

## Dinton - Dalwood Letters

Burlington Hotel, London 10th June 1831.

My dear George,

Since our arrival here, your letter to William has reached us, dated November 20 and 29, and after we found you were all well, then we proceeded to read the despatch leisurely, and it certainly required an attentive reading. I find my opinions are very much like those you possess the other side of the globe. William intends to answer the letter, but I think you must not expect it quite yet, that is to say, not until his wedding is over. Louisa, as a clergyman's wife, designated your letter as a very extraordinary one; but I find it a pretty general opinion that the clergy are pulling the church about the ears, and some of that body do not scruple to say so themselves. Perhaps we shall see some changes in Tythes ere long, but at present every-body is talking about the Reform Bill in Parliament.

The Whigs say the carrying it will assist in saving the country, the Tories that it will be the foundation of Ruin and Republicanism, and the downfall of the Constitution, if found to be defective, or rather abused by custom, may not be strengthened by the revision of such parts that may require amendment, some agree with me, others think me mad; but I fancy all are of opinion that if the Lords throw out the bill there will be a nice disturbance, for the lower classes are so determined to think it will be a great relief to them that any evil-disposed set of men will easily incite them to riot; but I cannot look on the dark side, it does not suit me.

The country gentlemen in Parliament do not at all relish the idea of spending from June to the end of August and September here, some quite dread the thought of the hot July, and Berkley Portman is amongst the number.

When you were abroad, did you ever hear Signor Paganini play on the violin? He has just arrived in London, played once in public, was enthusiastically received, and it is the rage to talk of him. I have not heard him, nor shall I, I believe, for we leave this odious place on Saturday, and are to pay Lord and Lady Wynford a visit for a day or so before we go westward.

London is called very dull this spring, very little gaiety going on comparatively. We are told to stay longer, for everybody is to be gay after the 14th, and I shall be very gay by that time, for I shall be at Dinton, and I never feel myself so gay or happy anywhere else. I have always plenty of active employment there. Mary Anne wrote to you last month, and told you William was to marry Ellen Heathecote. The wedding is fixed to take place next Tuesday, and we are to be present. Your three sisters are to be the bridesmaids by Ellen's particular desire. Papa says it does not seem to be like a wedding to him; it is more like expecting another daughter of his own to arrive, instead of a daughter-in-law. The wedding gives us all very great pleasure, as we were all fond of the lady, ever since we first saw her, and she has the sweetest temper and disposition.

I fear there is no chance of William's ever thinking of serving his country by going into Parliament; even Berkley Portman is tired of it. He has just had a contest for the county of Dorset; for Dorsetshire was determined to send two members who would support the Reform Bill.

Our own county election passed off very quietly, and John Bennett is at present in his glory with regard to politics.

June 11 - After all we went to Paganini's concert at the Opera House last night, and I am glad I have seen him perform on his violin. He played a long piece of music on the one string only, and executed it so beautifully that no one would have discovered it if not previously told. I never saw such an awkward looking man. Sir Walter Scott must have taken his portrait when he described Domini Sampson. I quite expected him to exclaim 'Prodigious' when the people clapped and encored him, and when he bows he moves his head and neck just like the large bear on the top of the pole in the Zoological Gardens.

Papa's picture is now all finished, save the coat, and an excellent likeness it is. Mr. Evans has also been drawing Mama, and I hope by the time you come here to see us, both portraits will be hanging on the walls at Dinton. Papa desires his kindest remembrances to you and Margaret, in which we all join, and believe me, my dear George,

Your affectionate Sister,

CHARLOTTE WYNDHAM