

**ADDITIONAL LETTERS**

**TO**

***The South African Letters of Thomas Pringle***

**published by the Van Riebeeck Society in 2011**

**Edited by Randolph Vigne**

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As the Editorial Note below explains, these 26 letters supplement those included in the VRS volume *The South African Letters of Thomas Pringle* published in 2011

## Editorial Note

The disappearance of Thomas Pringle's personal archive after his death is noted in the Introduction (p. xiii) to *The South African Letters of Thomas Pringle*, published in 2011 by the Van Riebeeck Society as No. 42 in its Second Series. Almost all the letters Pringle wrote to his family on the Eastern Cape frontier also disappeared and it has taken considerable research to find the 223 letters published in that volume.

Constraints of space necessitated the exclusion of a further 26 letters, all of them written in the last nine years of Pringle's life, which he spent in Britain. Their South African references are comparatively slight, but their biographical value makes them a valuable, electronically-published supplement to the Van Riebeeck Society volume.

Due to the inter-connected character of the printed and electronic books, some footnotes in the latter refer the reader to information in footnotes to the former. Footnote 1 to letter No 1 below refers to footnotes 3 and 5 to Letter [1] in the published volume.

Apart from the letter to his wife Margaret (No 12) and to his fellow Scots poet Allan Cunningham (No 18), which are solely of biographical interest, the letters here collected contribute also to the knowledge we have of Pringle's South African connexions after he had left the country never to return, despite his dying wish to do so.

## Abbreviated Source References

BL: British Library

Clare: *The Letters of John Clare*, ed. J W and A Tibble (1970 ed.)

Cory Lib: Cory Library, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

EUL: Edinburgh University Library

J Rylands Lib: John Rylands Library, University of Manchester

Lib and Arch Canada: Library and Archives, Ottawa, Canada

LP Fairbairn Pprs: Library of Parliament, Cape Town (Mendelssohn Collection, Fairbairn Papers)

LUL: Leeds University Library

Morris: P Morris, *A Documentary Biography of Thomas Pringle* (PhD dissertation, University of London, 1982)

NELM: National English Literary Museum, Grahamstown

NLS: National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

NLSA CT: National Library of South Africa, Cape Town

ODNB: *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 60 vols (2004-11)

Prince: M Prince, *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave*, ed. T. Pringle (1831)

Pringle (1838): L Ritchie, 'Memoirs of Thomas Pringle', in *The Poetical Works of Thomas Pringle* (1838)

Redding: C Redding, *Fifty Years' Recollections, Literary and Personal* (1858)

Rennie: J V L Rennie, *The Scottish Settler Party of 1820*, 4 vols (1991)

Ruskin: J Ruskin, *Praeterita. The Autobiography of John Ruskin* (1978 ed.)

Thomas: S Thomas, 'Pringle v Cadell and Wood v Pringle: the Libel Trials over *The History of Mary Prince*', *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, 11, 1 (2005)

Vigne (2011): *The South African Letters of Thomas Pringle* (VRS, II 42, 2011)

## Contents

Editorial Note / Abbreviated Source References	2
1 James Hogg <i>10 December 1827</i>	4
2 John Fairbairn <i>n.d. (?1827)</i>	5
3 Sir Walter Scott <i>15 March 1828</i>	5
4 James Hogg <i>22 May 1828</i>	6
5 Bernard Barton <i>8 July 1828</i>	7
6 John Clare <i>25 July 1828</i>	8
7 John Clare <i>16 August 1829</i>	9
8 Revd James McCrie <i>22 October 1828</i>	10
9 James Hogg <i>9 March 1829</i>	10
10 Sir Walter Scott <i>23 October 1829</i>	11
11 Mary Williams <i>19 December 1829</i>	13
12 Margaret Pringle <i>23 January 1830</i>	14
13 Jeremy Bentham <i>11 November 1830</i>	15
14 Susanna Moodie <i>20 December 1831</i>	16
15 William Pringle <i>14 January 1832</i>	18
16 Anna Maria Hall <i>9 June 1832</i>	21
17 Mary Anne Rawson <i>27 February 1832</i>	21
18 Allan Cunningham <i>6 March 1833</i>	22
19 Mary Anne Rawson <i>21 October 1833</i>	23
20 Mary Williams <i>3 November 1833</i>	24
21 Mary Potts – <i>December 1833</i>	25
22 Mary Anne Rawson <i>17 December 1833</i>	26
23 Edward Moxon <i>20 February 1834</i>	26
24 D M Moir <i>19 July 1834</i>	27
25 Edward Moxon <i>20 September 1834</i>	28
26 Cyrus Redding – <i>October 1834</i>	29
Index	30

[1]

James Hogg (To the care of Messrs Smith, Elder & Co, 5 Cornhill, London)

10 December 1827

Dear Hogg

Though you have not replied to either of the two letters I have written to you since my return from the Cape I flatter myself your silence is not owing to any decay of old kindness, and that you will do a service – (as you may do just now) as cordially as ever, when I ask your aid on my behalf.

I have just undertaken the editorship of the “Friendship’s Offering” one of the elegant Annuals that have lately become so popular – and I must depend for success in obtaining able contributors very much on the exertions of my old friends – for my acquaintances among literary men generally is limited and I have as you are aware many active and able competitors. I have just written to Sir Walter, Wilson<sup>1</sup> and one or two others. Wilson I flatter myself, notwithstanding some coolness which took place between us after the explosion of the Chaldee MS (of which it seems *your wicked man* was the real contriver after all)<sup>2</sup> – has never felt any real unkindness towards me – as assuredly as I never did towards him – and I think he will on the present occasion frankly lend me his assistance.<sup>3</sup> On you I also confidently rely – both for prose and verse. Indeed I am ambitious of making my volume predominantly Scotch, by enlisting if possible all Scottish writers of distinguished talent as contributors. To compass this I do enlist your friendly influence.

It is rumoured that Campbell and Moore<sup>4</sup> are also to edit annuals the ensuing season – and I believe the report as far as regards Campbell is correct. So that unless I am strongly supported by you and Scott and other men of might and main I shall make but a poor figure in the field with such redoubted knights to tilt with.

I lay my account to pay at the usual rate of such publications. What that rate is I do not precisely know – but you, my good friend, can’t afford to throw away your time any more than myself – and I shall be most happy to have whatever you can give me on your own terms.

I must be ready to go to press by the 1st July – such is my agreement. So you see there is not much time to lose. Do write on receipt and assure me of your cordial support.

Believe me always, Dear Hogg, Yours very sincerely

PS. I frequently see our old friend Gibson.<sup>5</sup> His health poor fellow is but indifferent. How is Grieve? Kind remembrances to Mrs Hogg.

NLS MS 2245 f 108

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<sup>1</sup> John Wilson (‘Christopher North’) did not have Pringle’s magnanimity and did not undo the ‘unkindness’ of the past. See Vigne (2011), [1], p. 2, ns 3, 5.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. Hogg himself.

<sup>3</sup> Neither Scott nor John Wilson contributed to *Friendship’s Offering*.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Moore (1779–1820), poet and author and friend and biographer of Byron and of Sheridan. A widely popular literary figure, his *Lallah Rookh* (1817) and *Irish Melodies* (1820) were major successes. He did not edit an annual, however.

<sup>5</sup> See [180], p. 319, n. 35.

[2]

*John Fairbairn*

*n.d. (?1827)*

Dear Fairbairn

I am rather indisposed and have been taking medicine so that I can't well come out tonight. I return the Sphynx<sup>6</sup> with thanks. The epistle to Bathurst<sup>7</sup> is very cutting. Is it yours? The notes indicate your spoor I think.

Best regards to Gibson.<sup>8</sup>

Yours truly,

The Literary Gazette<sup>9</sup> now sent belongs to Greig.<sup>10</sup> Be so good as not to cut it up and to return it to him tomorrow.

*Museum Africa, Johannesburg*

[3]

*Sir Walter Scott*

*London, 5 Bunhill Row, Finsbury Square, 15 March 1828*

Dear Sir

I received your very friendly letter in reply to my application for the favour of a little contribution from your pen to the "Annual" which has been recently placed under my superintendence – and though circumstances did not admit of your acceding to my request on this point I felt not the less deeply the genuine kindness and courtesy of your conduct to me on this as well as on many former occasions.

On the subject of the "Annual" I shall only venture to add – that should it be in your power to honour and oblige me in it at any future period by any scrap of your composition I shall duly estimate the favour – which to me would be a very important one – for my long absence from home has nearly obliterated, I find, any little acquaintance I had among literary men – and I have found myself anticipated (*this* being the first season of my editorship) in very many quarters where I hoped for support, by more experienced and well known competitors.

With a view of promoting my objects as an "Annualist!" (more than with any expectations of profit or poetical reputation) I have just published a little volume<sup>11</sup> – the 2nd part of which I have taken the liberty to inscribe to you in a sonnet<sup>12</sup> written while the book was in the press. This little expression of very sincere respect and gratitude I flatter

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<sup>6</sup> 'A weekly journal of politics, literature and general news', owned and edited by J T S Buckingham, 1827–8 (see *ODNB*). Its 116 issues ran from 8 July 1827 to 25 April 1829. See Morris, p. 327, n. 1.

<sup>7</sup> This issue has not been found.

<sup>8</sup> Perhaps John Gibson, p. 319, [180], n. 35. Fairbairn's undated note to which Pringle replies reads, 'Could you come over if not engaged? Gibson is here'.

<sup>9</sup> *The Literary Gazette and Journal of Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences etc.*, edited by William Jerdan, 1818–50.

<sup>10</sup> Presumably William Greig, brother of George Greig, who left Cape Town for London in June 1824 and returned in August 1825.

<sup>11</sup> *Ephemerides, or Occasional Poems written in Scotland and South Africa*, published in 1828 by Smith, Elder & Co, London.

<sup>12</sup> The poem 'To Sir Walter Scott, Bart' is the dedication to the second part, 'Poems Written in South Africa', dated January 1828.

highly cannot offend you – for I am very sure I have successfully avoided every appearance of high flown compliment. I have just sent a copy to be forwarded to you through Longman & Co. which I request you will do me the honour to accept and place in your library as a small memorial of the author’s regard.

Should you visit London this season it will give me very great pleasure to have the satisfaction of again seeing and conversing with you. I am

Dear Sir very truly,  
Your obliged and faithful servant  
*NLS MS 885 f 106*

[4]

*James Hogg*

*5 Bunhill Row, London, 22 May 1828*

Dear Hogg

In November or December last I wrote to inform you that I had undertaken the editorship of one of the literary annuals (Friendship’s Offering) and solicited the favour of your aid. Up to this time, however, I have received no reply – nor have I ever received any to two previous letters which I have addressed to you since my return from [...]. Now if I could imagine any other cause for [...] But then laziness I should certainly not tr[...]. With this letter nor with my further con[...] on my part – but since nothing but fine [...] good feelings have ever existed between us – (at least I assuredly have never had any other but kind feelings towards *you*, and have hitherto believed that such sentiments were reciprocal) – I shall give you once more a trial.

Although I applied with some urgency for your literary aid, and wd certainly account it both kind and valuable to me, yet if your other [...]cations do not admit of your sending me even a scrap of poetry I wd never think of importuning you on that score. Only write to tell me so. Or if there be any other cause for your silence state it with the frankness which [...]our character – and do not let me remain [...] sort of doubt into which your [...] sure any of my letters put me –

[...] Sir Walter at Lockhart’s<sup>13</sup> during his stay [...] still lively and pleasant as usual but years [...] their traces on him since I saw him nine years ago. There is no appearance however of any decay of intellectual vigour in the new Tale which he has just published.<sup>14</sup> I have just read it with very great interest.

I see you are also coming out with another prose work.<sup>15</sup> It contains I presume [...] of the articles which appeared in Blackwood under the same Title – and which have certainly all the pith and penchant of your genius about them.

That child Tennant<sup>16</sup> who has not [...] me. If I had but leisure I have a good [...] to try my hand on a lampoon – a new [...] and make you and Tennant the heroes of it [...] mint it, both of you, at my head [...].

By the way I have lately published [...] a little vol. of verse – comprising [...] most part of my former volume with addition [...] as much more of new matter chiefly [...]

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<sup>13</sup> Scott recorded in his journal Pringle’s calling on him in London in his absence but not his May 1828 visit.

<sup>14</sup> The first of the four volumes of *Tales of a Grandfather* was published in 1827.

<sup>15</sup> *The Shepherd’s Calendar*, Hogg’s collection of stories based on Border folktales, was published in 1828.

<sup>16</sup> William Tennant (1770–1844), Scottish poet and scholar, no ‘child’ in 1828, was, like Hogg, of humble Border origins but of great learning.

South Africa. It has been very favourably [...] most of the periodicals – but like all my [...] does not *sell well*.

However, it has [...] into acquaintance on a very pleasant footing with many literary men to whom I was previously unknown – among others with Sam. Rogers, Coleridge, Southey, Montgomery, Croly, Allan Cunningham and some others well known to fame<sup>17</sup>

–  
Now, Hogg, answer this like a good fellow on receipt and I'll forgive all your previous neglect [...]

With kindest regards to Mrs H I remain yours truly  
*NLS MS 2245 f 118–19*

[5]

*Bernard Barton*<sup>18</sup> [Woodbridge, Suffolk]

*London, 18 Aldermanbury, 8 July 1828*

My dear Sir

I am very sorry to hear that so important a little member as your right thumb is *hors de combat* for the present – but I hope you will not let that circumstance to disappoint me – as I can scarcely imagine it will impair your faculties greatly. For my own part I can assure you that I never wrote verse so fluently (*composed* I should rather say) as when I was laid up at a Moravian Settlement in South Africa<sup>19</sup> with a thigh bone broken and my right wrist so severely bruised that it has never been strong since – On that occasion the rhyme flowed on me faster than I could write it down – and I wrote several sonnets every day besides about 60 stanzas of a sort of *epic* in Spenserian verse.<sup>20</sup> In real truth I have never been able to write verse so fluently since. So I wd. advise you just to try your *left* thumb and you'll find you get on famously – provided you shut yourself up for a day or two in a similar position to mine on the occasion I refer to for seven weeks – *without books or society*.

If no better can be I shall be very thankful for the sonnets you mention any time within the next four weeks.<sup>21</sup> I now have the vol. more than half printed. I have some good things from our friend Hogg.<sup>22</sup> I have also got a scrap from James Montgomery.<sup>23</sup>

Believe me Dear Sir Yours very faithfully  
*LUL, Brotherton Col MS 19c Barton*

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<sup>17</sup> All contributed to *Friendship's Offering*. James Montgomery (1771–1854), from Ayrshire, poet and hymn writer, was committed to the anti-slavery cause (see [180], p. 319, n. 30); the Revd George Croly (1780–1862), Irish poet, Rector of St Stephen, Walbrook in London, whose *Poetical Works* was published in 1830. For Allan Cunningham see [7], n. 31 below.

<sup>18</sup> Bernard Barton (1784–1841), poet of Quaker background, bank clerk, Woodbridge.

<sup>19</sup> Pringle recuperated at Genadendal mission in October–November 1824.

<sup>20</sup> 'The Emigrants', published in *Friendship's Offering*, and as a separate publication entitled *Glen-Lynden. A Tale of Teviotdale* in 1829 and 1828 respectively.

<sup>21</sup> Barton was published in *Friendship's Offering* in 1827 and 1830 but not 1828 or 1829.

<sup>22</sup> A supporter of Barton's early efforts, as were Lamb and Southey.

<sup>23</sup> See [4], note 17 above.

[6]

John Clare<sup>24</sup> [*Helpstone, near Market Deeping, Northamptonshire*]

London, 65 Cornhill, 25 July 1828

Sir

Having undertaken the Editorship of 'Friendship's Offering'<sup>25</sup> for the present year I was desirous of obtaining a contribution from you – but could not procure your address till today when my friend Mr Hall editor of the *Amulet*<sup>26</sup> communicated it to me. It is now I fear too late in the season to expect more than a couple of sonnets or a very brief poem from your pen – for indeed my limits are now so completely engrossed that it would be difficult to find room for more and I expect to have the whole volume in the press by the 10th of August. But if you can before that date supply me with some such contribution I shall consider it a particular obligation for I have long been an admirer of your poetry – ever since I saw some of your pieces in the *London Magazine*<sup>27</sup> – at the Cape of Good Hope from where I have not very long ago returned.

I shall be happy to pay you at the same rate of remuneration that you have been accustomed to from the "Amulet", the "Forget-me-Not"<sup>28</sup> and some similar publications – and if your letter and its inclosures does not exceed an ounce it may be addressed to me under cover to *Edward Lombe Esq, M.P. Norwich*.

I hope you will be able to oblige me in this matter and I remain with very sincere respect, Your obedt. Servt.

If you have no other short pieces a couple of sonnets in your best style will do for me this season.<sup>29</sup> T.P.

*BL Egerton MSS 2248 f 368*

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<sup>24</sup> John Clare (1793–1864), poet, farmworker, first published 1820, lionised in London on several visits, the last in February 1828. He did not recover from mental breakdown in 1840. See n. 29 below.

<sup>25</sup> Pringle took over the editorship in 1828 and Smith, Elder published his first annual volume, the 1829 issue, late in 1828, and his last, the 1835 issue, shortly before his death on 5 December 1834. His name does not appear as editor. The dedication to HRH the Duchess of Clarence 'by permission' is a mark of his long friendship with C R Fox, who had married a daughter of the Duke of Clarence (later William IV) by Mrs Jordan, 'the comic muse'.

<sup>26</sup> Samuel Carter Hall (1800–89) contributed verses to the 1829 volume entitled 'The Dream of the Exile'. He edited the *New Monthly Magazine* from 1830 and, most memorably, *The Art Journal* from 1849. A controversial figure, he was the original of Dickens's odious Mr Pecksniff in *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843–4).

<sup>27</sup> The 18th-century *London Magazine* came to an end in 1785 and its successor (1820–37), under John Scott until 1829, was the most distinguished of the English literary journals of its time.

<sup>28</sup> See [175], p. 312, n. 6.

<sup>29</sup> Clare contributed 'Evening Pastimes', 'Nature' (sonnet), 'The Wren' and 'A Spring Morning'; Pringle himself 'Glen-Lynden – a Tale of Teviotdale', 'The Highlands! The Highlands!', 'La Frescura' and 'Verses' to Dr Waugh; John Fairbairn 'The Nameless Spring' and a sonnet; and Dr Philip 'Tropical sunsets', a prose description. 'Words to a Popular Air' by J F W Herschel (later Sir John) indicates an early Cape connexion, though his four-year sojourn did not begin until 1834. Among the poets and writers who appear in the letters were Buckingham, Conder, Cunningham, Gibson, Hall, Hemans, Hill, Hogg, Howitt, Kennedy, Mitford, Moir ('Delta'), Montgomery, Redding, Ritchie, Roscoe, St John, Southey, Stebbing, Agnes and Susanna Strickland.

[7]

John Clare (*Helpstone. To be left at the Bull Inn, Market Deeping, Northamptonshire*)  
London, 18 Aldermanbury, 16 August 1828

My Dear Sir

Your very obliging and interesting letter of the 6th reached me yesterday – I assure you I feel very sensibly your frank and friendly earnestness in wishing to meet my views. The sonnets you have now sent me are full of poetry – and I shall have much pleasure and pride in finding place for them. There were one or two little slips in rhyme or construction which I have taken the liberty to mend – and now they will do great credit both to you and my volume.

I have great pleasure in sending you herewith my own little volume of rhyme<sup>30</sup>, and *Friendship's Offering* for last year. When you have perused my vol. I shall be very glad to have your remarks and strictures frankly and candidly. I like a man who “calls a spade a spade” who will tell a friend his faults and a brother poet his failures. This is what I expect from you for I see you are a manly, straight forward honest man – such another as our friend Allan Cunningham<sup>31</sup> – and your native taste has not been spoiled by the puling fastidiousness of fashionable literary fashions. And I may say this of myself that though not so good a poet as either honest Allan Cunningham or yourself I am myself of a frank spirit also – and as such a lover of poetry as I have always had far higher enjoyment in admiring the writings of my brethren than in seeking with restless vanity for fame on account of my own little attempts.

I am only recently returned from a seven years sojourn in South Africa<sup>32</sup> – and you will find many allusions to my adventures there in my volume. I am at present chiefly occupied by the duties of “Secretary to the Anti-Slavery Society” – a charge which I undertook soon after my return from the Cape 18 months ago.

The *Friendship's Offering* is the occupation of my leisure hours – and affords some addition to an income otherwise rather scanty for this expensive place. – I am glad to learn that you have some secure provision – though it be but a scanty one for your family. When next you visit London I hope you will not fail to find me out and we will get honest Allan Cunningham to join us – or we will go to him and spend a jocund evening together. Allan was with me last week but I was not aware that he knew you otherwise you would have formed one of our topics of conversation.

I shall be very glad to receive your volume and you may address it to me at 18 *Aldermanbury*, London, and it will not fail to find me.

I send you a bound copy of my book knowing by experience that it will be more convenient for the harvesting.

Yours, Dear Sir, with every kind wish

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<sup>30</sup> *Ephemerides* (1828). Smith, Elder published also in 1828 *Glen-Lynden: a Tale of Teviotdale*, which appeared in *Friendship's Offering* in 1829. A footnote in the latter describes its composition at Genadendal as ‘the first part of a projected poem (not now likely to be resumed)’.

<sup>31</sup> Allan Cunningham (1784–1842), originally a Dumfriesshire stonemason and later secretary to Sir Francis Chantry in London. A prolific song writer, poet and biographer.

<sup>32</sup> Clare wrote (29 August 1828): ‘I hope you intend to write more of your sojourn in Africa. The notes are uncommonly entertaining and give more idea to a traveller at home of these strange lands than one of Mr Murray's or Mr Colburn's table-breaking volumes.’ See Clare, p. 215.

By the by what do you call a “puddock”?<sup>33</sup> Is it a hawk or kite? *Excuse haste.*  
*BL Egerton MSS 2248 f 29*

[8]

*The Revd Dr J McCrie*<sup>34</sup>

[22 October 1828]

My Dear Sir

The foregoing circular will explain itself. My object in addressing it to you is not with any view of asking you to make a sacrifice of any book from your own stock for our parish library – but possibly your publisher might be good enough to send us copies of your Knox and Melville<sup>35</sup> if you shewed him this circular. Slightly damaged copies unfit for sale would suit our purpose perfectly well – if not actually defective.

Mr Blackwood is still, if I mistake not, your publisher, and I dare say, notwithstanding our old Magazine wars ten years ago, will not be unwilling to oblige me.

Mr Pears and my sister<sup>36</sup> sail for the Cape next week – but I can always find opportunities of sending out parcels.

Our little settlement there continues to prosper – my father and other relatives were all well by last accounts. The accession of a pious and able man, as their minister and instructor, must be very important to their welfare. With best regards to Mrs McCrie.<sup>37</sup>

I am, Dear Sir, Yours very truly

I hope you have recd a copy of “Friendship’s Offering” which I forwarded to you a week or two ago.

*NLS MS 4022 f 220*

[9]

*James Hogg (Mount Benger, Selkirkshire)*

9 March 1829

Dear Hogg

The foregoing circular is the result of a little literary project which a few of us have set on foot for the unhappy Spanish Refugees<sup>38</sup> – and in which we hope literary men of all parties will cordially join. It is our mite to a cause of humanity without regard to politics. I am engaged in promoting it as a coadjutor of Campbell’s.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> ‘A bird of prey, usually applied to the kite’, *Oxford English Dictionary* (online, 2007).

<sup>34</sup> J McCrie (1772–1835), minister of the original Secession Church. Pringle was a member of his congregation, and a confidant, in Edinburgh. His ecclesiastical biographies were influential, notably his lives of John Knox and of the Jacobean champion of Presbyterianism, Andrew Melville.

<sup>35</sup> Neither biography as catalogued is in the Glen Lynden Library, now housed in the Cory Library, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

<sup>36</sup> Pears and Isabella Pringle sailed in the *Flinn*, brig, landing at Cape Town on 4 March 1829.

<sup>37</sup> McCrie, widowed in 1821, remarried in 1827 Mary, daughter of the Revd Robert Chalmers, minister of Haddington.

<sup>38</sup> Spain suffered, under several oppressive monarchs in the early nineteenth century, tumult and civil war, with harsh repression of those seeking a return to constitutional rule and the flight of many to sanctuary beyond Spain’s borders.

<sup>39</sup> Thomas Campbell. See [179], p. 316, n. 20.

Cunningham<sup>40</sup> has also promised to help us. We trust to you for something.

I ought to have replied to your kind letter and valuable contributions which reached me about the close of the year – but I have been absolutely overwhelmed with work – being engaged all the forenoon with my office,<sup>41</sup> and my evenings occupied with the editorship of a monthly periodical of *12 sheets*<sup>42</sup> – besides revising a volume of travels for a naval officer<sup>43</sup> – scribbling articles for two other periodicals,<sup>44</sup> and corresponding with the contributors to my annual etc.! This is too much on my hands – but I am striving to make all the Siller I can to clear off all scores. I wish I had a spare week among the hills with you, man. I spent one very pleasant evening with Cunningham last week. He is as busy as myself. He bids me say he has recd. all your kind contributions<sup>45</sup> and will write soon. So will I.

With kind regards to Mrs Hogg I ever am Yours truly

PS. I have lately recd. a letter from James Gray<sup>46</sup> – but of date so far back as Jan. 24. 1828. I presume you have heard from him since. It was addressed to me at the Cape, where he supposed me still resident. He says ‘Mrs Gray is I am sorry to say in precarious health’, but *not* from the effects of the Indian climate!

Pray write and address as formerly.

*NLS MS 2245 f 100*

[10]

*Sir Walter Scott*

*London, 7 Solly Terrace, Pentonville, 23 October 1829*

Dear Sir

With this you will receive a copy of the little literary bijou<sup>47</sup> which I still continue to edit and of which I beg your acceptance as a small token of kindly old regard. I do not imagine that you have either time or inclination to read any of these pretty picture books, but you have I dare say young friends to whom they may be not unacceptable. It is enough if my Christmas “Offering” serves to remind you not unpleasantly of an old acquaintance.

I take the opportunity to offer you a few slight remarks on your recent interesting annotations in the new edition of the Waverley novels. I observe that in giving the graphic sketch of poor Jean Gordon<sup>48</sup> from Blackwood’s magazine you have added the notice of her grand-daughter Madge which I had inserted there from my early and intimate friend the Revd Robert Story, now minister of Roseneath in Dunbartonshire. Mr

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<sup>40</sup> Allan Cunningham. See [7], n. 31 above.

<sup>41</sup> Pringle’s employment as secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society began in September 1826. See [173], p. 309, n. 44.

<sup>42</sup> *The Oriental Herald*. See [168], p. 303, n. 26.

<sup>43</sup> Pringle’s contract to edit Captain Owen’s MS was revoked by the latter in May 1827.

<sup>44</sup> *The Athenaeum* and *New Monthly Magazine*.

<sup>45</sup> Cunningham was editor of *The Anniversary*.

<sup>46</sup> See [50], p. 84, n. 23.

<sup>47</sup> Pringle’s second, 1830, issue of *Friendship’s Offering* was published in October 1829.

<sup>48</sup> The original Meg Merrilies in *Guy Mannering*, described in the notes to Cadell’s annotated edition of the Waverley novels (1828–9). The article on Scottish gypsies in Blackwood’s *Edinburgh Monthly Magazine*, vol. 1, 1817, was by Pringle, partly made up of material supplied by Scott.

Story's father was parish Schoolmaster of Yetholm and baron-bailie<sup>49</sup> for Mr Wauchope of Iddrie<sup>50</sup> – so that he knew the gipsies well. I myself remember seeing Madge Gordon at my father's and elsewhere when I was a boy about ten or twelve years old, of having my fortune *spaed* by her in some frolic and of being not a little impressed by her imposing look and manner.

As she did not, if I rightly recollect, appear to be of *very* advanced age at that period (28 or 30 years ago) might it not have been perhaps her mother (Jean's daughter) whom you rightly recollect seeing in your boyhood? Doubtless it might also well enough have been the granddaughter – and it is no great matter which. I have tried to put my boyish recollections of her and another sibyl called Madge Faa into a little sketch in rhyme<sup>51</sup> which was written to *illustrate* (as they call it) a picture of Stothard's<sup>52</sup> in this Annual – though in truth Stothard's Fortune Teller illustrates old Madge as indifferently as his tartan-mantled females do our Border milk maids.

The notion of Gipsy superstition in Blackwood was also supplied by my friend Story. The account of Davidson<sup>53</sup> of Hindlie's death was given from a letter from Mr Young the Seceder Minister of Jedburgh to my late esteemed friend Dr Waugh of London. Both these worthy men are now deceased. I am at this moment revising a Memoir of Dr Waugh for the Press.<sup>54</sup> He was a man of singular benevolence and enthusiastically Scottish, and I have often regretted that you did not know him – for his character was rich and thoroughly marked. He was a native of the border and in spite of some shaking of the head about Claver'se and the Covenanters,<sup>55</sup> I never knew any one who more heartily enjoyed your writings.

Of Andrew Gemmels<sup>56</sup> I need say nothing for I see the Kelso Mail has got hold of a little notice which I gave of him (from my father's account in Constable's magazine<sup>57</sup> in 1817). I knew at the time that you had some acquaintance of Andrew, and that was one of the thousand and one reasons why I never had the slightest doubt as to the Author – though no more in the secret than the world in general. The account of poor Andrew's death was furnished to me by Mr Robertson of Cairnmount,<sup>58</sup> and imparted in his own words.

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<sup>49</sup> Local legal officer.

<sup>50</sup> Landlord of the Pringles' farm, Blaiklaw, between Kelso and Yetholm.

<sup>51</sup> 'The Spaewife', dated 1829, was first published in *Friendship's Offering* for 1830, dated 1829, and was clearly inspired by his recollections after seeing Scott's footnote. 'Spae' is a Scots dialect term denoting 'tell fortunes'.

<sup>52</sup> Engravings of many pictures by Thomas Stothard (1755–1834) appeared in *Friendship's Offering*.

<sup>53</sup> James Davidson, farmer of Hindlies, Selkirkshire, original of Dandie Dinmont in *Guy Mannering*.

<sup>54</sup> *Memoir of the Revd Alexander Waugh* by J A Hay and H Belfrage (1830). Pringle is thanked in the preface for his 'editorial superintendence' at the Press, and 'some most judicious alterations and additions'.

<sup>55</sup> John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, who led James II's forces against the Covenanters, is depicted unfavourably by Scott in *Old Mortality* (1816), despite his position against the Covenanters. He was killed at Killiecrankie in 1689.

<sup>56</sup> The original of Edie Ochiltree in *The Antiquary*, a wandering beggar welcome in some houses for his story telling.

<sup>57</sup> Untraced.

<sup>58</sup> Cairnmount is today within Jedburgh, Selkirkshire.

There is only another character that I at present recollect having had my hand in *illustrating*, namely The Black Dwarf<sup>59</sup> and of Bowed Davie I knew nothing personally – but I strung together for one of the magazines (Constable’s I think)<sup>60</sup> a few trifling anecdotes and particulars, supplied by Mr John Anderson the bookseller and another person whose name I have forgot.

It is hardly worth while troubling you with these very unimportant remembrances – since doubtless every particular worth knowing is already sufficiently well known to you. Allow me to add one remark of a different sort. It strikes me, that although all the anecdotes and illustrations you have added in the new edition of the Novels, are highly interesting, yet when they occur at the foot of a page or at the end of a chapter they tend to dissipate to a certain extent the illusion of reality which the story had acquired over the reader’s imagination, by exhibiting somewhat abruptly traces of the groundwork of the fiction. I do not feel this effect when such illustrations are introduced into the introduction, nor do I think it would be felt as much, if at all, if they were thrown to the conclusion of each volume – but when they occur like those about Dinmont and some others in the middle of a volume I am sensible, even in a 3d or 4th perusal of the novel, of a rather unwelcome disenchantment. I know not if this be the case with others – but that you can readily ascertain. At all events I am sure you will not take in ill part a remark which only my admiration – my almost jealous admiration of these national tales, induces me personally to offer.

But it is time to close this lengthy epistle. I hope your health and spirits continue excellent and most cordially wish they may long so continue. Of myself I am happy to say that I have no cause to complain – All goes on well and steadily with me – and if health be spared to me I have no apprehension of the future. I remain ever my dear Sir

With faithful regards  
Yours very truly  
NLS MS 3094 f 264

[11]

*Mrs Mary Williams (fragment, on reverse of ‘A noonday dream’)*<sup>61</sup>

19 December 1829

... is said about the beginning of May [...] we previously suspect. Mr Ainslie<sup>62</sup> has again begun [...] way at Hawick and writes that he is doing purely [...] family are in pretty good health. I heard lately from [...] they are all much as usual – our old Uncle<sup>63</sup> frail [...] tolerably well. Our aunt Riddle’s health is also [...] all other friends much as

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<sup>59</sup> Published in 1816, in ‘Tales of My Landlord’, first series.

<sup>60</sup> A letter signed J A in *Blackwood’s*, vol. 1, no 3 (June 1817) identified the original of the Black Dwarf as David Ritchie of Peeblesshire, known as ‘bowed Davie’ due to his deformity.

<sup>61</sup> Dated ‘Koonap River, 1825’, first published in *Friendship’s Offering*, 1828 and with many changes in Pringle (1838), p. 39.

<sup>62</sup> William Ainslie (1790–1851) of Hawick, Roxburghshire, married Pringle’s sister, Jessie. With their five children, the Ainslies joined the Pringle party at the Cape in 1832.

<sup>63</sup> It is not known which of Robert Pringle’s six brothers were still alive in 1829. The most prominent of these were the Revd Alexander Pringle DD, Secessionist minister in Perth (1752–1839) and the youngest son, Adam, Lord Provost of Perth 1833–6, d. 1849. Thomas refers to the former elsewhere.

usual. Cousin William Pringle<sup>64</sup> [...] some months ago as a probation for muted states [...]

No new intelligence from our brother Alexr: [...] With respect to myself you are aware that [...] one of the elegant works called [...] somewhat improved my income next [...] on this sheet is inserted in this work – which is [...] Friendship’s Offering. These sort of works are quite [...] At present. Campbell the Poet is to edit a new book so I shall be in respectable company. I hear [...] of being on very friendly terms with Campbell [...] literary acquaintance is now quite as extensive [...] to come to London if he could obtain a good situation.

*NELM 93.2.1.32*

[12]

*Margaret Pringle*

*Highwood Hill, 23 January 1830*

I arrived here<sup>65</sup> last night about seven, without suffering much annoyance from cold, or finding the roads so bad as I expected. I have enjoyed a good night’s rest, and now sit down, after breakfast, at a comfortable fire in my own room, to write you before I do anything else, and to give you a few details which I think will interest and entertain you.

Finding on my arrival that there was company with the family, I desired the servant to show me to my bed-room in order to adjust myself a little before joining them in the dining-room. Mr Wilberforce immediately came up, welcomed me with great cordiality, and pressed me to go down without dressing, as there was no *fine* company, but only Mr Simeon<sup>66</sup> from Cambridge, Mr Sarjeant<sup>67</sup> another clergyman, and two ladies, friends of the family. They had dined – and after an hour’s chat I prevailed on Mr Wilberforce to retire for his usual nap, which he seemed disposed to forego on my account. At tea he again joined us – and then I told him the news of Lord William Bentinck having issued a proclamation at Benares, prohibiting in future the burning of widows throughout the British dominions in India.<sup>68</sup> The good old man was overjoyed, and eagerly inquired into all the details and as to the certainty of the intelligence; on being assured of which I observed that he covered his face with his hands, and appeared silently to offer up thanksgiving to God for this great triumph of Christian philanthropy, of which he had lived to witness the accomplishment. We conversed on this and various kindred topics till nine o’clock, when we adjourned to the hall for family worship. Mr Wilberforce himself gave out the hymn, and we were accompanied in singing by a small organ. All the servants (seven or eight) were present. The congregation of the household for this service

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<sup>64</sup> See [224], p. 375, n. 108.

<sup>65</sup> The Wilberforces’ home near Mill Hill, north London, was let after a serious financial setback in 1830.

<sup>66</sup> The Revd Charles Simeon (1759–1836), fellow of King’s College, Cambridge, associated with Wilberforce, Zachary Macaulay, Charles Grant and the evangelical Clapham Sect. Wilberforce was deeply concerned with Christian missions and bringing Christianity to India.

<sup>67</sup> Perhaps the Revd John Sarjent, Rector of Lavington, Sussex, whose daughter Mary married the Wilberforces’ youngest son, the Revd Henry William Wilberforce, in 1834.

<sup>68</sup> Lord William Bentinck, Governor-General in India 1828–35, achieved abolition of *sati* finally on 4 December 1829, after a minute in November had prefigured this. Pringle’s information must have related to an earlier stage in the process. The abolition of *sati* had been a major cause to both Wilberforce and Buxton.

has a very delightful and patriarchal appearance, especially when one observed the holy fervour with which this great and good man leads their devotions. Mr Simeon briefly expounded a chapter of the Bible, and Mr Wilberforce himself concluded with a prayer – so plain, appropriate, and impressive, that it greatly reminded me of the family prayers of some of my *Scotch Seceder* relations when I was a boy.

After this the good old man sat down with us at the fireside, conversed with interest and animation on a variety of subjects, and read a favourite passage or two of poetry which happened to be referred to, and it was past twelve o'clock before I could get away to bed.

This morning we assembled to family worship at half-past nine, – afterwards breakfasted – and now I am come up to write my letters. The ground is quite covered with snow, so that there is no getting out, except when it is swept off from the gravel walk round the house.

I have just discovered incidentally that the *best* bed-room has been appropriated to me – a mark of polite attention to a visitor without any of the attributes of worldly consequence, and especially when so many other visitors are in the house, which evinces true delicacy of feeling.

Mrs Wilberforce<sup>69</sup> is a sensible and well informed woman, and converses readily and well on most topics.

*Pringle (1838), xcvi–xcviii*

[13]

*Jeremy Bentham*<sup>70</sup> (*Queen Square Place, Westminster*)

*18 Aldermanbury, 11 November 1830*

Sir

I have to report that owing to my being absent in Scotland at the time you addressed a letter to make communication with Dr Walsh,<sup>71</sup> I was not able to give that prompt attention to it which my great respect for you would have commanded. My assistant here, I learn, acknowledged the receipt of your letter at the time by a note to yourself, and also wrote to Dr Walsh in the Country informing him of the import of your letter. Dr Walsh has recently arrived in Town and I have this day seen him and put your communication into his hands and he will not fail to call upon you tomorrow or next day – or at all events on some early day before he leaves Town for Constantinople.

I write this note to assure you that there has been no intentional neglect of your wishes on my part and at the same time avail myself of this occasion to place in your hands the inclosed tract, with the hope that the great importance of the subject may induce you to peruse it and give it your consideration. Should you find leisure to do so I should consider it a very special favour to be honoured at your conveniency with your

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<sup>69</sup> Barbara Spooner (1777–1847), daughter of a Birmingham banker, married Wilberforce in 1797. They had four sons, two daughters.

<sup>70</sup> Jeremy Bentham (1748–1832), philosopher, jurist, law reformer, a major public figure of his time, concerned in the 1820s with the undesirability of colonialism, particularly in Latin America. Cf. his pamphlet *Emancipate your Colonised!* (1830).

<sup>71</sup> Robert Walsh (1772–1852), Anglican clergyman in Ireland, chaplain to the British Embassy, Constantinople and St Petersburg in the early 1820s. After visiting Rio de Janeiro in 1828, he attacked slavery in *Notices on Brazil* (1832). A committee member of the Anti-Slavery Society, he returned to Constantinople as chaplain in 1831.

sentiments respecting the point at issue – the fitness of the slave population of our Colonies for *early emancipation*.

I have the honour to be with high respect, Sir, Your obedt. Servant

*Note on cover:* 1830 Pringle 11 Nov Aldermanbury  
Walsh returned –  
inclosing Anti-Slavery Report

*Letter from Rob. Walsh, 59 Sloane Street, Chelsea:* ‘On my return to England after several months absence my friend Mr Pringle of the Anti-Slavery Society sent me a letter of yours containing some flattering notice of a work of mine on Brazil [...] I fully appreciate the value of *laudari a consulate viro*<sup>72</sup> [...]’  
*BL Add MSS 33546 f 465*

[14]

*Mrs Susanna Moodie*

20 December 1831

My Dear Friend

I presume you have given me up as *too bad*. Yet I am not so bad as you think. I think of you now and then – though I feel writing a letter too much to attempt. We are all much interested about your project of emigrating to Canada, and hope you will be able to realize your wish.<sup>73</sup> Narrow circumstances are a great draw back no doubt – but you cannot go out poorer than I went to the Cape twelve years ago.

I forwarded some MSS of yours which I got from Mr Ritchie<sup>74</sup> some weeks ago, through Mr Bird of Yoxford.<sup>75</sup>

In regard to ourselves, I have little particular news. The health of Mrs P is just *so so*, as Mary<sup>76</sup> says. My own is tolerable. I am lucky as usual.

The Annuals have sold ill this season except the *Landscape ones*.<sup>77</sup> Ritchie’s is a splendid book.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> The usual Latin phrase is *laudari a viro laudato*, ‘to be praised by someone who is praised’.

<sup>73</sup> The Moodies settled in Ontario in 1832, as did Susanna’s sister Catherine Parr Traill and her husband. Both became major literary figures in Canada. Moodie had wished to return to the Cape, but, like the heroine of Susanna’s novel *Flora Lindsay* (1854), she had ‘an invincible dislike of that colony’; its wild animals were ‘her terror ... those dreadful snakes and lions’. Moodie’s *Ten Years in South Africa* (1835) supported her view.

<sup>74</sup> Leitch Ritchie (see [180], p. 320, n. 39) was editor of the *Englishman’s Magazine* at this time.

<sup>75</sup> James Bird (1780–1839), stationer and bookseller at Yoxford, Suffolk, near the Stricklands’ home Reydon Hall, Southwold. His poetry was published in the *Suffolk Chronicle*.

<sup>76</sup> Mary Prince, whose memoir Susanna took down for publication. Prince left her ‘owners’ when they brought her to England where she lived with the Pringles. Her account of her life in slavery was published as *The History of Mary Prince, a West Indian Slave*, [edited by Pringle].

<sup>77</sup> Pringle’s friend, Thomas Roscoe ([183], p. 325, n. 59), translator, historical and travel writer, provided a major work for each issue of the *Landscape Annual*, 1830–8. The 1831 issue contained his *The Tourist in Spain*.

<sup>78</sup> His *Romance of History, France* was published in 1831, and reviewed by Susanna Strickland in the *Athenaeum*.

The Englishman's Mag<sup>ine</sup> is *Defunct*.<sup>79</sup> Wm Kennedy<sup>80</sup> is reporting for the Times – and the Dr<sup>81</sup> is at Sunderland pursuing the fearful pest – the Cholera.<sup>82</sup> It is spreading rapidly now and will be among us ere long, I have no doubt.

Have you seen how I am abused in Blackwood's Magazine – the John Bull etc. about poor Mary Prince? I am prosecuting Blackwood for libel.<sup>83</sup> Mary is still the same and in the same situation.

The history of Ashton Warner has sold indifferently and there will be, I expect, from £15 to £20 of loss – which of course falls on me as it was all my own management. There is no help for it.

Mr Wright's book<sup>84</sup> has not sold at all – and there is a great loss on it – which I am not however responsible for. I have heard nothing of Wright and his wife for a long time. They are still in Ireland.

Miss Cheyne and Martha Brown<sup>85</sup> are in *statu quo* – I suppose you are mistress of Latin enough to understand that phrase.

Have you heard that your old acquaintance Mr Harral<sup>86</sup> has lost the editorship of *La Belle Assemblée*? What will the poor man do now?

The publishing world is almost at a stand still – and the scribbling world are almost out of occupation. It is well for me that I depend little on it.

Write us all about your plans – and your health – and all your *cracks*. Do you keep free of Ague?

I have really no news to write about. With best regards to your mother and sisters when you see them.

I remain, Dear Mrs Moodie, yours with every kind wish

I suppose you did not much like my “Dream of Fairyland”.<sup>87</sup> It is I confess rather wishy washy stuff. Had it not been my *own* I suppose it would have had a bad chance of

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<sup>79</sup> Published by Edward Moxon in April 1831, with Leitch Ritchie, but ceased publication after six issues. See [188], p. 330, n. 80.

<sup>80</sup> Presumably W. Kennedy. See [188], p. 330, n. 81.

<sup>81</sup> Dr James Kennedy, Pringle's doctor.

<sup>82</sup> England's first cholera epidemic spread from Sunderland in December 1831 throughout the country, in March 1832 reaching London, where some 4000 died. See R J Morris, *Cholera 1832: the Social Response to an Epidemic* (1976).

<sup>83</sup> See [18], n. 106 below.

<sup>84</sup> See [211], p. 363, n. 68.

<sup>85</sup> The former is unidentified. Martha A Browne corroborated Margaret Pringle's letter of 28 March 1831 to Mrs Townsend, a secretary of the Birmingham Ladies' Society for the Relief of Negro Slaves, testifying to her having seen the scars on Mary Prince's body from floggings. (Appendix to 3rd edition of *The History of Mary Prince*). Margaret refers to her as 'my friend Martha Browne' and refers to her own 'observation of similar cases at the Cape of Good Hope'.

<sup>86</sup> Thomas Harral, editor of the *Suffolk Chronicle*, was also the last to edit *La Belle Assemblée*, a fashion magazine first published in 1806. It was revived in 1833 as the *Court Magazine*.

<sup>87</sup> First appeared in *Friendship's Offering*, 1832, later in *African Sketches* and in Pringle (1838), 149–60. Its Spenserian style suggests that it was the uncompleted epic begun at Genadendal (see [74], p. 126, n. 5). The *Literary Gazette*, 1831 reviewed *Friendship's Offering*, 1832 favourably, but found the 'Dream of Fairyland' 'by the editor himself ... not among his happiest efforts'.

insertion – but one is always kind to one’s own poetry and one’s bairns even though they be but rickety brats.

*Lib and Arch Canada (enclosed with [193])*

[15]

*William Pringle*

*London, 14 January 1832*

My dear Brother.

It is now six years since on parting with you at Glen Linden: you exacted from me a promise, that on my return to our native land, I would compile and transmit to you some account of our Scottish progenitors and family connections with a view to preserving among our kindred and their descendants in Africa, the remembrance of the race, upright and religious husbandmen, from whom they are sprung.

Your purpose is commendable, and I regret that its execution has been so long delayed. Some circumstances have this day recalled it freshly to my mind, and I have resolved at once to begin my task:

William Pringle (1)

Who occupied the farm of Yair on Tweedside, about the beginning of last century as tenant under the Lairds of Whyte Bank, – is the first of our ancestors of whom I have obtained any precise information. He is mentioned in the marriage contract of his son William (our Great Grandfather) dated in 1707 and I am informed by the present worthy representative of the house of Whyte Bank, Alex Pringle<sup>88</sup> M.P. for Selkirkshire, that our progenitor’s name occurs in some of the deeds of that family. Mr Pringle adds that some of the ruins of the house which he inhabited are still remaining. It was an old Peel-Tower in a very picturesque situation at the foot of Craig Hill opposite to the old Manor Place of Cadonlee.<sup>89</sup> According to the tradition of the country people, William Pringle was the last man who inhabited the old tower. But of his character or history no memorials appear to have been preserved.

Our family tradition you are aware, represents this William of Peel Tower as a kinsman of the Laird of Whyte Bank, and our venerable Aunt Mrs Riddle<sup>90</sup> [...] as well as our Father and Uncles have mentioned to me that they have often heard from their Father that his Father (son of the above William) was a cousin of the Laird’s. The word cousin however as used by all old Border Clansmen is a term expressive sometimes of very remote consanguinity and in the present instance, the relationship would seem from all I can collect, to have been rather distant, if not altogether imaginary. Be that as it may it is certain that some degree of family intercourse subsisted between the Whyte Bank family and our progenitor down to our Grandfather’s time, and a sort of feudal or rather patriarchal regard for that house as the chief of our ancient Scottish name and Clan was preserved in our family to our own days.

William Pringle (2)

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<sup>88</sup> Alexander Pringle (1791–1857), 9th Laird of Whytbank, Tory member for Selkirkshire, a Lord of the Treasury in Peel’s government, 1841–5. Whytbank is 4km west of Galashiels. His kinsman Robert Pringle, 9th Laird of Clifton (see [21], n. 120 below), d. 1843, was also MP for Selkirkshire.

<sup>89</sup> Caddonlee today, south of Clovenfords. itself just west of Galashiels.

<sup>90</sup> See [21], n. 118 below.

Second son of the above William, “tenant of Yair” was our “Great Grand Father.” It would appear that he had an elder brother, but of him or his Father’s other descendants I have no memorials. This William our ancestor appears from the old documents in your possession, to have settled at Dryburgh about the commencement of last century, and that he rented from Thomas Haliburton of Newmines a small farm, comprising the orchards of the old Abbey. The produce of these orchards appears to have contributed not a little to his prosperity as a husbandman. In 1707 he married Margaret Paisley tenant Brotherstains.<sup>91</sup> In the marriage contract which is dated 19th February of that year and witnessed by Thomas Haliburton and his two brothers, “he binds himself to provide and have on rentship of his own proper money all audhail<sup>92</sup> the soume of one thousand marks “Scots” and to lend out the same upon annual rent and good security, and to take and accept of the wrytes and securities of the soume of ffyve hundred marks thereof in favour of himself and the said Margaret Paisley his promised spouse and longest liver of these two in life. For the which cause and on the other part, the said Margaret makes over to her promised husband All one haile the soume of one hundred pounds Scots in name of tocher<sup>93</sup> and [...]”

The above Margaret his first wife having died early without issue, he afterwards married Agnes Gowanlock the daughter of a neighbouring tenant, by whom he had three children all of whom survived him. He died at Dryburgh on the 2nd Feb 1745 in the 64th year of his life (born in 1681) and was buried within the precincts of the old Abbey. His sons erected a tombstone to his memory and that of their mother, who was interred beside him a few years afterwards, but it appears to have been destroyed or removed amidst the alterations and dilapidation which the ancient ruins and cemetery have subsequently undergone. His character according to the traditionary report conveyed to me by his Grand-daughter our Aunt Riddle was of an upright and skilful man also a skilful husbandman, and a strict adherent of the Scottish Church. He lived in intimate friendship with his Landlord the worthy Thomas Haliburton, with Dr Erskine of Shieldfields and with Rev Mr Innes, the venerable Parish Minister, Father of the late Mr Innes of Gifford.<sup>94</sup> It appears from his last testament and a few other family papers of that period that he had been a thriving tenant in the Abbey yards. In 1721 he appears a Cautioner for William Haliburton in “Lilholme” his Landlord’s brother in the sum of £800 Scots and in his last settlement dated Nov 5th 1745 it is specified that he had money lent out upon annual rent and good security in the hands of Sir John Scott<sup>95</sup> about £333/6/8 sterling a very respectable sum of lying money. He had a further sum not noted in his will deposited in the hand of Pringle of Whyte Bank which appears by a paper dated at Yair Feb 11th 1746 to have been divided by arbitration in equal portions among his three children, William, Alexander and Isabel. Before carrying forward our own line, I may briefly notice the other branches of his family.

Alexander his second son had established himself as a builder or architect in Kelso, sometime before his Father’s decease. He is said to have been a man of scientific skill

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<sup>91</sup> Brotherstones today.

<sup>92</sup> Dowry (Gaelic).

<sup>93</sup> A term relating to an interest in land.

<sup>94</sup> The Revd James Innes, minister of Morton, Berwickshire, father of Dr Robert Innes of Giffordsvale, MD.

<sup>95</sup> Unidentified.

and engaged in extensive business. Being called upon to inspect some of the arches of Kelso bridge which appeared unsound he was suddenly crushed to death by the fall of that structure about the middle of last century. He left two daughters who married and settled in England. Isabel the one daughter married Thomas Brodie<sup>96</sup> tenant in Bemerside<sup>97</sup> and had a large family. Some of her descendants are still farming in that vicinity.

Since writing the preceding pages, I have composed the following lines for an inscription on our Great Grandfather's tomb at Dryburgh, and should I again visit Tweedside in the ensuing summer, I propose to erect a plain stone over his grave<sup>98</sup> and have engraved on it as a memorial of our family, the following:

*Inscription*

Old William Pringle's bones are buried here,  
An upright man, a Christian most sincere,  
A Scottish husbandman of the old style  
Who lived and died beside this ancient pile.  
A stonecast from this spot his dwelling stood  
His farm lay down the margin of the flood  
Those old monastic orchards filled his store  
But scarce survives a tree he pruned of yore  
Amidst these ivy cloisters hived his bees  
Here his young children gambolled round his trees  
And daily here at morn and evening close  
His solemn hymn of household worship rose.  
His memory now hath perished from this place  
And over many lands his venturous race  
Are scattered widely, some are in the grave,  
Some few remain in Britain, ocean's wave  
Hath wafted many to far western woods  
Lived by Ohio's and Ontario's floods  
Another band beneath the southern skies  
Have built their homes where Caffer mountains rise  
And taught with Mancazana's willowed vale  
The native names of Scottish Teviotdale.  
A pilgrim of the race from distant climes  
Revisiting this spot has penned these rhymes  
And raised this stone in hallowed trust  
His kindred's memory and Great Grand Sire's dust

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<sup>96</sup> Rennie (1, p. 87) has the name as Brokie.

<sup>97</sup> Ancient seat of the Haigs of Bemersyde, bought back by Field Marshal Earl Haig, 20th Laird of Bemersyde, who lies near Sir Walter Scott at Dryburgh. Rennie, 1, p. 88.

<sup>98</sup> Pringle did not visit the Borders in the summer of 1833, due no doubt to the intense activity of the Anti-Slavery Society as abolition approached, and no new gravestone was erected. Rennie records that the original gravestone of William Pringle, died 1745, and his wife Agnes Gowinlock, died 1755, was found in a cellar storeroom of Dryburgh Abbey in 1969 by Eric Pringle of Glen Thorn, Cape. Rennie 1, p. 87. In Pringle (1838), with other changes, the last two lines read: Resting in hope, that at the Saviour's feet / They yet may re-unite, when Zion's pilgrims meet.

In humble faith that where believers meet  
He may be found with him at Jesus's feet.

*Cory Lib PR 2736a (typescript)*

[16]

*Mrs Anna Maria Hall*<sup>99</sup>

*18 Aldermanbury, 9 June 1832*

Dear Mrs Hall

I enclose a fable written by Mrs Finlay<sup>100</sup> of Castlemains in Lanarkshire, an ingenious and accomplished correspondent of mine. If you think it will suit your *Juvenile Annual* you are welcome to it – if not, please to return it immediately that I may otherwise dispose of it.

I hope Mr Hall and yourself are quite well. We are now residing at Highgate and I am (though daily in the City) altogether secluded from the literary circles.

Yours with all good wishes

I beg your acceptance of a penny periodical of mine.<sup>101</sup>

*NLSA CT MS 393.1.1*

[17]

*Mary Anne Rawson*<sup>102</sup> (*Mrs W B Rawson, Wincobank Hall, near Sheffield*)

*London, 18 Aldermanbury, 27 February 1833*

Dear Madam

I duly received your letter of the 12th inst. and have only delayed thus long in replying to it, in consequence of the extreme pressure of Anti-Slavery business which has *totally* engrossed my time and attention for many months past – and indeed does so, at this moment, to the exclusion necessarily of almost every other subject. Your object is, however, so nearly connected with that topic, that I feel it a duty as well as a pleasure to give any little encouragement in my power to your benevolent undertaking.<sup>103</sup> I regret much that very little is at this moment in my power. I have not a line on slavery that has not been already in print – and my time is so engrossed by my immediate duties that I have little hope of being able to contribute any thing at all worthy of your acceptance, or

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<sup>99</sup> The sole South African significance of the letter is its being in the collection of the National Library, Cape Town (formerly the South African Public Library). Its provenance is unknown. Catalogued with it, under 'Mrs Hall', are MS extracts from the *Literary Gazette and Journal of Belles Lettres, Arts, Sciences &c*, 1834, announcing Pringle's imminent departure 'to erect a dwelling and join a Colony he had formed in the interior of South Africa', and of 13 December 1834 (misdated 1835 in the MS) transcribing the obituary 'of this amiable individual whose literary productions have so often merited our praise.'

<sup>100</sup> 'The Ant Eater: a Fable' by L A Findlay appeared in the *Juvenile Forget-me-not*. See Morris, p. 344. The letter exemplifies the generous help Pringle sought to give other writers, however obscure.

<sup>101</sup> Pringle's article 'Use of tobacco by the Hottentots' appeared in the first issue of *The Penny Magazine* (see [201], p. 350, n. 19) in June 1832.

<sup>102</sup> Mary Anne Rawson, née Read (1801–87), wealthy, widowed abolitionist, a leader in the Sheffield Female Anti-Slavery Society.

<sup>103</sup> The compilation of writings – prose and verse – on slavery in the British Empire. It was published in 1834 when the Abolition Act had been passed, under the title *The Bow in the Cloud, or the Negro's Memorial. A Collection of Original Contributions in Prose and Verse illustrative of the Evils of Slavery and Commemorative of its Abolition in the British Colonies*.

of being placed in the same list with the compositions of the able and excellent individuals you mention. To manifest, however, at least my *good will*, I will venture to promise something or other, either in prose or verse; and shall not fail to devote the very first leisure hour I can spare to it. Meanwhile I shall feel much obliged by your informing me of the *latest day* you can give me for I dare scarcely hope to have even a leisure hour for some weeks to come.

I have mentioned the subject to my friend Mr Richard Hill,<sup>104</sup> a very accomplished gentleman of Colour, who has recently returned from travelling for two years in Hayti (St Domingo) and he has promised to look through his journals to see if he can find something suitable for your collection. Mr Hill writes very well both in prose and verse, and has occasionally been a contributor to *Friendship's Offering*<sup>105</sup> – an annual edited by me for several years past.

I shall be happy to mention the work to others of my acquaintance – and should you issue any prospectus I could send out a couple of hundred copies through the Country with our monthly parcels.

In regard to a name I do not feel prepared to offer any suggestion – but if you will let me know what titles have occurred to you, I may possibly be able to offer an opinion or a hint.

I shall send you ere long a parcel of our recent Anti-Slavery publications through the channel you mention. But I fear longer to delay this letter by sending it by any other conveyance than the post.

I transmitted your pecuniary contribution to Dr Philip at the Cape some time ago by the hands of a friend who was going out. I have had recent communications from the worthy Dr and am pleased to say that his pious and benevolent exertions are prospering highly.

I remain, with much respect, Dear Madam, Yours very truly  
*J Rylands Lib Eng MS 415/140*

[18]

*Allan Cunningham*

*Holly Terrace, Highgate, 6 March 1833*

My Dear Cunningham

I am truly sorry I cannot accept your kind invitation. It is really out of our power for *three* reasons, any one of which would suffice. But I need not waste time and ink on explanatory details.

As for the law – I love it not but could not avoid it in this case. The enemy<sup>106</sup> and I have had a sort of drawn battle. Nobody will gain anything but the lawyers. My only comfort is that it will cost my antagonists (whose object was to overwhelm me with expenses) about four times as much as me. However, have at them again.

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<sup>104</sup> Richard Hill (1795–1872), anti-slavery campaigner and poet, son of an English merchant and an East Indian mother.

<sup>105</sup> He contributed a poem, 'The Wanderer', to *Friendship's Offering*, 1829.

<sup>106</sup> Pringle brought an action for libel against Cadell, London agent for *Blackwood's*, and James MacQueen paid damages and costs for Cadell. John Wood, Mary Prince's 'owner', did the same successfully against Pringle. See *The Times*, 21 February 1833, 1 March 1833; [194], p. 337, n. 109; Rennie, 3, 940–1, Prince (2000), xxviii–xxx, 100–03. For a full account of both trials see Thomas, 113–35.

I am just sitting down to show up a *lord*<sup>107</sup> with whom I have been corresponding about a wretched old woman<sup>108</sup> whom he calls his *property*, and whom he refuses to emancipate *on any terms*, after his overseer had kept her *six months in the stocks* for running away! These people are utterly insane – but their day is nearly over. Mark my prediction: *Slavery will be extinguished throughout the British dominions before January 1835*<sup>109</sup> – and Mary Prince shall go back to her husband, and Betto Douglas to her children in spite of the spiteful Mr Wood and the contemptible Lord Romney, and the West India Club<sup>110</sup> into the bargain.

I have had a battling time of it most of my life – and yet I fancy I am a quiet peaceable fellow at the bottom. But some how it has been my destiny – and as for what the world calls *ruin* I fear it not. I have endured it and know the worst – a reed hut in the wilderness. One thing I will say for myself – I have never engaged in a controversy or a cause without being thoroughly convinced of being on the right side – and once convinced of *that* I care not for the consequences. A man of integrity may be beat, or baffled, or crushed – but he cannot be *ruined* – properly speaking. The devil himself cannot *ruin* us without our consent.

However – I am in no apprehension of even pecuniary ruin at present – though I am in for upwards of £200 by these trials, and entirely on my own responsibility without any sanction from the Society. I send you a paper in which a friend has put a paper<sup>111</sup> on this case, without my knowledge. I dare say the money will be raised without my stirring a finger in it. There are liberal and generous men in old England. I shall never demean myself to ask for aid – but if it is offered, I will not be so *daft* as decline it.

There's a long egotistical slavery scribblement for you.

*Richard Ford, Bookseller, London*

[19]

*Mary Anne Rawson*

*21 October 1833*

Dear Madam

I inclose Mr Hill's verses,<sup>112</sup> which I have just found. They are pretty – but I think if he had written as I suggested a little prose description of the happy condition of some of the Haitian negroes, it would have been more interesting.

I inclose also a little sketch of my own<sup>113</sup> which was printed in the *Tourist*.<sup>114</sup> Perhaps as that work is long extinct and was but little known, the verses may still suit your purpose. If they do not please to return them at your conveniency.

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<sup>107</sup> Charles Marsham, 2nd Earl Romney (1777–1845) whose family had owned Romney Manor in St Kitts since the 17th century. Lord Romney freed his slaves in 1834, rejecting the four-year apprenticeship the Abolition Act allowed for. His manager, Richard Cardin, seems to have been culpable for the ill-treatment of Betto Douglas, whom he excluded from this freedom from apprenticeship.

<sup>108</sup> Betto Douglas. See n. 107 above; [194], p. 337, n.107.

<sup>109</sup> The slaves were freed in the British Empire five months earlier – on 1 August 1834.

<sup>110</sup> Perhaps Pringle's sobriquet for the West Indian slave-owners and their supporters. Not otherwise identified.

<sup>111</sup> Not recorded as extant.

<sup>112</sup> 'The Creole Maiden's Song to the Marvel of Peru', a 14-line poem in rhyming couplets, with a prose introduction.

I am, Dear Madam, with all good wishes, yours very truly,

PS. I like “Eleutheria”<sup>115</sup> better than any title I have yet heard suggested – though I admit it is rather too learned. But wd it not do with a secondary title – such as the following – “Eleutheria: or “The African Keepsake” or “Negroes’ Forget-me-not” – or the like?

*J Rylands Lib Eng MS 415/142*

[20]

*Mrs Mary Williams*

*London, 3 November 1833*

My Dear Mary

I wrote you in March last – but you never reply to me. Why do you not? I am very desirous of hearing all particulars respecting yourself and your family – but one cannot continue to write if there is no reply.

I enclose two little pictures for your two children.<sup>116</sup>

I have written any news I can think of to William and Isabella. I would write long letters also to you if you replied to me.

Your old friend Margt Hatley<sup>117</sup> is in very poor health. She has been taken dangerously ill, but is recovering. Mr Waddell has no school and I fear must be in very poor circumstances. John<sup>118</sup> would take you all the Scottish news.

Do take the pen and write, like a gude lass. Margt and Susan join in kind regards to you.

Yours affectionately

PS. Since writing the above Peter and Jeffrey Hatley have been here and I regret to add that they have no hope of Margaret’s Recovery. Jeffrey has come up from Nottingham on purpose to see her. Allen is in good health. His elder son has gone to college with a view to the Scotch church.

*NELM Eric Pringle Collection 93.12.18*

[21]

*Mary Potts*<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>113</sup> Pringle’s other contribution, ‘The Forester of the Neutral Ground’ (see [206], p. 355, n. 34) had not appeared in *The Tourist*. He may have submitted a third poem which was not used.

<sup>114</sup> Ten of Pringle’s poems and three articles appeared in *The Tourist*, September 1832 to March 1833. The journal was a literary and anti-slavery publication under the superintendence of the Anti-Slavery Society, 1832–3.

<sup>115</sup> An ancient and modern Greek word for ‘freedom’. It has literary connotations, cf. Samuel Beckett’s play of that name and the title of the *Scottish Poetry Review*, launched in 2009.

<sup>116</sup> Catherine Heatlie Williams, born 1825, and Jessie Williams, born 1827.

<sup>117</sup> Professor Rennie, who brought to light the parish register entry for the marriage of Robert Pringle of Blaiklaw to Catherine Haitlie and much else about this ancient Berwickshire family (1, 114–16), makes no reference to any of the Pringles’ Haitlie (also and now solely spelt Heatlie) cousins as named in this letter. Margaret may have been a niece of Catherine’s and perhaps married to ‘Mr Waddell’. See also C H Heatlie, *The First Three Generations of Heatlies in South Africa* (1981).

<sup>118</sup> The farmer John Riddell, bachelor son of Robert Pringle’s sister Isabella, ‘Aunt Riddell’, joined the Pringle party in Baviaans River in 1834. He died at Eildon in 1837, aged 57. See Rennie, 2, 754–5.

– December 1833

Dear Mary

The cold Christmas weather makes me think of your ‘wee bit ingle’ and ill-stocked cupboard, and though it is but a trifle I can spare for your help, yet even a mite will show that I have not forgot you, and I am sure it will be kindly received. You will find a small piece of gold under the seal, which at least will help to cheer your little board on new year’s day. I heartily wish it were ten times as much, but I am not yet rich, nor ever likely to be, though (thank God!) I have enough for all necessary wants.

Some time ago I asked my friend Mr Pringle, of Clifton,<sup>120</sup> to send you a cartload of old sticks from the Park to help keep your little room warm through the *lowe* of the winter. In a letter I have lately received from him he tells me that he had ordered the wood to be sent to you, together with a few shillings for tea and tobacco, which he has kindly added to it. I trust all reached you safely, and on receipt of this I shall be glad if you will write me a few lines to let me know that you received it and how your health and circumstances now are, and what means of support still remain to you.

Mention also how my worthy old friend John Turnbull<sup>121</sup> and his wife Peggy continue. I heard some time ago that he was getting frail (honest man). Tell me also how Mr and Mrs Morrison<sup>122</sup> now are, and if Mr Hoy and others of my old acquaintance are still alive. If it is too troublesome for you to write all this with your own hand, you will be able, I daresay, to get some one to put down what you dictate.

I am happy to tell you that I have had letters from my brother William and from Mr Ainslie – my sister’s husband – since their arrival at the settlement of a friend in S. Africa.<sup>123</sup> All were in their ordinary health and in comfortable circumstances. My father, at his advanced age (upward of 80), enjoys very fair health, though he is getting frailer yearly. My brother Wm. is always delicate but not worse. The rest enjoy excellent health. Your old favourite, John (Birsie, as we used to call him)<sup>124</sup>, has a beautiful estate, with all comforts about him, and he is now raising a considerable amount of Merino Wool, which brings a high price, so that Birsie is likely to be richest of the family some day. I hope he will not forget you at his next sheep-shearing. Mr A. has begun to brew Scotch ale, which is likely to sell well and help him to stock an African farm. – What is of still higher importance a poor Scotch Minr.<sup>125</sup> whom I sent out to be their pastor has arrived with his family and restored the public ordinance of religion in their remote valley to their great comfort and edification – a circumstance of far greater moment than any degree of mere worldly prosperity. With all good wishes.

LP 2, 218J–M

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<sup>119</sup> Pringle’s nurse during the boys’ Morebattle schooldays. Letter copied by Revd R Story and sent to Fairbairn ca. 1835 with his memories of early friendship with Pringle. LP 2, 218, 218A–N.

<sup>120</sup> Robert Pringle, 10th (last, at his death in 1842) Laird of Clifton. Rennie, 1, 57; [24], n. 133 below.

<sup>121</sup> Shepherd at Blaiklaw, much respected by Pringle in his boyhood.

<sup>122</sup> Revd James Morrison, Secessionist Minister at Morebattle. Story copied also for Fairbairn. Pringle’s letter of 27 January 1834 to Miss Morrison, the Morrisons’ daughter, with no South African references. LP 2, 218M–N.

<sup>123</sup> William’s pulmonary complaint was probably tuberculosis. He died in 1837, aged 57. Jessie and her husband William Ainslie, a former brewer of Jedburgh, settled at Baviaans River in 1833. Rennie, 1, 108–09.

<sup>124</sup> See [98], p. 173, n. 17. Birsie: hairy, bristly, later hot-tempered, *Concise Scots Dictionary* (1999).

<sup>125</sup> The Revd John Pears went to the Cape in 1828. See [177], p. 315, n. 13.

[22]

Mary Anne Rawson

London, 18 Aldermanbury, 17 December 1833

My Dear Madam

I sent to your printer a day or two ago to inquire whether my little articles were yet in hand, but find they have not yet reached them. My reason for wishing to have the proofs is this: I am about to print a collection of all my African pieces in verse and prose and having kept no correct copies of those I sent you, I wished to have the proofs to complete my collection – which I am about to send to the printer. I shall therefore feel much obliged by your sending the pieces as soon as convenient either to your printer or to me here that I may take copies.

Though I am about to print, your book will I expect be published long before mine – for I have the greater part of the prose – (nearly 300 pages) – yet to write up from my notes. My book will not probably be out therefore before March – so that the pieces will first have appeared in your volume which I presume will be out early next month.<sup>126</sup>

Mr Hill had sailed for Jamaica before I received your last letter, and of Mr Thompson<sup>127</sup> I have heard nothing recently. I believe he is still in Scotland. The little anecdote respecting a Cape Slave of which I spoke I found upon inquiry had been already published in a periodical.

I regret to be thus troublesome to you but as my printer wants these pieces early next week, I cannot [...] it.

I am, Dear Madam. Yours very truly

J. Rylands Lib Eng MS 145/144a

[23]

Edward Moxon

Highgate, 20 February 1834

My Dear Sir

I fear Kennedy<sup>128</sup> has given me credit for influence I do not possess when he spoke of me as a likely man to be of service to your brother in his profession. But so far as I *can* be of the slightest service, you may count on my disposition to do my best. When I see him I will converse with him as to the mode in which it may be profitable for me to aid him.

Thank you for settling with Bennett.<sup>129</sup>

I am now quite well – but very busy. I trust however to be out in time with my book though the printers have of late proceeded very slowly with it – scarcely giving me more than a sheet per week. If you see them I wish you would give them a *brush* up. It is true I have kept some of the early sheets long in hand, but as the prose is in a different type that could hardly delay them.

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<sup>126</sup> Pringle dated the preface 12 May 1834. The first review was in the *Literary Gazette* of May 1834. *The Bow in the Cloud* was also published in 1834.

<sup>127</sup> George Thompson (1804–87), effective abolitionist lecturer in Britain and the US, continued to campaign for world abolition as an MP in 1846.

<sup>128</sup> More probably Pringle's doctor, James Kennedy (who also witnessed his will, see [244], p. 375), than William Kennedy ([14], n. 81 above; [188], p. 330, n. 80), who would have been well known to Moxon.

<sup>129</sup> Probably the Grahamstown merchant George Bennett.

Yours very truly  
*Kim's Antiques, East London (2009); NELM 93.2.1.11 [copy]*

[24]

*D M Moir*<sup>130</sup> (*Esq, Surgeon*)

*Holly Terrace, Highgate 19 July 1834*

My Dear Sir

It was my intention to have written you a couple of months ago, to request the favour of an illustration for one or two of my plates<sup>131</sup> but I was delayed in waiting on the engravers and by other causes. For the last three weeks I have been forbidden to write, or make any other exertion bodily or mental in consequence of having fractured a blood vessel and, worse still, I am restricted to very brief letters. However, I am happy to say that I am considered to be *doing well* – and hope I may escape any permanent bad consequences from this serious accident.

One of the plates you will see has been lettered by the publishers – so that there is no choice but to adopt the title, A little Scotch Song will probably be the best thing for it. The other I propose to consider is a scene in a Scottish Farm house – the three figures, the farmer's widow and her two daughters – such a scene you could touch off admirably in the measure of Crabbe,<sup>132</sup> if your leisure admits of it. I am unfortunately greatly pressed both for *time* and *space*; for during my illness I was obliged to trust everything to others, and more has been put in type than I see well how to get in – while the usual time of finishing the book – the 1st of August – rapidly approaches. Therefore, my dear Moir, if you can kindly set about these things for me *immediately*, and confine yourself to a couple of pages for the one (“My Ain Bonny Lass”) and to 3 or at the most 3½ pages for the other, you will greatly oblige me. You may send up the articles to me under cover to “R. Pringle Esq M.P., Charles Street, Berkeley Square”.<sup>133</sup> You need not send back the etchings. Smith & Elder in such cases as the present still allow £1 per page – but I trust more to your kind disposition to oblige me than any such trifling remuneration for literary labour.

Owing to an unlucky piece of mismanagement I find that my “African Sketches” have not been forwarded to you – but I have taken measures to have the book now placed in your hands. If you think well of it and can give it a lift I shall be thankful.<sup>134</sup>

If possible, I should be very glad to have at least “The Farmer's Family” (so it is to be called) in the course of next week. The other might wait a few days longer.

I cannot now enter upon my personal news and prospects – But when better able to write will tell you how they stand. Mrs P joins me in kind regards. Remember me kindly to Mrs Moir.

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<sup>130</sup> David Macbeth Moir (1798–1851), of Midlothian, read medicine at Edinburgh University and practised in Musselburgh while contributing to Constable's *Edinburgh Magazine* under Pringle and Cleghorn's editorship in 1817, and later, prolifically, to *Blackwood's*, over the pseudonym ‘Delta’.

<sup>131</sup> In *Friendship's Offering*, 1835.

<sup>132</sup> See [201], p. 349, n. 15. Most of Crabbe's verse was set in rural life.

<sup>133</sup> Robert Pringle of Clifton, formerly 7th Hussars, Whig MP for Selkirkshire 1832–41, with Alexander Pringle of Whytbank.

<sup>134</sup> The reviews in the *Literary Gazette*, May 1834, and the *Quarterly Review*, December 1835, are unsigned, as was the convention of the time. There was no review in *Blackwood's* though Moir was a close friend of Wilson's and was William Blackwood's physician.

I am, my dear Sir, yours very truly  
*NLS MS 584, 966 [232]*

[25]

*E Moxon*

*Highgate, Saturday morning [?20 September 1834]*

My dear Sir

I regretted not having seen you the day I was in town – the only day I have been in London since the beginning of July. I am now leaving Highgate altogether – trying to let my house and sell my furniture etc. – but whether I succeed in that or not I must leave it, by order of my doctor on Monday next for milder air, which I hope to find about Leatherhead in Surrey.

My health, I am sorry to say, is far from well – but I hope this little change may do me at least some temporary benefit. I shall be back to lodgings in London by the middle of October – and I shall probably take up our residence for a short while in your vicinity – or in the Brompton district.

We must have a conference ere long about my book and its ‘references’ – I wish I could see my way *clearly* for a *second* edition!

I send in my copy of the first vol. of Rogers’s Poems – requesting that you will get it bound *before the end of October* in a similar style to that of the “Italy”.<sup>135</sup> But let the binder see the fault in their binding of the latter – where it opens at Page 154. Have you title pages for making the two vols. a set as “Rogers’s Poems” vols. I and II? And could mine be so managed by new titling on the back of the bound volume? Don’t let them cut out the author’s *inscription*.

This illness is, I fear, to be a more serious matter than I anticipated – at least both my medical advisers strongly urge me to *leave England* for a milder climate before winter sets in – But how am I to do that?

Do you know any one who would be a likely tenant for this house, and willing to take my little furniture at a valuation? I would willingly make a sacrifice to get it off my hands.

My sister in law remains till we see if we can thus dispose of it. After Monday morning address me “Post Office, Leatherhead.”

Yours ever faithfully

Have you any idea when Mr Rogers is likely to be home?

I trust both your own health and that of Mrs Moxon received benefit from your stay at Brighton

*EUL Dc 4 101–3*

[26]

*Cyrus Redding*

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<sup>135</sup> The collection of verses by Samuel Rogers (1763–1855), published in 1822–8, was greatly admired. Pringle was taken up by Rogers on his return from the Cape and invited to his celebrated ‘breakfasts’. The *Italy* was clearly a present from Rogers. Pringle took the young Ruskin to meet the great man, with mixed success. See Ruskin (1978), vol. 1, 80–2. Pringle’s concern with the binding of Rogers’s *Italy*, published by Moxon, only six weeks before his death, is testimony to his determination to survive his fatal illness.

6 Portman Street, Portman Sq [– October 1834]<sup>136</sup>

Dear Mr Redding

I have been very ill since June last, in consequence of the rupture of a blood vessel in the lungs. I am now on the point of flying to South Africa to escape the deadly influence of our moist English climate, and in the hope of recovering a sound state of health. It is not probable – be my days few or many<sup>137</sup> – that I shall ever return. I have had enough of the bustle and fagg of life; and if I have only the humblest competency, I shall sit down content in the fine climate, under my own vine and fig-tree, without troubling myself about the affairs of the great world.

Is the paragraph true in the papers which says Campbell is gone to Algiers?<sup>138</sup> If so, I must provide myself with a speaking trumpet to roar into his lug from the Cape of Storms,

Yours very truly

*Redding (1858), 3, 8–9*

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<sup>136</sup> Pringle's Holly Terrace, Highgate address changed to Portman Street, Marylebone in late October 1834.

<sup>137</sup> Pringle died at 28 Bryanston Street, the property of Arthur Gurney, on 5 December 1834.

<sup>138</sup> Cyrus Redding received this letter during a visit to Bath. On his return to London he called on Thomas Campbell 'subsequent to his return from Algiers'. He had had 'an attack of fever in Algiers, "which had shaken his constitution greatly".' (vol 3, 129). See also Campbell's *Letters from the South* (1837). Campbell outlived Pringle by ten years, dying in Boulogne in 1844, aged 66.

## INDEX

- Ainslie, William 13,  
13n, 25, 25n  
Algiers 29, 29n  
*The Amulet* 8  
Anderson, John 13  
*The Anniversary* 11n  
*The Antiquary* 12n  
Anti-Slavery Society 9,  
11n, 15n, 16, 20n,  
21n, 21, 22, 24n  
*The Art Journal* 8n  
*The Athenaeum* 11n, 16n  
Ayrshire 7n
- Barton, Bernard 7, 7n  
Bathurst, Henry, 3rd  
Earl 5  
Baviaans River valley  
24n, 25n  
Beckett, Samuel 24n  
Belfrage, Revd Henry  
12  
*La Belle Assemblée* 17,  
17n  
Bemerside 20, 20n  
Benares 14  
Bennett, George 26  
Bentham, Jeremy 165,  
15n  
*Emancipate Your  
Colonised!* 15n  
Bentinck, Lord William  
14, 14n  
Bird, James 16, 16n  
Birmingham 15n, 17n  
Blackwood, William 6,  
10, 27n  
*Blackwood's Magazine*  
11, 12, 13n, 22n, 27n  
Blaiklaw 12n, 24n, 25n  
Brazil 16  
Brighton 28  
Brodie, Thomas 20  
Brompton 28
- Brown, Susan 24, 28  
Browne, Martha 17, 17n  
Buckingham, J T S 5n,  
8n  
Buxton, Thomas Fowell  
14n  
Byron, Lord 4n
- Caddonlee 18n  
Cadell, Robert 11n  
Cadell, Thomas 22n  
Cairnmount 12, 12n  
Cambridge 14, 14n  
Campbell, Thomas 4,  
10, 14, 29  
Canada 16, 16n  
Cape of Good Hope 4, 8,  
9, 10, 11, 16, 22, 29  
Cape Town 5n, 10n, 21n  
Cardin, Richard 23n  
Castlemains 21  
'Chaldee MS' 4  
Chalmers, Revd Robert  
10n  
Chelsea 16  
Cheyne, Mrs 17  
Clapham Sect 14n  
Clare, John 8, 9  
Clarence, Duchess of 8n  
Claverhouse (*see*  
Viscount Dundee)  
Clifton 18n, 25n, 27n  
Clifton Park 25  
Clovenfords 18n  
Colburn, Henry 9n  
Coleridge, Samuel  
Taylor 7  
Conder, Josiah 8n  
Constantinople 15, 15n  
*Court Magazine* 17n  
Covenanters 12, 12n  
Crabbe, George 27, 27n  
Craig Hill 18  
Croly, Revd George 7,  
7n
- Cunningham, Allan 7,  
7n, 8n, 9, 9n, 11, 11n,  
22
- 'Dandie Dinmont' 12n  
Davidson, James 12, 12n  
Dickens, Charles 8n  
*Martin Chuzzlewit* 8n  
Douglas, Betto 23, 23n  
Dryburgh Abbey 19, 20,  
20n  
Dundee, Viscount 12n
- Edinburgh 10n  
University of 27n  
*Edinburgh Magazine* 12,  
27n  
Eildon (farm) 24n  
*Eleutheria* 24  
*The Englishman's  
Magazine* 16n, 17  
Erskine, Dr 19
- Faa, Madge 12  
Fairbairn, John 5, 5n,  
8n, 25n  
Finlay, Mrs 21  
*Flinn* (ship) 10n  
*Forget-me-not* 8, 24  
Fox, Colonel Charles  
Richard 8n  
*Friendship's Offering* 4,  
4n, 6, 7n, 8, 9, 9n, 10,  
11n, 12n, 13n, 14,  
17n, 22, 22n, 27n
- Galashiels 18n  
Gemmels, Andrew 12  
Genadendal 7n, 9n, 11n  
Gibson, John 4, 5, 5n, 8n  
Giffordsvale 19  
Glen Lynden Library  
10n  
Glen Thorn (farm) 20n  
Gordon, Jean 11, 12  
Gordon, Madge 11, 12

Gowanlock, Agnes 19  
 Grahamstown 10n, 26n  
 Gray, Mrs 11  
 Grant, Charles 14n  
 Gray, James 11  
 Greig, George 5n  
 Greig, William 5, 5n  
 Grieve, John 4  
 Gurney, Arthur 29n

Haddington 10n  
 Haig, Field-Marshall  
 Earl 20n  
 Haiti 22, 23  
 Haitlie, Catherine 24n  
 Haliburton, Thomas 19  
 Haliburton, William 19  
 Hall, Anna Maria 21  
 Hall, Samuel Carter 8,  
 21  
 ‘Dream of the Exile’  
 8n  
 Harral, Thomas 17, 17n  
 Hately, Allen 24  
 Hately, Jeffrey 24  
 Hately, Margaret 24  
 Hately, Peter 24  
 Hawick 13  
 Hay, J A 12n  
 Heatlie, C H 24n  
 Hemans, Felicia 8n  
 Herschel, J F W 8n  
 Highgate 21, 22, 26, 27,  
 28, 29n  
 Highwood Hill 14  
 Hill, Richard 8n, 22,  
 22n, 23, 26  
 ‘The Creole Maiden’s  
 Song’ 23n  
 ‘The Wanderer’ 22n  
 Hindlies 12  
 Hogg, James 4, 4n, 6,  
 6n, 7, 8, 8n, 10, 11  
 Hogg, Margaret (née  
 Phillips) 4, 6, 11  
 Howitt, Mary 8n

Hoy, Mr 25

India 11, 14, 14n  
 Innes, Revd James 19,  
 19n  
 Innes, Dr Robert 20  
 Ireland 15n, 17

Jamaica 26  
 Jedburgh 12, 12n, 25n  
 Jerdan, William 5n  
*John Bull Magazine and  
 Literary Recorder* 17  
 Jordan, Dorothea 8n  
*Juvenile Forget-me-not*  
 22n

Kelso 12n, 19  
*Kelso Mail* 12  
 Kennedy, Dr James 17,  
 17n, 26n  
 Kennedy, William 8n,  
 17, 26n  
 Killiecrankie 12n  
 King’s College,  
 Cambridge 14n  
 Knox, John 10, 10n  
 Koonap River 13n

Lamb, Charles 7n  
 Lanarkshire 21  
*Landscape Annual* 16,  
 16n  
 Leatherhead 28  
 Lilholme 19  
*Literary Gazette* 5, 5n,  
 17n, 21n, 26n, 27n  
 Lockhart, John Gibson 6  
 Lombe, Edward 8  
*London Magazine* 8, 8n  
 Longman & Co 6

Macaulay, Zachary 14n  
 MacQueen, James 22n  
 Mankazana River 20  
 Market Deeping 8, 9

Marylebone 29n  
 McCrie, Dr J 10, 10n  
 McCrie, Mary 10  
 Melville, Andrew 10,  
 10n  
 Midlothian 27n  
 Mill Hill 14n  
 Mitford, Mary Russell  
 8n  
 Moir, Mrs 28  
 Moir, D M 8n, 27, 27n  
 Montgomery, James 7,  
 7n, 8n  
 Moodie, John  
 Wedderburn Dunbar  
 16n  
*Ten Years in South  
 Africa* 16n  
 Moodie, Susanna (née  
 Strickland) (*see*  
 Strickland, Susanna)  
 Moore, Thomas 4  
*Irish Melodies* 4n  
*Lallah Rookh* 4n  
 Moravians 7  
 Morebattle 25n  
 Morris, R J 17n  
 Morrison, Miss 25n  
 Morrison, Mrs 25  
 Morrison, Revd James  
 25  
 Morton, Mr 19n  
 Mount Benger 10  
 Moxon, Mrs 28  
 Moxon, Edward 17n, 26,  
 26n, 28, 28n  
 Murray, John 9n  
 Musselburgh 27n  
 ‘My ain bonny lass’  
 (illustration) 27

National Library of  
 South Africa 21n  
 Newmines 19  
*New Monthly Magazine*  
 8n, 11n

- Norwich 8  
Nottingham 24
- Ohio 20  
Ontario 16n, 20  
*Oriental Herald* 11n  
Owen, Captain W F 11n
- Paisley, Margaret 19  
Pears, Revd John 10, 10n, 25n  
Peel, Sir Robert 18n  
*Penny Magazine* 21, 21n  
Perth 13n  
Philip, Dr John 8n, 22  
Potts, Mary 25  
Prince, Mary 16n, 17, 17n, 22n, 23  
Pringle, Adam 13n  
Pringle, Alexander 13n, 14  
Pringle, Alexander I 21  
Pringle, Alexander, MP 18, 18n, 27n  
Pringle, Eric 20n  
Pringle, Isabel 19, 20  
Pringle, Isabella 10n, 24, 24n  
Pringle, Jessie 13n, 24n, 25n  
Pringle, John 25  
Pringle, Margaret (née Brown) 14, 17n, 24, 28  
Pringle, Robert 13n, 18n, 24n  
Pringle, Robert, 9th Laird of Clifton 25n  
Pringle, Robert, MP 18n, 27, 27n  
Pringle, Thomas (1789–1834)  
African Sketches 17n, 27  
'Dream of Fairyland' 17, 17n  
'The Emigrants' 7n  
*Ephemerides* 5n, 9n  
'The Forester of the Neutral Ground' 24n  
'Glen Lynden, a Tale of Teviotdale' 7n, 8n, 9n  
'Noonday Dream' 13  
*Poetical Works* 7n  
Pringle, William I 18, 20n  
Pringle, William II 18, 19  
Pringle, William (1780–1837) 18, 24, 25, 25n  
*Quarterly Review* 27n  
Rawson, Mary Anne (née Read) 21, 21n, 23, 26  
Redding, Cyrus 8n, 29  
Rennie, J V L 20n, 22n, 24n, 25n  
Reydon Hall 16n  
Riddell, John 24  
Riddle, Isabella (Aunt Riddle) 13, 18, 19, 24n  
Ritchie, David 13n  
Ritchie, Leitch 8n, 16n, 17  
*Romance of History. France* 17n  
Robertson, Mr 12  
Rogers, Samuel 7, 28, 28n  
*Italy* 28n  
Romney, 2nd Earl 23  
Roscoe, Thomas 8n, 16n  
*The Tourist in Spain* 16n  
Roseneath 11  
Ruskin, John (1819–1900) 28n
- Sarjent, Revd John 14  
Scott, John 8n  
Scott, Sir John 19  
Scott, Sir Walter 4, 4n, 5, 5n, 6n, 11, 11n, 12n, 20n  
'The Black Dwarf' 13, 13n  
'Bowed Davie' 13, 13n  
'Edie Ochiltree' 12n  
*Guy Mannering* 11n, 12n  
'Meg Merrilies' 11n  
*Old Mortality* 12n  
*Tales of a Grandfather* 6n  
*Tales of my Landlord* 13n  
Waverley novels 11, 11n
- Secession Church 01n, 13n, 25n  
Sheffield 21, 21n  
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley 4n  
Shieldfields 19  
Simeon, Revd Charles 14, 14n  
Smith, Elder & Co 4, 5n, 8n, 9n, 27  
South Africa 7, 9, 29  
Southey, Robert 7, 7n, 8n  
Southwold 16n  
*The Sphinx* 5  
St Domingo 23  
St John, James Augustus 8n  
St Kitts 23n  
St Petersburg 15n  
St Stephen Walbrook 7n  
Stebbing, Revd Henry 8n  
Story, Revd Robert 11, 12, 25n

Stothard, Thomas 12,  
12n  
Strickland, Agnes 8n  
Strickland, Susanna 8n,  
16, 16n, 17  
*Flora Lindsay* 16n  
Sunderland 17, 17n

Tennant, William 6, 6n  
Teviotdale, Scotland 20  
Thompson, George 26,  
26n  
*The Times* 17, 22n  
*The Tourist* 16n, 24, 24n  
Traill, Catherine Parr  
16n  
Turnbull, John 25  
Turnbull, Peggy 25  
Tweedside 89, 20

Waddell, Mr 24, 24n  
Walsh, Dr Robert 15,  
15n, 16, 16n  
Warner, Ashton 17  
Wauchope of Niddrie,  
Mr 8n, 12  
Waugh, Dr Alexander  
8n, 12  
West India Club 23  
Whytbank (Whyte  
Bank) 18, 18n, 19,  
27n  
Wilberforce, Barbara 15,  
15n  
Wilberforce, William 14,  
14n, 15, 15n  
William IV, King 8n  
Williams, Catherine  
Heatlie 24n  
Williams, Jessie 24n  
Williams, Mary (née  
Pringle) 13, 24  
Wilson, John 4, 4n, 27n  
Wincobank Hall 21  
Wood, John 22, 22n  
Woodbridge 7, 7n

Wright, Mrs 17  
Wright, Revd William  
17  
Yair 18, 19  
Yetholm 12, 12n  
Yoxford 16, 16n