

N<sup>o</sup> 16 - March, 13. 1827. N<sup>o</sup> 14. Edwards Square Kensington.

My dear Mr. William - Your most welcome letter of 21. Sept<sup>r</sup> reached me two days ago. I had one from George at nearly the same time dated 1. Oct. A long course of Easterly winds kept out hundreds of shipping for some weeks - James had not received your letter of the same date as you wrote me, when I last heard from him - but as he purposes to be here on or about the 20. Cur<sup>ly</sup> - I conclude that he will before then have received your letter. He leaves his wife at Edinburgh till her return Northward in May - Both they, and all our family branches, and connexions - North and South, are well - Both Adam and Archy Elliot were here this forenoon. - There is adance and hazard of litigation about the sale of Belladune to Stewart - Mr. Mackenzie Monfereald has been dangerously ill, but is better - Mr. Francis Robinson has been much shocked by an erysipelatous ailment.

The world is somewhat unsettled every where - and the determination of who shall govern your part of our vast empire, seems like many other matters to hang on the arrangement of our Administration here, under the very awful calamity of Lord Liverpool's State - many have been the persons spoken of - but at present it is supposed to be a Mr. Wellesley, Brother of the Duke - If so, that family will possess the highest station and greatest power, in Britain, Ireland, India - The Country however looks to Canning for the helix in reality - I understand that as a member of the Cabinet, The Duke has disappointed his colleagues - all matters in Parliamt seem to go on smoothly at present, even on very grave questions. - On the first of May, the great Catholic question will be agitated - as yet, only the pulse of the present House of Commons has been tried, as to the quantum of Catholicity in it, compared with the last -

The Corn question will quietly pacify both sides, I pass -  
The Portuguese business hangs up, as a match ignited, but not  
yet applied - Britain has gained a great position in consequence  
of the French military occupation of Spain - So long as the war  
in Portugal is a purely civil war - we cannot further interfere -  
but should Ferdinand continue or evl and indirect hostility,  
the Portuguese will have to declare war - and the British must  
then act and cooperate as allies - And then what will the  
French branch of Bourbon do? If he stirs, Universal war must  
follow - The Church & State of despotic monarchies must in  
desperation make a struggle for their last stake - and at this  
moment the whole Roman Catholic Church is pouring forth  
her hoards of treasure, and exerting her powers of every kind,  
to fight this terrible war of opinion -  
Britain has 14,000 men now ready at a moment's notice to  
transport to Portugal - and the calling out of the Militia, will  
announce to the Public that we are serious.

Now, as to private & home concerns - Ourselves are in great  
health - Your mother goes tomorrow to see poor Catharine the  
Sister of William Fox's late wife, at Maria Frank's, or  
rather W. Phillips, whose children, by her will she takes  
charge of - It was with deep regret indeed that we learn  
this unexpected shock - Peter Frank, Sophia has two boys,  
and all doing well - W. Rich & Sir James Maunton  
pursuing left us - Sir James has received a magnificent  
jewelled Gold Box from the Princess Regent of Portugal  
with a most handsome letter - an unexpected tribute  
to Sir James's paper on Portugal in the Edin. review of Dec. -  
Apleck & Jane Anne & their five all flourishing - their  
family being now large and growing, they have taken  
a Governess of much promise into their family - and they  
now run a good close carriage. Jane Anne has received  
the Sea Service of plate presented to her by the Northern  
Meeting, and very magnificent, it seems to me - Only  
regret that it nails down Apleck's future service to the  
Society - I rather could have wished it had not been.

Heally, I believe that the Society in general improves in  
the North - and even in our particular part of the Country.  
Whenever it shall be in your power, with prudence and  
comfort to revisit the City, I trust you will find it a  
happy and social spot - and London and Edinburgh  
and indeed every Town in Britain is improving and extending  
in a wonderful and beautiful and healthful manner.  
There seems now to be a laudable extraordinary in fashion -  
The rich open their purses, to the industrious classes in  
these peculiar times - to embellish, and benefit, the general  
Community of public and private Structures - Streets, ways,  
Sewers, water conduits, &c. which promotes the comfort  
of every class, and commands the admiration of the Stranger,  
and foreign visitant. This is due from the Opulent  
to the poorer classes - The inequality is too great,  
to the poorer classes - The inequality is too great,  
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hazardous danger to the State -  
The changes in India, of Harrington, Elphinstone,  
home - and Lord Amherst, return, to make  
no change affecting you. Do you move - or are you to remain  
in your position at Bareilly - who goes to Delhi - they say  
Colbrooke, and Metcalf to Council - I see Harrington, former  
place of Chief Commr. at your Board, where also Ross once was,  
to continue vacant - what is Malcolm's mission specific  
to Calcutta before going to Bombay - Is there any word with  
you in India, of a fourth species of Agency, for Central India, in the  
question of his mission. Before 1833, or the expiry of the  
Charter, you will have a glimpse of whether it may probably  
be renewed, and on what terms, particularly as to home control.  
It is already mooted, that the Indian Army will be taken under  
Home patronage - You will be nearly able to judge ere long  
how far you might, if you came home, consider it for your  
advantage or pleasure to take any concern in Indian affairs  
here. I think if a Court of Directors should be preserved,  
there will be a great reduction of Civil & other patronage -  
Neither Charles, nor Robert Grant have as yet opened in the  
present Parliament, on any great topic - what think

and  
are the  
Council

you of Peter de la Salle canvassing in the Borough of Evesham.  
 It gives me much pleasure to learn that Simon Cresson is in so  
 much better health - I must ever feel a warm interest in his welfare.  
 I am not insensible to what you express relative to our family  
 affairs, and to the comfort of your Mother & myself - when it  
 may be my fortune to see you in Britain - we may then talk  
 of my revisiting the North - In the meantime we are as comfortable  
 as heart can wish - God grant we may meet once more in Britain.

1827  
 March 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Newington  
 Fraser

William Fraser Esq  
 in the civil service of the H. E. I. Co.  
 Bengal.

~~of the H. E. I. Co.~~

~~Calcutta~~

Calcutta

STYPS

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I perceive the force as well as the affection of all you say - and I  
 am confident that James will act up to your wishes and to your  
 best interests -

Your young friend Mairoune Skinner is in perfect health - and  
 satisfactory in every respect -

Our love to dear George - may God bless you both - I most affly father  
 W. Fraser