

darlings as the most beautiful I think that I ever saw. Mr. Dickinson
child - the most beautiful I think that I ever saw. Mr. Dickinson
has had great success in matchmaking lately - an assurance
of which - deny it as the way - she is remarkably fond. We
have a celebrated beauty hereabouts, a Miss Wroughton - (Miss
James, no respecter of beauties compares her to Maritimes the
Romanian beauty of the last in Dorchester) a fine gentlemanly
dashing spirited girl - who with the usual fate of beauties
attracted a good deal of admiration & very little love. On the
other hand there was a soft ladylike fair delicate young
with red whiskers & a great talent for silence the son grand
& great grandson of three generations of General Hamley - who
well born well bred & well educated seemed just made to lean
upon such a fine manly supporter as Miss Wroughton. So the
Mr. Dickinson - & the match is made - they are already
deep in settlements & wedding cloaths, & the ^{marriage} ~~marriage~~ will take
place forthwith - how the brought him to the offer cannot
imagine - he says he did it all himself - but I don't believe
her. Must tell you of a misfortune that befel me in this case.
I was dining at Farley Hill on the very day that it happened
to the...

up to the
"Hawley" fair
large number
flattering of
Laplogise
disliked the
prejudice.
= flattery
I am well
= meaning
leaves, &
Laplogise
better the
to do
have. In
that is
Women
rest of
almost

February 8, 1821: To Sir William Elford

119 place="below" function="insertion" rend="caret"/>in short by</add> letting truths which nobody believes. It's
119 astounding what creatures of habit & imitation young girls generally are--they are as alike as so many shillings
119 & six pences & have not the capacity to believe that any coin can be genuine which bears a different impress.
119 So <persName ref="#Webb_Eliza">Miss Webb</persName> & <persName ref="#Webb_Eliza">Miss Eliza</persName> talk
119 scandal of their poor dear Friend & say she is affected. But however as you do not, not <persName
119 ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</persName>, nor <persName ref="#Dickinson_Mrs">M<hi rend="superscript">rs.</hi>
119 Dickinson</persName>, I shall console myself under my calamity. <persName ref="#Dickinson_Mrs">M<hi
119 rend="superscript">rs.</hi> Dickinson</persName> was here yesterday. I gave her your message with which she was very
119 much entertained--she begs her compliments in <unclear><supplied resp="#mco">return</supplied></unclear> & <pb
119 n="2"/> says she wishes both the mothers as much pleasure with their darlings as she has with hers. Her little
119 <persName ref="#Dickinson_Frances">Frances</persName> is a beautiful child. The most beautiful I think that I ever
119 saw. <persName ref="#Dickinson_Mrs">M<hi rend="superscript">rs.</hi> Dickinson</persName><!--@ebb Mitford uses two
119 dots under rs of every Mrs. I have recorded the superscript nature of the letters but am unsure how to record the two
119 dots and seems like every Digital Mitford editor is doing it differently--> has had great success matchmaking
119 lately--an awareness of which--deny it as she may--she is remarkably fond. We have a celebrated beauty hereabouts, a
119 <persName ref="#Broughton_Betsy">Miss Broughton</persName>(<persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</persName>, no
119 respector of beauties compares her to <persName><unclear><supplied resp="#mco">Maritorec the
119 Astonian</supplied></unclear></persName> wench of the Inn in <bibl><unclear><supplied resp="#mco">Don
119 Inis</supplied></unclear></bibl> often) a fine gentlemanly darling & finished girl--who with the usual fate of
119 beauties attracted a good deal of admiration & very little love. On the other hand there was a soft ladylike fair
119 delicate youth with <unclear><supplied resp="#mco">sidewhiskers</supplied></unclear> & a great talent for silence

So <persName ref="#Webb_Eliza">Miss Webb</persName> & <persName ref="#Webb_Eliza">Miss Eliza</persName> talk scandal of their poor dear Friend & say she is affected. But however as you do not, not <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</persName>, nor <persName ref="#Dickinson_Mrs">M<hi rend="superscript">rs.</hi> Dickinson</persName>, I shall console myself under my calamity [...] We have a celebrated beauty hereabouts, a <persName ref="#Broughton_Betsy">Miss Broughton</persName>(<persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</persName>, no respector of beauties compares her to <persName><unclear><supplied resp="#mco">Maritorec the Astonian</supplied></unclear></persName> wench of the Inn in <bibl><unclear><supplied resp="#mco">Don Inis</supplied></unclear></bibl> often) ... who with the usual fate of beauties attracted a good deal of admiration & very little love.

July 5, 1819: To Mary Webb

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87      <p>I had a charming letter from <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> yesterday -\-- She is
87 just now consoling her <persName>Mother</persName> for the loss of <emph
87 rend="underline"><persName>Susy</persName></emph> who is gone to reside with <orgName>a family</orgName> at the
87 <placeName>Lakes</placeName> -\-- gone I mean as a Governess -\-- They send a thousand loves to you all -\-- She wants
87 to see me she says very much -\-- but only think of her impudence! -\-- She does not want me to meet <persName>Mr.
87 Maurice</persName> because she says "there is is <!-- repetition hers --> is a freebooting spirit about him which I
87 should draw out & cherish to the extinction of graver things." Theres a pretty opinion for you! A fine specimen
87 of partiality truly! I do really believe that she thinks of me as <persName>Edie Ochiltree</persName> <note
87 resp="#rnes">A character in <persName>Sir Walter Scott</persName>'s novella <title>The Antiquary</title>.</note> said
87 of himself -\-- that "I should be a very bad example in any well regulated family" -\-- but so it is-- I am misused
87 past endurance.<persName> Mrs. Bowden</persName> forsooth saith that "my wickedness is of a peculiarly dangerous
87 character -\-- is is so catching" -\-- And this <persName ref="#Webb_Mary">Mary Webb</persName> is the worst sauce box
87 of all. Oh dear me! What will become of me -\-- with all these wicked wits upon me -\-- and I such a poor harm<gap
87 reason='torn' quantity="4" unit="word"/><supplied>less</supplied> civil-spoken with no soul to take my part! -\-- I
87 assure you <persName>Mary</persName> dear that I was not home a moment too soon -\-- <persName
87 ref="#Russell_M">Mama</persName>'s first salutation was that she had always given me up -\-- the ride was very
87 pleasant but so cold that we were forced to have a fire to thaw ourselves -\-- quite unheard of on the 5<hi
87 rend="superscript">th</hi> of July.-\-- <persName ref="#Russell_M">Mama</persName> is better -\-- so much better that
87 she fathoms of going into the <placeName>Vale</placeName> next week when <persName ref="#Mitford_Geo">Papa</persName>
87 goes to the Sessions.
88 </p> <!-- insert page break -->
89 <p> I hope you mean to come & see me -\-- Let me know on Saturday when I may look out for my dearest visitors,
89 as well as as how your dear <persName>Father</persName> continues. -\-- Poor <persName ref="#Valpy_Penelope">Penelope
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but only think of her impudence! -- She does not want me to meet <persName>Mr. Maurice</persName> because she says “there is is <!-- repetition hers --> is a freebooting spirit about him which I should draw out & cherish to the extinction of graver things.” Theres a pretty opinion for you! A fine specimen of partiality truly! I do really believe that she thinks of me as <persName>Edie Ochiltree</persName> <note resp=”#rnes”>A character in <persName>Sir Walter Scott</persName>’s novella <title>The Antiquary</title>.</note> said of himself -- that “I should be a very bad example in any well regulated family” -- but so it is-- I am misused past endurance.<persName> Mrs. Bowden</persName> forsooth saith that “my wickedness is of a peculiarly dangerous character -- is is so catching” -- And this <persName ref=”#Webb_Mary”>Mary Webb</persName> is the worst sauce box of all.

April 4, 1821: To Sir William Elford

110 `ref="#Fiesco_MRMplay">Play</title>--& this mutual <persName ref="#Talfourd_Thos">friend</persName> (who is on the`
110 `circuit just now) copied his letter for my edification. It was in the first place the prettiest letter I ever read in`
110 `my life--thoroughly careless simple & unpresuming--showing great diffidence of his own judgment--the readiest`
110 `goodnature--the kindest & most candid desire to be pleased. I <unclear>wot</unclear><!--ebb: looks like I rite or`
110 `I nite, but here coded as "wot."--> the letter of a scholar & a gentleman, & not the least like an Actor. As`
110 `far as regarded my <title ref="#Fiesco_MRMplay">Tragedy</title> it contained much good criticism--<persName`
110 `ref="#Macready_Wm">Mr. Macready</persName> thinks, & he is right, that there is too little of striking incident`
110 `& too little fluctuation (Indeed I have made my <persName ref="#Fiesco_fict">Fiesco</persName> as virtuous &`
110 `as fortunate as <persName ref="#Chas_Grandison_fict">Sir Charles Grandison</persName>--& he goes about <foreign`
110 `xml:lang="fr">proné</foreign> <!--L'Estrange gives prône. LMW --> by every body & setting every body to rights`
110 `much in the same style with that worthy gentleman--only that he has one wife instead of two mistresses) Nevertheless`
110 `the dialogue which is my strong part has some how <q>"put salt upon <persName ref="#Macready_Wm">Mr.`
110 `Macready</persName>'s tail"</q> as <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> says <note resp="#lmw">Not a`
110 `quotation but a proverbial phrase. According to Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable (1898), the phrase usually`
110 `means to "catch or apprehend" someone. Mitford seems to mean that Macready has been halted or frozen by`
110 `indecision.</note>--so that he is in a very unhappy state of doubt about it & cannot make up his mind one or the`
110 `other. The only thing upon which he was decided was that <pb n="3"/>the handwriting was illegible & that it must`
110 `be copied for presentment to the Managers--which has been done accordingly & <persName ref="#Macready_Wm">Mr.`
110 `Macready</persName> & they will now do exactly as they like.--I am delighted to find that you think I may succeed`
110 `as a Dramatic writer--I am now occupied in Dramatic Sketches for <title ref="#LondonMag">Baldwin's`
110 `Magazine</title>--slight stories of about one act developed in fanciful dialogues of loose blank verse.--I have`
110 `written two--& I suppose they will appear in May or June. By the way <persName ref="#Baldwin_R">Mr.`
110 `Baldwin</persName> has not heard word yet of the felicity that is to <choice><sic>befal</sic><reg`
110 `resp="#lmw">befall</reg></choice> him--for they are upon the Circuit with <persName ref="#Talfourd_Thos">my young`
110 `Barrister friend</persName>--but as he is a great literary man, & undertakes for their insertion I have not much`

Nevertheless the dialogue which is my strong part has some how <q>"put salt upon <persName ref="#Macready_Wm">Mr. Macready</persName>'s tail"</q> as <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> says <note resp="#lmw">Not a quotation but a proverbial phrase. According to Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable (1898), the phrase usually means to "catch or apprehend" someone. Mitford seems to mean that Macready has been halted or frozen by indecision.</note>--so that he is in a very unhappy state of doubt about it & cannot make up his mind one or the other. The only thing upon which he was decided was that <pb n="3"/>the handwriting was illegible.

April 20, 1821: To Sir William Elford

119 best picture he has painted yet, but that that shall be a nonentity if he lives to <note resp="#mco"><persName
119 ref="#MRM">Mitford</persName> appears to omit the word "complete" here.</note> those that he will paint in the
119 future. This is the true spirit--Is it not? Tell me what you think of a <unclear>gala</unclear> at <placeName
119 ref="#Richmond">Richmond</placeName> which <persName ref="#Hofland_TC">Mr. Hofland</persName> has just sent to
119 <placeName>Somerset House</placeName>. <persName ref="#Hofland_B">His wife</persName> (one good judge) says that it
119 is excellent--equal to <title ref="#ChrstEJrslm_Haydon">Jerusalem</title>--& <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss
119 James</persName> (<add place="above"> <metamark place="below" function="insertion" rend="caret"/>also a good</add>
119 <del rend="squiggles"><gap quantity="1" unit="word"/> judge) says that it is detestable--I incline to the
119 latter because I know that <persName ref="#Hofland_TC">Mr. Hofland</persName> like many other fine landscape painters
119 fails in figures. But I want your opinion. By the way I must tell you a remarkable circumstance which has just
119 happened to <persName ref="#Hofland_B">Mrs. Hofland</persName>--They have been for many years engaged in a <placeName
119 ref="#Chancery">Chancery</placeName> suit on the expected success of which they have placed great reliance--It has
119 been given in their favor but as the costs are to be paid out of the property not a farthing will come to them. At
119 first however they knew nothing <del rend="strikethrough">for of this for their solicitor having neglected to
119 write & they heard only from a neighbour that the <persName>Chancellor's</persName> decree was in their favor
119 & <persName ref="#Hofland_B">Mrs. Hofland</persName> immediately set off for <placeName
119 ref="#London_city">London</placeName> to learn the particulars--She was quite overcome by what she heard, & was
119 about to mount the outside of the <orgName>Twickenham Coach</orgName> to return <foreign>"all amort"</foreign> as you
119 must suppose, when recollecting she should save six pence in going by the <orgName>Richmond Stage</orgName>--&
119 such a one being at hand, she withdrew her foot although a most respectable woman with her husband at her side
119 offered to make room for her. However she left by the <orgName>Richmond Coach</orgName> & saved her six
119 pence--& her life. The <orgName>Twickenham Coach</orgName> was overturned an hour after, & that decent woman
119 in whose place she would have sat killed on the spot. The husband had his <choice><sic>collar
119 bone</sic><reg>collarbone</reg></choice> & a rib broken. This most striking event gave a new & just turn to
119 her thoughts--<persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</persName> <add place="above"><metamark place="below"

<persName ref="#Hofland_B">His wife</persName> (one good judge) says that it is excellent--equal to <title
ref="#ChrstEJrslm_Haydon">Jerusalem</title>--& <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</
persName> (<add place="above"> <metamark place="below" function="insertion" rend="caret"/>also a good</
add> <del rend="squiggles"><gap quantity="1" unit="word"/> judge) says that it is detestable--I incline
to the latter because I know that <persName ref="#Hofland_TC">Mr. Hofland</persName> like many other fine
landscape painters fails in figures.

April 19, 1819: To Daren Hodson

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101      She seems to have set her heart on it &amp; I'm sure would make you both very
102      comfortable -- you should see <placeName ref="#Richmond">Richmond</placeName> &amp;
103      <placeName ref="#Twickenham">Twickenham</placeName> they are such show places
104      &amp; nobody can be fitter to show <pb n="2"/> them to you than our dear Friend --
105      <persName>Mrs. Dobbs</persName> who you say likes jaunting about in a morning would I dare
106      say take you there fetch you again either the next day or the next but one as you
107      might settle -- Do go -- <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> would be so happy &amp; I
108      should so like to think of you all three together. You will certainly find a note
109      from her at <persName>Mrs. Dobbs</persName>'s.-- I shall try to contrive
110      about <persName ref="#Haydon">Haydon</persName> -- I expect to hear from him every
111      day &amp; in my answer I dare say I shall manage it -- I will let you know the where
112      &amp; the when &amp; all about it -- In the mean time say nothing to anyone -- &amp;
113      above all do not name him to <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName>. <add><metamark
114      rend="waves"/></add>
115  </p>
116  <p> I'm sitting up here in apple pie order <note resp="#dih">According to OED, "perfect
117      order or neatness."</note> as white as a snowball &amp; as round waiting for the
118      "<persName ref="#Palmer_Mad">Right Honourable Lady</persName>" as the <placeName
119      ref="#Reading_city">Reading</placeName> paper <!-- Look up paper --> calls her who
120      has signified her intention to call -- No -- a snowball is not a fit similiar -- a
121      snowball is a thing at liberty -- a thing that can roll about -- I am more like a
122      maggot in a nut -- a fine fat white maggot with a pink head -- a comfortable-looking
123      sort <pb n="3"/> of prisoner. -- I must tell you the whole story. Tuesday, that day
124      of triumph &amp; <unclear><supplied resp="#dih">topping</supplied></unclear>
```

I shall try to contrive about <persName ref="#Haydon">Haydon</persName> -- I expect to hear from him every day & in my answer I dare say I shall manage it -- I will let you know the where & the when & all about it -- In the mean time say nothing to anyone -- & above all do not name him to <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName>. <add><metamark rend="waves"/></add>

April 8, 1819: To Sir William Elford

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97  sure--> to the Chancellor to stop the publication? Seriously, my dear Sir William, the
98  resemblance in style, in playfulness, in &lt;!--unsure-->, in Tart, is so perfect that
99  if ever your letters should be printed anonymously i am sure they would be attributed to
100  Horace Walpole. People wont miss alitte of our honorable friends small talk to be
101  sure,&amp; a great deal his &lt;!--unsure--> &amp; &lt;!--unsure--> , but in
102  every other respect they (^are) as much alike as Sebastian was to Viola. *jerk* I am
103  very much obliged to you for your kindness respecting the poor Hollands--things are very
104  bad at Whitefornights&lt;!--unsure--> --I don't think they will ever get anything but
105  the sale of those 50 copies--for the Chancellor has no respect for the arts--&amp;
106  the Dukes vanity will now be as much mortified by(squiggle under "by") this catalouge
107  &amp; &lt;!--unsure--> of pictures &amp; books that are there no longer as it
108  wont once have been gratified. Nothing can be more justifiable than this loos to Mr.
109  Holland. They are excellent people--with regard to <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> my
110  eloquence was quite unnecessary for they have relinquished the plan--at least as I
111  understand from a letter I have just received from her--the only silly letter I suppose
112  she ever wrote in her life, in which meaning to tell things delicately &amp; avoid
113  all vulgar mention of governesship schools, money &amp; such vulgar things she is as
114  obscene as on of Lord Castlereagh's exploitations.</p>
115 <p>--</p>
116 ody>
117
```

with regard to <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName>...the only silly letter I suppose she ever wrote in her life, in which meaning to tell things delicately & avoid all vulgar mention of governesship schools, money & such vulgar things she is as obscene as on of Lord Castlereagh's exploitations.

January 29, 1821: To Mary Webb

```
105 <div type="letter">
106 <opener>
107 <dateline>
108 <date when="1821-01-29"><add><handShift resp="#pencil"/>[<del rend="strikethrough">c. 10</del><add
108 place="above">date</add>Jan. 1821]</add>Monday</date>
109 </dateline>
110 </opener>
111 <p>My dear Friend
112 You will be sorry to hear that I have just had a letter from <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss
112 James</persName> who has been hurried from <placeName ref="#Birmingham_city">Birmingham</placeName> by the illness of
112 her sister <persName ref="#James_Emily">Emily</persName> so that we shall not have the pleasure of seeing her this
112 winter or spring. She wrote just as she was getting into the coach & promised to send me word how she found her
112 sister in a few days. She did not herself fear that her illness <pb n="2"/> was dangerous but thought it
112 <unclear><gap quantity="1" unit="word" reason="illegible"/></unclear> to hurry home to take care of their four pupils
112 & to relieve <persName ref="#James_Emily">Emily</persName>'s mind from such a charge. This is a great
112 disappointment--she begs me to say everything that is kind & grateful from her to you & to express how very
112 long she is to miss the pleasure of waiting on you.--Tell <persName ref="#Wheeler_Kate">Kate Wheeler</persName> there
112 is no calling such a loveable person <emph rend="underline">Miss</emph> & that her prescription of the syringe
112 & soapsuds has completely relieved my deafness--she will be glad to hear this for she has the <pb n="3"/>
112 delightful quality of being in <unclear><gap quantity="1" unit="word" reason="water"/></unclear> <supplied
112 resp="#mco">involved</supplied></unclear> in everybody's comforts. Poor <persName ref="#Mitford_Geo">Papa</persName>
112 is not quite well--he has had something of a bowel complaint & been out in the <unclear><gap quantity="1"
112 unit="word" reason="illegible"/></unclear> <supplied resp="#mco">cob</supplied></unclear> too long--I hope he will be better
112 tomorrow--It is such a bad thing to see him ill. How are you all my dear Friends? Your head? <persName
```

You will be sorry to hear that I have just had a letter from <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss James</persName> who has been hurried from <placeName ref="#Birmingham_city">Birmingham</placeName> by the illness of her sister <persName ref="#James_Emily">Emily</persName> so that we shall not have the pleasure of seeing her this winter or spring. She wrote just as she was getting into the coach & promised to send me word how she found her sister in a few days. She did not herself fear that her illness <pb n="2"/> was dangerous but thought it <unclear><gap quantity="1" unit="word" reason="illegible"/></unclear> to hurry home to take care of their four pupils & to relieve <persName ref="#James_Emily">Emily</persName>'s mind from such a charge.

February 10, 1819: To Sir William Elford

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101 never to have any thing to say of <persName ref="#Napoleon">Napoleon</persName> (I can't bear her dragging him <del
101 rend="squiggles"><gap quantity="3" unit="words"/><unclear/></del>in between <persName ref="#Punch">Punch</persName>
101 &amp; <persName ref="#Judy">his Wife</persName>)--if she would do all this &amp; write only a Volume a year--why then
101 one might really read her books from end to end--&amp; say if people asked "How do you like it?" Why the book is
101 decent.--I wonder whether she would box my ears if you were to tell her what I say! </p><metamark
101 rend="jerk"/><p>You do not in your kind short letter mention what I told you of my dear <persName
101 ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> (I never overpraised her)--but I am so sure of your goodness that I have
101 ventured to trouble you with a copy of the terms &amp;c which <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss Susan
101 James</persName> has just sent me, &amp; which you may perhaps have the goodness to give to any one who is likely to
101 recommend her. Observe my dear Friend that I do not wish to encroach on your goodness by making you an Advertiser of
101 <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName>'s school, but merely to request that if any one likely to place a
101 young lady <del rend="squiggles" unit="chars" n="2">there</del><add place="above">"near Town"</add> should <gap
101 reason="torn" quantity="1" unit="word"/><unclear/><supplied resp="lmw">apply</supplied> to you, that you will give
101 her the countenance of your <gap reason="torn" quantity="1" unit="word"/><unclear/><supplied
101 resp="lmw">mention.</supplied> I am sure she would never disappoint the hopes of any Parent. </p><metamark
101 rend="jerk"/><p>We trust that you found <persName ref="#Elford_John">Mr. Elford</persName>much better than you
101 feared--Write soon &amp; give me an excellent account of yourself.--You must write soon &amp; long--Think how much we
101 have been disappointed by not seeing you.--<persName ref="#Mitford_Geo">Papa</persName> &amp; <persName
101 ref="#Russell_M">Mama</persName> beg their kindest remembrances &amp; I am ever my dear <persName
```

You do not in your kind short letter mention what I told you of my dear <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName> (I never overpraised her)--but I am so sure of your goodness that I have ventured to trouble you with a copy of the terms &c which <persName ref="#James_Susan">Miss Susan James</persName> has just sent me, & which you may perhaps have the goodness to give to any one who is likely to recommend her. Observe my dear Friend that I do not wish to encroach on your goodness by making you an Advertiser of <persName ref="#James_Miss">Miss James</persName>'s school, but merely to request that if any one likely to place a young lady <del rend="squiggles" unit="chars" n="2">there<add place="above">"near Town"</add> should <gap reason="torn" quantity="1" unit="word"/><unclear/><supplied resp="lmw">apply</supplied> to you, that you will give her the countenance of your <gap reason="torn" quantity="1" unit="word"/><unclear/><supplied resp="lmw">mention.</supplied> I am sure she would never disappoint the hopes of any Parent.