

Dinton - Dalwood Letters

'Dinton', 28th November, 1830.

My dear George,

I have been hoping the 'Australia' has arrived before we closed our despatches per 'Egmont'; our latest intelligence is dated April 10th. I am very glad to find you adhere to your resolution of following Captain a'Court's advice with respect to politics. We had a very great chance here, but the Whigs have come into administration. I am very sorry to lose the Duke of Wellington and Mr. Peel, whom we believed to be two honest men, with the good of their country at heart. The duke was above party, and cared not for Whig or Tory. He therefore pleased neither, and latterly became very unpopular; but they have not a great triumph in turning him out, as it is supposed that he wished to take the first opportunity to resign.

I believe I have forwarded by the ship "Egmont" most of the things you wished to have sent. The whole was packed under circumstances of great anxiety and distress of mind. The riots, which you will see by the papers began in Kent, extended through Sussex and Hampshire, and had just reached Wilts: the Yeomanry in consequence was ordered out. They dispersed the mob at Salisbury and prevented the destruction of an iron foundry. At Wilton and Barford the machines were all broke. By the active exertion of your father in swearing in constables, etc., aided by Mr. Lear and Mr. King, the villages of Dinton, Teffont and Chilmark were kept perfectly quiet, but at Tisbury, etc., the rioting was dreadful. The mob marched to Pythouse, demolishing all the machines on the way, and when there tossed up, after destroying one of Mr. Bennett's thrashing machines, whether they pulled down Pythouse, or go on to the next. They went on to the next, and while there the Hindon troop of Yeomanry arrived, and after a desperate affray routed the mob, consisting of six or seven hundred, and took twenty-eight prisoners. Your brother received a severe contusion in the face from a stone, but was not otherwise injured, and is now nearly well. This defeat of the rioters has, I trust, done much good, and has prevented it extending farther in this country. They were to have met at Mere and proceeded west next day. By the active measures now taken by the Government; I trust all will soon be restored to a former quietness. But I fear some unhappy agency has been at work, for the labourers appeared happy and contented until this business began.

We have not heard anything of Dr. Cunningham. Should we meet with him he may rely on us showing him every civility. I am glad Luckey arrived safely. I concluded she had been eaten up at Swan River.

Give my love to Margaret. I hope she will like the things I sent her for herself and the children.

With kindest love.

I am, my dear George, your truly affectionate Mother,

Laetitia Wyndham