hand to posterity together. \leftarrow M^{rs} C: asks how Miss Martineau is now going on with her Ambleside neighbours. I had lately a note from Angus Fletcher requesting me to look at a bust he has prepared in clay of the great poet – It is not a striking nor a characteristic likeness, but still is a very respectable production – I do not think that he means to reproduce it in marble –

I have not seen the West: Abbey statue yet It is well spoken of – And I am quite in the dark as to all your northern goings on –

My own health remains seemingly firm – I sometimes think too strong – My poor brother declining fast, not in body, but in mind – And yet – a great consolation – His mind does not *go wrong* – it only *falls short* – The differences very great Sam: Rogers and Miss Rogers are both far better than any one hoped they would ever be again – At least I may say so of him – Indeed when you ask how he is – The reply given by the Servants is – Oh! very well ! in a tone which implies – Why do you ask? His mind is as little changed as may be As to Miss R: she is so infirm that I shall not think her departure when it takes place, a subject of condolence – The Cooksons are an afflicted family – That is, M^{rs} C: is affected by her severe watching and anxiety about her Sister Miss Todhunter who has been lately worse –

I have not been lately at Hampstead And therefore I have nothing to tell you about the Hoares – And now, dear friend, remember me to all my kind friends you see – ^{^Mr Carter^} Arnolds, Davys, Cooksons, Harrisons, Roughsedges &c &c And you will not forget me when you write to *Carhyle* or *Bourdeaux* – Your two grandsons called on me lately I doubt whether J. W. has done right in staying at Bourdeaux – I hear great praises of Pau – but it

may be more genteel & therefore costly than Bourdeaux otherwise it would be for the best –
And yet mercantile cities are naturally inhabited by richer people than water-drinkers
And now farewell most affectionately your's
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

38. HCR, Edinburgh, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 2 September 1852.⁴⁰

Edinburg
2^d Sept^r 1852.

My dear friend

Your letter, which contained the commission to pay Sir W. Hamilton's Subsⁿ of £3 for the Monum^t I duly received And on my return to London I paid it to M^r Boxall, of which I have no doubt Sir William has received a formal acknowledgement –

The preceding kind letter had gratified me much and strengthened my wish to pay you a *short* visit tho' I feel myself, as dear & admirable M^{rs} Fletcher confesses is the case with her, become a different person from what she was – I feel myself quite as much altered as I can imagine her or any one to be without the attack of any serious malady; by the mere flow of time In health – unless old age & its consequences be included in the list of diseases – I am as well as I ever was. But I am in *this* respect another person, that I am sensible I cannot do what others around me are doing And that I am receiving attentions continually from young people merely because I am not young – And I feel grateful for this, And the more, not the less, because I am aware of the [*sentence is not concluded*]

I have been led to this unseemingly topic, a branch of very unpleasant egotism, pursued at so great length, by thinking of M^{rs} Fletcher and her great kindness – I having to my great surprise received from her a letter of introduction to her distinguished friend Prof^r Pillans – I was not aware that I had so confidently spoken ^to you^ of my possible extension of my journey from Newcastle to Edinb: which was but a *scheme* Certainly M^{rs} F's ^letter^ removed an objection – That when at Edinb: there would not be an individual to whom I sho^d be known directly or indirectly – Between 20 & 30 years have passed since I was here – And no one can remember me – Tho' I now recollect that I have some notion the eldest Son of M^r & M^{rs} Hardin formerly your neighbours lives here – But I have no right to expect that he would *willingly* recollect an acquaintce which was not intimate & has been discontinued since we were at Rome in 1830! Unluckily, but this by no means weakens my sense of M^{rs} Fletchers active kindness – On my arrival here – Or rather the morning after my arrival, yesterday I called at the Professors – He is in the Country and not likely to return soon – not within the very few days I mean to remain here – My plans are by no means fixed And I have only negatively resolved not to go a touring as it is called in Scotland – Indeed, a loss of curiosity is one of the effects of age – So that I do not think I shall ever make a journey merely to see a new place – Every journey must have a *social end* or a *social accompaniment* – This is in all cases the prime & determining inducement –

As long as dear M^{rs} Clarkson retains to the degree she does the activity of her affections, And I am able to keep myself from sinking lower into the apathy of old age, I shall be constant in my visits to her – I spent three days with her soon after the reception of your two letters I found her rather better than worse compared with my last visit or two. She

⁴⁰ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/26.

is paralytic but the paralysis extends to the fingers only, not the tongue, And has not affected her mind – She is quite alive to all that befalls her friends – And the Children of her friends. I have from time to time put her up to the works of the day – And she has enjoyed as we have all done the prose writings as well as the poems of Hartley Coleridge She was deeply interested in the course of M^{rs} Nelson Coleridge[’s] complaint – remarkable as it was for the alleviation she experienced ^in being relieved from suffering –^ Are you aware that there is any intention to publish any posthumous writings or letters of her’s? It is idle thus to put any question, as this letter does not admit of any answer, And is intended to be a forerunner merely

It would be idle to attempt giving you any acco^t of the *Archaeol Meeting* of which you may have heard from any of the regular readers of the London Papers – It broke up yesterday, I presume, according to the Programme originally issued which was generally adhered to –

I have presumed that my spending a few days with you will not be inconvenient – More will not be in my power as I have formed other engagements I shall direct that letters & perhaps a paper, the *Inquirer* may be sent to Rydal Mount. I have not been able to let my brother & niece know where I have been or shall be after to day, but his health has been so much improved that I have been less apprehensive of inconvenience from their not knowing of my movements

And so no more for the present –

As ever affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

39. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, 4 October 1852.⁴¹

30 Russell Square
London
4th Oct: 1852.

My dear Sir,

Tho’ you and your Rev^d brother J. K. M. are probably among those who do not “much delight in personal talk” – Yet with his wife in your house And his daughter in his own I cannot suppose you are uninformed of what has been the issue of our correspondence, of which your letter of July 29th is the last. That letter very much gratified me And had I yielded to first impulses I should have answerd it on the spot But it was followed almost instantly by a communication from Walkeringham – That included an invite which I accepted at once – To be carried into execution either before or after my archaeological excursion – That has taken place: As you doubtless know – And about an hour ago I received a letter from J. K. M. On which I write to you, somewhat after the fashion of a triangular duel, tho’ we do not stand in the same sort of equilateral relation to each other – It rejoices me to read that M^{rs} J. K. M. is about to leave you, as that is evidence of an approach to perfect recovery –

Her absence was the only draw-back on the pleasure of my visit – For I can assure you that I heard not a single sentiment from the lips of your brother which I could wish unexpressed, or the recollection of which might make me uncomfortable – You will not of

⁴¹ WLL/2000.24.2.2.

course misinterpret this into an intimation of an acquiescence or concurrence in his speculative opinions or church creed – That which delighted me at the moment And still in the calling back to my mind what passed between us gratifies me as the thought is That his benevolence was not tried beyond his power of endurance – Such expressions as no bishop ^Hurtwell^ – no Doctor ^Arnold^ – no Archdeacon ^Hare^ – No – this, that, and the other, All, individuals – whose persons or writings I especially like – are I take for granted a form of gentle or defecated Anathema – And do not annoy me – tho' I feel it to be *strange* – that they should tolerate me who cannot endure those so impossibly above me – There comes into play a Sentiment which dear Charles Lamb felt intensely And expressed as he did every with, an enriching humour –

I carried him an invitation to <--> dine with a common friend – “There will be only the three Stansfields” – “How I *hate* those three Stansfields” – Hate them! Why? They are three Yorkshiremen – You have never seen *one* of them.” “That's the reason! I cannot hate any one I have ever seen” – I used to say to C: Lamb – I will adopt your pets – but not your antipathies – So on more serious occasions I would say to the stern asserters of doctrines my moral sense repels – And the advocates of what I reject with not a shade of ill will towards the advocate – There is a notion which *you* Orthodox frown at – And all the more because you cannot *directly* deny ^it,^ tho' you may allege that it is not fairly put – “*The innocence of involuntary error*”]– I was therefore delighted when I met with the following ~~from~~ citation from an ancient writer “(*Aug. (Justin:?) de Mendacia*) Nunguam errari tutius existino quam cum in mimio amore veritatis erratur” – Aug. of all the Saints in the Roman Calendar – (if he be the Author) is the least offensive to Protest: Churchmen I am rambling on without method or object – I have not gone beyond telling how much pleasure I had on my visit – But it would be no difficult matter to connect with that, every thing one had to say –

I must not omit to say, by way of episode, that if I may take as a sample or specimen, the single daughter I saw, he must be a happy man in his family. There is an earnest thoughtfulness with no roughness of manner which gives her a *singleness* – That's not the word I meant to say what answers to the French *unique* – But how foolish to suppose that I can have seen more than a corner of her mind!

My visit to Walkeringham was at the end of a journey of some length – both as to time & space – I spent a week with the Archeaol: Institute at Newcastle. Witnessed a sort of revival of the Quasi regal hospitalities of Alnwick and Durham – And fed under a tent erected where Roman legions had stood – And their labourers had raised the wall to protect the enfeebled barbarians against their fiercer bretheren [sic] – I steamed over to Edinb: mainly to recover from over fatigue – I returned by way of Carlisle – where were M^{rs} *Hutchison* [sic] – And her brother John *Monkhouse* – I find that it is your elder brother – N^o 1 I might have said who has been the kind patronising friend of the young Divine who officials near <--> you. I was not sorry to hear that in the opinion of his own relations he is more in danger of approaching too near *Geneva* than of running headlong into the city of Abominations – but merely as in evidence that he is not far gone on either side – Confusing, needlessly – I hope not impertinently – that on all *Ecclesiastical* Questions – I am very *low*—*coming within ~~you~~ the wind of your budibrastic horn* – While on what respects the *creed* I incline rather to the *high* – as far as is compatible with an *imputed* renunciation of discipline – I do not confess the charge – but I fear is at least a plausible pretext for the accusation – I cannot admit there is any for the concluding reproach – I hope that the want of a word to rhyme with an incongruous term associated with Christian – a betrayed you in the unjust charge – being very much within your authors liberal allowance

“*One for Sense and One for Rhyme*”*

I may be excused ~~with~~ noticing in detail your very liberal comments on my answer to the charge against me made when I was just 40 years younger – It is more than I could have hoped for from ^one^ so uncompromising as you are – And I can also understand your brother's Silence Give it its due significance And be not in the least annoyed by it – As to the other portions of your letter which have no relation either express or implied to the Sentence pronounced Ex Cathedra by J. K. M. – I find nothing to remark on otherwise than thankfully as the communication of what ought to be useful matter of the last three months I have spent more than 10 weeks in the country And this has occasioned my not having yet read the Art: in the Dublin Un: Mag: for Sept: 50 on Words: which I can procure – And shall have read soon I have no doubt – I shall always be grateful for such recommend^s And never willfully neglect them –

May I beg you to request M^{rs} J. K. M. when she writes to her sister M^{rs} Stone – to inform her that I have procured Southey's letters to her Uncle – Duppa, whom I knew at the bar, which she lent me And I have now procured back from Cuthbert Southey? She does me the favor to call on me when she comes to town And carries away Metropolitan small talk, which in the country is worth something.

I beg my best Remembces to M^{rs} J. K. M. And N^o 1 of the family Trio – whom I am happy to reckon among objects of interest – I confess a sort of human Yarrow.

With sincere esteem &c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller. / –

P. S. I hope you will feel suitable sympathy for poor Henry Wilberforce Having converted his wife to the true Church – (the old, original, English Church as my <-> ~~called~~ laundress called it) He did not doubt he had fully converted her – And she scandalously refuses to go into a nunnery – release him from his Matrimonial vows And so enable him to take holy Orders

*You make *God Rhyme* to *Christian Rod* but that sho^d be the G: of *absolute decrees* – of reprobates of John Calvin & Jonathan Edwards –

40. HCR, 10 Western Cottages, Brighton, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, 24 November 1852.⁴²

10 Western Cottages
Brighton
24th Nov: 1852.

My dear Sir,

Our poor old friend and your Cousin Elton Hamond used to say that if any one accepted *every* invitation to a dinner party, he would soon receive no more – So if a correspondent were to answer every letter as soon as it was received, the correspondence would soon stop – I was delighted with your letter of — a date I dont chuse to set down so that I was tempted to write an immediate answer And keep it by me – like certain dishes which must be presented when they [are] *not* fresh – Your letter has been lying too long in my desk, among the unanswerd – And tho' on perusing it now, all the agreeable impressions are reviewed – Yet I seem to myself even less competent than usual to do justice to you me or it in sending the answer –

In one respect only – that is – the order of writing, our epistery [sic] intercourse is taking its character from a triangular – *duello* – an Irishman would say in spite of the numerical solecism

A – fires his shot against B
And he replies to A who dashes at C

But there is no other similarity than this –

But no wonder – under no circumstances could a three legged stool stand on all fours – But this simile is illogical – a confusion of form and matter As I heard Lord Ellenborough say of a very dull man It is not everyone who should indulge in metaphors – So I will descend to matters of fact –

I perceive that the several branches of the *Miller* race residing at a distance, make known to each other even the insignificant occurrences that befall them – And that you were informed of my having presented your very amiable niece (the only one of the generation below us that I have ever seen) with a copy of Charles Lamb's works – On which you have made a remark which is both a consolation to me And an evidence of your sagacity – I could apply the term *prophetic* to your anticipation of your brother's reception of Lamb's ~~reception of~~ Writings And *misgivings* to my feelings on the same occasion – J. M. doubts whether J. K. M. will leniently receive C. Ls levities and pardon his blemishes – And in fact S A M* in terms declares that her feelings towards Lamb "are much more nearly allied to compassion than admiration" And that she read the Works ~~more in order to~~ with the view of gaining as just a ~~view~~ an idea of his character as they would give rather than with the intention of deriving entertainment from his literary productions considered in themselves" – This amazes me

⁴² WLL/2000.24.2.3. A short reference to this letter begins Robinson's diary entry on 24 November 1852: 'I began a letter to John Miller, but the Times & part of vol II of Campbell's Life kept me so long employed that I made little progress.' He adds this on the 25th: 'I thus filled up the day, including a letter I finished to Jno Miller – I am not sure – the right thing.' Apparently Robinson experiences a slight mishap with this letter, for he writes on 27 November: 'I was worried this morning by an unlucky circumstance. Going on with my letter to my brother I sought in vain for the first sheet and could come to no other conclusion than that I had inclosed it in the letter to Miller which I sent off without the proper address, that is, adding the post town (Tenbury) but I dare say it will reach its destination. This I had to remedy by rewriting the substance.'

especially from the daughter of J. K. M. and niece of T. E. M. And J. M – To lay out of the account her female educators

But I ought not thus to quote the only ^exceptionable^ Sentence in her letter of 16 pages which ^otherwise^ left only a very agreeable impression on my mind – She is not less estimable in my eyes – because she has not wandered ~~beyond~~ into the “untrodden ways” of speculation – There is another part of your letter which were you and I – North British by birth could not fail to make me suspect that you had the gift of second-sight if that more rare than precious endowment ever extended its visions beyond the world of space into that of thought – You say –

“It is not always, either all our predetermination to keep the Queen’s peace, nor our retrospective sorrow for any fracture thereof that will prevent mischief, if under whatever erroneous influence A or B will look into the blue chamber or be only inadvertently surprised into a peep”

I have pleasure in copying this wise sentence, tho’ it is after all a text which makes me long for a commentary from the same pen – I can hardly suppose you need to be informed of my application of it –

It happened unluckily that on preparing the parcel for Walkeringham I inadvertently read Lamb’s letter to Southey painfully complaining of his ^S’s^ accusing him L: of infidelity in print – (that is *Eliu*) And was so delighted with some things in it, that I made remarks which your brother interpreted in a way I never intended or thought of And ^he^ (having before declined to notice the letter written 40 years before And my answer to it –) went over the old ground And amplifying what he said before did it in a way I could not possibly directly notice, ~~comp~~ in a way at once compatible with self respect And the deferential esteem I entertain for him And therefore I followed his own example in begging him (thro’ his daughter) not to draw erroneous inferences from my silence – intimating that that might be safely discussed ~~in a partial~~ by parol which could not be trusted to the pen – I am quite incapable of using this instrument as it ought to be used – witness this letter, And its numerous corrections –

I have your brother’s promise to bring his daughter to Russell Square – And I feel too strong a regard towards ^him,^ not to be assured that I can remove every erroneous construction he has put on my words And to dispose him to withdraw expressions which admit not explanation, only of removal – But why trouble you with this? I have no other apology or excuse than that same triangular procedure already adverted to – And yet that does not avail me, because that would imply that I expected the [firing?] to go on, which is by no means my wish – I protest against your so interpreting what I have written – Indeed I could wish you contented yourself with the intimation that I have expressed the assurance that I shall see both your brother & niece in London next summer –

Having perused what I wrote yesterday – for I am continuing this letter on the 17th – I ought to add that so little confidence have I in my own power of justly expressing my own justest convictions, And I have so high an opinion of your brother’s superior accuracy, that I have no doubt I wrote what I ought to have written tho’ I am unable to imagine that I wrote what could justify his inferences –

It is one of the many sad consequences of being engaged in discussing a subject which one feels painfully, that one is thereby disinclined and also disqualified for turning one’s mind to any other

You wont expect or wish me to write to you about the *festive-funeral* – Or the *Convocation* or the *free-trade* question—Or the trick by which the protectionists so capitally took in the whigs – nor dare I enter on the awful state of the world at this moment – *Slavery* being the law of the Anglo Americans *Civil liberty* nearly extinct on the continent of Europe – *Popery* advancing with rapid strides every where – And distinct threats being thrown out that protestantism will soon be prohibited in the greater part of Europe –

An *invasion* threatned – two thirds of the population of Ireland being ready to join the Invaders And the English being visited by an insensibility to danger which looks like a judicial blindness – All these are deplorable topics – And on each of these I believe you and I would feel alike as to their moral character – I hope you take a more chearful view of the degree of danger, that they may become realities to their utmost extent as possibilities –

I have understood that Miss Miller your Sister is living at Bockleton with others of the Miller family. I beg my respectful remembces to all of that family wherever they may be who are condescending enough to reciprocate a friendly feeling

That a personal knowledge is not necessary for the indulgence of a kind Sentiment, is shewn by the kindness with which you have introduced yourself to me

I should rejoice were a journey to London to enable you still further to call into play your more benignant feelings

I am dear Sir

Most respectfully yours

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller
Bockleton

*What does J. M. mean by calling this a bad combination of initials? This is a riddle – I give it up –

41. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, [Bockleton], 14 January 1853.⁴³

London
30 Russell Square
14 Jan: 1853.

My dear Sir,

Many thanks for your gratifying letter It begins with a few remarks on the theory of letter writing – We agree in this – To answer a letter by return of post habitually would wear out any patience, even of the most fond of correspondents – Do you recollect one of the most endurable sayings of one of the most odious of French classics – Rochefoucault? “on est plus proche d’armer ceux qui nous haïssent, que ceux qui nous arment trop[?]” – You will make the application – The only expedient – not to fall into the opposite evil, of sitting down to answer & having forgotten the first & most just impression is – To write the answer – and ~~keep~~ ^keep^ it by you till the fittest time for forwarding – Did I not say this before? This reminds me that we old men are proverbially nuisances in company because we are ever repeating our often repeated tales – Is it not so in our letters? I cannot sit down to write to you on the few subjects on which we have a common interest without an apprehension that my letter will be but a repetition – If it be so (what I am now writing may be an instance) – Forgive it – Or rather half smile at it – half-sigh over it And whisper to your self “The senility towards which we are all advancing” –

⁴³ WLL/2000.24.2.4. Robinson writes in his diary on 14 January 1853: ‘... finished a letter to Jno Miller in which I included a copy of Hoods Bridge of Sighs. I gave a short acco^t of my late letter to his brother J.K.M. that J.M. might be aware of the probable result.’

I am resolved however that it shall not apply to the better half of this letter – which consists of a copy and remarks on the most marvellous poems I have met with of late years – And which I send you in the hope that you may not have seen it – I was making a copy of it the other day to send to my old friend M^{rs} Clarkson paralytic And scarcely able to relish such things when it occurred to me that perhaps you might not have seen it And therefore I desired her to send it me back which she has done – I do not wish you to trouble yourself to send it me back, but if you think it will do harm at ~~Bockleton~~ ^{Walkeringham,} on the contrary give pleasure, pray send it there I should be afraid: unable to foresee how what I love & admire may be felt there. Of all the men of Genius I ever knew, Charles Lamb was the one I most intensely loved – my love proves nothing, but he was loved with equal warmth coupled with like admiration by *Thomas Clarkson* And his wife my dear friend – by *Southey, Coleridge, Wordsworth* – &c &c &c That a young lady should say she feels more compassion than admiration only makes me smile And she being a person I am much pleased with. I am quite sure that she will have wider sympathies twenty years hence – And I regret having ever related the anecdote to any one who knows her lest others may not as I do consider this as the inevitable *one-sidedness of youth* – But that your excellent brother should say that the perusal of ~~his~~ ^{his} ^{^L's^} works has disappointed him And that he has been “pained by the total insight” this makes me regret having sent the works, almost as if it were a Sin to be reported to my confessor if it belonged to a Church that claimed this act of submission to its authority –

Of course as far as the opinion ~~of~~ ^{of} ^{^concerning^} L: is a matter of taste and of taste only I neither expect nor wish for a correspondence in our judgements I was not annoyed by the unfavorable opinion you expressed of the Prelude – tho' I do not wish to rank you among the Edinburg *parodists* of the great poet – I did not answer your brothers painful letter ^{^at length^} till two days ago And have purposely written ^{^to you ^} before I can have an answer that I ~~am~~ may preserve distinct the several communications with the two places I continually confound – as I have done in this letter – How dull I am in guessing at a joke! To need the illustration of M. A. D. to comprehend S. A. M. as Initial letters –

But I was not so forgetful of my youthful pleasure in Blue-Beard As not to know that the *Blue Chamber* is the seat of hideous phantoms! And should not have dared to use the image I willingly admit for fear of dangerous applications I shall only be too happy to see J. K. M. or S. A. M. or any member of the Miller race – seen or unseen forgotten or recollected who may condescend to look in at Russ: Square And flattering myself that *you* would, if ever in London, allow me to make your personal acquaintance, if you could do so without an unreasonable sacrifice of invaluable time

I vowed to myself not to inflict on you more than two of my closely written sheets And therefore leave passages of your obliging letter unnoticed which I should otherwise have referred to

So with most respectful remembrances to all who may not unwillingly hear of me within your reach

I am with sincere regard
&c &c &c
H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller –

42. HCR, at the Athenaeum, London, to the Rev. John Miller, [Bockleton], 1 April 1853.⁴⁴

London
Athenaeum – 1st April 1853 –

My dear Sir,

Were there any thing really wrong in returning to the obsolete Quarto form in this age of diminutive if not degenerate 8 vos, this my answer would be a moral lesson you are better qualified ~~as such~~ to teach than to profit by; for it would illustrate by an example, the infectious nature of wrong; in as much as I am following you in so doing – I should heartily rejoice were all letters like your's written in the old original form – tho' I cannot deny that for the other far more numerous class the 8vo: is the more suitable shape – This by the bye is no justification of the [sic] having copied you – Nor should I have dared to have put a letter of mine in the nobler class, had you used a less remarkable term than "*monomaniacal*" as the expression of your antipathy So that however harshly you may judge of the substance, I am sure of the form being received as a circumstance *attenuante* as efficient as disappointed love in the mind of a sentimental French judge jury in a case of wilful murder –

But your letter was of a kind to delight me in any shape whatever – I never read a letter of yours with which in all respects I more heartily sympathised than this last – And in your estimate of the "Bridge of Sighs" – (a disappointing title by the bye And therefore to be regretted) I fully concur – Even in censures which I would not have brought forward, but being uttered by you – or indeed anyone – could not remove, or contradict – Tho', as I am afraid, I have already said oftener than necessary that I am infinitely more obliged to the Critic who points out to me a beauty I might have detected than to him who makes me aware of a blemish I might have overlooked Yet do not suppose me so *excessively* unwilling to see faults that I do not willingly receive & confess to be just all the faults you find in Hoods marvellous poem. Far from it – I go further And think you have omitted just matter of reproach – I wonder you did not notice a fault in my copy – For I omitted the epithet inclosed in the line – "in the black (flowing) river" – Perhaps you supplied it by imagining the *flowing* must have been in the Original – I agree with you that the *liberties* taken with the grammatical construction are excessive – The 4 lines commencing with "Still for all slips of her's," want what is worse I fear than a grammatical construction A logical connection – Why the lips are to be wiped "for all slips" I do not see – And I have occasionally omitted those lines when reading – You have justly shewn the *abuse* of the triple rhyme And demanded for Wordsworth the preference to which he is entitled

I was quite gratified by finding you had *not* sent the poem to Walkeringham I had intended to send it there – But paused – And said to myself "J. M knows better than I possibly can what suits J. K. M. Let him do so if he thinks proper" I trust this might be inferred from my letter – I can appreciate the delicacy of sentiment which occasioned you to decline saying what might <-> look like "a sort of quasi censure" – And I venture to think that I know the reason – Seeing it subtly *thro'* your Silence – And yet allow me to hazard a remark which is on the *other tack* in the alternations of feeling – I allow myself occasionally a strange paradox You will see what is of truth thro' and inspite of the paradox – I hope at least you will be warned by the maxim before you thunder your reproof – "Qui haeret in litera haeret in cortee" – I speak *humanly* of course when I say – He who has great virtues

⁴⁴ WLL/2000.24.2.5. Robinson does not mention this letter in his diary on 1 April 1853, but he does remember it on the 3rd: 'I forgot to put down that on Saturday I sent off a long letter to John Miller replying to his criticisms on the Bridge of Sighs.'

alone may claim to be pardoned great faults – I cannot endure that he who has no set off [sic] of good should have the assurance to obtrude his bad – And therefore the more I honour & love the person the less afraid I am of expressing strongly what I dislike in him – I hope I ~~am~~ have never ~~and who~~ before related the anecdote that follows, if I have you will oblige me by putting at the bottom of a page this note – “You have told the anecdote of G & S: twice already” – now if you dont – You must not scold if I repeat it for the 4th time – I once remarked to Göthe – How sad the blunder Schiller committed when in his Macbeth he makes his Witches talk abo^t free will and necessity – G: burst out – “It is utterly detestible – I abhor it” – Then in an alterd tone – “But he was a *great* man – take him all in all – You must allow every one *to be himself*” – This was one of the vital points of his philosophy – The soul of his Criticism – I could expatiate on this theme till I wearied you – And you would probably throw this letter from you in disgust – So – Good afternoon to you –!

2^d April – 30 Russell Square

Desirous of finding some other topic to expatiate upon, in your letter I have reperused it with attention and interest – And can only repeat that I concur in your remarks on the Quart: Rev: as far as they are present to my memory – But alas! – Of what I now read – very little remains beyond a recollection of the impression it made on me – I thought it a paper written with more discernment than love; by one who for the sake of his own character and not because he was anxious to say what ought to be said – would not venture to confess the envy he felt towards ~~as~~ a superior – I had heard Milman as well as Lockhardt named as the author – It might suit either. After the scandalous paper on Southey – a monument of editorial ingratitude there is nothing of which we could declare the Quarterly incapable on the ground of meanness, under the same government – Wordsworth himself in terms said that he thought he had more cause of complaint against the Quarterly than the Edinb: – We can more easily forgive the open rather ostentatious enemy, than the would-be thought friend – Envy I think to be often the source of dishonest judgements which are ascribed to selfish-interest

It is an element in our moral constitution generally overlooked I always maintained that *Cobbetts* signal perversities were to be so explained. I [sic] had an unconscious & ludicrously morbid [] which led him to *hate* not only every person but every *thing* that became an object of general admiration And so deprived him of his right – I ascribe to this, his hatred of *Musick* – to content myself with One – Have I to you, or was it to your brother that I requested an intimation when there appears anything peculiarly able in any of the Theological Rev^s Or without supposing that you would venture to read the paper, declare that you take an interest in it – The number of periodicals is *legion* I can read only what is pointed out to me in the *other side* by its partizans –

I turned to the 1. Cor: XI – as you referred to it – not that I wanted evidence to satisfy me of the genuineness of your I wont limit the application I believe all you express is *genuine* – tho' now & then I do not know *how* I am to understand what you say – This leads me to a comprehensive remark – or rather request Tell me who of your favorite writers has laid down a rule or afforded a clue for distinguishing in the Scriptures what is *axiomatic* that is, or universal application – independent of time & place – Or what is purely local & temporary – “I am certain there must be both – But how am I to discriminate? All that is said abo^t long & short *hair* for instance ^in this Chap: to the Corinthians^ I have seen an English woman with cropped hair and did not think her infamous or contemptible – And I never heard that the *Jacobean crop* in males proceeded from Bibliolatrious tendencies in that political party – This is an extreme case – But who has written well on the subject?

And now my dear Sir bear the expression of my good will toward all the members of the Miller race – Strange as [most] of them would appear to me were any one to present him, or herself ^to me^ An honour I dare not hope for – yet desire

I am with sincere esteem

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller. –

43. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Derwent Coleridge, 19 April 1853.⁴⁵

30 Russell Square
19 April 1853

My dear Sir

I have received the print And rejoice in the possession of it. In one respect, it is even better than the painting. With all its excellence there was in that a something ghastly and spectral which on *my* imagination at least made a painful impression. All *that* is softened down. I thank you heartily for it.

I met M^{rs} Jameson to day in the Street – She had heard of it, And said she had requested M^r Kenyon to make application in her behalf to you for a copy – If similarity of pursuits & character were necessary to justify a claim she would have no right whatever

But <–> women of genius are perhaps more willing to allow the pretensions of their literary rivals than men of letters are And M^{rs} Jameson & M^{rs} Coleridge in that matter belong to the same class.

Should you by chance meet with the Brit: Quart: Rev: for last November (N^o 31) pray read the Art: Shakesp: and Göthe pray read it – It is rich in thought The Author ~~he~~ is one of the most prominent of the youngest generation of Writers (*Masson* Prof: of English Literature in our Univ: Coll:)

I beg my Comps to M^{rs} Derwent Coleridge

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d D Coleridge

⁴⁵ WLMS STANGER/2/188.1. Robinson writes in his diary on 19 April 1853: 'I wrote letters to Lady Richardson praising her article on Wordsworth's Life – as a picture of his actual life, but protesting against its being received as just praise to the book; also to Derwent Coleridge acknowledging a beautiful engraving of Lawrence's picture of his sister It is a pathetic portrait and admirably expresses her character.'

44. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, 4 June [1853].⁴⁶

London
30 Russell Square
4th June

My dear Sir

It is quite a matter of conscience with me, using that word I own, rather lightly but yet not with levity, to do ^two^ things towards you

First; To write
Secondly – To write very little

To write – That I may tell you I have had a most agreeable intercourse with your brother And M^{rs} Miller, during which, not a word or an allusion was uttered or made which was not very pleasant – All topics eschewed which could interfere with a most agreeable recollection – What a frank kind manner has M^{rs} Miller –! And what a relish for all sorts of beauty have both of them! We saw together the British Museum And my Flaxman Gallery –

They have promised, And I am sure they will keep their word – that when they come to London again, they will, unless hinderd by some inevitable accident, ~~tho~~ let me know of their being here And renew their morning visits –

I am not sure that they made a formal promise to that effect – but I have a secret hope that they will do so without an express promise that I may ^thro a friendly word on my behalf from them^ have the pleasure of seeing you or any other of the Miller race who may come to town

I have had a description of you which I wish to realise – I have not seen M^r Johnston since his return but he has communicated to me in writing your friendly message –

Now having said this I will say no more It would be unwarrantable – As I know you are on the eve of your making an excursion – You set out on Tuesday I hear

May your journey afford pleasure – And may you when you return find the country and all Europe at peace that is assuming that a European peace is for the present desirable tho' it would be a curse if it supposed a cordial alliance among the *three Emperors* and the *Pope* of which I stand in dread as humanly speaking I consider this as the most deplorable of all contingencies –

So no more – but friendly remembces to all who care to hear my name pronounced

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

The Rev^d John Miller –
Bockleton

⁴⁶ WLL/2000.24.2.10. Robinson begins his diary entry on 4 June 1853 with the following: 'A morning of letter writing. To my brother with the week's history. To Miller (John) with an account of his brother's visit to me. To Rogers informing him that he might see the statue of Wordsworth without going out of his carriage.'

45. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 25 June [1853].⁴⁷

30 Russell Square
25th June

My dear friend

I am quite ashamed of not having for so long a time written to you – But I have been very busy and very unsettled and not in very good health of late – not that I have been ill, properly so called; But I have been assailed by symptoms that sometimes are very significant at other times & more frequently pass away unobserved, leading to nothing – This is my best apology for not writing –

Now something has occurred which forces me out of my torpid state you will receive I trust by the same post which is to convey [in] this letter the Athenaeum of this day. It contains a short paper of mine⁴⁸ – I hope you will <--> approve of my reproof of the heartless account given by Tom Moore of the dinner at Monkhouse's Some thirty years ago – You were present at this dinner And may perhaps recollect something about it Had you been here I should have applied to you for assistance –

I could not omit in a single sentence referring to W. W. as unhandsomely treated by T. M. But C: L was the proper object of my short paper – And I find I have not written with perfect clearness or quite enough about W. W.

It is strange how difficult it is to obtain ~~ela~~ certainty about ordinary incidents – According to my note it was Miss Hutchinson and not Mary Lamb who was at that dinner

I am now all in doubt about my own forthcoming movements – Perhaps I shall go to ~~night to~~ Bury next Thursday the 30th – I have settled thus much; that I shall be with M^{rs} Clarkson next Tuesday And I shall either on 30th return here for a fortnight – Or go that day to Bury for a few days – And thus come here from the 6th to the 15th –

Dear M^{rs} Clarkson is about as well as she has long been – Writes with difficulty – but is nearly as lively as ever –

My poor brother is – as it was foreseen he must one day be – And is now the shade of what he once was – never great And therefore when that shade passes away, not the object of that grief the poet notices in his profound remark – Still you will not – nor will any of the friends of my amiable brother feel when they hear of his departure As all of us do when we are informed of the irreparable loss of the guardian protector-parent in the midst of his career of usefulness –

Göthe has written a beautiful sentence of felicitation of those who dye young – for as men dye So they live for ever in the memories of men Achilles is forever the youthful swift-footed hero!

I am called off and will write again soon – I have something to tell you of the Bp of Oxford

I hardly know to whom to be spoken of for who is now in your immediate vicinity?
Your most affectionate friend

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth – Rydal

⁴⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/27. Robinson writes in his diary on 25 June 1853: 'Going to the Athen: I there wrote to M^{rs} Wordsw: And I also sent a stamped copy of the Athen: to M^{rs} W: And I told her of Bp Wilberforce's overtures to me – Coleridge's picture &c &c.'

⁴⁸ Robinson's essay, 'Charles Lamb and Thomas Moore', appeared in *The Athenaeum* on 25 June 1853, pp. 771-772.

The *Athenaeum*

My dear friend –

I have an unexpected opportunity of going on with the letter I thought I had closed – And am returned to this place from whence the paper-stamp may have betrayed the place of my writing.

I have not much to tell you in the way of news: But this I must say That I hope an inducement may be given you to come once more to London tho' not for a *pleasure* in the vulgar sense of the word – but for the reception of a feeling intermingled of a sacred sorrow & ~~the approbation of the highest artistic~~ the gratification from perceiving that the highest artistic talent has been devoted to the human figure of the being most honoured & beloved by you –

The Statue is complete in the clay And it is now about to be wrought in marble – you have perhaps heard that the Portrait of Coleridge by Alston is to be engraved – At least, Proposals are issued – My name was put on the Committee And a Meeting was held I could not attend – And I do not know what was resolved: nor have I heard what engraver was thought of –

How do you like the engraving of Laurence's Head of dear M^s H. N. C.? I prefer the engraving to the picture. It is less sepulchral There is deep feeling and character in the portrait But there is something ghastly in the colouring –

I have had a friendly visit from J. K. Miller of Walkeringham. He & his wife breakfasted with me here. They are excellent people –

Have you heard of the finale of the affair between the Bp: of Oxford as one of the authors of Wilberforce's Life and myself? You recollect that he said in the preface to the Letters to W. W—that I was one of those persons whom everyone would desire to know as little of as possible. This I *duly* acknowledged – And in consequence more was known of me, than otherwise there would have been to know. I was proud of the opinion expressed by your honoured husband of my share in that controversy – Judge my surprise when a few weeks since at this Athenaeum the Dean of S^t Pauls came to me – “M^r Crabb: R—The Bp of Oxford wishes to have the pleasure of being introduced to you.” [“His Lordship does me honour” – “M^r C: R: There is one subject on which you & I formerly differd in Opinion I wish you to know that all that is unpleasant in entirely forgotten on my part – And that I shall have great pleasure in offering you my hand if you will permit me” – other words of civility I could not now repeat. There are two things I could not do of course – Preach to a bishop or refuse a proffered hand – I did not say or wish it to be thought that I had forgotten what had passed but I gave my hand And assured the Bp that I could have no motive to interfere in a concern not my own, but the belief that my friends life was in danger as M^s C: assured me it was. And that I had no unfriendly feeling towards the name of W— &c &c And so we bow when we meet. This is at least an improvem^t on the letter to Clarkson.

Adieu

The letters are called for by the Porter.

H. C. R.

46. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, Bockleton, near Tenbury, Worcestershire, 10 [and 17] October 1853.⁴⁹

London
30 Russell Square
(virtually)
really, at my Club:
Ecce Signum –

My dear Sir!

Luckily – I have recollected in time your Antipathy to the innovations of the age in its Stationery as well as in matters so disparate that I dare not pursue my remark beyond an allusion – Herein I show my tolerance – On my own impulse I write only on the 8vo: And thought myself very lucky when this handsome sheet presented itself unexpectedly to my eye – It was just as I had laid down with great satisfaction a letter from J. K. M. received this morning as I was leaving ^Russ: Square^ but not opened before – A letter not bulky, but its contents all pleasant and in good humour – It was an immediate answer to a letter written but a few days since – And I certainly did not expect a reply before I had discharged my debt to you – nearly of as old a date –

I have been unsettled during the last three months – Two were spent at Bury where my eldest brother – by five years my Senior is living free from pain and in the possession of that repose and negative comfort which the absence of evil rather than the possession of good consciously allows us to consider as a fact not an enjoyment –

This serious subject is so much on my mind, And it is ever presenting itself before me, so variously, that I have I fear, unwarrantably suffered it to occupy a part of this page –

Yet tho' my brother is an utter stranger to you, his station in society, tho' I want a name for it – is one not unfamiliar to you probably, As that of One who alluding of course to human relations only, is in the decline of life without a conscious enemy or adversary.

17th October –

Precisely seven days have elapsed since the last page ^was penned^ And every day since I have wished to finish the letter – Three of those days have been spent entirely out of the house – And three others were lost for *this* purpose, because I could not find – your last very pleasant letter which is of so remote a date that I dare not further refer to it. This morning I resolved that I would not quit the room till I had opened every drawer & turned over ^every^ sheet of paper – And I found it *instantly* – There being no want of earnestness in the search ^before^ – but a stupidity which is becoming daily, more & more remarkable – In this particular – my fatuity is becoming grievous – I am glad I did not venture to write without your letter – For I had forgotten nearly all the topics upon which you probably expect to read me now – I shall not be particular as to the order in which I take up the topics – Of course; I did not commit the rash act of sending the Bridge of Sighs to Walkeringham – I *did* send *M^s Leicesters School* – And the letter accompanying it ^was^ answerd but ~~not~~

⁴⁹ WLL./2000.24.2.7. On 10 October 1853, Robinson writes in his diary: 'I had a playful letter from J. K. Miller very friendly which I read at the Athen: with pleasure As it was an evidence of his being friendly – I began a letter to John M. on *Quarto* paper at the Athen:?' On the 17th he returns to Miller: 'I wrote to Leigh – abo^t my *Exposure* which I sent on Saturday by the Post under the new act of 6^d – Also to John Miller in Answer to his 3 months ago – I made it amusing by anecdotes, being otherwise too liberal I told him of *Cargil* &c bro^t to my mind by a letter from *Paynter* this morn^g which I answerd at once And shall have to refer to again to day I expect –'

^without^ the slightest reference to the book – An instructive hint – I had before received the like from a very amiable woman, a *calvinistic dissenter* who admiring the author nevertheless would not let her boys read it, till she had torn out the *young Mahometan* and the *Witch aunt*— When I told L: of this He said – “I’m delighted to hear it[?]” – I wrote them both – At S^t John’s Coll: Camb: these boys who in spite of their mother *would* go to College – were introduced to an elder student so violent an Evangelical that he declared solemnly he thought the bishop of Exeter *not a Christian* And this not because he excommunicated his Superior in the Church, but for his pro-papistical opinions – And when he quitted the bar & became a low-church clergyman, broke off acquaintance with me, (professing personal regard,) but on principle for he & his wife had agreed on their marriage to associate ~~none~~ with no person who did not share their opinions – ^This did not offend me – in the least^ And ^he being^ an intense lover of Wordsworth as a poet, nevertheless thought his *Excursion* Anti-Christian – Poor R: C: is dead – An over tender nature And with a diseased mind; The elder P: was drowned on his marriage tour in a lake of the Pyrenees. And his younger brother is now a zealous low-churchman -- ^My friend the born dissenter gave land & more than a £1000 towards build^s a new Church^ Such is the strange history of mens opinions – I have been drawn in to ~~say~~ touch on topics I did not think of when I took up my pen this morning – I have in the course of my life (judging humanly – or rather not presuming to judge at all but expressing honestly my convictions and my affections) found so much apparent amiability of temper with so much elevation of character & strength of understanding in persons of *every variety* of professed doctrine that I have brought myself to think I could find the *real Christian* in *every form and denomination* of Christianity – Excluding none tho’ I do not consider outwards means & communities as indifferent, but believe that there is a power & a spirit *in all* And *around all* ~~And~~ that is beyond all names & words – I not only believe in the possibility of finding the Christian every where But ~~I could find ^him^ even among~~ ~~And those who would~~ I do not require even that reciprocity which is thought essential to all Church fellowship – And can tolerate intolerance in individual men – tho’ not in governments – but I must break off lest I should unwillingly offend you as well as your brother & niece –

To change altogether the topic – After your vehement declamation against wearisome long letters – nothing shall seduce me to add a ~~sentence~~ slip of paper to this letter tho’ I break off in the middle of a Sentence – Hoping you will excuse anything I may have said that you cannot sympathise with –

As to *Valentine Le Grice*. I know a great deal more about him – than I could bring within the compass of a letter – He is a remarkable man – And so was his father before him – A native of my native town – His father was at variance with *Bagot* bishop of Norwich – but beat him in a court of law – the bp was compelled against his will to induct him to a living – pretty much in the way in which the bp of Exeter was beaten by Goram – And which same bp of Exeter issued a circular in his Diocese ~~commanding~~ prohibiting any of his clergy admitting *Valentine* the Son into his pulpit – I happened to possess some curious documents connected with the *Mandamus* issued ag^t the bp of Norw: which I sent the Son – I have not seen him since – When you were at Lands End you must have seen the residence of one of my most intimate friends – Whose house a stone mansion of Antiquity makes its owner the *first or last Gentleman* in England in a journey to or from *John o Groats* – and the Extremity of Cornwall – Val: Le Grice is a strange man one of those very clever unmanageable beings characterised in a couplet

And some there are blessed with huge stores of wit
Who want as much again to manage it –

I have heard Lamb tell odd stories about Le Grice – Of whom the best to be said is that he overflowed with kindness to his fellow creatures – And was warm hearted – He and Lamb

loved each other – But Lamb confessed that he saw him always with apprehension – And well he might –

They used to go to debating Societies together – The same which I visited a few years afterwards And there made some of my most valuable friendships – They attended when the Question ~~Who~~ was Who is the great Orator? – &c &c &c Legrice ^{^rose^} -- “I was once in Company M^r Chairman When a lady was asked – Which she liked best – *Veal mutton* or *beef* – She answerd – *Pork*. So sir your question asks – Who is the greatest Orator – Burke – Pitt or Fox? I answer *Sheridan*[?] – Another time ~~he~~, on rising he said – [“]M^r Chairman – The last time I entered this room, I had the honour to be kicked out of it” – I was present said Lamb – And certainly he deserved it – His father was poor And ~~his Son~~ himself sent to the Blue Coat Hospital – He had talents – obtained a Tutorship And married the rich widow – His pupil died – He had a Son by his Wife who gave him a large estate which he gave up in his life time to his Son –

What made you think of him? He invited me to *Treeriefe* when I ^{^might^} visit Landsend – But he was not at home when I called Landsend ^{^has a church which^} is an instance of the great corruption which attends inevitably *court patronage* The Deanery is in the gift of the Prince of Wales And the D of Wellington obtained for a wounded officer who was forced to leave the Army & had a large income, giving a pittance to miserable curates & pocketting the revenue doing nothing – My friend being the Lord of the Manor laid a scheme of Reform for that district before the bishop of Exeter And says the bp ~~should~~ ^{^showed^} himself very desirous to rectify the flagrant abuse – And that when a vacancy occurs a private act it is hoped will correct *one* of these numerous abuses by which the Church is more injured than by any of the enemies out of the Church – In this I am sure you & I agree –

Respects to Miss & M^r J. Miller With sincere esteem
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsw: is in good health apparently and is making a visit to a dear friend Miss Fenwick – Two pious women who consider this as a solemn leave taking – She will in my oldest friend M^{rs} Clarkson see one of her most esteemed friends She will not go to see the Statue in the Artists studio –

P. S: I find as I thought would be the case. That I have omitted matter more interesting than any thing written – But I will keep my word notwithstanding M^{rs} Wordsworth is here at Henry Taylors She does not know you personally, but as the friend of her nephew desires to be kindly rememberd

We shall be going soon, that is in November, to see M^{rs} Clarkson the Widow of the Slave-trade Abolisher –

47. HCR, [London], to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], [5 November 1853].⁵⁰

[Nov. 5 1853]
Saturday

My dear friend

I have found the letter which I send you And I am now going to answer it, merely giving the hour of the train's starting from hence, that is, London

You *ought* but will not perhaps any more than I am, be as sorry as we all ought to be that the loss I so much deplored yesterday was much more severe than I expected viz <--> the loss of my mental power of attention

During the three hours of fretting yesterday the keys were in my pantaloons *fob* pocket!!!

Express better than I can myself my sense of M^{rs} Hoares very obliging attentions to me –

And now till 11 a.m. Monday at the Eastern Counties Station Monday a.m.

affectionately yours

H. C. R.

48. Catherine Clarkson, [Playford], to HCR. [London], undated (attached to previous letter).

My dear friend

I am afraid I did not mention as I ought to have done, that I fully expected you with M^{rs} Wordsworth but beg her not to lay her plans so as she cannot give me more than 2 days – How pleased I shall be to [see] one of the next Generation

The Bury paper yesterday tells that the Council of Kings Coll have condemned Maurices book (Essays) & adds that D^r Colenso has *dedicated* a Sermon to him & intimates that he is still more heterodox than Maurice I cannot think that my Scotch connection as you call him would write *against* M— but I am sure his conscience would not let him say any thing in his *favor*

Remember me kindly & affectionately to M^r Hoare

Yours ever

C. C.

⁵⁰ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/28. Robinson mentions his mental lapse in his diary entry on 5 November 1853: 'After a night dreaming of Keys & losses &c I slept most comfortably on my spring mattress – And this morning when Peto [Robinson's housekeeper] came for my things And I was sulking abo^t this strange loss he exclaimed in a joyous tone – Why here they are Sir – Pulling them out of the fob-pocket of the trowsers I had on dur^g most of the time I was in trouble And I can only thus acco^t for it I must have put them in when I was prepar^g to go out in the afternoon And was prevented as stated above –A sad application of the saying of Lord Orford There is no use of curing a man of his folly if you cannot cure him of being foolish – And yet I rejoice now at be^g relieved from the particular inconvenience – tho the cause is incurable. ... I wrote to M^{rs} Robertson apart and to my brother – inform^g her of my intended journey to Ipswich by Rail tomorrow of which I also informed M^{rs} Clarkson – And I wrote to Wordsworth And I wrote to D^r King –'

Nov^r 3rd

The following, written in an unknown hand, appears at the foot of the page:

M^{rs} Clarkson / Widow of Tho^s Clarkson / of Playford Hall / The Slave Trade abolitionist

49. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 26 February [1854].⁵¹

London
30 Russell Square
26th Feb: [1854]

My dear friend,

A few weeks since your granddaughter Jane called, and afterwards kindly wrote saying she was not sorry that I was at Brighton, as she thought I should profit by the change of Air She said she was then going to Hampstead And I would gladly have gone there, when I had reason to think she would be at M^{rs} Hoares could I have managed it – It was not in my power. She had in a former note given an account of your being well And dear M^{rs} Clarkson wrote with delight of the letter she had received from you – So that I have indirectly known of your being well.

My present object is to give you notice of a melancholy event that has occurred of which you might not otherwise hear so soon, tho I do not know how it has affected or will affect the spirits – And so the health of her on whose account directly we shall feel it. M^{rs} Corsbie – the Nancy Buck of Seventy years ago is suddenly dead – So that of a family of Six only the eldest and youngest now survive. M^{rs} Clarkson was nearly 10 years older than her Sister – And more than forty years ago when Clarkson settled in Westmoreland was thought to be suffering under a mortal disease which threatned an early death And she is now with her faculties of mind, as you can testify, slightly impaired –

Perhaps this blow may affect her less than might have been expected – It is a fact, physical & so physiological, that our sensibilities became less acute in old age – Late events which have occurred since the death of Sam: Buck the second brother, tend rather to *embitter* than *sharpen* the sorrow – You will feel the distinction I have no wish to explain it distinctly

At present I see no grounds for fearing that this death will materially affect the intention of Jane to go round by way of Ipswich & Bury & Cambridge, I being her guide –

When at Brighton I saw repeatedly Lady Byron – I could not but be gratified by hearing her say – And I repeated it to you tho' all human judgements are worthless, at least insignificant in your eyes – That she considered as a great misfortune that she had never seen M^r Wordsworth And she said emphatically, that Lord B. notwithst^s his invincible recklessness, and in spite of what he had written, spoke of M^r W. with great respect, even reverence towards his person praising his dignified manners after their meeting at the same table – And I am sure that were she ever in the north, she would not fail to call at Rydal – or on you wherever you might be –

I on no occasion introduced Lord Bs name But when she introduced it I spoke freely I was somewhat reserved in referring to such poems as “She was a Phantom of delight[?]”

⁵¹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/29. Robinson writes in his diary on 26 February 1854: ‘After they [D^{rs} Boott and Sieveking] left me I staid within till dinner time reading the *Autobiographia* And writing to M^r W: with an acco^t of M^{rs} Corsbies death – now to be sent off I called on Miss Denman –² He then adds on the 27th that he has finished the letter to Mrs Wordsworth.

And the other poems on the same person, lest she should feel too acutely and tho' not whisper the words, yet betray by her looks the Sentiment

“What a happy lot has been her's compared with Mine!”

She was ardently desirous as much as possible to consider the aberrations of her husband, rather as incurable disease than wilful vice – She is anxiously looking out for a Governor for her Second Grandson One who can combine Authority with Attraction And be the friend preceptor & guide – The eldest is out of her reach – Where is he to be found? I have made enquiries wherever there has been a chance of success –

She is a noble woman – generous and decidedly firm – This of course renders her often an object of blame – Tho' she is of the *broad Church*, she lately gave a living to a clergyman of the high church in whom she could have no pleasure as a teacher because she said he is the only preacher whose teaching can benefit a rural congregation One of the low church could not satisfy the wants of such a people. I look for the man who can do good in his place not for one whose opinions I adopt.

27th

I have been out to day, engaged in calls discharging “Social debts” as M^r Wordsworth used to call them And as they properly are

I have just seen Moxon he had had a letter from M^r Carter whose silence about your health confirms our impression that it is what it ought to be

I enquired at the Haldenes – The burial of M^{rs} Corsbie takes place tomorrow

There had been received no news of M^{rs} Clarkson –

I understand that you do not expect your granddaughter before April

I trust nothing will arise to interfere with my being her escort to Westmoreland which ever route she takes –

The longer the day, And the more genial the air, the more agreeable will be the accompaniments of my journey but not with more readiness shall I undertake it

We are in a strange state of imperfect warfare I do not believe in any long war like those of the olden time – All the kings have a common interest, as well as each of them a special need of peace to preserve themselves against personified radicalism in Ledru Rollen [Kiparth?] &c &c &c

Parties seem united in favour of the present measures of government You can count the opposition on your fingers, on this point viz

Cobden

Bright

Drummond &

Lord Grey

My best regards to dear Miss Wordsworth &c &

your Son &c and the Arnolds M^{rs} Fletcher

M^{rs} Hutchison &c &c &c

Ever affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

Rydal Mount

50. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, Ambleside, 22 December 1854.⁵²

London
30 Russell Square
22^d Dec: 1854

My dear friend

Had the decline of my faculties reduced me so low that my recollection of Rydal and its Environs, with its precious inhabitants was becoming faint, it must revive at this Season. If you think me inattentive dear friend, do not suppose it is wilful – nor that I forget you – Indeed the infirmity of old age is not so much forgetfulness as a dreamy way of thinking of the objects of interest, not lively enough to lead to any exertion. I write now tho I have nothing cheerful to write – If you resemble in this your dear friend Miss Fenwick this will scarcely be an objection – Some weeks back on my apologising to her that I had nothing amusing or pleasant to say to her, her reply was so much the better I could not attend to it if you had – Naming her, I may add, that on her removal to her new residence, I called (– it was on the 13th I found her unhappily very ill. She admitted me for a moment only On my saying ~~she~~ I should write in a day or two to you, she said – It is a pity you should write now – And this I believe did put me off then; but I have not been able to call since – Her case exposes her to constant changes, so that we are not warranted in drawing inferences from her being then so very poorly, that are alarming

I called some weeks back also on the ladies at Hampstead – M^{rs} H: was looking better than Miss H: I was pleased with her volunteering the uncalled for remarking that *Jane* had been distinguishing herself by her active & kind attention to her father in his sudden affliction.

Of your earliest friend among us all, M^{rs} Clarkson, the very oldest & earliest of mine in the Country I have not much to tell you. She writes with difficulty and is unused to borrow the hand of an amanuensis. I sent her the print of Coleridge – And that she acknowledged^d it had given her very great pleasure – She thought it an excellent likeness – She has not kept her word of writing since & soon – I have already accounted for this on general grounds. She you are aware has had troubles connected with the settlement of her grandson in domestic life – It is hoped these are nearly at an end – But of the apprehension of a recurrence of such troubles there can be no end. She is becoming gradually more feeble I fear.

You have always kindly expressed an interest in my brothers family. This I grieve to say ^{is} in as bad a state as it can well be – my exemplary niece – that is an example of a most anxious desire & firm resolution to discharge all the duties of life is unhappily assailed by a number of conflicting duties – And in her desire to fulfill them *all* she is in danger of performing them all imperfectly. My poor brother's memory is nearly gone – She cannot leave him – And he cannot leave Bury – Now Bury is of all climates the worst for the boy – And him she cannot leave or suffer to depart ~~her~~ for a great length of time – Last year, he was more than seven months in Dover & London – And he was greatly improved in appearance His Aunt Lucy, her most disinterested & self devoting Sister has been his indefatigable attendant And has in consequence drawn upon herself a serious indeed very alarming malady She is threatned with *Paralysis* – And ~~she alone~~ ^{my niece} whose health has

⁵² WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/30. He writes in his diary on 22 December 1854: 'I wrote a longish letter to M^{rs} Wordsw. giving her an acco^t of the serious pieces of sad news which have filled my mind lately deaths & illnesses – And the state of my poor brothers family I send little or nothing to day –'

been so very bad, threatned with starvation even from a difficulty in swallowing, alone has
^now^ some strength to attend to the three A few months ago, died her mother – more aged
than my brother – She was born in 1769 – And now to heighten all this calamity – Henry is
become worse – And very alarming is his condition – Sarahs only comfort is she has
obtained the society of two nieces from Scotland – lively & tender & attached all at once –
Her letter to me three days since was in a tone of all but despair – At Bury out of the house
She has very few acquaintce – And the house is now full – I go whenever I am of very little
use – Indeed she sometimes fears I incite my brother too much – And as Henry needs
amusement above all things And must have no suspicion of his danger, I am requested to
write as lively as possible – As if all were going on well there so that any one not knowing
that these are ~~order~~ letters written to order must have a very strange opinion of me this has
been the case for a long time – I fear in writing this dismal note I am supposing you to be
more like my Miss Fenwick than I hope you are –

Another topic of sadness tho' altogether different I must now not leave unnoticed
tho' it is One in which you have positively declined to take any active concern –

This is the *Monument* To my surprise I heard the other day that it has been put up
without any communication with the Sub-Committee, ^appointed^ to arrange the whole –
M^r Coleridge the Judge's Son and M^r Boxall the Secretaries have certainly been
discourteously treated – Not intentionally perhaps – They were not consulted about the place
– It is said there was no other place than that selected – I should say – taken – for selection is
chusing among – to the artist alone it is of importance that the Canon of Westminster
exercising absolute authority over the inscription or its substitute, has not obtained any
relaxation of the *extortion* of fees. The Queen gave £50 on condition that the Monument sho^d
be in the Abbey – Surely if the Dean & Chaps: had been threatned with an appeal to her they
would not have dared to make the Artist lose £150 by her request – They take £200 It is
these rich bodies – Deans & Chaps and Prelates in their secular office – not Bishops in their
spiritual function who are destroying the Church more than its *external* enemies are. The
Doctor & those who have been under his authority have also broken their word And I think
wrongfully deprived the Artist of his lawful wages for work done, to the Extent of between
£40 & £60.

M^r Harrison acted honourably However, the matter perhaps is not closed yet ~~perhaps~~
I am to be summoned to the Commee. As to the inscription – There is none yet. Only a
Sonnet on a tablet near in honour of Cathedrals but with no referce to the great poet ^except
that it is written by him^ For my part I shall be satisfied with *his* great name And the dates
affixed to the two letters

Dear friend I must break off – remember me to all your family most kindly And to
my friends the Arnolds M^{rs} Fletcher and her daughter – M^r Carr, the Harrisons ~~The W~~
Roughsedges ^and Cooksons^ &c &c ... Family has a double sense – Its proper sense is
within the Walls – its other sense is kindred – So in the double sense M^{rs} Hutchison and your
Sons other family will be included

Ever, affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
Rydal Ambleside

51. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount, Ambleside, 9 January [18]55.⁵³

London
30 Russell Square
9th Jan: 55

My dear friend

Many thanks for your kind letter Tho' painful on that account, yet I must acknowledge that it was and is therefore a stronger evidence of your friendship, being written with ~~pain~~ ^difficulty^ – I am not quite sure that you will be able to read this *yourself* tho' I write a clear hand – But you may put this into the hand of any of your family or neighbours – I have nothing to write that anyone who loves you should not read – But as the writing at all under such circumstances is somewhat encumberd with drawbacks I should not have written now had I not to correct the most unpleasant portion of my last letter – Or rather substitute better news for worse –

I saw Miss Fenwick yesterday, And found her very much better than she had been Indeed it was the good account I had heard of the health of Miss F: which encouraged me to go – But her appearance was even better than I expected. She had then with her (but not in the room) her niece and her Polish Husband – of whom Miss F: spoke highly They were on their way to Bath – Miss F's brother had been very ill – but his life was then thought to be out of danger – As I knew the short visit of Miss F's niece must be a trial to her, I felt it my duty to remain but a few minutes I staid long enough however to hear her speak with great satisfaction of a letter received from M^{rs} Wil: Words and she confirmed the favorable opinion entertained here of your health & spirits – I have not ventured to call on the Lord Chancellors lady since her return, but hope to do it soon –

Tomorrow I go to Brighton And shall remain there about a week or ten days – On my return I will see Miss Fenwick at least call – And write if I have any thing to say that will give you pleasure

My last account was but a melancholy one – I have nothing to add –

But one little circumstance I forgot to mention – Last ~~Summer~~ Autumn I sent you – at least I orderd there should be sent you the Anti-slavery Advocate – a monthly paper which has one great merit – It is very short And I like it, for its sound views & ability Have you received it? And shall I continue it? Does M^{rs} Fletcher or any one else in your neighbourhood like it or the *Anti-slavery Reporter* which is a larger paper?

I would not *force* attention to a very painful subject And it would be troublesome perhaps to your friends to read it to you?

My kind remembrances to dear Miss Words M^{rs} Hutchinson M^{rs} Arnold Fletcher &c &c Your Sons Grandsons &c &c

Ever most affectionately your's
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
(Ambleside)

⁵³ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/31. Robinson writes in his diary on 9 January 1855: 'And I wrote to M^{rs} Wordsworth abo^t her friend Miss Fenwick &c And that letter is gone ...'

52. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 29 January [18]55.⁵⁴

London
30 Russell Square
29th Jan: 55

My dear friend

I feel grateful to you for your kind recollection of me both before and on the occurrence of an event, rather solemn and awful than afflicting under the actual circumstances. Our common friend M^{rs} Clarkson will feel as I do, I am sure And I shall soon I hope have an opportunity of hearing the like Sentiment from Miss Fenwick There will be but one universal feeling among those who knew Miss Wordsworth when she was the active and powerful spirit which was so lovingly acknowledged by the brother who last preceded her –

I doubt whether we ought to confess sorrow on such an occasion as this – But we know on high authority that we must grieve because we are men when such a shade as this passes away – For it is good to be reminded of *past* excellence of every kind whether it defended or adorned or instructed us all –

This is a merciful bereavement for which you may thank the dispenser of all good in various ways. There are other trials harder to bear & more difficult to comprehend. The post which brought your Son William's letter also brought an account of the death of a young woman of accomplishments followed by that of her mother within two hours, whom I knew in her youth and ever since an exemplary daughter, sister, wife and mother – And with whom my friendship was confirmed thro life by her love of the works of Miss Ws brother And your revered & loved husband

Never within my recollection was there such an accumulation of deaths at home. That of Julius Hare is the most significant

And then what a mass of horrid slaughter in the Crimea – A carnage which I can look at with submission believing that the war is as just & necessary as any ~~way~~ war ever was –

I hope and expect that your Son William is now with you he will read to you And consider this as an answer to his own for which I thank him as well as you –

To M^r Wordsworth your elder Son I desire also to be duly remembered M^{rs} Hutchinson &c &c &c

I should have told you that I saw both M^r & Miss Rogers lately at Brighton *She* enquired after you feelingly *his* recollection of old friends ^{^even^} is nearly lost altogether –

Ever, affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
Rydal Mount

⁵⁴ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/32. He writes in his diary on 29 January 1855: 'So I wrote to M^{rs} Wordsworth answer^g Wms announc^g his Aunt's death – I was then more at my ease –'

53. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Thomas Carter, Rydal Mount, 17 February 1855.⁵⁵

London
30 Russell Square
17th Feb 1855

My dear Sir,

This intense cold – severer than any we have had this year, that is, this Winter-season, has put it out of my power to see Miss *Fennick* since I last wrote – Nor have I heard of her at the Athenaeum since – I find myself more altered this last year than I have ever been conscious of before I feel the cold – I am near the fire and my fingers smart – On account of the slippery walking I cannot call on Moxon to make the inquiry of him about the letters of C: L: tho' I am pretty sure, he cannot have any – I am sure *I have* none – And that I have deliverd all I had in the first instance & declined giving to the biographer, back to M^{rs} Wordsworth – And I am all but as certain that the second & more voluminous set have been deliverd of which copies were taken for printing – These, being in print are of no great importance As to the others – M^{rs} W: must deal with them as she thinks proper – As to M^r Ws own letters I hope she will allow all that can be found any where to be returned – none being destroyed – for the purpose of their contributing to remedy the evil incurred by one unfortunate error in judgement A few suitable letters being preserved added to the prose writings and a short memoir would constitute *One* volume And then all the short notes to the last & most perfect edition stereotyped would be a permanent & valuable inheritance to the family – And it would depend on the size of the Vols: whether the Life were a part of the prose or poetic works –

As to Lambs letters – I will bear them in mind but I expect that you will find them all as I am continually doing things which I thought I had lost when I had given them over –

As Mrs W. cannot read her own letters I fear And as I have nothing to say that you may not send to yourself and her I will on the other side add a few words addressed to herself, in answer to a letter from M^r W. Wordsworth which I should have answerd had yours not arrived – bear in mind that I hope to see you in London one of these days

I am very truly yours
H. C. Robinson

M^r Tho^s Carter
Rydal Mount

54. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 17 February 1855 (attached to previous letter).

17th Feb. 1855

My dear friend

Aware of your difficulty in reading, tho' you can write as I perceive very legibly, having your letter to Miss Fenwick still by me, I add these few lines to what I have already written –

⁵⁵ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/33.

I have not heard from M^{rs} Clarkson lately – She has had troubles of her own – And serious ones which she could not write about, if she could write with ease which she cannot. I shall perhaps soon write again, for I am told she is glad to hear from me tho' she cannot muster strength to write or dictate to me – You are my chief object in writing to her –

As to poor M^r Rogers about whom you enquire you recollect the effect, temporary effect, produced on Miss Wordsworth by the death of her brother. In a different way and not to the same extent he revivd somewhat, and being told of her death, he said without any expression of feeling other than satisfaction – She is happy and I shall be soon – I had called upon him & Miss R: at Brighton some time before; he seemed to know me, but I am not sure that he did. It was so with Miss R: but she seemed to have a livelier recollection. The family did not wish me to call again on either of them. Miss Martha Rogers who attended on Miss R— it is said will now attend on W R. The Sharpes I frequently see – Let me be rememberd not only to your own family, Mrs Hutchinson included but also to the Arnolds, especially to the Lieut.^t with whom I have been in correspondce – I shall write to him before spring – no signs of it yet –

Poor Harriet Martineau – I am sorry that I have not returned towards her till the close of her career the friendly feelings I once encouraged – She has many excellent qualities And has been misled I fear by excess of vanity, excusable when one thinks how she has been tempted by excess of applause & visited by chancellors & Prime Ministers without the introduction of family fortune or beauty – the usual attractions!

And now dear friend let me add I hope to see Rydal in the warm weather

My other Rydal kind friends not to be forgotten dear M^{rs} Fletcher and the Harrisons M^{rs} Davy & good M^r Carr Roughsedges &c &c &c

Ever affectionately

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

55. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 17 September 1855.⁵⁶

Bury S^t Edmunds
17th Sept 1855

My dear friend –

You will recollect that when I wrote to you last I was on the point of making a little excursion to France – It proved as to *Time* longer than I intended, extending to four weeks. And as to space from One end of France to the Other – from *Boulogne* to *Bayonne* with a look at the fortress of *S^t Sebastian* in Spain which Wellington took and Stansfield painted – But as in France I did not go off the rail – The mere drive by steam was an easy thing – The *One* remark forced from me during my week's stay at Paris was the utter palsy or *suspended animation* of the public mind – The French ought to know what is best for them – And they seem to think that a free press and a free church a free parliament and indeed all free things are mere vanities when opposed to the will of a successful usurper – And certainty of the

⁵⁶ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/34. Robinson writes in his diary on 17 September 1855: 'I sent off two letters – One to M^{rs} Wordsworth, explain^g my Situation here which I did also to M^{rs} Clarkson inclosed to M^{rs} Dickinson – These are the ordinary incidents –'

wise use of power unlawfully gained could justify the usurpation L: N: is a lawful Sovereign and so will be "until the times shall alter" To sing the great body of the French clergy who hold their livings on the same tenure as the Vicar of Bray held his – which is a standard for endowd livings – On my return to Russ: Square on Friday the 7th instant I was met by a pressing request from my niece to come at once here where I in fact supply the place of the four attendants on Henry – neither Aunt & Cousins – They are going to the South coast but whether of Devonsh: or Cornwall is yet unsettled – And as my poor brother cannot be left alone – I shall remain here at least for the present – Until a gentlewoman of whose connections we have some knowledge can take her place at his table – His temper is happily gentle And he does not need the excitement of amusement or talk so that he is not in the absence of pain a suffering person – And where there is much more that is painful than pleasurable to recollect, even the loss of memorable [sic] is but to a slight degree an evil – his state is rather humiliating than distressing –

I have under these circumstances nothing to tell you that can be interesting when I have mentioned our old & common friend M^{rs} Clarkson

I have just completed a letter to her, which will be sent off in doubt whether she will be able to read it herself – or even hear it read by her niece & daughter in law M^{rs} Dickinson – A sad declaration on my part – this; But it is what those who enter on their eighth Decennium must expect & look for There is our common friend *Sam: Rogers* – A man who has been the generous supporter of so many – And the friend of an unusually large number – He is in his *ninth* decennium – We shall not affect grief when he leaves altogether the earth which he has so long unconsciously ~~dwelt on~~ filled a place on –

On coming home I read a note of 4 deaths And of only two marriages – That of M^{rs} Kennedy you had prepared me for – may it surpass your fears in its actual bearings on the happiness of the parties themselves –

As I was but a passer-through London I can have nothing to tell you of our few common friends – I saw no one in whom to take a common interest – The general feeling on public matters seems sound throughout the country – Yesterday I heard a Sermon indirectly a justification of the War – Its text might have been from the Lines

"Yea! Carnage is thy daughter"

Sound – preeminently so in its place –

~~But it is~~ ^And the text was^ One of the Biblical Axioms over which I would, if it were allowable lay a veil – The preacher took his words from the Ode – the book of Nahum – ["]The Lord has his way in the Whirlwind And in the storm" he spoke of *Nineveh* And we thought of *Sebastapol* I sympathised with the preacher – tho' I was startled by hearing a personal friend three times named in his Sermon And "*M' Layard*" spoken of as if he were a Biblical Character!!!

My kindest regards to those of your family & friends – with whom you have intercourse M^r *Carter* is among these of course – I shall rejoice to hear good of all or any of them – & of yourself above all others

Ever most affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

56. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 17 November 1855.⁵⁷

London
30 Russell Square
17th Nov. 1855

Dear Friend!

Since I last wrote to you – tho' so infirm is my memory that I am in doubt when that was – but whether or not I wrote the letter about which I am in doubt, at all events, one incident has ^{since} taken place which is of more interest to you probably than any other that could well have happened ~~which~~ – This is, an interview I have had with your excellent friend Miss Fenwick But not to be too irregular as to time: Let me first mention that ~~on returning from my~~ this interview succeeded a melancholy journey ~~would have been~~ interested in all the enquiries I had to make abo^t ^{to} Torquay in Devonshire is a beautiful watering place famous for its numerous patients in certain Seasons of the Year –

There is now my great nephew, his mother Aunt & Cousins – And in a state of great debility Scarcely able to go out & enjoy the benefit of the very fine climate – Thither I went on the 27th of last month And I left it on the 6th of the present. I will not trouble you with details of a place in which there is probably no one you know And which is a place of painful reminiscences [sic] to most – And I fear I shall be no exception to ~~most~~ ^{those} who have reason to speak of this place On my return I staid for a few days at a place in which we all must take great interest both as respects the past & the future

On the 9th I was able to proceed to Kelston Knoll – On my announcing myself I was told it was One of Miss Fenwick's bad days – And from her self I reced an affectionate message – a pious farewell She was unable to see any one – She had declined a visit from Lady Cranworth who would otherwise ^{have} come to her the preceding Monday – Miss Tudor however informed me that her Aunt's impression that she was in the act of dyeing, was a sort of delusion – She had this fixed idea And was even displeased with her friends who did not acquiesce in her impression – The family however considered her as sinking, if not already sunk. I was pressed to stay to an early dinner in an hour, which I did anticipating the ~~actual~~ ^{actual} result – For deriving ~~actual~~ ^{some} strength from the nourishment she was able to take, and informed that I was still there asking only for a grasp of her hand And a single word *to you* whom I would write to soon I was admitted – It was a mere word on her part – “She was quitting this world in humble hope of acceptance &c” And then a pious wish that I might one day partake of this hope “Say this to dear M^{rs} Wordsworth And tell her I shall think of her to the last.” Her voice was clear; There was even a sort of colour reflected from the curtains of the bed which gave her a look less ghastly than I should otherwise have felt it to be. She had sent for a Cousin, Archdeacon Fenwick who dined with us a man of mild aspect, partaking of the courtly air of Anglican ^{Episcopal} Aristocracy – but a very agreeable man – The Tudors seem an amiable family. And M^{rs} Tudor the step Mother of Miss F highly praised by her – A wish was expressed that my acquaintce with them might not cease –

I did not leave Bath for London directly I had to visit my friends at Holyport near Maidenhead the Procters & Colliers. And this note has been delayed in the hope that I might give you some account of your other friend *Lady Cranworth* – But tho' I have attempted it I have been unable to see her or any one in whom you take an especial interest – I found your

⁵⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/35. He writes in his diary on 17 November 1855: ‘... I wrote a short letter to M^{rs} Wordsworth – telling her my history And including mention of *William Wordsworth* whose lodgings I had been at after his departure for Brighton ...’

Son William had called ^before my return^ with a message that he was going to Brighton but sho^d see me on his return – Where he was ~~not~~ the I had no intimation I found myself troubled by the afflictions of my brother's family My niece is in a *straight* being urged by conflict^s advice as to the course she ought to pursue tow^s her only child, in imminent danger – It was not till Wedn^y that I learned *Will* & his wife were still in town – And when I was able to call they were just gone – But I have no doubt I shall see them on their return – The Account of you personally from all is good. I have had great variety of melancholy incidents to encounter – The friend with whom I went to the South of France by rail did not live to return. M^r *Brown* was found by his wife & *Miss Cootts* at Bordeaux. I left the party then And came back to Paris with M^r Serg^t *Dowling* who very kindly indeed took charge of me It is very singular that we should have met by chance *twice* – Once at *Bayonne* & the other time at Bordeaux. He recognised me, to my surprise, when I accosted him, hearing him named – in a great measure because his Sister Miss Dowling had written to him informing him of my being on the same line of journey with himself – This is singular as well as agreeable The whole family were very obliging – M^{rs} D— returned from *Pau* because she found the place unpleasant – They orderd beds for me at Tours & Paris. My journey was confined to the R R Line to Bayonne – And then to S^t Sebastian, the Sebastapol of Spain – I spent a week at Paris – And it was after my return from this short trip that I spent five melancholy weeks hardly recognised by my poor brother – You see therefore these have not been joyous days But I dined here at Bury with the Lord Chanc: & Lady C: who spoke much of you – It was after that I made my still more melancholy visit to Torquay – here in London I have yet seen scarcely any one – Business has engaged me. Now my friend receive the assurance of my unchanging affection towards y^o and impart my remembces to the few friends who occasionally come to you

I perceive the marriage has taken place of which we spoke And the younger Moxon spoke of some appointm^t one other of your grandsons had reced a Commission

I dare not enter on public matters Time & Space in a limited [sic] sense are both wanting never was there a time so *sad* in melancholy events as the present

M^r Carter who will most likely read this to you, will consider himself as included in these general notices of those who are not forgotten

I mean to call soon on M^r Twining

Ever affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

P.S. Let me explain a passage with much ~~obligation~~ obliteration in the first page – I began this letter in a state of mental fatigue unwill^s that Sunday sho^d pass before I had so written so that I wrote what really was not intelligible to myself – I had not time to reconcile that discovery how I had written till the ^whole^ letter was written. A *nap* had refreshed me

57. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 1 February 1856.⁵⁸

L:
30 Russell Square
1st Feb: 1856

My dear friend

The melancholy tidings which I expected to communicate some time back I have now to forward to you by M^{rs} Dickinson's desire. The very earliest of my friends And one of those whom we have both of us placed on the first line of those we loved and honoured departed from us early on the morning of yesterday the 31st of January.

The circumstances attending dear M^{rs} Clarkson's death were of the most consolatory nature I use M^{rs} Dickinson's words.

"It was literally ceasing to breathe and nothing more for we were scarcely conscious when the last breath was drawn – She knew and recognised us all till a few hours of her departure & her last words were the mention of my name"

She wished me to forward this ~~intelligence~~ announcement, preferring that it should come through me, especially after the removal of your old friend M^{rs} Hoare –

At our age these announcements are become almost *daily*. Yet with what tenacity does life hold to the seemingly fragile frame of Miss Fenwick –

Excuse me that I write so short a note I must now go out on business – But I take this with me to the West – In case I do not add a P: S: Accept my affectionate remembrances & best wishes for your continued state of repose & comfort

Also add my thanks to M^{rs} Hutchinson I immediately proceeded to execute your commands And shall probably have something to say on the subject before I close this letter

My respects to all friends as before

As ever

Affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

⁵⁸ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/36. He writes of Clarkson's death in his diary on 1 February 1856: 'this proved a melancholy day – Its most material incident was M^{rs} Dickinson's announcem^t of dear M^{rs} Clarksons death – Early in the morning of the day before At her age – with her excellent character – infirmities that at her age rendered all improvem^t hopeless – life could be of no value & death not a subject of dread. M^{rs} D says that if I wished to attend the funeral they wo^d be glad to see me there And have a bed &c So expressed I wrote immediately declining to go – but intimat^s a readiness to go, if desired – I wrote to M^{rs} Wordsw announcing this solemn event ...'

58. HCR, Athenaeum, London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 4 April 1856.⁵⁹

London
Athenaeum
4 April 1856

My dear friend –

On my return to Russ: Square after a few days visit to the Chief Baron – I found M^r Carters letter which makes me feel ashamed of myself – That I should have occasioned your enquiring about my goings on – by my delay in writing is what I ought to be ashamed of And yet I can assure you; it is the consequence of no decline in my friendship towards you – but of an encreasing habit of procrastination which I try in vain to counteract – And I take it therefore as an act of kindness on your part and on M^r Carter's also acting at your suggestion to remind me that I have not yet done what I have every day for the last two or three weeks thought of doing – “*Good intentions*” however are in favor with no church – nor can I claim any credit for beginning my letter to day – Since the past hour will scarcely retard its progress sufficiently to give me opportunity of dispatching this to day towards the <--> Northern Country – However tomorrow will be sufficient And begun is half done, you know – You ask after my health – for some time past I have been as everyone says, *looking* very well And at the same time I have been feeling unwell I may have said this before – It has been a sort of prominent condition – It would be more proper to say that I feel old rather ill – brittle rather than weak And that it is a Sense of insecurity that I cannot get rid of – I find too that fatigue overtakes me very soon – And that I have got into a maundering dawdling way which when I am apparently active renders my activity all but a fraud – But there is no use in these generalities – I will give an account of myself and of those who are near me & who influence my actions, by which at least some information may be given –

The death of my poor nephew (great nephew you know) has brought his poor mother & aunt to London – They have taken lodgings near me – And have two nieces anxious that they should return to their former residence with my poor infirm brother – And this my niece has an extreme terror of – She excuses herself by the admitted fact that my brother is not in a condition to derive much if any positive pleasure from any society whatever – His life is one of ~~poor~~ ^all but^ mere insensibility and animal consciousness – he enjoys his food and he is free from pain – now & then he recognises those he sees – And is not without some slight capacity of doing what those he knows, desire him to do – But those who are absent, are as nothing to him – he is easy in his temper, amiable in all his relations of life – And this is a great comfort – his temper is good And he makes no complaint – Could he be persuaded to leave Bury – all would be done that could be required But he is incapable of action – The old familiar faces – to use dear Lambs well known expression are not so much to him as the old familiar places – his Servant Edward is more to him than any of us – When I was at Bury lately, he knew me, but did not seem desirous of conversing with me. I have wasted more words than have been of any use in explaining my situation towards him – because it is the *one* circumstance on which every thing turns To speak of others now:

Since M^{rs} Clarkson's death, nothing has been done as to the settling of the affairs of her grandson – The marriage of Tom has been a source of great trouble to his mother – her husband M^r Dickinson, And M^r Buck the only one of the family who now remains of that generation – M^{rs} D sent you I dare say the obituary paragraph which appeared in the Bury paper And in which he is spoken of in that character – Both he and M^{rs} Dickinson are really excellent persons – but I fear they will not be found to have strength enough to oppose^{te}^e^ effectually the impulses of youth with^t a guide or a restraint ^and aided by the constant

⁵⁹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/37. Letter is framed in black, commemorating the death of Robinson's great-nephew, Henry Robinson (1837-56) of Bury.

presence of a young wife – It is melancholy to see so honour'd a name possessed by One who without being worse than his companions yet has none of the qualities which gave him^s grandfather[^] distinction among the patriots & philanthropists of the age. I have just obtained from M^{rs} D. the minute books of the Society ~~for the Society~~ for the Abolition of the Slave Trade which Thomas Clarkson organised, & himself as it were constituted & renderd efficient. These I shall present to the <--> Trustees of the British Museum for preservation, as ~~an~~ historical document^s. This Service was to have been renderd by Sir Robert Inglis – I shall have a satisfaction in doing it – As the preservation of these books was always a great point with me And was ~~always~~ also required by the Mess^{rs} Wilberforce in the Controversy you will not have forgotten –

5th April

As you do not yourself read the Newspapers you may not perhaps have heard much about Sam Rogers's Table-talk – This is Gossip taken down – An old man tales – The writer is *Dyce* – The Revd Editor of most of the famous Dramatists Shakespeares contemporaries – he is an acute man but he has shewn too great a willingness to put down any thing that might contribute to render the Vol: amusing And therefore more profitable to both publisher and editor – D: is so far an honest man, that he has no doubt been as correct as he could be – he has shewn no desire to caluminate but has not been as careful as he ought – in publishing nothing that could wound the feelings of a party whose peccadillo is thus betrayed – or of relations or defendants who may be hurt at the exposure of a narrow income or want of property in an ancestor The law of a Gentlemans delicacy is much more prohibiting than the penal law of a civil court –

The paintings & other works of fine art belong^s to S: R: will be sold by Auction here very soon – And will sell ~~if he is not the~~ I have no doubt very well – I hear no complaints of his will. ~~as there~~ It is said he has distributed his property among his Cousins & their children all of his own generation being ~~reminded~~ removed. I saw him not long before his death – He was an object, not ^{of} contempt But of compassion. This must have been said by me before The Press have spoken with scandalous illiberality Oh that the World would feel the value of that great truth involved in the fine discrimination “*malignant truth or lyè*”

I heard lately of Miss Fenwick – It seems that she has not materially changed since I saw her – I cannot add to that account It is marvellous how a frame seemingly weak should be so enduring – You have a like instance nearly you No one supposed that Miss Martineau would have survived so long a time I understand that she continues to labour And whenever she does depart we shall I fear have further instances of that disregard of the discrimination before adverted to Perhaps there is no one Virtue more exposed to spurious exhibitions than *Truth* in the form of ostentatious and pharisaic love of truth As Coleridge has said – These are the complements not the inventions of malice

I have not seen Moxon lately – But I shall see him soon I expect – Matthew Arnold is become a member of the Athenaeum I caught a glimpse of him lately – He was looking very happy – indeed in buoyant spirits – The Doctor's ~~spits~~ children have most of them – indeed all of them, done well In this sense too they have done him credit They have followed his Career as an Educator with credit – They have become nearly a family of *School inspectors*. Of the *Twinings*, I have no news to give – The mother is well in health – She is alarmed by her dimness of sight And *your* fate is a source of alarm to her – She like you has a comfort in her family. W T. I seldom see – The ladies are generally at home at the hours of making calls – I shall think myself fortune [sic] if I catch a sight of the Arnolds or any of them when they pass thro' *Southey's* Letters I have lookd over – Some are very pleasing But it is a sad spectacle when a mans family feelings & best affections towards his children are thus made a profit of – Turning Domestic virtues & friendships into Capital –

You ask was I not *startled* by a late marr: An old bachelor does not presume to entertain any sentiment on such a subject – I was more startled I own And to a degree of displeasure at the Sermon preached against his own country And in favor of the enemy – I am sure his honourd father would not have sanctioned scarcely tolerated such a production But more than enough on such a subject – Thank God there is no longer an opportunity to let party-spirit over power – the love of liberty and of country combined. I own peace is good in itself – But I cannot rejoice even at a peace until I know on what terms it has been contracted – And that it does not justify the severe reproof you will well recollect – in words borrowed but wch perfectly expressed the thought of the great poet. Implying the fear that the ministry *might be* men who

judge of danger which they fear
And honour which they *do not understand*

The preacher rather hoped for what the poet deprecated –

I must break off – Indeed I have over written myself

My kindest remembces to your Sons & their families, those I know – To my few remain^g friends the Fletchers &c M^r Carr &c

I hope to make up for past inattention by better conduct in future. M^r Carter will take his share of thanks &c &c

I am ever most affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

Moxon I have not seen lately – I have called repeatedly but he was not at home Indeed I am less of a caller than I used to be

59. HCR, Athenaeum, London, to the Rev. John Miller, [Bockleton], [18 October 1856].⁶⁰

Athenaeum
(actually)
virtually
30 Russell Square

My dear Sir,

I must lose no time in thanking you for your kind compliance with my request – I received the Vols: on Saturday – And to day your friendly letter which I to day acknowl: – I am too well pleased with you for consenting to accept of the little book to be in any danger of forgetting to fulfil my promise of sending it you. As it is not on account of any real worth in the thing that I shall send it you, but because it will do more to make me known to you

⁶⁰ WLL/2000.24.2.11. This letter can be dated from Robinson's entry in his diary on 18 October 1856: 'I also wrote to *J^r Miller*. Confessing that it was I who sent him the Sermons of Robertson 2 vols I thought my letter a very poor one in composⁿ And in no respect good I shall probably soon have an answer – And I am curious rather than anxious abo^t his recognition of my present – I shall revert to the subject again – If Miller like R: it will be a very great proof of excellence on his part –'. Miller will soon respond to Robinson, but not with a favorable impression of Robertson, much to Robinson's dismay (see below, letter 59).

then any thing else – And as I perceive with pleasure that I shall run no danger in so doing I mean to add some M: S: notes which will be real curiosities as revelations of character So that I shall send it by the train, not post office As any M. S. subjects the sender perhaps receives to a penalty – Some time may elapse first but that is of no consequence As this will probably be the last time I ~~may~~ ^shall^ ever allude to the occasion of this letter, that is the character of F: R: and the effect of his writings on differently constituted minds – You will I hope not think me pertinacious when I add that I reced a few days since from M^{rs} Wordsworth thro' M^{rs} Hutchinson the mother of the young clergyman to whom you have proved so kind a friend And therefore she is warm in your praise. I would not therefore give any hint of ~~what had~~ your opinion of these Sermons, but asked her's – of the *Second Vol*: -- the first I had read myself to them – M^{rs} W. answered M^r Carter has read them to me again & again with great satisfaction And they have ~~been~~ ^given^ great delight by many friends to whom I have lent them – Now my dear Sir do not suppose me capable of the impertinence of setting up these ladies or indeed any other ^persons^ as an authority against you on a question of taste or estimate of ability If R: had been admired *only* by Bunsen And the writers with whom you as it were *bracket* him ~~As~~ with characteristic acuteness, ~~that~~ I should never have mentioned him to you – But it was because I remarked that he has been more praised by the self styled Orthodox ~~than by~~ than by the suspected liberals – My main wish was, that you should know that I am capable of admiring & warmly loving the Sermons of a *Church Divine* whom other & numerous warm friends of the Church also love – I thought I should have some credit with you for ~~having~~ ^coming^ so near in approach to what you approve – One of your special hostile remarks I wish to notice; tho' contrary to my original intention – Having lost unhappily your letter I cannot tell whether it applied to *One Sermon* in par[ticu]lar or the Sermons in general – “It seemed his main object to furnish an apology for scepticism” – This is certainly not an unfounded remark But in the sense in which I would understand *Scepticism* – Unhappily the English language wants a word expressive of doubt in a good sense as well as a bad one – I have lived much ~~more~~ with unbelievers & misbelievers and those of little faith – (a euphemy or none at all –) And I venture to say this with confidence That by nothing is unbelief so much promoted And the approach to real faith barred – As by treating reluctant & unwilling doubters as if they were criminals – This is an injustice ~~as~~ so great as to excite indignation and added to the practice of persecution on a great scale, has made more infidels than books of express infidelity – I say this seriously & confidently I could illustrate it by specific facts, which however is needless – It is but justice to Robertson to say that his effect on my mind was what you would call most salutary – Unless indeed ^you^ are one of those *exigents* [sic] who in a threatning tone adopt as their maxim *All or nothing* – which I would not hear your enemy say – uncontradicted –

I say this – purely to relieve my own mind Owing it to Robertson whom I would not injure in the favorable opinion of any one –

I have to beg your pardon for thus violating my own resolution – And I now consider the matter at an end adding my Sorrow that I sho^d have occasioned you the least pain whatever though an act of injudicious good nature –

My best respects to your brother & Sister

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller

60. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to [Mary Wordsworth], [Rydal Mount], 20 October 1856.⁶¹

30 Russell Square
20 Oct. 1856

My dear friend

I have been intending a considerable time to write to you – But I have been kept back by the uncertainty in which I have been as to my own prospects –

Not a sufficient reason perhaps, but I did not like to write not knowing to what place I should wish you to address your answer –

My poor brother still remains in a very doubtful state – his sufferings are great, but those of his daughter in law are still more severe I imagine – The sort of dead despair to which she has been reduced by the loss of her last, only child Henry rendered her incapable of action And perhaps it has been of use to her, the being forced to contemplate other objects of sorrow even terror – She ~~left~~ felt the necessity of being with my brother – at least the great propriety And so she made an effort And went down –

She came up about Eight or Ten days ago to have an oil painting of Henry prepared from a photograph likeness – And during her absence my poor brother had an attack more severe & violent than he had ever had before And this it was thought would be the last as it was the severest of his sufferings – Sarah went down – Miss H: expressly desired that I should not go down during the conflict – I could do no good – And sho^d be in the way – My brother required restraint from the state of frenzy he was in – Sarah wrote to me on her arrival – The Doctors were in constant attendance And they declared they had seen nothing like it From this attack too he has recoverd – Even his memory has improved to a degree he knows those who are with him – It is the affections which make the man And dear Sarah has had some little enjoyment to set off against great pain – From the first I placed myself at her disposal And now she wishes me to go down which I believe I shall do on Wednesday or Thursday – My address at Bury S^t Edmunds is very simple I am known there by my Christian names – alone –

You sympathise so kindly with every sort of sorrow that I make no apology for adding a new topic of sadness to those that environ you – As Miss Fenwick said last year – “*No other topic could be felt by me*”

This is another melancholy topic – For her life – I have not heard of her death – is surely not matter for rejoicing –

Of *you* on the contrary I hear nothing but what is delightful to every thoughtful and considerate person – You can say and I dare affirm, do say as M^{rs} Barbauld did nearly fifty years – I am not at all impatient but quite ready – These were her words to me when I took leave of her going to Paris – not thinking that it was a real leave taking – M^{rs} Plumptre and M^r Madge both speak of you in the same language of cheerful admiration – I have no doubt that I shall have an opportunity of saying the same on my own observation I have not yet seen any of the Twinings – or the Cooksons but I hope to do so soon

Vain as all earthly praise is; yet one has a right to rejoice when one sees that the high mental & moral supremacy of the author of the excursion is acknowledged every day more unequivocally – This is that happy praise that operates as an encouragement to & a premium on all virtuous & honourable striving after real glory

⁶¹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/38. Robinson writes in his diary on 20 October 1856: ‘I kept within the district before dinner – And I wrote a rather long letter to M^{rs} Wordsworth –giving an acco^t of myself not flattering to myself –’

On my return from my hasty trip to the Continent I saw at our club – A simple Volume – a new biography of W: W: by *Edwin Paxton Hood* – His admir^a his veneration are both sincere & genuine It ought to have been entitled A Review of the Poetical Character of W. W. As to have had a title that ^might^ distinguish him from a biographer – Perhaps the Publisher insisted on the present title I have been running it over with my eye – The will is better than the faculty – And it is good enough to make the lovers of W. W. regret that it is not better – he cannot be of the family of Tom Hood – The comic punster but at the same time the author of the *Bridge of Sighs* And the *Song of the Shirt*! A man of indisputable genius shewn justly in these two admirable pieces –

But of *this* Hood I never heard before –

You are already aware that I did not despair of paying you a short visit – As I still hope to do – not *this* year but still – I have not given up the tho^t

I wanted to take leave of German friends – my niece wished me to find companions – And in that I was successful During my trip I was very little alone And I was never where in case of an accident I sho^d not have been recognized And notice sent – Besides I was scarcely ever but with personal friends & acquaintance – The journey was rapid I was absent but 17 days – including a visit to my principal friends at *Bonn* – *Frankfurt* – *Heidelberg* –

At Aix I fell in with Miss *Patteson* – Daughter of a retired judge And great niece of the poet *Coleridge* – She spoke with personal attachment of M^{rs} *Henry Coleridge* – I made in her a <-> valuable acquaintance – I saw the judge too: my friend *Paynter* was at *Aix* for his health I returned with him – And I was seldom alone Crossing the water homewards I had seventeen acquaintce on board the steam boat – But among them none of your friends./–

I have also made short visits in the country so that tho' you were not included – you were not forgotten – for wherever I went, you were enquired after – Never did I experience so many losses – Such numerous deductions from social comfort as during this year – The only *near* relation who survives with whom I have been in the habit of exchanging thoughts & sentiments is the brother I have spoken of – His daughter in law is nearer to me in affection than any of the actual family –

Not long ago I was startled by the appearance of your Son William – who as you know has taken his sweet wife to Brighton Alas! This is a sweetness that one cannot relish – He bears his sense of her delicacy And proneness to disease in his own anxious face – I shall rejoice to hear that she derives substantial benefit from the change of air – This is a painful subject too – One is driven to such themes because one wants positive subjects in which one can delight

I had a letter from M^{rs} *Fletcher* lately expressing a wish to introduce to me a ~~gran~~ Son of M^{rs} *Kendal* who is come to make his way in London I thought he would have called on me before this time but I have not yet seen him – I was surprised by M^{rs} *Fletcher* written [sic] in so firm a hand and in [a] hand and firm a spirit – I shall rejoice to see her again, as she still is – She is the most remarkable person – that is, out of the common, in so many respects – I know now living of her generation

I should add that at Aix I fell in with M^{rs} *Dusautory* (Sister of that charming person M^{rs} *Derwent Coleridge* –) She recognised me and we had an agreeable chat together – I saw her husband too apparently a pleasing person –

Of public events – I dare not speak – You do not venture on so dreary & thorny a subject – A word only –

The Republicans of the new states are running headlong into every kind of villainy – Such depravity mixed with such imprudent pretence to the love of liberty is unexampled – The less guilty set – those who do not hold slaves themselves are so base & servile that they covertly encourage what they pretend to oppose – And will I have no doubt suffer themselves to be shamefully beaten – They are but half as earnest – The worshippers of *Mammon* will always suffer themselves to be beaten by the worshippers of *Moloch* – There is a

fierce grandeur in the sterner Devils – *Beelzebub* & *Satan* are respectable compared with Belial
This is the worst feature of modern life – Remembrance due to your neighbours – M^{rs}
Hutchison M^{rs} Arnold, M^{rs} Davy Miss Quillinan M^{rs} Rutledge – M^{rs} Harrison – I take no
notice of males – except M^r *Carr* & M^r *Carter* who have no female to represent them –
Ever affectionately your's
[no signature]

Lady Richardson I hear has had her troubles – This I learn from the *Bootts* here – I shall try
to see the Twinings soon

**61. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, [Bockleton], 22
November 1856.**⁶²

Rev^d John Miller

London
30 Russell Square
22 Nov: 1856

My dear Sir,

On my return a few days since after a month's absence I was met by far the most
acceptable of your late communications; It served to soften in some measure the painful
impression made by the former – The *letter* had been forwarded to me, but not immediately
owing to a misconception of my directions, but I had no intimation of the *book* – Otherwise
I could not have remained so long without acknowledging the compliment implied in
sending it – An admission of the possibility that an admirer of M^r R: might yet not be
unworthy to read a composition of your's

This is something And I thank you for it – But as to the letter itself I was not anxious
to answer it immediately I do not recollect when my vanity ever received so severe a blow –

25th Nov:

I had proceeded thus far when my progress was stopped by an incident of frequent
and always annoying occurrence – I thought your letter was at my elbow and I could not find
it nor have I been able to find it since – I am sure to find it one day – but I can delay no
longer Indeed I was about writing yesterday but I was again interrupted by a most perplexing
event – not concerning myself or any friend of the first degree of intimacy – but still one of
great importance by which a fortune of more than 200,000 pounds will probably be thrown

⁶² WLL/2000.24.2.8. Robinson writes in his diary on 22 November 1856: 'I began a letter to *Miller*
after much consideration, but could not proceed having lost his letter This a great annoyance to me
– It destroys my whole plan –'. On the 25th he returns to the letter, expecting his correspondence
with Miller to come to an end with this letter (it will not): '... after breakfast I set abo^t my letter to J.
Miller – The main point being that as he found every fault with the Sermons and looked on them
as a compression of bad doctrine in a bad sty[l]e An accumulation of wildnesses & extravagances I
wrote that this be^s the case I hope he would return me the Vols – A man present^s the statue of a
friend And expect^s to see it the ornament of a museum, would be horrified at seeing it set up as a
scarecrow – M treated these Vols as scarecrows – I beg them back – This I pressed in a long letter I
doubt the result – But I have for the present got rid of a disagreeable subject – It will very likely put
an end to our correspondence – There is no use in keeping it up –'

into litigation by no fault but the mere accident of untimely deaths I hardly know why I write this – Since I cannot explain it – I may hereafter – “*Fact is more strange than fiction*”

Now to recur to your letter, I cannot better intimate the effect it produced on me than by asking you to imagine that you had presented a statue of a dear friend which you expected to see stationed as the ornament of a museum and find it set up in the garden as a scare-crow!!! Even tho' you should find by the change of place produce a change in your own impression of its beauty, you would still have but one anxious wish—And that is to have it removed from its disgraceful place And returned to you – That is my most earnest request now – I beg you to send me these vols: back They cannot possibly give you any pleasure – They contain you say a *few* passages with which you sympathise “like Angel visits few and far between” *Your* quotation not mine – I do not suppose that any two ~~Sermons~~ Vols: could be found without such passages. Even the egregious hero of the Musick Hall Surrey Gardens W— B— must have such – And every other “popular preacher” must have the same – I blush for my folly in having drawn on the honoured memory of my friend this ignominious denomination concerning which I certainly feel as you do –

Yet there is no imputation to be cast on you, for giving it – It is all my doing – And I beg you will understand that I do not mean to say one word in vindication *objectively* of these Sermons either as to style or matter – His eloquence may be a “hubbub of vows” – His diffuseness may be “verbiage” he may betray *arrogance – vanity – disregard* of “authority” – the “judgement of ages” &c &c &c And the more you are convinced ^of all these bad qualities^ the less reluctant ~~unwilling~~ you must be to comply with my request You have suggested tho' in language somewhat jocular ~~that~~ yet I cannot have any doubt in the main with somewhat of truth – that the only use to which you can put the book ^is^ that it will serve as a “compendium” – or “concentration” I cannot tell which is the word – of all the “extravagances” “wildnesses” – &c of And then follow the names living and dead (about half a dozen) of those theologians who are the objects of your especial dislike as well as writers unprofessional but who yet have incurred your disfavour And you intimate that you have already shewn these Vols: in this spirit to some of your intelligent friends

Now I am not going to defend my friend against all ^or any of^ these charges – Could I indeed console myself by falling back on this assurance that it is my judgement which is right and *yours all wrong* which I cannot honestly do – Still I should feel myself equally to blame. I should ^but^ <-> shift the character of my fault – I ought not to have put these writings into the hands of one whose idiosyncrasies would lead him to despise what others honour. Whichever alternative I take I must be to blame – I ought to have known you better And not affronted you by supposing you capable of deriving pleasure from any thing so very bad.

In speculating concerning the anonymous Sender one of the difficulties in the way lay in the impossibility of supposing that *he* could have any knowledge of *you* – This is not without foundation certainly – Tho' I dare not attempt a justification of my friend lest I make bad worse – I will merely say this in apology for myself subjectively; that is accounting for my mistake which originated in part of my character It ~~is~~ ^has^ always been my habit to recollect what I liked And forget what I disliked – So that I rashly praised gently and too unqualifiedly what I loved And ^when^ I was pressed by palpable & indisputable ~~blemishes~~ ~~I was sneered~~ blemishes I was sneered at for my honest confession – “*I had not noticed it*”

Secondly – What I love myself I am most anxious that all ^those^ I esteem should love also – Considering love & enjoyment as the same – This led me to be a sort of martyr – I incurred the martyrdom of ridicule in the cause of Wordsworth, but have been amply rewarded by witnessing ^in old age^ the triumph~~ant~~ of his poetical school. Robertson delivered two lectures on Wordsworth at Brighton – One, I sent to M^{rs} W. who was much pleased with it Indeed it was ^his^ warm attachm^t to Ws poetry which wore on me at first – I am rambling sadly but on this head I meant to say that I sent you the Vols ~~you~~

thou[gh]tlessly and foolishly I own but it was in consequence of the singular enjoyment I had just derived from one or two Sermons ^And which I expected you might enjoy^ – I apologised ^on reflection^ for so doing – You say – it is not an act that requires an apology – I think it does when a layman sends to an esteemed master of an art – a work in that art – he arrogates to himself a power of judging – And how dangerous that is the ^event^ shews – I am glad I did apologise before I knew how the Sermons had in fact impressed you – And tho' you protest that you had no cause of offence in the sending – And I have perfect confidence in your veracity yet I am led to think I must ^at least^ have written what unwillingly gave offence in making known they came from me. And I can only be convinced that your forgiveness is cordial by granting my request in sending them back to me –

I have read your Sermon attentively – but sent as it was – avowedly – to be compared or contrasted rather, with one or more of R's Or with reference to style to shew how otherwise R ought to have written – I really think it will be safer for me to content myself with the acknowledgement I have already made –

One remark only I make <-> Every writer writes not says Dr Johnson for every Reader Nor does every preacher – indeed I may say any preacher – in these days preach for every hearer –

R: would have supplied fewer materials for an unfavourable contrast in his style, if he had addressed the University of Oxford – And especially its pupils in the style they were led to expect of logical precision – The necessity of adjusting a discourse to the wants of the congregation & its special members constitutes one of the main difficulties attending the pastoral office

The ritual Service of the Sacerdotal office on the contrary – but I am again falling into the sad error of going beyond the bounds of the occasion/ --

I beg my best respects to those of the members of your family who are still willing to bear me in their friendly recollection or confer on me their good wishes –

I am sincerely & respectfully
your's

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller –

P.S. I forget whether I have yet apologised for a sad feature in my letters which must ~~grow~~ become larger & more frequent in them – the number of interlineations, erasures &c &c – This is another of the infirmities by which my old age is assailed were I to begin again every letter so deformed, I could never finish – A copy from necessity would be worse than the original –

62. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 20 April 1857.⁶³

30 Russell Square W. C.
20th April 1857

My dear friend

I ought to have written to you long ago in answer to your last kind letter in which thro' M^r Carter you express your sense of my great loss in *Peto*. Indeed it has affected all my

⁶³ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/39. Robinson writes in his diary on 20 April 1857: 'I also wrote to dear M^{rs} Wordsworth, but cod not complete the letter – It is still to go – But is not worth sending.'

proceedings ever since Or rather it has caused a suspension of my now ~~being~~ becoming customary visits from friends, Which I never ventured on before And am afraid to begin again – I have no right to complain of *their* successors – I say *their* – for ^{M^{rs}} Peto could not possibly remain alone after her husbands death. The *Blane's* may be for ought ^{I know} quite as good as the Peto's – but they cannot be [the] same to me – However I believe I am well off as it is – They are not quite as young as I could wish – but they are young enough for me, if not for my house mates –

I found the House keeper suffering from contusions she received by the Crush at *Spurgeon's* temporary Chapel, the Music ~~Gar~~ Hall of the Surrey Gardens I asked the man how he liked Spurgeon – Oh Sir! it's hard to say – He is very pathetic & solemn And then in the midst of it, he comes out with such odd expressions – that you can hardly help laughing – *Sir James Stephen* (whose Son wrote wrote [sic] that capital paper in the National Rev:) had said the same – And thinks he will do much good, in stirring up the inert consciences of his hearers –

The Roman Cath: Church have always encouraged such preachers with their usual address – Did they nothing worse, one would gladly forgive them In the article referred to his merit is not deemed little as the Calvinistic school is tolerated by the Romanists or Anglican High Church or the Broad Church to which Sir James adheres – I am too old now to venture into Crowds – In the temper & spirit which induces a man to run risques rather than lose a high enjoyment in hearing or reading the sermons of our first rate pulpit orators – ~~The~~ I am very defective –

But as already said I am comparatively indifferent ~~into~~ to all *Speculative* creeds only I would not press the Consciences of any self-styled Orthodox by what they consider as Heretical In every Community there must be those of the lax & strict observance – And they all admit of similar controversies – You would hardly think that there has been even among the Unitarians an attempt to bind the individual members by formal creeds – And I am but just returned from a journey to Manchester to protect the two chiefs of our Professors from the consequences of a religious panick – However the end was answerd And I enjoyed my trip –

The world is in a maze just now of religious disputation – The Church finds that formal creeds effect little in the way of securing a uniformity of faith – And every where the most powerful preachers are those who excite the most apprehension – I shall rejoice if I find that *Matthew Arnold* succeeds in his election as Poetry Professor at Oxford If he fails, it will be that he has not been able to repress the envy & consequent ill will which splendid talents like his excite – When ~~next~~ not exhibited to the world with studied forbearance – Or it may be, after all, an affair of college interest – College parties run high in both Oxford & Cambridge –

My friend Rolleston whose brother you know says that Oxford has a party of liberals, quite as marked as Cambridge –

I had great pleasure from Miss Dowling's call on me – She will in the decline of life enjoy the reward of her faithful & affectionate attendance on her brother in law – She gave me a good account of your spirits – As well as of M^{rs} Fletcher's continued vivacity – But I hear that one of M^{rs} Davy's daughter's gave occasion to alarm – My own losses by death removals &c have been very numerous lately – And I am aware that I am myself rapidly declining not so much in activity as in the power of continuous correct thoughts I cannot possibly write without making many mistakes, which ^{require} corrections by obliteration or interlineation – My niece is come to town to be with her Sister who is submitted to a mesmeric process in which she herself has no faith – The worst state of things possible – I have been interrupted in writing And find I have lost the Post after all – I saw M^{rs} William [Wordsworth, Jr.] when she was here – She is a very amiable person ~~after~~ were but her health of body equal to the health of her mind – She is a very amiable person

Your eldest Son called on me with his wife – but I did not see her – So she is still a stranger – I should have probably seen her but for the sad incident which has disturbed all my plans And made me feel very dependant on the active kindness or friendly forbearance of my friends –

I was sorry to hear of the alarm into which M^{rs} Davy has been thrown by the illness of her youngest daughter

Remember me to my friends already named And to others not yet; I trust nothing will arise to oppose my determination to visit Rydal during the Summer – It might be something both serious and disagreeable

I have on my hands what will be a trouble to me, but ought not to occupy much time – Settle my brother's residence at Bury – his landlords death will oblige him to quit at Mich^{as} unless he can buy the house – Or rather I can buy it for him – For he has no power of acting for himself, poor man!

Nevertheless he is not unhappy he is not aware of his infirmity his loss of memory renders him incompetent to every thing –

But this I have said too frequently M^r Carter & M^{rs} Hutchinson are in their old places I hope To them and the others my best remembces

Ever affectionately your's

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

You know of course that the second of the *Minters* is dead Only one remains – *John* a great friend to your nephew And I dare say an excellent man

63. HCR, Bury St. Edmunds, to the Rev. John Miller, [Bockleton], 3 September 1857.⁶⁴

Bury St Edmunds
3^d Sept^r 1857./ –

My dear Sir,

It will give you pleasure, I have no doubt, to read that on a recent visit to Rydal I found dear M^{rs} Wordsworth all I could wish and more than I could hope – It would seem burlesque to refer in speaking of a blind old woman of 88 to such an image as – the *phantom of delight* Yet the weightier couplet

A perfect woman, nobly planned
To warn, to comfort and command

may still be brought to one's mind –

In her extreme old age she has attained an age not contemplated in those three stanzas to which I have referred And exhibits a phase of existence worthy to be the sequel of those – I spent nearly a week with her – during my stay I had frequent walks with her on the well known terrace And read to her from her husbands poems – The reading in which she most delights –

⁶⁴ WLL/2000.24.2.8.

During this stay I never heard a syllable of regret pass her lips – She is the beau ideal of resignation – I probably related to you an anecdote – It is said that at the very last ~~hour~~ moment of *his* life She was heard to whisper in his ear – *You are going to Dora*. We may be sure therefore that in her calm submission she never forgets that she is going to William

The faithful James is still at Rydal And will not leave his mistress – She had her choice between her Carriage or him – And she retains him she enjoys the perfect health of an Octogenarian

Not far from Rydal resides M^{rs} Hutchinson and her daughters – They all speak of you with gratitude and affection as the friend and patron of their Son and brother – the clergyman – And are expecting from his Northern Mission the other brother

The chief changes I remark in this district are made by death – Those who depart have successors, but in the nature of things, these must be for the present at least, inferiors, whatever they may become hereafter. The most remarkable of the residents is M^{rs} Fletcher, whose husband was Anno 1794 one of the legal defenders at Edinburg of the famous Scotch victims of judicial oppression – Muir and Palmer &c &c to whose memory Columns have lately been erected, poor compensation for exile to the Antipodes – their crime being the recommendation of that act which has been imperfectly performed in a parliamentary reform – Its imperfection being acknowledged by the ministerial announcement of a further instalment My only fear is lest the balance be now inclined too much on the other side – M^{rs} Fletcher [is] older than M^{rs} W: has been eulogised by Lord Brougham with his characteristic force And after years of comparative poverty & threatened with *want*, because the leader of Edinburg ~~Society~~ literary society – but in the time of *Jeffery's* triumph, was the almost single avowed admirer of the lyrical ballads – She exhibits the remains of great personal beauty resembling M^{rs} Barbauld in whose house I saw her sixty years since. There too is the widow of *D' Arnold* – She scarcely belong[s] to the same *age* – yet she has a son known as the author of a military novel of which the Scene is in India He is at the head of the Educational Establishment, in the Punjab – And M^{rs} A. read ~~to me~~ a letter written to me early in the Spring, before any awkward Symptom was exhibited of the Catastrophe that has since burst out in which however his apprehensions are clearly announced – And now assume the character of prophecy – Subsequent letters from him shew that he is aware of the full extent of the peril tho' it has not yet reached the district in which he lives –

No calamity so vast was ever brought to our notice – not in the Gazette of the day merely but even in the history of the past, at least I can call to mind none of equal malignity, without any redeeming quality – The horrors of the reign of terror and attending the earlier periods of the French Revolution may have been equally revolting to the Imagination. But these were accompanied by magnanimous aspirations & met by heroic resistance – Here we can see nothing but the brutal impulses of a half <—> savage race who are striving to ~~re-call~~ sustain a ferocious superstition Their effort is to preclude a future civilization And the only defence which the objects of this insane attack venture to make, is – That they never attempted to do what it was their duty to do – in another way certainly – And if we succeed in subduing the insurgents, it will not be because ~~their~~ ^our^ own cause is a holy one, Or that of their ~~foes~~ enemy a mere brutal struggle of barbarism against the spirit of civilisation – but merely on account of the disproportion of physical power –

During the successive campaigns of the French Revolution wars, there was not One without its lesson – few have learned it I fear – But what is to be learned in this forthcoming conflict In the mean while how extreme the peril – we are of necessity throwing ourselves at the feet of France, relying on the Fidelity – of Louis Napoleon, of Alexander, of Francis, &c &c &c – Can we contemplate such a prospect without Alarm?

Before I went to the north, I spent a few days at Manchester – And since, I attended the Archaeologists at their assembly this year at *Normich* from whence I came to my native town – whence I write – Here I expect to remain a few weeks – London seemed deserted –

at least by all those in whose society I delight – At *my* age however on all sides I hear of the departure of old friends – And you, I know, have experienced the like – Such is our condition It is consolatory to think of a distant friend, tho' the thought is not enlivened by a personal recollection

I am dear Sir sincerely yours
H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller./ –

64. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 4 September 1857.⁶⁵

Bury S^t Edmunds
4th Sept^r 1857.

My dear friend

I ought to have written to you before – not to assure you of my safe arrival – for that custom arising from distrust and apprehension has become obsolete – but to tell you that I feel as I have ever done your late hospitality and kindness And that I rejoiced to find you in so charming a state of repose under privations which to a mind less disciplined than yours, would render your latter years those of repining and discontent In you there has not been – there never will be any thing of the kind. You have a mind and a heart open to receive all the good that presents itself and you can in the mean while, supply the ~~want~~ of deficiencies that still remain –

I left you in the expectation of a great pleasure which was immediately to succeed my departure And I have no doubt that your expectations have been fully realised – But I can only imagine what I cannot require any of your friends now with you to communicate in detail

Your's is a uniform life – I will not say a monotonous one, for that is an expression & depreciation which no one will apply to a life of which the greater portion is *internal* whatever want of variety there may be in circumstances which must be *external*, this is more than supplied by the inexhaustible fund for reflection which you enjoy – Those who have not so large a portion of this internal food will, as I do, strive to make up for this, by continuing, beyond the ordinary period, their journies – This I have now been doing – And it may <--> amuse you for a quarter of an hour to hear of my late occupations

On Tuesday the 18th I was left by the Train for several hours at Kendal – This was not of necessity, but I preferred waiting here for the Express which would be in advance of the slower train – Here was formerly a family with which I was well acquainted And some of whom you probably slightly knew – The Thompsons, now reduced to a single daughter bed-ridden & probably not ever to rise from it a niece was in attendance on her – A sensible young woman – daughter of D^r Thompson formerly of Halifax. A physician of considerable repute M^{rs} Broome is the wife of a rising barrister Miss T. sent a kind message to me which I believe came from the heart – I did not chuse to *steam* in the dark – So I slept at the R: R. Station inn at *Crew* – The exterior smart – The interior desolate But I had a fund within for thought, serious, not melancholy –

⁶⁵ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/40. Robinson writes in his diary on 4 September 1857: 'I have ... written three letters One to M^{rs} W: inform^g her of my goings on since I left Rydal – Another to Paynter on the events of the day – And to Blane desir^g letters to be sent.'

I reached Russell Square on the Wednesday in time for an early tea dinner – unexpected but not unprepared for – I could not but be struck by the comparatively few letters that ~~might~~ met me – I had scarcely a friend left in London so that I did not find the five days I staid there insufficient for the few matters of business I had to dispatch – Of business the chief was to have my Ankle surveyed & prescribed for by an eminent Surgeon – The result has been that I have had not fewer than five potent remedies applied to the cure of an insignificant malady, the consequence of *varicose* veins – ~~And~~ ^But they have proved^ entirely inoperative

On Monday the 24th I went by Rail to attend a meeting of *Antiquaries* who as members of the Archeological Association assembled under the Presidency of Lord Albermarle Here I spent five days – including excursions to the more famous antiquities in the neighbourhood – I forgot to name *Normich* – a City which was the place where I was most favorably known when I practised at the bar. But I had scarcely an acquaintance left Since I had left my practice there 29 years! Ten years ago indeed I accompanied a rival body of Antiquaries And on that occasion I enjoyed the friendly notice of Bishop Stanley and M^{rs} Stanley whose acquaintce I made Anno 1828 in the mountains of the Pyrenees when he was a Cheshire Parish priest This acquaintce was improved by the friendship that was formed between the Stanleys & the Arnolds as you may hear better from Fox How than from me I noticed the unfriendly feel^s towards the bishop then who had too little of the prelate to please a large class of the clergy – but which dislike the bishop by the sweetness of his nature lived down – He is spoken of with great kindness – While the late ^Hon'd^ bishop does not enjoy the like favour – he was compelled by ill health to resign an office he ought not to have assumed I knew also bishop *Bathurst* – a character – Who almost caricatured liberality he lived to a great age nearly 100 Some forty years ago at the rising of a balloon ^in a public garden^ he for half an hour walked supported by me & a well known Catholic of the City And I suspect he wished the fact to be noticed – If this were a fault – It is not infectious –

On the 29th I came to Bury And fell in with *Tom Clarkson* Tom the third who has more of the father than of the Grandfather in him – He is however settled in the Hall where we saw our dear departed friend on your last visit

Here I expect to remain for about a month longer My brother is as comfortable – being entirely from bodily pain – as I could expect – And enjoying a good digestion and appetite – My niece too is improving in her health – She is unremitted in her attentions to her Sister who indeed lost her own health in like attentions to her & her Child – I have not seen *Dr Boott* the friend of the Fletchers & Davys – This you may inform M^{rs} T – The D^r was in the Country, nor did I fall in with any of your friends there – Sho^d you be writing to your Son William – he sho^d be told not to use his time in calling in Russ: Square. I suppose your grandson W: and M^r Carter are with you, One of whom will probably be your reader

My best remembces to them To M^{rs} Hutchinson & her dauers the Arnolds Fletchers &c &c From *some* one I hope to hear of your contin^d good health – Ever Affectionately yours
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth. Rydal Mount

65. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to the Rev. John Miller, [Bockleton], 12 January 1858.⁶⁶

30 Russell Squ:
12th Jan 1858

My dear Sir,

I should not have allowed so long a time to elapse before I answerd your interesting letter relating the history of your weeks journey to the north, full of feeling and exhibiting your love of local beauty, if I had had any thing of a like kind to give a like pleasure –

You had the neutral ground of a delightful country, the greater part of which was known to your correspondent – Who had an image raised in his mind by every proper name alone – sufficient to give the power of eloquence ~~by~~ to a word – And who had the knowledge & taste to make his selection and combination.

Since the Autumn I have been in London but a change has come over me – Or rather is passing over me, which has been a source of trouble and anxiety by making me feel the approach of old age in the form of debility rather than acute disease – And is now obliging me to change many of the habits of my life I unwillingly take to the frequent use of the Omnibus – and the Cab, of which I feel half ashamed And resisted the practice as if it caused the necessity. In the mean while, desirous to forget one's self and look around for the ["old familiar faces" one meets with chasms where there should be images – And the once populous street is changed to a cemetary [sic] – in one's memory while the actual cemetary does not gratify the heart as it should, in its plastic memorial –

I have not seen the recumbent figure in Crossthwaite Church, and probably never shall And when memorial windows become Church-wardens artifices to secure the payment of a debt that ought not to be incurred, I shun the inspection. You are aware probably that the placing of the Wordsworth Monument has given great disgust to a large proportion of the most zealous promoters of the subscription One fact I cannot withhold – tho' it has only been brought to my recollection by an involuntary association of ideas with the word monument – The Queen gave £50 on condition that the monum^t to W. W. should be placed in the Abbey – Nevertheless the Dean & Chapter exacted the full fee, as if the party represented had been a calico printer or India nabob – The precise sum I cannot now remember but it was several hundred pounds – While the fee was remitted to those who place[d] *Campbells* monument I suppose in recognition of his higher merit!!! This is not all – but I have said more than enough. I should like to know your opinion of the *new edition* Your friend M^r Johnson has had the advantage of connecting his own name honourably with that of the poet as Editor. It is from him I have derived my *idea* of your personal good humour, aided by your playful & pleasant verses and unmalignant sarcasm – speaking of verses reminds me that your criticism on the Sonnet on Night is an evidence of your sagacity in all respects – Well might there be

Fortunately, waiting till the ink was dry has given me leisure to recollection that I was going to repeat the information already given I have not said already what is but in part agreed to read – that I saw lately *Will*: Wordsworth, going to see his *consumptive* beautiful wife; He seems to have caught her <--> malady – Do not repeat this – On the other hand *Will*: *the third* – Grandson of the Conqueror of the Laureate. Canon is I trust destined to a life if not of glory yet of happiness he is at Oxford & I believe will go into the Church His father you are aware has married a third wife – Irish by birth and buxom in form – His only daughter has married a clergyman Since your letter, the war has taken a turn less disastrous than one

⁶⁶ WLL/2000.24.2.9. Robinson writes in his diary on 12 January 1858: 'I also wrote to *John Miller*, the clergyman but I suspect I write ill And partook of the restraint I saw in his letter ...'

feared & might well expect – And the Church was thought to have been given over to Lord Shaftesbury as the proposer of the bishops – but it is now whispered that the patronage is supposed to have slipped out of his hands –

But these are ungenial topics

In haste for the post wait

I beg my best regards to Miss Miller

Very truly your's

H. C. Robinson

Rev^d John Miller.

66. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 5 March [18]58].⁶⁷

30 Russell Square

5. Mar: 58. W.C.

My dear friend

When there are no fixed times for writing even to a friend with whom one longs to enter into mental conversation, one can not do better than avail one's self of a remarkable incident which may interest both correspondents and particularise the occasion of taking up the pen

One of these occurred yesterday, when I called on your excellent friend Lady Cranworth – And her husband the Ex-Lord Chancellor who had only a few days before, surrendered the Seals which were afterwards given to the newly created Lord Chelmsford – (To me what an ignoble title this appears) for the little Essex Town is about as ordinary a thorough fare as can be imagined – Kendal with its *Green* shifts And double aisled Church is romantic in comparison –

Lord & Lady C: were full of their enquiries for when your Son John lately called, no one was at home – My call was honestly one of congratulation tho' hardly courteous to say as much – Since fitness for the high office is thought to be the all sufficient ingredient for content in it.

They were, if not in high spirits, quite in good spirits – And yet do not seem bouyed up by the thought, that the new ministry are not destined to remain long in office – To the public it is of little moment, for where the ministry are forced to adopt popular opinions, there is scarcely any room for the ancient division of parties – And as you know already too well – the demands on the great Church's patron, that is, in it's secular bearings, are so – disproportionate to its means, that the Chancellors friends have little cause to lament the change –

I had lately a very pleasant letter from M^{rs} Dickinson – also full of enquiries, She and her hus'b[and] have found a temporary field for his pastoral duties near Norwich She without being rich is not unprovided for And she has more comfort – and much more hope than others thought possible in her Son's wife –

“All things are less dreadful than they seem”

⁶⁷ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/41. Robinson does not mention this letter on 5 March but on 8 March 1858 he writes: 'In the forenoon I finished my letter to M^{rs} Wordsworth – containing little to give her pleasure or amuse her.'

And Tom's character is certainly turning out very favorably The wife too, notwithstanding low birth & disreputable connections displays superior qualities And can do more for a husband not easy to manage than a *gentlewoman* could – He called on me lately when his manner & tone were very good⁶⁸ From M^r John W: I heard accounts not entirely as one would wish but of his daurs ~~husband only~~ *spec*: in life he has reason to be grateful for all that is good in it – And that was the spirit of all he said – I did not hear from him that any decisive change for the better had taken place with M^{rs} William. She is a sweet creature And one cannot help lamenting what so frequently happens that the most elegant ~~frequently~~ is the most fragile flower. I hope this will never be applied to your grandson *William the third* I hope to see him in London before this time He appears to have much pleased Lady Cranworth –

I was glad of an opportunity of bringing together as perhaps he may have told you, your son J. W. with D. Coleridge & Strickland Cookson – And one morning when your Son had been breakfasting with us the Second Grandson of Lord Byron ^stepped in^ & he has a strange appearance. The only one of the last generation of poets' Sons whom he resembles is *Hartley Coleridge*. M^r King I have no doubt occasions the like remark in his grandmother, which I have heard M^r W: repeatedly says *his* mother made concerning him – He will be *no common boy* – How it will turn out I dare not predict – If *Ralph's* career be at all similar Lady B:s best affections will be gratified – I shall dine with her on Sunday And then for the first time see together her three grandchildren Lord Ockham, Ralph King & Lady Arabella She seems far superior to the other two grandchildren Lady Cranworth introduced her to court – She is a general favorite – L^d Ockham has got into scrapes – but there is ground for hope

8th On Friday I was too late for the post. And on Saturday, having a blank page And nothing now to communicate I postponed putting this into the post – But I must delay no longer – I saw M^r *Cookson* yesterday – We frequently see each other – ~~Being~~ Having here many acquaintance in common – now that M^r Twining is gone and Moxon – very few remain. From D^r Boott I hear of the Children of M^{rs} *Fletcher* – ~~And I catch a glimpse once in a Season of Matt: Arnold – But he is lofty – And requires more courting than I am supple enough to administer But he is very friendly when roused –~~

I rejoice to hear of the accession to their fortune of the Miss Quillinans – This M^r Cookson tells me of – They will now fill their proper station in society – A suitable companion only is wanting to place them quite right – You care little for politics except in its bearing on your social relations – From what I hear, your new bishop will not improve your relations, tho this affects more your Son W: then any other of your connections. *Villiers* was a popular rector here – that is with a *low* set in the Church but the severer and quieter class will have been pleased with the change – I speak however from without – that is outside the fold – And might not to repeat what I cannot appreciate –

I took a tea dinner yesterday with Lady Byron – She asked after you with her usual friendly feeling – Her second grandson had been sent for by his father – This severe weather seems to agree with her better than milder – She occupies herself in trying to do good –

But paper fails me: M^r Carter will read you this probably And to him & all friends I beg my best regards Ever affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth Rydal Mount

⁶⁸ Robinson adds this note in his entry on 5 March 1858: 'I had an agreea[ble] task in writing to M^{rs} Dickinson near Norw: in ans^r to a former letter giving me a favorable acco^t of Tom &c & hopes of his after all not be^g unworthy his name.'

67. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 3 August [1858].⁶⁹

London
30 Russell Square W. C.
Tuesday 3^d August –

My very dear friend,

As you are aware that it was not my intention to go immediately home, you will have kindly interpreted the delay in my announcing my return – During this my last visit I was so impressed by your personal kindness to me, as well as by your calm equanimity and endurance under your trials that the writing to you in acknowledgement of the enjoyment that visit has afforded, has never been at a distance from my mind, even when present objects required my present attention—

My *history* as I am accustomed in self derision to call those notes of external incident, has been without any eventful occurrence since I left the Mount – Nor have I seen as many persons as I expected to see before I could hope to render a letter interesting. The time is past since a journey from or to the Metropolis was considered so dangerous an achievement that it required a special acknowledgment on the part of him who had unscathed arrived at the end of his days journey. I can now see the eyes of my mother bright with joy and gladness as they shone to me more than seventy years ago because she could see an *H: R.* marked in a safe spot of our Bury stage coach – Safe I mean from the Ostlers broom – in my brother's hand writing to announce his safe arrival at the Bull Inn Bishopsgate the Evening before – Now the *Iron-path* has had no effect on a Mother's anxious fondness – But has directed her anxiety to other occasions of alarm: Had I not written for a week you could not have thought me devoured by this smoke belching monster the *steam engine*; but ^would have inferred that I^ had been prevented by some accident to be explained

This is my history – as I said before – M^r Wordsworth may have told you that I recounted the box, without a rival to dispute the Coachman's favors – I enjoyed once more your fine scenery tho' my view was to the foot not the head of the several lakes – On the Rail we found the several carriages but indifferently filled

The first class I remark seldom contains more than ladies or old gentlemen with lady like feelings that is, a livelier sense of perils which makes the landing, ^or descending^ a peculiar gratification to travellers of ^that class^

Before arriving at *Lancaster* we took in an elderly gent: who being booked for this famous city I knew must know my old fellow ~~student~~ ^pupil^ at Littledales – His name being *Jⁿ* <-> *Addison* And a robed barrister, being ^now^ a judge (like the younger *Harder*) of one of the small debt courts I thought he might be a kinsman of the Addison of whom M^r Monkhouse used to enquire – but it was not so – He told me however of my old fellow pupil *Bradley* who lives in retirement with a young wife at Slyne 3 m. from the City – So after fixing myself in a comfortable room at the King's Arms I sallied out to see a recent Church built on a hill out of the town to which was attached a Grammar School that has already acquired celebrity from distinguished scholars – This I saw with more satisfaction than I did, the erection near of a still larger Church by the Romanists – Which reminded me of Defoes rude lines, applied to a different class of buildings

Wherever God erects a house of prayer:

⁶⁹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/42. He writes in his diary on 3 August 1858: 'I had before written to M^{rs} Wordsworth.' The next day he orders a pair of Pannus Corium shoes for Mrs Wordsworth (see below, letter 66).

The Devil is sure to have a chapel near
And I have found upon Examination
The ~~Devil~~ latter has the larger congregation

But that stout Non-Con- honest Daniel meant merely a play-house of the two I cannot but think eventually the less alarming to the liberties & rights of men

After my dinner I walked 3 M: to *Slyne* – My old companion was startled at seeing me but the cordiality of his reception assured me that I had done rightly in going to see him – And his young wife – great niece of *Barnes* once Principal or Master of Peter House Camb. I have no doubt has confirmed his hopes of enjoying a green old age – She seems amiable & attached – She was the companion & almost daughter as it were of his first wife I could with difficulty decline his pressing invitation to remove to his house And take a trip over the *Morebay* Sands on a rail And go to *Uherstone* on a pleasure trip returning the same day – I have promised to do it on my next visit to Rydal Mount Bradley drove me back to *Lancaster* shew^s me the fine spots of the vicinity by taking a circuit –

I reached home early enough ^on Saturday^ after dining to call on my friend *Long* a police magistrate thro' whom my acquaintce with Bradley had been preserved

Next day I attended *Madge's* Presbyterian Chapel where I hoped to see Strickland Cookson – He was but one among many absentees – The day was fine & attractive out of doors – The Athenaeum was equally empty – I dined there And called on the widow of *Ed: Kenyon* – on the Miss Allens And on *Mrs Bogue* successively And so passed the afternoon in social enjoyment – I meant to write yesterday to you, but ~~letters~~ ^business^ less agreeable but more pressing required immediate attention I called in the forenoon at *Strickland Cookson's* – but there ~~was an~~ ^were others in^ attendance ~~in~~ waiting, besides men of business who had his ear – So I left a verbal message with his Clerk – I have called at the *Twinings* – They too are in the country – Indeed there is no one whom you know who ~~are~~ is here I am so sure it is the case that I have not even tho' it worth while to enquire – ~~Had I been~~ whether Lord Cranworth was at his country seat Had I known that he would deliver the prizes at the Un: Coll: on Saturday I wo^d have taken care to be here in time – I shall not forget your message when I see Lady C: what a heap of negative rubbish I have brought together – I sho^d be ashamed to let M^r Carter open more than one piece of paper to read this to you – To M^r J. W. if still with you And to M^r Carter And the few friends still remaining, let me not be forgotten – To yourself the assurance that bad as my memory is, I cannot ever forget your hospitable & generous attentions to me – I hope you will go on reading Robertson –

Ever you affectionate ^dear^ friend

H. C. Robinson

The piece of news I thought too good to be true, is however I find true Our poverty struck Hospital which I read in a weekly paper when with you has had a legacy of £500 And ano^r legacy of £500 is given to found three scholarships for three years

M^{rs} Wordsworth Rydal Mount

68. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 21 August 1858.⁷⁰

Bury S^t Edmunds
21st Aug^t 1858

My dear friend

I ought to have forwarded you the accompanying pair of *Pannus Corium* ^Shoes^ before, but I found no convenient opportunity I recollect your *light* step And do not wonder that the old pair should have lasted so long – & apparently answerd their purpose so well – May these fit you & be as comfortable as the other And may ~~have~~ you be wearing them with satisfaction when I next have the pleasure of hearing your voice – which never expresses any feeling but that of good will towards all men –

My brother is here free from pain and that is in his condition, a negative blessing

My niece is very much better – And we are enjoying splendid weather here – She desires to be remember[ed] ^to you^ I expect to remain here till early in October, perhaps longer

respects to all friends

Ever affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

I hope your news from Sydney continues to be in all respects as well as it ever has been

There is no life so hard at its commencement as the life of a *Colonist* And it is one which more than any other regularly improves It is a triumph to industry and perseverance – skilled labour has its sure reward

If your grandson Henry remains there, he will probably be the founder of a noble race – some generations hence – And then that noble family may boast of being descended from that great English ^poet^ One of the Classier of ~~the~~ England As Sir Rob^t Peel said to his Son who took a prize at Harrow

It will be recollected by you hereafter that this prize was given you in the presence of the great man who will be honourd centuries hence as Homer and Virgil are now.

Give my good wishes to your grandson Henry, when you write by the hand of a friend

Affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth

⁷⁰ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/43. Robinson does not mention this letter in his diary on 21 August, but the day before he notes that he had asked his friend Blane 'to procure from the maker my Pan:[nus] Cor:[ium] Shoes.'

69. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to Mary Wordsworth, Rydal Mount, 9 December 1858.⁷¹

30 Russell Square W. C.
9th Dec 1858/–

My dear friend,

You have undergone another severe trial of late – And have borne it, I hear with your accustomed equanimity – A conscientious effort as all your exertions have been And successful as they merit. I heard too of a threatned trial, but not till it was passed, in the illness of your friend M^r Carter

The death of their Aunt caused both your Sons to leave town – And since then I have heard only from M^r Cookson of you –

Him I frequently see – he is one of the most excellent of my friends uniting the qualities of head and heart in an eminent degree And I am happy to say; he is justly & generally appreciated – And I am great relieved by obtaining his sound advice in every emergency

There had been a sad havoc among our London friends in common – One has to look before one can find any that respond to the character – The Twinings often out hence it happens that to find a subject to write on One must have resort to the departed

I have however been able, And I rejoice greatly at it to put into the post office this day – And if there be no mishap it will be delivered with this letter a *book* which will perhaps afford you as much enjoyment as any book that the London press has of late years brought forth – It is a reprint partly And partly taken from the Brighton papers the *Addresses* of *Robertson* to the young men and *Lectures* to a higher class on poetry – Among others is one on the poems of Wordsworth – This you have perhaps already seen but in a less correct shape – There is in all the same fine sensibility – freedom from vulgar and sectarian prejudices and intense desire to benefit his fellow creatures All his actions were in the spirit of a remark applied only to books by D^r Arnold I wish there were fewer *religious books* written, but that all books were written in a religious spirit – These two men were in many respects seemingly of an opposite character But yet how much there was in common between them –

Of myself and mine – I have nothing that is bad to say And yet in our state of [missing word] still stand There is no cause to boast. My brother lives suffers no pain ~~and~~ ^except^ only now & then suffers from paroxysms but they are happily short – His daughter in law is with him and supplies all the comfort he is capable of feeling.

People call me a *wonder* but I feel a great change than those who look on from without will acknowledge I am not ill in health but I am beset by infirmities – Cough and cold in the head combined – I shall not get rid of either during the winter I expect –

I believe that the Moxon affairs are settled – But all I have heard on this subject I have had through your Sons –

Public matters are by no means chearing – Nothing ill has been lately revealed, but one always fears that calamities are secretly gathering to a head, we are exposed to so many –

We are used to the India and to the China War And in both there is a temporary lull – the old party spirit is broken – So that one does not know whom to trust and what to expect – I fear the Tories are too ready to court the mob by unwise concessions – I am disgusted by remarking that the ministers & opposition leaders are alike ready to shew servile respect to *Louis Napoleon* – The Slave party are rampant in the new world But I must break up

Kind regards to your Sons And the few friends around you

⁷¹ WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/44.

Ever affectionately yours
H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Wordsworth
Rydal Mount

**70. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to William Wordsworth, Jr., [no address],
1 February 1859.**⁷²

30 Russell Square W. C.
1st Feb: 1859

My dear M^r W. Wordsworth,

I infer from the terms of your letter that it is on your alighting from the Train at Euston Square Station that I am to have the pleasure of seeing you –

I shall be at home, I have no doubt that morning *Friday next*, And I have engaged to breakfast with me that day – D^r Rolleston – An Oxford M. D. whose brother if not himself you in all probability know – He had a *cure* of Souls ~~and~~ (not bodies) in Westmoreland –

There is too great uncertainty in R: R: trains to allow me to put off the breakfast till your arrival, but it will not be removed from the table when you arrive –

It is impossible to speak of your honourd and beloved mother and her death in the usual terms –

At such a death it is not lawful for any one but a Son to mourn – Strange paradox!

The higher the excellence, the more perfect the character; – the less the grief – And yet in a qualified Sense this is undoubtedly true –

Never was death more completely shorn of its terrors than in the ~~cause~~ case of both your parents –

What you write about the legacy is gratifying and affecting – It will be accepted with *pride*: but what is to be done with it? – It must be kept apart It cannot be spent or used – nous verrons!

I add no more – There will be opportunities, now that you will be in the neighbourhood of conferring on many subjects –

very truly yours

H. C. Robinson

W. Wordworth Esq

⁷² WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/45. Robinson writes in his diary on 1 February 1859: 'A letter from W. W. announc^s his com^s to me on Friday morn^s I wrote him word I sho^d be at home &c.'

UNDATED LETTERS

71. HCR, [no address], to unnamed correspondent, undated.⁷³

Dear Sir

Not recollecting Initials excuse the irregularity of my address

I had forgotten that your father had ever mentioned your suffering under the malady of Autograph lacking – Do not suppose that your request is humble or modest because your request is for ordinary things, like the one sent now, saved from the Wastepaper basket For a friend anxious to serve you And fearing to forget your want may find occasion for self reproach fifty times or a hundred to one, of sermons & valuable Autographs

He will be like the Royal Comm^{rs} of the National Portrait Gallery for ever in ~~deb~~ doubt – Is this worth sending? –

How droll or rather how sad!

I have left the Autograph of W Fry at home

It is certain[l]y not worth sending

H C Robinson

72. Extracts from HCR's will concerning the heirs of Wordsworth (in the hand of William Wordsworth, Jr.).⁷⁴

“In remembrance of my late revered Friends the Poet Wordworth and M^{rs} Wordworth by whose long friendship I was honored, I give to their younger Son William Wordworth and to their Grandson's William and John Wordworth, Sons of their Elder Son the Rev^d John Wordworth, the sum of £500.0.0 Sterling each – I add, but as a suggestion merely, not meaning to raise a trust, that a portion of the Legacies to the Wordworth's might be well employed by them in defraying the cost of an Edition of the prose writings of their Ancestor the great Poet; if this justice to his memory, and to the Public, should not have been rendered in my life time” –

Codicil “I give to James Dixon of Grasmere in the County of Westmoreland formerly Servant with to my late Friends M^r & M^{rs} Wordworth of Rydal M^t nineteen Guineas” –

H. C. R.

73. Printed documents relating to the presentation of the Wordsworth Monument in Westminster Abbey c. 1853-54, of which HCR served as a member of the Committee and of the special sub-committee, along with Matthew Arnold and John Ruskin.

⁷³ WLMSS 18/ 3.150.

⁷⁴ WLMS G/5/11/3.

VI. Related Letters from Other Archives

74. HCR, Dove Cottage, to Catherine Clarkson, Playford Hall near Ipswich, 2 September 1837.⁷⁵

My dear friend –

You will not doubt that during our journey you and your great and irreparable loss and your present sad condition were often on our lips and oftener in our thoughts. I obtained the latest information of you before our departure and that was as consolatory as could be expected.

I of course expected no answer to the few hasty lines I wrote when the dreadful catastrophe occurred – And should not have expected any had I remained in England. It is otherwise now and I do hope that you will be well enough both in health and spirits to assure me yourself that both you and W. Clarkson and your dear daughter are capable of contemplating with patience and composure the privation you have in common endured. The great relief is that you have a *common* loss. How deplorably destitute you would [f. 39r] have been had your Son left no Son to perpetuate your name, no widow to be your stay and comfort – with such mitigation of your sorrow I was not surprised when I heard yesterday from M^{rs} Wimbridge that you had written admirably – M^{rs} Wimbridge! What a name! And what an occurrence! You are aware that Sar: Jane has acted very strangely towards all our family these many years, yet when I received a message thro' Martin formerly of Yarmouth that she hoped I would call my good nature prevailed over what a prouder person would have considered due to himself I immediately went – She received me very cordially – insisted on my staying that I might see W. W: who wanted to see me &c &c W. W: is apparently under 30 years of age and in any other character than the husband of Sar: Jane would have appeared a sensible agreeable & respectable man – he was, as she was, quite at his ease – nor from her was there a word indicating a *sense* that what she had done would surprise or displease anyone, except the *repeated* “I did not expect to see you” – Yet she was evidently pleased. She has not seen any of the friends – W. W: is secretary to the military medical board to which he has been attached these 13 years. He expects soon advancement or a retiring pension. W. W: has given me a note from Miss W: which I will inclose if I can procure a frank, if not, I will forward it you in a few days.

I have only to add that on *Friday* I believe I shall accompany M^{rs} W: and Dora W: to Hereford. M^r Hutchinson is somewhat better – I [f. 39v] shall make a short visit to W. Monkhouse –

And now with the kindest respects to W. C. and your daughter

Affectionately yours

H. C. Robinson

2 Plowden Building Temple
2nd Sept^r 1837

⁷⁵ British Library, Add. MS.63520, fols. 38-39. Robinson's letter is attached to a letter by Wordsworth to Clarkson; that letter was published in *The Letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth* (Oxford, 1993), vol. 8, pp. 235-36.

75. HCR, Bowness, to Elizabeth Jesser Reid, [no address], 25 July 1842.⁷⁶

Bowness 25th July 1842

My dear M^{rs} Reid

I mean to write two letters, which will be interchanged you and your friend – And the superscription will matter little But as you & I have been fellow travellers I will relate to you the history of my very uneventful journey since I left you –

Being arrived at Newcastle I went at once to the Rail Road terminus, deposited my portmanteau And then returned to lounge for a few hours in the busy town – I left Miss N's miniature note, the ladies being engaged, in Eldon Square: I read the Morn: Chron: at the Central exchange, which till I learned it's original destination seemed to me injudiciously bulky, And I found my way into the courts then sitting – I looked among the barristers & could not discern a face I knew or wished to know – Lord *Denman* sat in his robes with an anxious & jaded countenance and Baron *Maule* elsewhere the life & soul of every intellectual party, sat there a picture of discontent & labour & pain – I looked at my own Taglioni & without having the vanity to think myself the best man there I really thought myself the best dressed man in court –

The drive along the rail road to Carlisle is the most beautiful I have ever travelled in such a way – And I was quite pleased with the repose of the episcopal city contrasted with the tumult & noise of the big maritime commercial town – Next day I heard the Cathedral Service – And tho' I have a very faint musical sense I enjoyed the chanting – my lord the Bishop preached a Sermon as dry as the remainder biscuit after a voyage in which there was not any thing like a thought that could engage attention for two minutes – And how ever irrational sung prayers may seem, such singing seemed an admirable substitute for such sense – *William* Wordsworth the new stamps distributor was not returned to his lodgings; But I authenticated myself as a true man And was allowed to borrow books from his shelves – I took away the Vol: of the Penny Mag: which contained the account of the improvements at Newcastle And read ~~them~~ it with interest – At the same time I was assured by some good people that Grainger had ruined Newcastle – he had failed himself & brought loss on great numbers &c &c & I did not want to be told how much of this might be true without in the least invalidating the general conclusions of the very spirited biographer & eulogist –

On the Monday I made an excursion by the rail – Saw the fine old ruin of Laner Cost priory & the exterior of [] Castle – W: W: not making his appearance, on Tuesday I took the stage to Keswick by way of Cockermouth – And had a fine view on approaching the mountains of the lake district –

On Wednesday it rained violently, And I had only an outside place – but I knew by experience that vales are seen to advantage thro' rain & mist And I heartily enjoyed the 16 m drive to Ambleside – I passed Rydal without stopping but as soon as I had adjusted my dress I repaired to the Mount and was cordially received by the Wordsworths

The only incident of the day was a call upon M^{rs} Arnold It was consolatory to witness the dignified & wise manner in which she submits to & as it were nourishes the grief she has felt at the loss of her admirable husband of whom she is proud – I must not venture to digress here – I visited also every day of my stay here another sufferer – An excellent man, a M^r Carr once a medical practitioner who is tormented by *stone* – he knows he never can recover – And occasionally suffers intense pain, but at other times is quite chearful. He too is deaf And there are other points of resemblance [sic] between him & your friend –

⁷⁶ Reid Papers, Bedford College Archives, BC RF 103/4/1.

On Thursday three young men (one the second of Sir Robert Peel) came to the poet by appointment And we all had a glorious ascent up Loughrig mountain And the *tarn*. We were on our legs 4 hours – I found the young man – a clever youth who has ran off with all the honours of Harrow – just what the premiers Son should be – Cold judicious clear-headed dispassionate – but not a trait of thought appertaining to himself – With naivete he remarked how “insignificant Lord Stanley has become – he wont say anything that is not obligatory – My father asked him the other day whether he did not mean to speak – it was an important question – no he said – It is not my department –” Perhaps you will say – This was an indiscretion – It was merely a want of sagacity –

I should have left Ambleside on Friday, but M^{rs} Fletcher *the* M^{rs} Fletcher had heard of my being here and tho' an invalide she called on Thursday at W's door & prefixed my going to see her next day, which I did. She has been a very influential person And still is a most interesting woman – I believe her chief reason for wishing to see me was the knowledge that I had been at Tynemouth – She made particular enquiries about the health spirits &c &c of H: M: She too has had a severe attack And her life is considered as hanging by a thread – I enjoyed <--> ^a number of^ hours chat with her – She belongs to the few of liberal opinions who have been permitted by their speculative opinions to love & honour & enjoy Wordsworth –

On Saturday I came here, sending my portmanteau by the coach I walked on the west side of Windermere lake And hav^g written the day before, found Miss Bayley sitting in expectation of me in a paradisaical garden on the lake she was going in the afternoon to see M^{rs} Fletcher So I had time for little more than a interchange of our respective histories – She was to sleep from home –

Therefore yesterday – it being very fine & hot, I merely ventured on a hot walk up the *Troutbeck* valley – But Troutbeck is a mere name – I fell in with some pleas^t companions at the Crown hotel here – A capital hotel in a delicious spot – with my Shakespear in my hand I however needed no other company

To day I renewed my visit to Miss B: We have the lake between us – We have had a charming ramble beside the lake & up the forest mountain behind the cottage – She stays here till Sat^y And has communicated a friendly invitation to me from *Anne Thompson* & her father to accompany her But this I decline Tomorrow I proceed towards Skipton And in little more than a week I expect to be in London where I shall be glad to hear from you

very cordially yours

H. C. Robinson

76. HCR, Rydal Mount, to Henry Taylor, 24 December 1847.⁷⁷

Rydal Mount
24th Dec: 47

My dear Sir

I was equally flatterd & surprised by receiving from Moxon a copy of the *Eve of the Conquest* with others which I have brought down

But it is not for the *compliment* that I would thank you. It is for the real pleasure the perusal has given me – It is long since any modern poetry has afforded me the like –

I have read all with varied enjoyment And from the few whom I have heard speak of the Volume I can say that I have heard the same –

⁷⁷ Bodleian Library, Mss. Eng. Lett., c. 1. fols. 246-47.

Were I obliged to make a selection of those which I have the most enjoyed I should say the first & the last – The epic fragment And the deeply pathetic character Ernesto – You must have had a distinct object in your mind – Perhaps a friend – For the poems on Villiers & on Elliott shew that you have both the will & the power to muse on the excellencies of those you love and turn their images into poetry –

[f. 246v] I love *thoughtful* poetry And had great pleasure therefore in following you in your *local* poems. – Lago Lugano especially – If I had been in search of something to object to it would have been in this poem that I should have found it. Tho' I sympathise fully with the main thought the mournful reference to the present state of our country, yet I am not willing to consider the *statutable liberty* we enjoy and the *liberty of circumstance* which we may find any where as the *letter & spirit*

But whatever verbal exception may be taken of this sort – the poem notwithstanding is full of wisdom as well as beauty.

I write alone just now, but I have been desired by M^r & M^{rs} Wordsworth to present their very kindest regards to you & M^{rs} Taylor – M^{rs} W: has especially desired me to add that they are becoming anxious about Miss Fenwick – The news contained in your note to me is the last they have had – And when you wrote, her departure was still dependent on the state of her health.

[f. 247r] You will expect from me some account of the state of our friends health & spirits. I have nothing clear & decisive to say – There is an evident indisposition or you may call it incapacity in M^r W. to withdraw his mind from the sad subject on which it broods. He prefers solitude to company And sits without speaking a word by the hour together. I have been very seldom able to make him give his mind even to the very exerting subject – the appointment of D^r Hampden And the now inevitable forthcoming proceedings in some Ecclesiastical court.

Was it ignorance or did he wish to obtain for the Dean & Chapter of H: the cheap glory of being willing to incur the perils of martyrdom that induced Henry of Exeter to state that the refusal to elect according to the *recommendation*, subjected them to a praemunire –

I am desired to present M^r & M^{rs} Wordsworth's best regards to you & M^{rs} Taylor And I am myself

Your obliged

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

To Henry Taylor Esq^r

77. HCR, Archaeological Institute, Lincoln, to Mrs Elizabeth Reid, [no address], [26 July] 1848.⁷⁸

Archaeological Institute
Lincoln

My dear M^{rs} Reid

It was flattering to my vanity but at the same time vexatious to me to be told that Miss Sturch sent to enquire how I was –

To be the subject of enquiry by a lady was quite a novelty in my life – I felt quite proud but then by Miss Sturch alone and not M^{rs} Reid! – And the vexation was doubled when I learned that you were gone to the North – I should have liked so to talk to you about

⁷⁸ Reid Papers, Bedford College Archives, BC RF 103/4/9.

those you were going to see – I have been in the habit of saying that Ambleside would be a delightful place of residence, even if an act of parliament had banished all males from the vicinity – Aye! There would be no want of sufficient society, were all the Spinsters sent to follow those exiled males – Voila – M^{rs} Wordsworth

Arnold
Fletcher
Davy &
Lady Richardson

There *was* M^{rs} Quillinan – However I can not write enough And therefore I will say nothing But I shall be curious to hear your report – And I hope from a letter received this morning from M^r Quillinan that you will have seen the poet able to partake with some comfort of social intercourse

My *date* will tell you sufficiently my history Here I remain till the end of the week And then I shall return to London on my way to Suffolk – I take for granted that the *Inquirer* has been sent you this last week – And if so, you have, I have no doubt, mused over Principal Newman's address on laying the first stone of University Hall – I compared it (to the Principals own private ear) to the egg-dance in Wilhelm Meister of Mignon

never by dancer midst the [e]ggs was shewn
Such skill in passing all & breaking none

The prayer of Madge was also excellent – And the perfect success of the days proceedings has given me hopes. I wish you had been there – I am willing to indulge in superstition that nourishes hopes –

You will I expect soon see a person to whom I wish to direct your particular attention as a very remarkable man – A M^r Robertson a clergyman now officiating at Brighton I have given him an introduction to M^r Quillinan with a request that he will introduce him to Miss Martineau as my friend he has read *Life in the East* wishes much to know the Author – I am uncertain whether or not I ever told you of this same M^r Robertson of whom you may have heard from others – He was at Heidelberg for his health two years ago when I was there – He became intimate with M^{rs} William Roscoe And the young Huttons with whom he now corresponds – He is a most remarkable preacher He combines the greatest power as a preacher that I ever witnessed, with the minutest quantity of creed that one can imagine sufficient to satisfy church exigencies – He warmly praises James Martineau's Sermons And is shocked at no amount of speculative freedom which he does not find inconsistent with spiritual & devotional warmth – There is one thing about him which enhances & saddens the interest ~~with~~ he excites – I fear his constitution is diseased – And that an entire ~~at time~~ abstinence from official duty And a residence in a warm climate can avert or procrastinate the blow –

I have been here since Monday – Yesterday our public proceedings began⁷⁹ – The charm of the meetings yesterday, indeed the redemption from the otherwise overwhelming dullness was the infinite amiability & indomitable buoyancy of spirits of Bishop Stanley – Such youthfulness! I had almost called him the boy-bishop – If little children are fit for the Kingdom of heaven, surely *they* will have the front seats who retain in old age all the graces of childhood, warmheartedness & naiveté

My kindest remembces to my five named female friends their associates And your hostess

&c &c &c

Most truly your's

⁷⁹ Tuesday, 25 July 1848. Robinson arrived on the 24th. The meeting closed on 31 July.

H. C. Robinson

M^{rs} Reid

P.S. Just as I was going to put this letter into the post I reced a comfortable one from M^{rs} W:
sent to London – One from M^r Qu: sent here directly had reached me before./–

78. HCR, 30 Russell Square, to Henry Taylor, 1 February 1849.⁸⁰

My dear Sir

I am much obliged by your present & embarrassed by your note. I know not what to say without exposing myself to the imputation of either affectation or insensibility to the compliment paid me.

I own that such a note had it been anonymous would have annoyed me Coming from you it gratifies me, but with an uncomfortable adjunct. It is the *a laudato* that alone renders it a matter of satisfaction to be the *laudatus*. I cannot but be proud of any mark of your respect even if founded on a mistake. I was not the friend of Schiller whom I saw only two or three times. Of Göthe I saw much more And he was as superior to Schiller as Shakespeare to Milton. I have often said of myself – that it has been my enviable [f. 265v.] lot to be known & to a certain extent respected in several countries of Europe by distinguished men, whom I had no right to associate with from the possession of any kindred talent. This ought to be said hereafter, if I were one to be ever mentioned hereafter. But more than enough of myself.

Yesterday morning I read with close attention the Essay on Money. It is full of practical wisdom, free alike from commonplace & paradox – the Scilla & Charybdis of the Essayist. I felt on several points instructed & on one especially ever conscious of a change of opinion and that in favour of collateral heirs – on the plea of *expectation* so well put by you.

I have been in the habit of thinking that the childless testator might properly give to strangers the property he had earned, while he gave to his kinsmen that which he inherited. But these are cases of imperfect obligation

The greatest objection to making an heir among collaterals is, that great inequality [f. 266r.] of wealth is sure to separate families. The poor & the rich brothers children will hardly know each other. The grandchildren certainly not.

You write an admirably luminous style. I have met with but one obscure passage – The middle of page 8 – ‘he must not make it more insufficient in his lifetime.’ There is darkness somewhere either in the passage or in my head.

I was going to hint that you have used p 10 *dowries* where you ought to have said *portions* – luckily I looked into Johnson. And there I find that the authorities are in favour of your use of the word. But in spite of the poets I think it is better to use dowry like dower for that which the husband gives And the marriage portion for that share w^{ch} the father distributes among his daughters. There are usually several daughters. There can be but one wife.

I hope M^{rs} Fenwick is well. I sent her an account of the friends in the north on my arrival. I am y^r obliged humble s^t

H. C. Robinson

Henry Taylor Esq^r

⁸⁰ Bodleian Library, Mss. Eng. Lett., d. 10., fols. 265-66. This letter is a copy, and not in HCR's hand.

**79. HCR, 30 Russell Square, to Revd Dr Christopher Wordsworth, [Lambeth Palace],
22 April 1851.⁸¹**

30 Russell Square
22d April 51.

My dear Sir

The business object of this letter is to supply an omission in my last – not a material one Viz: to remind you, that you have a few letters addressed to me by your nephew, the poet, which I will thank you at your leisure to send me – You can leave them any day at the Athenaeum – They will one day I hope be possessed, And if possessed they will be treasured by my great nephew – A very promising boy tho' of so fragile a frame that he cannot go to a school – M^r W: was pleased with an anecdote of him from which I augur favorably. When he was quite a child, I used to read the Lyrical ballads &c not *to* him, but *at* him – That is, I read to his mother in his presence – when he would generally listen – but when he took no notice – I took none. One day, I read "The blind highland boy" – Henry came up & stood with open eyes & mouth as usual, but ran to his play when I had done – So I thought nothing had *stuck*. However next morning when on coming to breakfast I insisted on a kiss, which he refused And a sort of fight arose – He crawled under the table and I groped after him – When on the point of seizing him, he screamed out in a [f. 212v] tone of affected terror & anger at the top of his voice – Leyh gah! Leyh gah! An evidence of quickness of apprehension and felicity of application with an unconsciousness, which M^r W acknowledged – He is very precocious in his attainments And I have great apprehensions concerning him – If he live he will have my books & papers And every memorial of M^r Wordsworth –

I have just finished the first Volume of the Memoirs – I get on but slowly – For two reasons I am so much interested, that I linger, being afraid of getting to an end – And then I cannot help referring to the poems quoted –

Like every one author who expects to superintend a second edition I dare say you carefully collected whatever little note may be sent you tho' a mere press erratum – I have nothing material to remark And therefore I shall not scruple to note what is insignificant – Yet you will be glad to avail yourself of *this* hint – Viz: to state how the admirable letter to M^r Fox p. 166 came to be published – This was published by Sir Henry Bunbury Bart in a work the title of which I do not now recollect but which I can easily find for you – In the [f. 213r] Preface, he states why he ventured to publish the letter of a living person without his leave – It was, That so admirable a letter should not be withheld, And yet if M^r W: had from a mistaken delicacy & modesty refused his consent when asked he must have withheld it – Sir Henry sent M^r W. a copy – Before it reached him, he wrote to me very angrily on the subject, but could not at last deny that this was a very rare case of exception – When you state this fact in a second edition, you will have an opportunity of saying what may be very useful on the *use and abuse* of letters – M^r W: took the same view which I did of the conduct of the Mess^{rs} Wilberforce in this particular And both he & W: were ~~dissatisfaction~~ not dissatisfied with the discretion I exercised in communicating to Talfourd, Lamb's *Letters* for the "Final Memorials" which were entrusted to me –

p. 118 M^r W: remarked to me that Pantheism had been imputed to him on account of the Tintern Abbey Lines – Poor *Blake* the splendid *insane* genius, whose poems M^r W: highly appreciated declares (in a ~~Ms-note~~ pencil note to one of Ws Vols: which I possess) him to have been an Atheist but accompanied by expressions of high admiration [f. 213v] You have not alluded to the attack on M^r Ws religious character in the Quarterly And you

⁸¹ Lambeth Palace Library, MS. 2144, Wordsworth Papers, fols. 212-14.

have done right – There was something very ungenerous in that article And I know that M^r W: considered that in a different way he had been as ill treated in the Quarterly as ⁱⁿ the Edinburg –

128 – M^r W. had nearly lost his French when we travelled in Italy – It was on journey in 1820 that M^{rs} W: half reproaching him for his ignorance He said somewhat angrily – “My dear I know French as well as I ought – I should be a shamed to know it better” –

131. The opinion W. here expresses of the inferior merit of the pathetic is one of the many instances of a correspondence in opinion between him & the Schlegel school of criticism – I used to say both of him & Coleridge that they were by nature Germans only by mistake dropped in England – A notion he always protested against

134 – I recollect very early, indeed, hearing M^{rs} Barbauld strongly express her love of Goldsmiths Deserted Village over Crabbe's Village – Crabbes Matter of Fact style was <-> unpleasant to her – tho' she acknowledged his powers –

163 I shall endeavour to ascertain the fact whether or not M^{rs} B: did write this criticism If I find she did not, I am sure you will have [f. 214r] pleasure in stating the fact in the second edition

192 I suppose there is some adequate reason for withholding the name. Otherwise, the – leaves an unpleasant impression as if M^r W. corresponded with some one, he or his friends were ashamed of acknowledging

p. 204 – On the 12th of May 1842 M^r W. said to me, If after my death any one should be curious to know how I felt towards my wife they should read in succession as exhibiting the several phases of my affection, these poems –

First; On the Naming of Places
To M. H.
“Our walk was far among the antient trees”
In connection with
Let other bards of Angels sing
In Connection with
She was a phantom of delight
And finally, the two Sonnets in the last Volume
On a Picture

212 It might be said in a few words, who Hatfield was It is afterwards, said, but I forgot to make the page That the general impression among the country people was That Hatfield was ill used A curious fact [f. 214v] shewing the influence of external appearance Hatfield had the dress if not the manners of a Gentleman And won the affections of the landlords daughter the beautiful Mary of Buttermere – Soon after the marriage, he was arrested as a highwayman and hanged! – The simple folk could not comprehend how anyone could justly be hanged who was not a brute in his manners –

268 “Born for the Universe [*he*] narrowed his mind[?]” The *he* destroys the metre – It must be left out.

269 – It should be said in a note. †

† “afterwards Sir Humphrey”

275 When Ludwig Tieck was in England I repeated to him this Sonnet And that on Twilight on which he exclaimed “Das ist ein Englischer Göthe”

280 The reference below Vol III p. 163 must be a mistake

There is more to be said on the wisdom of silence than I feel competent to say as it ought to be said – But this is precisely a topic on which you would be well pleased that others should [f. 215r] say what you would not –

p. 358 I heard M^r W. say. That he wrote that Sonnet *extempore* – In as little time as it took to write it – It was one of the most popular from the first – It is not legitimate And is one of those which do not <--> become more a favorite the more frequently it is read –

334 – I am glad you have ~~retai~~ copied the Table of Contents on this & other occasions – I regretted when M^r W. rejected the Heading
“Moods of my own Mind” It conciliated

I am ashamed of sending such insignificant notes And scarcely any to be made use of

I am Dear Sir

faithfully your's

H. C. Robinson

Revd D^r Wordsworth

80. HCR, 30 Russell Square, to Angelina Georgina Burdett-Cootts, Torquay, Devon, 11 February 1859.⁸²

Dear Miss B: Cootts:

The very kind tone of your letter demands an early acknowledgement: And my poor niece will be flattered by a generous offer of which there is not the least hope that she will be able to avail herself Her's is a life of suffering, partly it must be owned a self-imposed torment, but in the main arising from the determination to discharge all her several duties most inflexibly. Even now this conduct has it's reward; for without the consciousness of affording my poor brother some stray moments of comfort on his recognition of her, with his faint remains of memory, And of her being the sole consolation to her sister compared to her couch, she would find her monotonous life at Bury even more oppressive than it is: She seldom leaves the house And when she is freed to quit the town, she counts her absence by hours not days –

As you have mentioned your intended stay in town for a few days I may flatter myself that you will announce your actual arrival, And allow me without delay to pay my respects to you –

[f. 20v] Tho' I have been lately somewhat indisposed yet it might be a much more serious indisposition that shall prevent my attending the ballot on Monday next to give W. Barnes my vote – And so serious an indisposition I am not now afraid of – Your reflexion is just on the death of my revered friend M^{rs} Wordsworth. She is the last of that generation of friends and associates –

I presume that you read the account – That is, obituary article,– not of, but copied from the Daily News – It was, I have no doubt, but I only infer from the style, the production of Harriett Martineau – And such as no one who had any womanly delicacy about her, or any sense of the especial excellencies of those of whom she wrote could possibly have written – She exaggerates the infirmities of Miss Wordsworth – and (I believe unintentionally,)] overstates the precautions when to exclude her from the gaze of strangers – The patience with which M^{rs} W: bore the loss of her revered husband was indeed

⁸² Postmark: London FE 11 59. British Library, Add. MS. 85291, fols. 20-21.

exemplary, And I knew it to be the consequence of an intense piety during all the time that I saw her after his death, I never heard her whisper the faintest murmur of complaint She would have deemed it an arrangement of Gods providence. The whole article contains not the slightest allusion to this feature in her [f. 21r] character – And when her grief at the loss of such a husband is adverted to, he is characterised only as her “*old husband*”! And his grief at the loss of Dora is insinuated to have been a selfish indulgence a sort of humour so that he compelled her to suffer for him and her too – To those three exquisite stanzas beginning

“She was a phantom of delight”

There should be a fourth recording blindness ---

The weather here has been most ungenial and the Season has been very sickly, I trust that you have had the comforts of a Devon-clime

In the hope of having soon the pleasure of a cordial cosy chat with you and M^{rs} Brown to whom you will *present* – or she would take without any presentation

My most respectful salutations

&c &c &c

H. C. Robinson

Miss Burdett Cootts

VII. Appendices

Appendix 1: Biographical Notices of the Correspondents

Arnold, Mary, the former Mary Penrose of Cornwall, was married to Dr Thomas Arnold (1795-1842), a British educator and historian and father of the Victorian poet Matthew Arnold. The elder Arnold was an early supporter of the Broad Church Anglican movement. He was headmaster of Rugby School from 1828 to 1841. In 1832 the Arnolds purchased the Fox How estate near Ambleside and regularly vacationed there, becoming close friends with the Wordsworths.

Burdett-Coutts, Angelina Georgina (1814-1906), 1st Baroness Burdett-Coutts, was the daughter of Sir Francis Burdett (1770-1844), reformist MP, and Sophia Coutts, the daughter of Thomas Coutts, founder of the Bank of London. In 1837 she inherited his fortune of nearly £3m, making her one of the richest women in England. She became a prominent philanthropist as well as art collector. She lived at her family's estate at Holly Lodge in Highgate and was a close friend to both Charles Dickens and the Duke of Wellington. She never married, living for 52 years with her devoted housemate, Mrs Hannah Brown, her former governess, spending part of each year at Brighton. After Brown's death in 1878, Burdett-Coutts surprisingly married William Lehrman Bartlett, an American 38 years her junior.

Clarkson, Catherine Buck (1772-1856), originally from Bury St Edmunds and a close friend of HCR from his early teens until her death in 1856. She married the famous abolitionist Thomas Clarkson (1760-1846) in 1796.

Davy, Dr John (1790-1868), younger brother of scientist/poet Sir Humphry Davy (1778-1829), was a physiologist, anatomist, and writer, living at Lesketh How. He was the son-in-law of Mrs Eliza Fletcher, friend and correspondent of HCR (and Mrs Wordsworth) who lived formerly in Edinburgh and afterwards at Lancrigg, Grasmere. He and his wife appear often in these letters.

Lutwidge, Henry Thomas (c. 1780-1861), nephew of Skeffington Ludwidge (1737-1814), Admiral in the British Navy, 1805-14. Henry Thomas was a naval lieutenant who in 1802 spent three months in Winchester jail for accidentally killing a drunken seaman and ten years, 1804-14, as a French prisoner of war.

Martineau, Harriet (1802-76) moved to Ambleside in 1844 and built a cottage called 'the Knoll'. She was a prolific writer, best known for her *Illustrations of Political Economy*, 9 vols (1832-34), her novels *Deerbrook* (1839) and *The Hour and the Man* (1841), various collections of stories for children, and *Life in the Sick-Room* (1844) and *Household Education* (1844), as well as pamphlets on slavery. She lived largely as an invalid between 1839 and 1844 at Tynemouth, near Newcastle, suffering from a uterine tumour. She claimed to have been completely healed in 1844 by means of mesmerism. She published *Letters on Mesmerism* in 1845. Later works include *Eastern Life, Past and Present*, 3 vols (1848), *History of the Thirty Years' Peace*, 2 vols (1849-50), *Complete Guide to the Lakes* (1855), numerous contributions to Dicken's *Household Words*, and *Biographical Sketches* (1869). Her religious skepticism became more pronounced in the 1840s, as seen in her important volume, *Letters on the Laws of Man's Nature and Development* (1851).

Miller, Rev. John (1787-1858) was a friend of both Wordsworth and Robinson. He studied at Worcester College, Oxford (BA 1808, MA 1811), remaining as a Fellow there from 1810 to 1823, being named the Bampton Lecturer in 1817. A devout evangelical, Miller served as vicar at Bockleton, Worcester, from 1823 until his death in 1858. One of his publications is *Two Sermons Preached in the Parish Church of Bockleton: On Sexagesima Sunday, February 15, and Sunday, March 1, 1857, Being the Sunday Before the Death, and that Next After the Burial of the Rev. Thomas Elton Miller* (1857). His two brothers, Thomas Elton Miller (1783-1857) and Joseph Kirkman Miller (1785-1855) were both clerics, the latter serving as vicar at Walkeringham, Nottinghamshire, 1819-55. All were sons of Peter Miller (1746-1824) of Bockleton, Worcester. The Miller brothers were cousins of Robinson's friend Elton Hammond, who committed suicide in 1820. Letters to Robinson from all three brothers, as well as John's daughter Susanna, composed between 1821 and 1867, can be found in the Crabb Robinson Correspondence, Dr Williams's Library, London.

Quillinan, Edward (1791-1851), minor English poet, writer on Portugal and Portuguese literature, and Wordsworth's son-in-law. He was born in Portugal, the son of an Irish merchant. Unlike the Wordsworths, Quillinan was a devout Roman Catholic; he returned from Portugal to England in 1807 and remained thereafter. He began writing poetry seriously in 1814, publishing within the next few years a series of poems: *Dunluce Castle, a Poem* (1814), *Stanzas by the author of Dunluce Castle* (1814), *The Sacrifice of Isabel* (1816), and *Elegiac Verses* (1817). He moved his young wife and family to Spring Cottage, between Rydal and Ambleside, in 1821, but his wife died the next year. At this time he became close friends with Wordsworth. He spent many years living abroad after his wife's death, but in 1841 married Dora Wordsworth (1804-47), daughter of William Wordsworth.

Reid, Elizabeth Jesser (1789-1866) was the second wife of the Unitarian doctor John Reid (d. 1822), whom Crabb Robinson first met in 1799. Elizabeth Reid attended the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London in 1840, and founded Bedford College, University of London, in 1849.

Robinson, Henry Crabb (1775-1867) – Though best known for his interactions with most of the leading literary figures of his day, Robinson was an important writer and thinker in his own right, especially in the dissemination of German thought in England. During his first stay in Germany from 1800 to 1805, he spent three years as a student at the University of Jena, writing pioneering articles on Kant, Schelling, and the rapidly developing field of aesthetics for publication in London. Though he had briefly experimented with Godwinian skepticism in the 1790s, after his return from Germany in 1805 he identified himself as a 'rational dissenter', worshipping among the Unitarians. After a brief stint covering the Peninsular war as a correspondent for the *London Times* (1808-9), Robinson spent fifteen years as a solicitor (1813-28), living mostly in the vicinity of Russell Square. In retirement, he took an active role in the University of London, Unitarian affairs, and the literary, artistic, and political life of London until his death in 1867. The Robinson archive, one of the most important collections belonging to Dr Williams's Library, contains thirty-three volumes of his *Diary* (1811-67), twenty-nine volumes of *Travel Diaries* (1801-66), four volumes of *Reminiscences* (1775-1843), numerous pocket diaries, and more than thirty volumes of correspondence and other papers. The *Diaries* and *Reminiscences* total more than four million words. Within these materials are important accounts of literary figures Robinson met and, in many cases, corresponded with during the course of his long life, including William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Godwin, Mary Hays, William Hazlitt, Charles and Mary Lamb, Harriet Martineau, Robert Southey, Dorothy and William Wordsworth, and major German writers such as Goethe, Schiller, the Schlegel brothers, and Tieck. Only

a portion of Robinson's literary remains have been published. Scholars still rely on Thomas Sadler's *Diary, Reminiscences and Correspondence* (3 vols, 1869) and Edith Morley's *Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and their Writers* (3 vols, 1938), both highly selective and, in Sadler's case, not altogether accurate. Other works on Robinson include John Milton Baker's *Henry Crabb Robinson of Bury, Jena, The Times, and Russell Square* (1937), Hertha Marquardt's *Henry Crabb Robinson und seine deutschen Freunde* (2 vols, 1964, 1967), Eugene Stelzig's *Henry Crabb Robinson in Germany: A Study in Nineteenth-Century Life Writing* (2010), and James Vigus's *Henry Crabb Robinson: Essays on Kant, Schelling, and German Aesthetics* (2010).

Taylor, Henry (1800-66), dramatist, was originally from Witton-le-Wear, County Durham; his father was a friend of Wordsworth. He edited the *London Magazine* in 1823, after which he worked in the Colonial Office (1824-72). He published a number of plays and a book of poems (1845) and an *Autobiography* that appeared in 1885.

Wordsworth, Christopher, Jr (1807-85), Anglican bishop (at Lincoln, 1869-85) and man of letters, was the son of Christopher Wordsworth (1774-1846), Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, and William Wordsworth's brother. It was the younger Christopher who was asked to write *Memoirs of William Wordsworth* (1851), the first biographical account of Wordsworth to appear after his death.

Appendix 2: Integrated Calendar of the Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson and Mary Wordsworth, 1837-1858

The Calendar below (129 letters, 46 by Mary Wordsworth and 83 by Crabb Robinson) integrates the letters of HCR to MW belonging to the Wordsworth Library, as well as the letters that passed between HCR and MW belonging to the HCR Archive, Dr Williams's Library, London. MW's letters to HCR were published initially by Edith Morley in *The Correspondence of Henry Crabb Robinson with The Wordsworth Circle*, 1808-1866 (2 vols, Oxford, 1927). They can also be found in *The Letters of William and Dorothy Wordsworth*, ed. Ernest de Selincourt, Mary Moorman, and Alan Hill (8 vols, Oxford, rev. ed., 1967-1993).

1. MW to HCR, 3 July 1833.
2. MW to HCR, 23 November 1833.
3. MW to HCR, [arrived on 22] November 1835.
4. HCR to MW, 22 November 1835.
5. HCR to MW, 8 March 1836.
6. W.W. to HCR, 16 March 1836 (note attached to HCR by MW).
7. MW to HCR, 4 July 1836.
8. MW to HCR, 28 September 1836.
9. HCR to MW, 27 October 1836.
10. MW to HCR, 1 November 1836.
11. MW to HCR, 19 December 1836.
12. HCR to MW, Brinsop Court, near Hereford, Angleterre, April 6 1837. [WLL, Wordsworth, W and D/7/515.1]
13. MW to HCR, August 1837.
14. HCR, Dover Street, [London, Edward Moxon's office], to MW, [no address], 2 September 1837. [WLL, Wordsworth, W and D/7/535.1]
15. MW to HCR, February 1838 (writing for W. W.).
16. HCR to MW, 12 March 1838.
17. MW to HCR, 16 March 1838.
18. MW to HCR, 19 August 1838.
19. MW to HCR, 19 June 1840.
20. MW to HCR, 9 May 1841.
21. MW to HCR, 22 May [1841].
22. HCR to MW, 24 May 1841.
23. MW to HCR, 31 May 1841.
24. MW to HCR, 28 June [1841].
25. MW to HCR, [14 October 1841].
26. HCR to MW, [29 October] 1841.
27. HCR to MW, 21 February 1842.
28. HCR to MW, 7 March 1842.
29. HCR to MW, 15 March 1842.
30. HCR to MW, 22 April 1842.
31. HCR to MW, 6 August 1842.
32. HCR to MW, 27 August 1842.
33. HCR to MW, 19 October 1842.
34. HCR to W.W. and MW, 17 January 1843.
35. HCR to MW, 16 February 1843.

36. HCR to MW, 10 April 1843.
37. HCR to MW, 19 July 1843.
38. HCR to MW, 8 September 1843.
39. HCR to W.W. and MW, 15 September 1843.
40. HCR to MW, 24 October 1843.
41. HCR to MW, 6 November [1843].
42. HCR to MW, 4 December 1843.
43. HCR to MW, 16 December 1843.
44. HCR to MW, 27 January 1844.
45. MW to HCR, 5 February [1844].
46. MW to HCR, 6 February [1844].
47. HCR to MW, 11 February 1844.
48. MW to HCR, 7 April [18]44.
49. MW to HCR, 9 July [1844].
50. HCR to MW, 18 September 1844.
51. MW to HCR, 23 September [1844].
52. MW to HCR, 4 November [1844].
53. HCR to MW, 30 November 1844.
54. HCR to MW, 27 November 1845.
55. HCR to MW, 11 February 1845.
56. W.W. and MW to HCR, 21 June [1845].
57. MW to HCR, [7 August 1845].
58. HCR to MW, 9 September 1845.
59. MW to HCR [16 September 1845].
60. MW to HCR, 7 November [1845].
61. HCR to MW, 11 November 1845.
62. HCR to MW, 8 December 1845.
63. MW to HCR, [8] December [1845].
64. MW to HCR [9 December 1845].
65. HCR to MW, 11 December 1845.
66. HCR to MW, 16 January 1846.
67. HCR to MW, 20 January 1846.
68. HCR to MW, 24 February 1846.
69. HCR to MW, 5 May 1846.
70. HCR to MW, 2 June 1846.
71. HCR to MW, 11 June 1846.
72. HCR to MW, 16 June 1846.
73. HCR, Athenaeum, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 12 November 1846. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/3].
74. HCR to MW, 19 December 1846.
75. HCR, [30] Russell Square, London, to MW, [London], 22 December 1846.
76. HCR, Kendal, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 31 January 1847. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/7].
77. HCR to MW, 4 June 1847.
78. HCR to MW, 15 January 1848.
79. HCR to MW, 7 March 1848.
80. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 5 June 1848. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/9].
81. MW to HCR, 7 June 1848.
82. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 13 July [18]48. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/10].

83. MW to HCR, 22 July [1848].
84. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 22 July 1848. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/11].
85. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 16 December [18]48. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/13].
86. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 22 February [18]49. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/14].
87. MW to HCR [24 February 1849].
88. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to MW, [not at Rydal Mount], 22 March [18]49. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/15].
89. MW to HCR, 28 March [1849].
90. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 19 May [18]49. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/16].
91. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 12 July 1849. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/17].
92. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 3 December [18]49. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/18].
93. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 7 May 1850. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/20].
94. MW to HCR, 30 December 1850.
95. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 13 September [18]51. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/22].
96. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 23 December 1851. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/23].
97. HCR, Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 27 December [1851]. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/24].
98. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 9 February [18]52. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/25].
99. HCR, Edinburgh, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 2 September 1852. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/26].
100. MW to HCR, 8 January [18]53.
101. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 25 June [1853?]. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/27].
102. HCR, [London], to MW, [Rydal Mount], [5 November 1853]. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/28].
103. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 26 February [1854]. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/29].
104. MW to HCR, [23 May 1854].
105. MW to HCR [July 1854].
106. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, Ambleside, 22 December 1854. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/30].
107. MW to HCR, 26 December [1854].
108. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount,] Ambleside, 9 January [18]55. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/31].
109. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 29 January [18]55. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/32].
110. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 17 February 1855 (attached to a letter to Thomas Carter). [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/33].
111. MW to HCR, 9 August [1855].
112. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mary Wordsworth, [Rydal Mount], 17 September 1855. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/34].

113. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 17 November 1855. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/35].
114. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 1 February 1856. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/36].
115. MW to HCR (by Mr Carter) [14 February 1856].
116. MW and W. W. Jr. to HCR, 17 February 1856.
117. HCR, Athenaeum, London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 4 April 1856. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/37].
118. MW (by J. Carter) to HCR [27 May 1856].
119. MW (by Mrs Kennedy) to HCR, 28 August 1856.
120. HCR, 30 Russell Square, London, to [MW], [Rydal Mount], 20 October 1856. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/38].
121. MW (by Mrs M. Hutchinson) to HCR, 4 November [1856].
122. MW (by J. Carter) to HCR [2 March 1857].
123. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to MW, [Rydal Mount], 20 April 1857. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/39].
124. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to MW, Rydal Mount, 4 September 1857. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/40].
125. MW (by Mr Carter) to HCR, 5 October 1857.
126. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 5 March [18]58. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/41].
127. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 3 August [1858]. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/42].
128. HCR, Bury St Edmunds, to Mw, [Rydal Mount], 21 August 1858. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/43].
129. HCR, 30 Russell Square, W.C., London, to MW, Rydal Mount, 9 December 1858. [WLL, Robinson, Henry Crabb/44].