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| ghastly | ~~Chapt14~~4) Chap. 15  We were not allowed to converse for any length  of time for the precarious state of my health rendered  ~~that~~ that could ensure tranquillity  every precaution necessary. M. Kirwin came in & [5]  ^  strength  insisted that my ~~forces~~ should not be exhausted  ^  ~~by a prolonged con~~ by too much exertion. But  the appearance of my father was to me like  that of my good angel, and I gradually recovered my [10]  health. As my sickness {~~?~~} quitted me I was absorbed  gloomy &  by a black melancholy that nothing could dissipate–  ^ e  The image of Cl~~ai~~rval was for ever before me [15]  ~~pale~~ & murdered – More than once the agitation  into which  ~~that~~ these reflections threw me into made my  friends dread a dangerous relapse  Alas! Why did they preserve so miserable [20]  and detested a life? It was surely that I  might fulfil my destiny which is drawing  to a close— Soon Oh very soon will death  releive me from  extinguish these throbbings this mighty weight [25]  ^  of anguish that bears me to the ~~ground~~  dust and in ex~~c~~ecuting the award of jus  tice I shall also ~~thin~~ sink to rest. Then  appearance  the ~~thought~~ of death was distant although [30]  ^  the wish was ever present to my thoughts  & I often sat for hours motionless & speech  less wishing for some mighty revolution  that might bury me & my destroyer in  its {~~?~~} ruins. [35]  The season of the assizes approached–  I had already been three months in prison  & ~~allth~~ although I was still weak & ~~feverish~~  in continual danger of a relapse I was  obliged to travel nearly a hundred miles to [40]  the county town where the court was held.  M Kirwin charged himself with every | ¶We were not allowed to converse for any length  of time, for the precarious state of my health rendered  every precaution necessary that could insure tranquillity. Mr. Kirwin came in, and  insisted that my strength should not be exhausted  by too much exertion. But  the appearance of my father was to me like  that of my good angel, and I gradually recovered my  health.  [83:]¶As my sickness quitted me, I was absorbed  by a gloomy and black melancholy, that nothing could dissipate.  The image of Clerval was for ever before me,  ghastly and murdered. More than once the agitation  into which these reflections threw me made my  friends dread a dangerous relapse.  Alas! why did they preserve so miserable  and detested a life? It was surely that I  might fulfil my destiny, which is now drawing  to a close. Soon, oh, very soon, will death  extinguish these throbbings, and relieve me from the mighty weight  of anguish that bears me to the  dust; and, in executing the award of justice,  I shall also sink to rest. Then  the appearance of death was distant, although  the wish was ever present to my thoughts;  and I often sat for hours motionless and speechless,  wishing for some mighty revolution  that might [84:]bury me and my destroyer in  its ruins.  ¶The season of the assizes approached.  I had already been three months in prison;  and although I was still weak, and  in continual danger of a relapse, I was  obliged to travel nearly a hundred miles to  the county-town, where the court was held.  Mr. Kirwin charged himself with every |

**entire page]***bleed-through ink marks (from heavily inked words and blotted letters on recto [page 143])*  **1]***mispositioned and then canceled* Chapt *(with extended cancel line on numerals* 14 *in page number* 144*)* **2]***bleed-through ink blot beneath* We *(from ink blot on and below* his *on recto [page 143], line 2)* **3]***wet offset ink line above* precarious *(from cancel line on* ~~in the court~~ *on facing folio 65 recto [page 145], line 4)*  **4]***?pbs* ~~that~~ *canceled by ?pbs* **5]***extra period after* M **16]***n-dash could be period*  **17]***uncrossed* t *in pbs* into **18]***pbs did not cancel* into *after writing* into which *in line 17* **20]***?pbs* s *overlays mws* s *in* preserve **23]***wet offset ink line and blot above* to a close *(from blotted cancel line on* ~~to me~~ *on facing folio 65 recto [page 145], line 21)*  **24]***variant spelling pbs* releive **25]***first* b *added by ?pbs in* throbbings **27]***misspelled* excecuting *was corrected by canceling first* c **37]***wet offset ink blot neabove* in *(from blotted cancel line on* at *on facing folio 65 recto [page 145], line 35)*

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|  | care of collecting witnesses and arranging (145  my defence– I was ~~p~~ spared the disgrace  publickly as a criminal  of appearing ~~in the court~~ as ~~my trial did~~  ^  the case was not brought before the ~~last~~ [5]  ~~court~~ court that decides on life & death—  The Grand Jury rejected the bill on its being  proved that I was in the orkney Island ~~the~~  ~~of m~~  at the hour the body ~~was f~~ of my friend was [10]  found. And a fortnight after my removal  I was liberated from prison—My father was  enraptured on finding me freed from the  vexations of a criminal charge & that  I was again permitted to breathe the fresh [15]  atmosphere & allowed to return to my  native country. I did not participate in  to  these feelings for me the walls of a  dungeon or a ~~plal~~ palace were alike [20]  hateful – The cup of life was ~~to me~~ poisoned  for ever & although the sun shone upon  upon gay  me as ~~in~~ the happy & ~~light~~ of heart I  ^  saw around me nothing but a dense & [25]  frightful darkness penetrated by no glimmer  but ~~that of~~ the light of two eyes that  glared upon me.– Sometimes they were  the expressive eyes of Henry languishing  in death – the dark orbs nearly covered by [30]  the lid & the ~~the~~ long lashes that fringed  it – Sometimes it was the watry clouded  eyes of the monster as I first saw them  in  ~~at~~ my chamber at Ingolstadt [35]  in me the  My father tried to awake ~~a~~ feelings  ^  of affection – He talked of Geneva which I  should soon visit – Of Elizabeth & Ernest  But these words only drew from me deep [40]  groans – Sometimes indeed I felt a wish | care of collecting witnesses, and arranging  my defence. I was spared the disgrace  of appearing publicly as a criminal, as  the case was not brought before the  court that decides on life and death.  The grand jury rejected the bill, on its being  proved that I was on**†** the Orkney Islands  at the hour the body of my friend was  found, and a fortnight after my removal  I was liberated from prison.  ¶My father was  enraptured on finding me freed from the  vexations of a cri- [85:]minal charge, that  I was again allowed**†** to breathe the fresh  atmosphere, and allowed**†** to return to my  native country. I did not participate in  these feelings; for to me the walls of a  dungeon or a palace were alike  hateful. The cup of life was poisoned  for ever; and although the sun shone upon  me, as upon the happy and gay of heart, I  saw around me nothing but a dense and  frightful darkness, penetrated by no light  but the glimmer of two eyes that  glared upon me. Sometimes they were  the expressive eyes of Henry, languishing  in death, the dark orbs nearly covered by  the lids, and the long black lashes that fringed  them; sometimes it was the watery clouded  eyes of the monster, as I first saw them  in my chamber at Ingolstadt.  ¶My father tried to awaken in me the feelings  of affection. He talked of [86:]Geneva, which I  should soon visit—of Elizabeth, and Ernest;  but these words only drew deep  groans from me. Sometimes, indeed, I felt a wish |

**lower left and right corners]***darker areas in photofacsimile are caused by shadows from folded and curled paper* **left edge]***remaining stub (from folio 56) folded over at top; tear line extends from jagged edge towards* the lid *in line 31* **bottom edge]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling of paper* **2]***n-dash could be period*  **3]***variant spelling* publickly **7]**d *overlays* g *or* y *in* Grand **8]**orkney *could be* Orkney **9]***canceled ?mws* of m **13]***wet offset ink blots on and below* d *in* finding *(from blotted* e *above and from cancel line on* ai *in* Cl

~~ai~~rval *on facing folio 64 verso [page 144], lines 14 and 15)* **32]***variant spelling* watry **1818 text:8]***draft* in *(for which no fair copy is extant) was altered to* on *in 1818 (the reading in all other texts except 1818 Thomas [see 1818 Rieger, page 179, where* in *was reintroduced])* **1818 text:15-16]***draft* permitted...allowed *(for which no fair copy is extant) was altered to* allowed...allowed *in 1818 (also the reading in 1818 Thomas [see 1818 Rieger, page 179] and in 1823 [II, 173]), but a reversed* allowed...permitted *is the reading in 1831 (page 162)*

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| 146) | my beloved cousin & the blue lake which had  for happiness;  been so dear to me, in early childhood, but my  state of a  general feeling was torpor in which a prison [5]  ^ ^  was as welcome a ~~scene~~ residence as the divi  nest scene in nature & these fits were seldom  interrupted but by paroxisms of anguish &  despair – At these moments I often endeavour  ed to put an end to the existence I loathed [10]  & it required unceasing attendance & vigilance  restrain ~~me~~ me from  to ~~prevent~~ ~~my~~ committing some dreadful  act of violence. I remember as I quitted the  prison I heard one of the men say – He may be [15]  innocent of the murder but he has certainly  a bad conscience.–  These words struck me; a bad conscience,  e  yes surely I had one – William, Justine & Cl~~ai~~rval [20]  through ^  had died ~~by~~ my infernal machinations  ^  ~~to be the~~  ~~And who is next victim I exclaimed~~ And whose  ^  death, cried I, is to finish the tragedy — Ah! my [25]  father do not let us remain in this wretched  country– Take me where I can forget myself,  my existence & all the world. My father easily  acceeded to my desire & after having taken  leave of M Kirwin we hastened to Dublin. [30]  I felt as if I was relieved from a heavy weight  when the packet set sail with a fair wind  from Ireland and I had quitted for ever the  country which had been to me the scene  of so much misery – It was midnight, my [35]  father slept below in the cabin & I lay on  the deck looking at the stars & listening to  the dashing of the waves –I hailed the darkness  that shut Ireland from my sight &  my pulse beat with a feverish joy when [40]  I reflected that I should soon see Geneva  in the  The passed appeared to me light of a fright  ^ | for happiness; and thought, with melancholy delight, of my beloved cousin; or longed, with a devouring *maladie du pays*, to see once more the blue lake and rapid Rhone, that had  been so dear to me in early childhood: but my  general state of feeling was a torpor, in which a prison was as welcome a residence as the divinest  scene in nature; and these fits were seldom  interrupted, but by paroxysms of anguish and  despair. At these moments I often endeavoured  to put an end to the existence I loathed;  and it required unceasing attendance and vigilance  to restrain me from committing some dreadful  act of violence.  ¶I remember, as I quitted the  prison, [87:]I heard one of the men say, “He may be  innocent of the murder, but he has certainly  a bad conscience.”  These words struck me. A bad conscience!  yes, surely I had one. William, Justine, and Clerval,  had died through my infernal machinations;  “And whose  death,” cried I, “is to finish the tragedy? Ah! my  father, do not remain in this wretched  country; take me where I may forget myself,  my existence, and all the world.”  ¶My father easily  acceded to my desire; and, after having taken  leave of Mr. Kirwin, we hastened to Dublin.  I felt as if I was relieved from a heavy weight,  when the packet sailed with a fair wind  from Ireland, and I had quitted for ever the  country which had been to me the scene  of so much misery.  ¶It was midnight. My  father slept in [88:]the cabin; and I lay on  the deck, looking at the stars, and listening to  the dashing of the waves. I hailed the darkness  that shut Ireland from my sight, and  my pulse beat with a feverish joy, when  I reflected that I should soon see Geneva.  The past appeared to me in the light of a frightful |

**lower left and right corners]***darker areas in photofacsimile are caused by shadows from curled and folded paper* **upper right corner]***paper folded under* **margin:17]***wet offset ink blots (from interlinear* I *and from ink blots above and on* ~~I un~~ *on facing folio 66 recto [page 147], lines 18-19)*  **1]***mws apparently omitted words before* my beloved *when she copied text from earlier draft* **8]***variant spelling* paroxisms **9]***wet offset ink line above* often *(from cancel line on* ai *in* Cl~~ai~~rval *on facing folio 66 recto [page 147], line 8)*  **17]***bleed-through ink blot below* ci *in* conscience *(from blotted* t *in* not *on recto [page 145], line 17); third* c *overlays* s *in* conscience **22]***tear line in paper extends from right edge towards* machinations **29]***misspelled* acceeded **33]***tear line in paper extends down from right edge through* the **34]***wet offset ink line below* cou *in* country*, line extending into left margin (from cancel lines on* ~~to me~~ *on facing folio 66 recto [page 147], line 36)*  **43]***miswritten* passed *(for* past*);* of *added between* light *and* a

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|  | ~~vesse~~l  ful dream yet the ~~place~~ ~~in w~~ vessel in which (147  I was – ~~the sea &~~ the wind that blew me from  the detested shore of Ireland and the sea  which surrounded me told me too forci [5]  bly that I was deceived by no vision & that  e  Cl~~ai~~rval my friend & dearest companion  ^  had fallen a victim to me & the ~~animal~~  n  moster of my creation. [10]  ^  I repassed in my memory my whole  life; my quiet happiness when residing with  my family in Geneva –The death of my Mother  and my departure for Insgolstadt; I remem  bered with shuddering the mad enthusiasm [15]  that hurried me on to the creation of  my hideous enemy & I called to my mind  I  the night on which he first lived. ~~I un~~  pursue [20]  I was unable to ~~continue~~ the train of thought –A  thousand feelings pressed upon me & I wept  bitterly.—  Ever since my recovery from the fever  I had been in the custom of taking every [25]  night a small quantity of laudanum  ~~a~~ for it was by means of this drug only  rest  that I was enabled to gain the ~~sleep~~ necessa  ry for the preservation of life. O~~p~~pressed [30]  by the recollection of my various misfor  tunes I now took a double dose & soon  slept profoundly. But alas sleep did  respite  not afford me ~~rest~~ from thought & [35]  misery – my dreams ~~s~~presented ~~to me~~  a thousand objects that scared me–  towards morning I was ~~opp~~ possessed by  a kind of nightmare – I felt the fiends  grasp on my neck and could not free [40]  myself from it—Groans & cries rung in my  ears– My father who was watching over me,  a~~nd~~ perceiving my restlessness ~~he~~ awoke me | dream; yet the vessel in which  I was, the wind that blew me from  the detested shore of Ireland, and the sea  which surrounded me, told me too forcibly  that I was deceived by no vision, and that  Clerval, my friend and dearest companion,  had fallen a victim to me and the  monster of my creation.  I repassed, in my memory, my whole  life; my quiet happiness while residing with  my family in Geneva, the death of my mother,  and my departure for Ingolstadt. I remembered  shuddering at**†** the mad enthusiasm  that hurried me on to the crea- [89:]tion of  my hideous enemy, and I called to mind  the night during**†** which he first lived.  I was unable to pursue the train of thought; a  thousand feelings pressed upon me, and I wept  bitterly.  ¶Ever since my recovery from the fever  I had been in the custom of taking every  night a small quantity of laudanum;  for it was by means of this drug only  that I was enabled to gain the rest necessary  for the preservation of life. Oppressed  by the recollection of my various misfortunes,  I now took a double dose, and soon  slept profoundly. But sleep did  not afford me respite from thought and  misery; my dreams presented  a thousand objects that scared me.  Towards morning I was possessed by  a kind of night-mare; I felt the fiend's  grasp in my neck, and could not free  myself from it; groans and cries rung in my  ears. My father, who was [90:]watching over me,  perceiving my restlessness, awoke me, |

**bottom left corner]***paper folded over* **left edge]***remaining stub (from folio 55); jagged edge with tear lines in paper extending from left edge at lines 32-33* **upper right edge]***darker area in photofacsimile exaggerates soiling of paper* **lower quarter of page]***show-through ink marks (from heavily inked words on verso [page 148])*  **14]***misspelled* Insgolstadt **18]**I *(which should be canceled) above canceled* I un *in line 19* **30]***stray ink dots above period; first* p *in* Oppressed *mistakenly canceled*  **36]***misspelled* spresented *was corrected by canceling initial* s **38]**n *overlays* d *in* morning **43]***uncanceled* a

*in* a~~nd~~*, with ink blot above* n*; re-inked* e *in* awoke **1818 text:15]***draft* with shuddering *(for which fair copy is not extant) was altered to* shuddering at *in 1818 (also the reading in 1818 Thomas [see 1818 Rieger, page 181, where* I remembered shuddering at the mad enthusiasm *is underlined] and in 1823 [II, 176]), but* remembered, shuddering, *is the reading in 1831 (page 164)* **1818 text:19]***draft* on *(for which fair copy is not extant) was altered to* during *in 1818 (also the reading in 1818 Thomas [see 1818 Rieger, page 181]), but* in *is the reading in 1823 (II, 177) and in 1831 (page 164)*

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| 148) | and pointed ~~and pointed~~ to the port of  Holyhead which we were now entering.  We had resolved not to go to London  to  but ~~to go~~ ~~a~~cross the country to Portsmouth [5]  ^  and ~~from~~ thence to embark to Havre. I  preferred this ~~pan~~ plan principally because  I dreaded to see again those places in which  I had enjoyed a few moments of tranquilli  e [10]  ty with my beloved Cl~~ai~~rval – And I thought  ^  with horror of seeing those men whom  we had been accustomed to visit together  and who, doubtless, would make enquiries  concerning an event the very remembrance [15]  of which made me again feel what I  endured when I gazed on his lifeless form.  As for my father; his desires & exer  tions were bounded to the again seeing  me ~~res~~ restored to health and peace of [20]  mind. His tenderness & attentions were  unremitting, my grief and gloom was obsti-  nate but he would not despair. Some  times he thought that I felt deeply  the degradation of being obliged to answer [25]  a charge of murder and he endeavoured  to prove to me the futility of pride.  Alas! my father, said I, how little do you  know me: human beings, their feelings  and passions would indeed be degraded [30]  if such a wretch as I felt pride. Justine  poor unhappy Justine was as innocent  as I and she suffered the same charge,  she died for it – And I am the cause  of this – I murdered her. William [35] | and pointed to the port of  Holyhead, which we were now entering.  [91:]CHAPTER V.  We had resolved not to go to London,  but to cross the country to Portsmouth,  and thence to embark for Havre. I  preferred this plan principally because  I dreaded to see again those places in which  I had enjoyed a few moments of tranquillity  with my beloved Clerval. I thought  with horror of seeing again those persons whom  we had been accustomed to visit together,  and who might make inquiries  concerning an event, the very remembrance  of which made me again feel the pang I  endured [92:]when I gazed on his lifeless form  in the inn at .  ¶As for my father, his desires and exertions  were bounded to the again seeing  me restored to health and peace of  mind. His tenderness and attentions were  unremitting; my grief and gloom was obstinate,  but he would not despair. Sometimes  he thought that I felt deeply  the degradation of being obliged to answer  a charge of murder, and he endeavoured  to prove to me the futility of pride.  ¶“Alas! my father,” said I, “how little do you  know me. Human beings, their feelings  and passions, would indeed be degraded,  if such a wretch as I felt pride. Justine,  poor unhappy Justine, was as innocent  as I, and she suffered the same charge;  she died for it; and I am the cause  of this—I murdered her. William, |

**right edge]***tear line in paper extends from jagged edge down to* feelings*, line 29* **bottom right corner]***paper folded under* **bottom of page]***bleed-through ink marks (from heavily inked words on recto [page 147]) together with some dry offset ink stains (from facing folio 67 recto [page 149])* **margin:7-8]***wet offset ink blots (from blotted* desire *on facing folio 67 recto [page 149], line 7)*  **3]***ink blot after* resolved **4]***blotted* to **6]***wet offset ink blot before* Havre *(from blotted* a *in* same *on facing folio 67 recto [page 149], line 4)*  **8]***?stray ink dot after* again **16]**d *overlays* k *in* made **20]***canceled*\pard fs17 res *could be canceled* ses **22]**unremitted *was altered by ?pbs to* unremitting **22-23]**ostinate *was altered by ?mws to* obstinate **26]***ink blots on and above* r *in* murder **31]***ink blot below* a*; period after* pride *could be colon (lower half of which possibly overlays final stroke of* pride*)*

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|  | Justine & Henry, they all died by my hand (149  My father had often during my  late confinement heard me make the  same Assertion ~~& his astonishment~~  I thus [5]  ~~was extreme~~. When ~~he~~ ~~heard me~~ ~~thus~~ ac  cused myself, he sometimes seemed to desire  an explanation & at others he appeared  to consider it as caused by delirium &  that ~~some idea~~ during my illness some [10]  idea of this kind had presented itself  to my imagination ~~t~~ ~~an~~ the remembe  rance of which I preserved in my conva  lescence. ~~I~~ avoided explanation; I main  tained a continual silence concerning [15]  the wretch I had created. I had a feeling  that I should be supposed mad and this  for ever chained my tongue when I  would have given the whole world to  have confided the fatal secret. Up [20]  on these occasions, my father said with  an expression of unbounded wonder  What do you mean, Victor, are you mad?  My dear son, I entreat you not to make  so strange an assertion again. [25]  I am not mad, I cried energetically,  the sun & the heavens who have view  ed my operations can bear witness of  my truth. I was the assassin of those  most innocent victims — they died by my [30]  machinations. A thousand times would  I ~~rather~~ have shed my own blood  drop ~~d~~ by drop to have saved their lives:  But I could not, my father, indeed I | Justine, [93:]and Henry—they all died by my hands**†**.”  ¶My father had often, during my  imprisonment, heard me make the  same assertion;  when I thus accused  myself, he sometimes seemed to desire  an explanation, and at others he appeared  to consider it as caused by delirium, and  that, during my illness, some  idea of this kind had presented itself  to my imagination, the remembrance  of which I preserved in my convalescence.  I avoided explanation, and maintained  a continual silence concerning  the wretch I had created. I had a feeling  that I should be supposed mad, and this  for ever chained my tongue, when I  would have given the whole world to  have confided the fatal secret.  ¶Upon  this occasion my father said, with  an expression of unbounded wonder,  “What do you mean, Victor? [94:]are you mad?  My dear son, I entreat you never to make  such an assertion again.”  ¶“I am not mad,” I cried energetically;  “the sun and the heavens, who have viewed  my operations, can bear witness of  my truth. I am the assassin of those  most innocent victims; they died by my  machinations. A thousand times would  I have shed my own blood,  drop by drop, to have saved their lives;  but I could not, my father, indeed I |

**left edge]***remaining stub (from folio 54)* **top of page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling and curling of paper* **3]***wet offset ink blots on and below* m *in* me *(from blotted* to *and blotted cancel lines on* ~~to go~~ ~~a~~cross *on facing folio 66 verso [page 148], lines 4 and 5)* **4]**Assertion *could be* assertion **7-8]***pbs* d *added in* accused*; ink blots on* desire **9]***wet offset ink blot on* r *in* consider *(from blotted cancel line on* ai *in* Cl~~ai~~rval *on facing folio 66 verso [page 148], line 11)*  **12-13]***variant spelling* rememberance **14]***?mistakenly canceled* I *before* avoided **17]***?stray ink lines after and above* this **21]***original phrasing of* this occasion *(altered by ?pbs to* these occasions*) was restored in 1818—see similar pattern on folio 67 verso (page 150), lines 3-5* **33]***?colon (or ?semicolon or ?period with stray ink dot)* **1818 text:1]***Ketterer, "Readings" (page 28), suggests that the more idiomatic* died by my hand *in draft is preferable to* died by my hands *in 1818, but there is OED* *sanction for the idiomatic use of the plural* hands*; moreover,* hands *may have been the reading in fair copy and continued to be the reading in 1818 Thomas (see 1818 Rieger, page 182), in 1823 (II, 181), and in 1831 (page 165)*

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| 150) | could not sacrifice the whole human race.  The conclusion of this speech persuaded my  father that my ideas were deranged – and by instant  ing  ly chang~~ed~~ the subject of our conversation he [5]  endeavoured to alter the course of my thoughts.  He wished as much as possible to obliterate the  memory of the scenes in Ireland and never  again alluded to them or suffered me to speak  of my misfortunes. As time passed away I became [10]  more calm; misery had her dwelling in my  same  heart but I no longer talked in the incoherent  manner ~~I before did~~ of my own crimes; suffi  cient for me was the consciousness of them. [15]  By the utmost self violence I curbed the  imperious voice of wretchedness which  desired sometimes to declare itself to the  whole world, & my manners were calmer  & more composed than they had ever been [20]  since my journey to the Sea of Ice. Even  my father who watched me as the bird  does its ~~n~~ nestling was deceived and thought  that the black melancholy which had  oppressed me was quitting me for ever [25]  and that my native country & the society  of my friends would entirely restore me to  my former health & vivacity.  We arrived at Havre on the 8  May [30]  of ~~February~~ & instantly proceeded to Paris  where my father had some business  us  which detained a few weeks ~~I I rermain~~  ^  ed ~~with~~ ~~him.~~ In this city I received the [35]  following letter from Elizabeth:  To Victor Fankenstein  May  ~~Feb.~~ 18 – 17—  My dearest Friend. [40] | could not sacrifice the whole human race.”  ¶The conclusion of this speech convinced my  father that my ideas were deranged, and he instantly  changed the subject of our conversation, and  endeavoured to alter the course of my thoughts.  He wished as much as possible to obliterate the  memory of the scenes that had taken place in Ireland, [95:]and never  alluded to them, or suffered me to speak  of my misfortunes.  ¶As time passed away I became  more calm: misery had her dwelling in my  heart, but I no longer talked in the same incoherent  manner of my own crimes; sufficient  for me was the consciousness of them.  By the utmost self-violence, I curbed the  imperious voice of wretchedness, which  sometimes desired to declare itself to the  whole world; and my manners were calmer  and more composed than they had ever been  since my journey to the sea of ice.  ¶We arrived at Havre on the 8th  of May, and instantly proceeded to Paris,  where my father had some business  which detained us a few weeks.  In this city, I received the  following letter from Elizabeth:—  [96:]“*TO* VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN.  “MY DEAREST FRIEND, |

**top of page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling and curling of paper* **3-5]***original mws phrasing of* he instantly changed...& endeavoured *(altered by ?pbs to* by instantly changing...he endeavoured*) was restored in 1818—see similar pattern on folio 67 recto (page 149), line 21*  **14]***wet offset ink blots before and below* o *in* own *(from* see *on facing folio 68 recto [page 151], line 12)*  **21]***this is only instance of a capitalized* Sea of Ice *(i.e.,"Mer de Glace") in the draft or fair copy: for lower-case* sea of ice *(always the reading in 1818), see folio 36 recto (page 96A), line 31, and folio 78 recto (page 171), line 14, as well as Dep. c. 477/1, Notebook A, folio 58 verso (page 152), line 19, and Dep. c. 534/2, Notebook C1, folio 14 recto (page 129), line 11; see also Ketterer, "Readings" (page 29), who considered two of these instances but did not recommend emending the 1818 text* **26]***wet offset ink blot on* t *in* country *(from blotted* x *in* Explanation *on facing folio 68 recto [page 151], line 25)*  **32]**i*nk blot after* a *in* father **34]***ink dot after* weeks *is dot above* i *in* received *in line 35* **35]**ed *left uncanceled*  **36-40]**f*aint bleed-through ink marks (from heavily inked words on recto [page 149])*  **37]***misspelled* Fankenstein **39]***ink smear obscures numeral* 8 *in* 18 **40]***period appears to be on final stroke of* Friend *(after which is ?stray ink dot)*

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|  | It gave me the greatest pleasure to (151  receive a letter from my Uncle dated at  Paris. You are no longer at a formidable  distance and I may hope to see you in  less than a fortnight. My poor Cousin! [5]  How much must you have suffered!  I expect to see you looking even more  ill than when you quitted Geneva. This  winter has been passed most miserably  but although happiness will not shine [10]  in our eyes for many months yet I  see  hope to peace in your countenance & to  ^  find that your heart is not totally  devoid of comfort & tranquillity. [15]  Yet I fear that the same feelings    now exist that made you so miserable  a year ago even perhaps augmented by time.  I would not at this period disturb you  when so many misfortunes weigh upon [20]  you but a conversation that I had  with my uncle previous to his departure  renders some explanation necessary  before we meet.  Explanation, you may possibly say, [25]  what can Elizabeth have to explain?  If you really say this my questions are  answered and I have no more to do than  to sign myself your affectionate cousin.  But you are distant from me & ~~I can~~ [30]  ~~not~~ it is possible that you may dread &  yet be pleased with this explanation  ~~af~~ ~~and if such could be the case I~~  in the  ~~cannot delay it~~ and ~~with~~ ~~a~~ probability of [35]  this being the case I dare not postpone  any longer to write what during your  absence I have often wished to express to | ¶“It gave me the greatest pleasure to  receive a letter from my uncle dated at  Paris; you are no longer at a formidable  distance, and I may hope to see you in  less than a fortnight. My poor cousin,  how much you must have suffered!  I expect to see you looking even more  ill than when you quitted Geneva. This  winter has been passed most miserably,  tortured as I have been by anxious suspense;  yet I  hope to see peace in your countenance, and to  find that your heart is not totally  devoid of comfort and tranquillity.    ¶“Yet I fear that the same feelings  now exist that made you so miserable  a year ago, even perhaps augmented by [97:]time.  I would not disturb you at this period,  when so many misfortunes weigh upon  you; but a conversation that I had  with my uncle previous to his departure  renders some explanation necessary  before we meet.  ¶“Explanation! you may possibly say;  what can Elizabeth have to explain?  If you really say this, my questions are  answered, and I have no more to do than  to sign myself your affectionate cousin.  But you are distant from me, and  it is possible that you may dread, and  yet be pleased with this explanation;  and, in a probability of  this being the case, I dare not any longer postpone  writing what, during your  absence, I have often wished to express to |

**left edge]***remaining stub (from folio 53) with glue residue* **right edge]***carry-over ink lines from right edge of preceding recto (e.g., ink line to right of* This *in line 8 completes final stroke of* appeared *on folio 67 recto [page 149], line 8)* **2]**Uncle *could be* uncle **3]**d *overlays* t *in* formidable **5]***exclamation mark could be start of* H **6]***exclamation mark could be question mark* **16]***canceled comma*  **34]***?mws* in the **35]***re-inked* ity *in* probability **38]***bleed-through stain below* wished *(from stain below* have *on verso [page 152], line 38); end-of-line* to *is repeated on verso (page 152), line 1*

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| 152) | to you but have never had courage to begin.  well  You know, Victor, that ~~it~~ our union  ^  had been the favourite plan of my aunt  and uncle ever since our infancy–We were [5]  told this when young and taught to look  forward to it as an event that would  certainly take place. We were affectionate  e  playfellows during childhood & I belive [10]  valued ^  dear & ~~beloved~~ friends to one another when  ^  we grew older. But as a brother & sister  often entertain a lively affection towards  without desiring a more intimate union [15]  such  one another may not ~~this~~ also be  ^  our case. Tell me, dearest Victor, Answer  me, I conjure you by our mutual happi  ness, with simple truth do you not love [20]  ~~as you would wish to love a wife~~  another?  You have travelled, you have spent  several ~~some~~ years of your life at Ingolstadt–&  I confess to ~~m~~ you, my friend that when [25]  I saw you last Autumn so unhappy  ~~& obstinately~~ flying from the society  of every creature to solitude & despon  dency I could not help supposing  that you might regret our connection [30]  & believe your self bound in honour  to fulfil the wishes of your parents  although they opposed themselves to  your inclinations. But this is false  reasoning. ~~I lo~~ I confess to you my [35]  cousin that I ~~have~~ love you &  that in my airy castles of futurity  you have been my constant friend | you, but have never had the courage to begin.  ¶“You well know, Victor, that our union  had been the favourite plan of [98:]your parents  ever since our infancy. We were  told this when young, and taught to look  forward to it as an event that would  certainly take place. We were affectionate  playfellows during childhood, and, I believe,  dear and valued friends to one another as  we grew older. But as brother and sister  often entertain a lively affection towards  each other, without desiring a more intimate union, may not such also be  our case? Tell me, dearest Victor. Answer  me, I conjure you, by our mutual happiness,  with simple truth—Do you not love  another?  ¶“You have travelled; you have spent  several years of your life at Ingolstadt; and  I confess to you, my friend, that when  I saw you last autumn so unhappy,  flying to solitude, from the society  of every creature,  I could not help supposing  that you [99:]might regret our connexion,  and believe yourself bound in honour  to fulfil the wishes of your parents,  although they opposed themselves to  your inclinations. But this is false  reasoning. I confess to you, my  cousin, that I love you, and  that in my airy dreams of futurity  you have been my constant friend |

**entire page]***position of wet offset ink blots suggests that folio 68 verso (page 152), end of Quire III, was slightly misaligned with facing folio 69 recto (page 153), beginning of Quire IV, in Notebook B* **right edge]***small remaining stub (from folio 53) and glue residue* **margin:9]***wet offset ink blots (from ink blots on and below* I *on facing folio 69 recto [page 153], line 6)*  **1]***first* to *is repeated (see final word on recto [page 151]) but uncanceled* **3]**Victor *could be* victor **10]**s *added in* playfellows **14]***wet offset ink blot on* t *in* affection *(from blotted* y *in* by *on facing folio 69 recto [page 153], line 9)*  **18]**Answer *could be* answer **19]***ink blots on and above* you *(possibly offset from blotted* yo *in* your *on facing folio 69 recto [page 153], line 14)*  **22]**another *could be* Another **24]**young *altered to* your*; crossed* l *and uncrossed first* t *in* Ingolstadt **27]***ink blots on* from **29]***ink blots before, above, and on* supposing *(the largest blot offset from blotted* D *in* Do *on facing folio 69 recto [page 153], line 25)* **35]**y *overlays false start in* you **38]***stain below* have

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|  | and companion. But it is your hap (153  piness I desire as well as my own ~~felicity~~  when I declare to you that our marriage  would render me eternally miserable  unless it were the dictate of your own [5]  free choice. Even now I weep when I ~~co~~ think  that borne down as you are by the  cruellest misfortunes you may stifle  by the word honor all hope of that  love & happiness which would alone [10]  restore you to yourself.  ~~conduce to your felicity~~. I who have  so disinterrested an affection for you  may encrease your miseries tenfold  by being an obstacle to your wishes [15]  Ah Victor be assured that your cou  sin & playmate has too sincere  a love for you not to be made  wretched by this supposition. Be hap  py my friend and if you obey me in [20]  this one request be assured that  nothing on earth will have the power  interrupt  to ~~disturb.~~ my tranquillity.  ^  Do not let this letter disturb you. [25]  Do ~~y~~ not answer it tomorrow or the  next day or not even untill you  come if it will give you pain. My  Uncle will send me news of your  health and if I see but one smile [30]  on your lips when we meet occa  sioned by this letter or any other  exertion of mine I shall need no  other happiness– Your affectionate friend  Geneva Elizabeth Lavenza. [35] | and companion. But it is your happiness  I desire as well as my own,  when I declare to you, that our marriage  would render me eternally miserable,  unless it were the dictate of your own  free choice. Even now I weep to think,  that, borne down as you are by the  cruelest misfortunes, you may stifle,  by the word *honour*, all hope of that  love and happiness which would alone  restore you to yourself. I, who have  so interested**†** an affection for you,  may increase your miseries ten-fold,  by being an obstacle to your wishes.  Ah, Vic- [100:]tor, be assured that your cousin  and playmate has too sincere  a love for you not to be made  miserable by this supposition. Be happy,  my friend; and if you obey me in  this one request, remain satisfied that  nothing on earth will have the power  to interrupt my tranquillity.  ¶“Do not let this letter disturb you;  do not answer it to-morrow, or the  next day, or even until you  come, if it will give you pain. My  uncle will send me news of your  health; and if I see but one smile  on your lips when we meet, occasioned  by this or any other  exertion of mine, I shall need no  other happiness.  “ELIZABETH LAVENZA.  “Geneva, May 18th, 17—.” |

**this and following pages]***this page (from* assured that *in line 21) and the remainder of the draft in Notebook B (folios 69-94) form the basis for the extant fair copy—see below, Dep c. 534/2, Notebooks C1 and C2, folios 1-18 and 19-29, as well as folios 30 and 31; see also Appendix A, pages 779-817, for a comparison of draft and extant fair copy* **entire page]***frequent blotted letters* **lower right corner]***darker area in photofacsimile exaggerates soiling of paper* **margin:3]***stray horizontal ink line*  **6]***period on final stroke of* choice **7]***ink blots above* by *and on* t *in* the **8]***variant spelling* cruellest **9]***variant spelling* honor **13]***misspelled* disinterrested *(see note below on 1818 text)* **16]**\sect cs10r *added in* your **25]***ink blot on* D *in* Do **26]**Do *could be* do **27]***variant spelling* untill **28]***stray ink dot with period after* pain **30]***wet offset ink blot below* n *in* and *(from blotted* B *in* But *on facing folio 68 verso [page 152], line 34); ink blot on and below* s *in* see **35]***period on final stroke of* Lavenza **1818 text:13]**disinterrested *in draft (altered to* interested *in 1818 [also the reading in 1818 Thomas and in 1823], the change possibly authorized by now missing fair-copy page)* *was restored in 1831 (page 168)*