Frankenstein

pp. 64-172

[:]The first fragment contains

pp. 24-97 of the Standard

Novel edition.

The second pp. 104-202, with

a slight interruption.

The third pp. 168-202, with

many imperfections.

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FRANKENSTEIN;

or,

THE MODERN PROMETHEUS.

—<>—

Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay

To mould me man? Did I solicit thee

From darkness to promote me?

Paradise Lost. 3

—<>—

THE *FRANKENSTEIN* NOTEBOOKS

THE DRAFT

(NOTEBOOKS A AND B)

[Volume I, page v:]

TO**†**

WILLIAM GODWIN,

*AUTHOR OF POLITICAL JUSTICE, CALEB WILLIAMS, &c.*

THESE VOLUMES

*Are respectfully inscribed*

by

THE AUTHOR.

[Volume I, page vii:]

PREFACE.

The event on which this fiction is founded has been supposed, by Dr. Darwin, and some of the physiological writers of Germany, as not of impossible occurrence. I shall not be supposed as according the remotest degree of serious faith to such an imagination; yet, in assuming it as the basis of a work of fancy, I have not considered myself as merely weaving a series of supernatural terrors. The event on [viii:]which the interest of the story depends is exempt from the disadvantages of a mere tale of spectres or enchantment. It was recommended by the novelty of the situations which it developes; and, however impossible as a physical fact, affords a point of view to the imagination for the delineating of human passions more comprehensive and commanding than any which the ordinary relations of existing events can yield.

¶I have thus endeavoured to preserve the truth of the elementary principles of human nature, while I have not scrupled to innovate upon their combinations. The *Iliad*, the tragic poetry of Greece,—Shakespeare, in the *Tempest* and *Mid-* [ix:]*summer Night's Dream*,—and most especially Milton, in *Paradise Lost*, conform to this rule; and the most humble novelist, who seeks to confer or receive amusement from his labours, may, without presumption, apply to prose fiction a licence, or rather a rule, from the adoption of which so many exquisite combinations of human feeling have resulted in the highest specimens of poetry.

¶The circumstance on which my story rests was suggested in casual conversation. It was commenced, partly as a source of amusement, and partly as an expedient for exercising any untried resources of mind. Other motives were mingled with these, as the work pro- [x:]ceeded. I am by no means indifferent to the manner in which whatever moral tendencies exist in the sentiments or characters it contains shall affect the reader; yet my chief concern in this respect has been limited to the avoiding the enervating effects of the novels of the present day, and to the exhibition of the amiableness of domestic affection, and the excellence of universal virtue. The opinions which naturally spring from the character and situation of the hero are by no means to be conceived as existing always in my own conviction; nor is any inference justly to be drawn from the following pages as prejudicing any philosophical doctrine of whatever kind.

[xi:]¶It is a subject also of additional interest to the author, that this story was begun in the majestic region where the scene is principally laid, and in society which cannot cease to be regretted. I passed the summer of 1816 in the environs of Geneva. The season was cold and rainy, and in the evenings we crowded around a blazing wood fire, and occasionally amused ourselves with some German stories of ghosts, which happenened**†** to fall into our hands. These tales excited in us a playful desire of imitation. Two other friends (a tale from the pen of one of whom would be far more acceptable to the public than any thing I can ever hope to produce) and [xii:]myself agreed to write each a story, founded on some supernatural occurrence.

¶The weather, however, suddenly became serene; and my two friends left me on a journey among the Alps, and lost, in the magnificent scenes which they present, all memory of their ghostly visions. The following tale is the only one which has been completed.

**this and following pages]***no manuscript is extant for this dedication page, for this* PREFACE*, for the introductory* LETTERS I-IV*, or for the first section of* CHAPTER I*: this preface was apparently written later (probably by pbs in Marlow in September 1817, the date appended to the preface in 1831), but the introductory letters (4870 words) and the first section of Ch. I (1075 words) most likely occupied all of the now missing pages 1-40 (representing 20 folios) of Notebook A: at an average of 150 words of 1818 text produced by each manuscript page (this average computed from pages 41-60 of Notebook A), the 4870 words of the introductory letters were likely produced by the text occupying the missing pages 1-33 of Notebook A (33x150=4950), and the 1075 words of the text of Ch. I were likely produced by the text occupying the missing pages 34-40 of Notebook A (7x150=1050)* **1818 text:Dedication:1]**TO *is printed in roman type despite evidence of imperfect photofacsimiles in 1818 Wolf-1 (page [2]) and in 1818 Hunter (page [4]) to the contrary* **1818 text:Preface:22]**ain *misprinted* happenened *was corrected to* happened *in 1823 (I, x) and in 1831 (page 2)*

[Volume I, page 1:]

FRANKENSTEIN;

OR, THE

MODERN PROMETHEUS.

LETTER I.

*To Mrs.* Saville, *England.*

St. Petersburgh, Dec. 11th, 17—.

You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. I arrived here yesterday; and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare, and increasing confidence in the success of my undertaking.

¶I am already far north of London; and as I walk in the streets of Peters- [2:]burgh, I feel a cold northern breeze play upon my cheeks, which braces my nerves, and fills me with delight. Do you understand this feeling? This breeze, which has travelled from the regions towards which I am advancing, gives me a foretaste of those icy climes. Inspirited by this wind of promise, my day dreams become more fervent and vivid. I try in vain to be persuaded that the pole is the seat of frost and desolation; it ever presents itself to my imagination as the region of beauty and delight. There, Margaret, the sun is for ever visible; its broad disk just skirting the horizon, and diffusing a perpetual splendour. There—for with your leave, my sister, I will put some trust in preceding navigators—there snow and frost are banished; and, sailing over a calm sea, we may be wafted to a land surpassing in wonders [3:]and in beauty every region hitherto discovered on the habitable globe. Its productions and features may be without example, as the phænomena of the heavenly bodies undoubtedly are in those undiscovered solitudes. What may not be expected in a country of eternal light? I may there discover the wondrous power which attracts the needle; and may regulate a thousand celestial observations, that require only this voyage to render their seeming eccentricities consistent for ever. I shall satiate my ardent curiosity with the sight of a part of the world never before visited, and may tread a land never before imprinted by the foot of man. These are my enticements, and they are sufficient to conquer all fear of danger or death, and to induce me to commence this laborious voyage with the joy a child feels when he embarks [4:]in a little boat, with his holiday mates, on an expedition of discovery up his native river. But, supposing all these conjectures to be false, you cannot contest the inestimable benefit which I shall confer on all mankind to the last generation, by discovering a passage near the pole to those countries, to reach which at present so many months are requisite; or by ascertaining the secret of the magnet, which, if at all possible, can only be effected by an undertaking such as mine.

¶These reflections have dispelled the agitation with which I began my letter, and I feel my heart glow with an enthusiasm which elevates me to heaven; for nothing contributes so much to tranquillize the mind as a steady purpose,—a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye. This expedition has been the favourite dream of my [5:]early years. I have read with ardour the accounts of the various voyages which have been made in the prospect of arriving at the North Pacific Ocean through the seas which surround the pole. You may remember, that a history of all the voyages made for purposes of discovery composed the whole of our good uncle Thomas's library. My education was neglected, yet I was passionately fond of reading. These volumes were my study day and night, and my familiarity with them increased that regret which I had felt, as a child, on learning that my father's dying injunction had forbidden my uncle to allow me to embark in a sea-faring life.

¶These visions faded when I perused, for the first time, those poets whose effusions entranced my soul, and lifted it to heaven. I also became a poet, [6:]and for one year lived in a Paradise of my own creation; I imagined that I also might obtain a niche in the temple where the names of Homer and Shakespeare are consecrated. You are well acquainted with my failure, and how heavily I bore the disappointment. But just at that time I inherited the fortune of my cousin, and my thoughts were turned into the channel of their earlier bent.

¶Six years have passed since I resolved on my present undertaking. I can, even now, remember the hour from which I dedicated myself to this great enterprise. I commenced by inuring my body to hardship. I accompanied the whale-fishers on several expeditions to the North Sea; I voluntarily endured cold, famine, thirst, and want of sleep; I often worked harder than the common sailors during the day, and devoted my [7:]nights to the study of mathematics, the theory of medicine, and those branches of physical science from which a naval adventurer might derive the greatest practical advantage. Twice I actually hired myself as an under-mate in a Greenland whaler, and acquitted myself to admiration. I must own I felt a little proud, when my captain offered me the second dignity in the vessel, and entreated me to remain with the greatest earnestness; so valuable did he consider my services.

¶And now, dear Margaret, do I not deserve to accomplish some great purpose.**†** My life might have been passed in ease and luxury; but I preferred glory to every enticement that wealth placed in my path. Oh, that some encouraging voice would answer in the affirmative! My courage and my resolution is firm; but my hopes fluctuate, [8:]and my spirits are often depressed. I am about to proceed on a long and difficult voyage; the emergencies of which will demand all my fortitude: I am required not only to raise the spirits of others, but sometimes to sustain my own, when their's are failing.

¶This is the most favourable period for travelling in Russia. They fly quickly over the snow in their sledges; the motion is pleasant, and, in my opinion, far more agreeable than that of an English stage-coach. The cold is not excessive, if you are wrapt in furs, a dress which I have already adopted; for there is a great difference between walking the deck and remaining seated motionless for hours, when no exercise prevents the blood from actually freezing in your veins. I have no ambition to lose my life on the post-road between St. Petersburgh and Archangel.

[9:]¶I shall depart for the latter town in a fortnight or three weeks; and my intention is to hire a ship there, which can easily be done by paying the insurance for the owner, and to engage as many sailors as I think necessary among those who are accustomed to the whale-fishing. I do not intend to sail until the month of June: and when shall I return? Ah, dear sister, how can I answer this question? If I succeed, many, many months, perhaps years, will pass before you and I may meet. If I fail, you will see me again soon, or never.

¶Farewell, my dear, excellent, Margaret. Heaven shower down blessings on you, and save me, that I may again and again testify my gratitude for all your love and kindness.

Your affectionate brother,

R. WALTON.

**42]***period after* purpose *(for which neither draft nor fair copy is extant) was replaced by question mark in 1823 (I, 7) and in 1831 (page 5)*

[10:]LETTER II.

*To Mrs.* Saville, *England.*

Archangel, 28th March, 17—.

How slowly the time passes here, encompassed as I am by frost and snow; yet a second step is taken towards my enterprise. I have hired a vessel, and am occupied in collecting my sailors; those whom I have already engaged appear to be men on whom I can depend, and are certainly possessed of dauntless courage.

¶But I have one want which I have never yet been able to satisfy; and the absence of the object of which I [11:]now feel as a most severe evil. I have no friend, Margaret: when I am glowing with the enthusiasm of success, there will be none to participate my joy; if I am assailed by disappointment, no one will endeavour to sustain me in dejection. I shall commit my thoughts to paper, it is true; but that is a poor medium for the communication of feeling. I desire the company of a man who could sympathize with me; whose eyes would reply to mine. You may deem me romantic, my dear sister, but I bitterly feel the want of a friend. I have no one near me, gentle yet courageous, possessed of a cultivated as well as of a capacious mind, whose tastes are like my own, to approve or amendmy plans. How would such a friend repair the faults of your poor brother! I am too ardent in execution, and too impatient of difficul- [12:]ties. But it is a still greater evil to me that I am self-educated: for the first fourteen years of my life I ran wild on a common, and read nothing but our uncle Thomas's books of voyages. At that age I became acquainted with the celebrated poets of our own country; but it was only when it had ceased to be in my power to derive its most important benefits from such a conviction, that I perceived the necessity of becoming acquainted with more languages than that of my native country. Now I am twenty-eight, and am in reality more illiterate than many school-boys of fifteen. It is true that I have thought more, and that my day dreams are more extended and magnificent; but they want (as the painters call it) *keeping;***†**\pard plain and I greatly need a friend who would have sense enough not to despise me as romantic, and affection [13:]enough for me to endeavour to regulate my mind.

¶Well, these are useless complaints; I shall certainly find no friend on the wide ocean, nor even here in Archangel, among merchants and seamen. Yet some feelings, unallied to the dross of human nature, beat even in these rugged bosoms. My lieutenant, for instance, is a man of wonderful courage and enterprise; he is madly desirous of glory. He is an Englishman, and in the midst of national and professional prejudices, unsoftened by cultivation, retains some of the noblest endowments of humanity. I first became acquainted with him on board a whale vessel: finding that he was unemployed in this city, I easily engaged him to assist in my enterprise.

¶The master is a person of an excellent disposition, and is remarkable in [14:]the ship for his gentleness, and the mildness of his discipline. He is, indeed, of so amiable a nature, that he will not hunt (a favourite, and almost the only amusement here), because he cannot endure to spill blood. He is, moreover, heroically generous. Some years ago he loved a young Russian lady, of moderate fortune; and having amassed a considerable sum in prize-money, the father of the girl consented to the match. He saw his mistress once before the destined ceremony; but she was bathed in tears, and, throwing herself at his feet, entreated him to spare her, confessing at the same time that she loved another, but that he was poor, and that her father would never consent to the union. My generous friend reassured the suppliant, and on being informed of the name of her lover instantly abandoned his pursuit. He had [15:]already bought a farm with his money, on which he had designed to pass the remainder of his life; but he bestowed the whole on his rival, together with the remains of his prize-money to purchase stock, and then himself solicited the young woman's father to consent to her marriage with her lover. But the old man decidedly refused, thinking himself bound in honour to my friend; who, when he found the father inexorable, quitted his country, nor returned until he heard that his former mistress was married according to her inclinations. “What a noble fellow!” you will exclaim. He is so; but then he has passed all his life on board a vessel, and has scarcely an idea beyond the rope and the shroud.

¶But do not suppose that, because I complain a little, or because I can conceive a consolation for my toils which I [16:]may never know, that I am wavering in my resolutions. Those are as fixed as fate; and my voyage is only now delayed until the weather shall permit my embarkation. The winter has been dreadfully severe; but the spring promises well, and it is considered as a remarkably early season; so that, perhaps, I may sail sooner than I expected. I shall do nothing rashly; you know me sufficiently to confide in my prudence and considerateness whenever the safety of others is committed to my care.

¶I cannot describe to you my sensations on the near prospect of my undertaking. It is impossible to communicate to you a conception of the trembling sensation, half pleasurable and half fearful, with which I am preparing to depart. I am going to unexplored regions, to “the land of mist and

[17:]snow;” but I shall kill no albatross, therefore do not be alarmed for my safety.

¶Shall I meet you again, after having traversed immense seas, and returned by the most southern cape of Africa or America? I dare not expect such success, yet I cannot bear to look on the reverse of the picture. Continue to write to me by every opportunity: I may receive your letters (though the chance is very doubtful) on some occasions when I need them most to support my spirits. I love you very tenderly. Remember me with affection, should you never hear from me again.

Your affectionate brother,

Robert Walton.

[18:]LETTER III.

*To Mrs.* Saville*, England.*

July 7th, 17—.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I write a few lines in haste, to say that I am safe, and well advanced on my voyage. This letter will reach England by a merchant-man now on its homeward voyage from Archangel; more fortunate than I, who may not see my native land, perhaps, for many years. I am, however, in good spirits: my men are bold, and apparently firm of purpose; nor do the floating sheets of ice that continually pass us, indi- [19:]cating the dangers of the region towards which we are advancing, appear to dismay them. We have already reached a very high latitude; but it is the height of summer, and although

**18]***italic semicolon was retained in 1823 (I, 12) and in 1831 (page 7)*

not so warm as in England, the southern gales, which blow us speedily towards those shores which I so ardently desire to attain, breathe a degree of renovating warmth which I had not expected.

¶No incidents have hitherto befallen us, that would make a figure in a letter. One or two stiff gales, and the breaking of a mast, are accidents which experienced navigators scarcely remember to record; and I shall be well content, if nothing worse happen to us during our voyage.

¶Adieu, my dear Margaret. Be assured, that for my own sake, as well as your's, I will not rashly encounter dan- [20:]ger. I will be cool, persevering, and prudent.

¶Remember me to all my English friends.

Most affectionately yours,

R. W.

[21:]LETTER IV.

*To Mrs.* Saville*, England.*

August 5th, 17—.

So strange an accident has happened to us, that I cannot forbear recording it, although it is very probable that you will see me before these papers can come into your possession.

¶Last Monday (July 31st), we were nearly surrounded by ice, which closed in the ship on all sides, scarcely leaving her the sea room in which she floated. Our situation was somewhat dangerous, especially as we were compassed round by a very thick fog. We accordingly lay to, hoping that some [22:]change would take place in the atmosphere and weather.

¶About two o'clock the mist cleared away, and we beheld, stretched out in every direction, vast and irregular plains of ice, which seemed to have no end. Some of my comrades groaned, and my own mind began to grow watchful with anxious thoughts, when a strange sight suddenly attracted our attention, and diverted our solicitude from our own situation. We perceived a low carriage, fixed on a sledge and drawn by dogs, pass on towards the north, at the distance of half a mile: a being which had the shape of a man, but apparently of gigantic stature, sat in the sledge, and guided the dogs. We watched the rapid progress of the traveller with our telescopes, until he was lost among the distant inequalities of the ice.

[23:]¶This appearance excited our unqualified wonder. We were, as we believed, many hundred miles from any land; but this apparition seemed to denote that it was not, in reality, so distant as we had supposed. Shut in, however, by ice, it was impossible to follow his track, which we had observed with the greatest attention.

¶About two hours after this occurrence, we heard the ground sea; and before night the ice broke, and freed our ship. We, however, lay to until the morning, fearing to encounter in the dark those large loose masses which float about after the breaking up of the ice. I profited of this time to rest for a few hours.

¶In the morning, however, as soon as it was light, I went upon deck, and found all the sailors busy on one side [24:]of the vessel, apparently talking to some one in the sea. It was, in fact, a sledge, like that we had seen before, which had drifted towards us in the night, on a large fragment of ice. Only one dog remained alive; but there was a human being within it, whom the sailors were persuading to enter the vessel. He was not, as the other traveller seemed to be, a savage inhabitant of some undiscovered island, but an European. When I appeared on deck, the master said, “Here is our captain, and he will not allow you to perish on the open sea.”

¶On perceiving me, the stranger addressed me in English, although with a foreign accent. “Before I come on board your vessel,” said he, “will you have the kindness to inform me whither you are bound?”

¶You may conceive my astonishment [25:]on hearing such a question addressed to me from a man on the brink of destruction, and to whom I should have supposed that my vessel would have been a resource which he would not have exchanged for the most precious wealth the earth can afford. I replied, however, that we were on a voyage of discovery towards the northern pole.

¶Upon hearing this he appeared satisfied, and consented to come on board. Good God! Margaret, if you had seen the man who thus capitulated for his safety, your surprise would have been boundless. His limbs were nearly frozen, and his body dreadfully emaciated by fatigue and suffering. I never saw a man in so wretched a condition. We attempted to carry him into the cabin; but as soon as he had quitted the fresh air, he fainted. We accordingly [26:]brought him back to the deck, and restored him to animation by rubbing him with brandy, and forcing him to swallow a small quantity. As soon as he shewed signs of life, we wrapped him up in blankets, and placed him near the chimney of the kitchen-stove. By slow degrees he recovered, and ate a little soup, which restored him wonderfully.

¶Two days passed in this manner before he was able to speak; and I often feared that his sufferings had deprived him of understanding. When he had in some measure recovered, I removed him to my own cabin, and attended on him as much as my duty would permit. I never saw a more interesting creature: his eyes have generally an expression of wildness, and even madness; but there are moments when, if any one performs an act of kindness [27:]towards him, or does him any the most trifling service, his whole countenance is lighted up, as it were, with a beam of benevolence and sweetness that I never saw equalled. But he is generally melancholy and despairing; and sometimes he gnashes his teeth, as if impatient of the weight of woes that oppresses him.

¶When my guest was a little recovered, I had great trouble to keep off the men, who wished to ask him a thousand questions; but I would not allow him to be tormented by their idle curiosity, in a state of body and mind whose restoration evidently depended upon entire repose. Once, however, the lieutenant asked, Why he had come so far upon the ice in so strange a vehicle?

¶His countenance instantly assumed an aspect of the deepest gloom; and he [28:]replied, “To seek one who fled from me.”

¶“And did the man whom you pursued travel in the same fashion?”

¶“Yes.”

¶“Then I fancy we have seen him; for, the day before we picked you up, we saw some dogs drawing a sledge, with a man in it, across the ice.”

¶This aroused the stranger's attention; and he asked a multitude of questions concerning the route which the dæmon, as he called him, had pursued. Soon after, when he was alone with me, he said, “I have, doubtless, excited your curiosity, as well as that of these good people; but you are too considerate to make inquiries.”

¶“Certainly; it would indeed be very impertinent and inhuman in me to trouble you with any inquisitiveness of mine.”

[29:]¶“And yet you rescued me from a strange and perilous situation; you have benevolently restored me to life.”

¶Soon after this he inquired, if I thought that the breaking up of the ice had destroyed the other sledge? I replied, that I could not answer with any degree of certainty; for the ice had not broken until near midnight, and the traveller might have arrived at a place of safety before that time; but of this I could not judge.

¶From this time the stranger seemed very eager to be upon deck, to watch for the sledge which had before appeared; but I have persuaded him to remain in the cabin, for he is far too weak to sustain the rawness of the atmosphere. But I have promised that some one should watch for him, and give him instant notice if any new object should appear in sight.

[30:]¶Such is my journal of what relates to this strange occurrence up to the present day. The stranger has gradually improved in health, but is very silent, and appears uneasy when any one except myself enters his cabin. Yet his manners are so conciliating and gentle, that the sailors are all interested in him, although they have had very little communication with him. For my own part, I begin to love him as a brother; and his constant and deep grief fills me with sympathy and compassion. He must have been a noble creature in his better days, being even now in wreck so attractive and amiable.

¶I said in one of my letters, my dear Margaret, that I should find no friend on the wide ocean; yet I have found a man who, before his spirit had been broken by misery, I should have been [31:]happy to have possessed as the brother of my heart.

¶I shall continue my journal concerning the stranger at intervals, should I have any fresh incidents to record.

August 13th, 17—.

¶My affection for my guest increases every day. He excites at once my admiration and my pity to an astonishing degree. How can I see so noble a creature destroyed by misery without feeling the most poignant grief? He is so gentle, yet so wise; his mind is so cultivated; and when he speaks, although his words are culled with the choicest art, yet they flow with rapidity and unparalleled eloquence.

¶He is now much recovered from his illness, and is continually on the deck, apparently watching for the sledge that preceded his own. Yet, although un- [32:]happy, he is not so utterly occupied by his own misery, but that he interests himself deeply in the employments of others. He has asked me many questions concerning my design; and I have related my little history frankly to him. He appeared pleased with the confidence, and suggested several alterations in my plan, which I shall find exceedingly useful. There is no pedantry in his manner; but all he does appears to spring solely from the interest he instinctively takes in the welfare of those who surround him. He is often overcome by gloom, and then he sits by himself, and tries to overcome all that is sullen or unsocial in his humour. These paroxysms pass from him like a cloud from before the sun, though his dejection never leaves him. I have endeavoured to win his confidence; and I trust that I have suc- [33:]ceeded. One day I mentioned to him the desire I had always felt of finding a friend who might sympathize with me, and direct me by his counsel. I said, I did not belong to that class of men who are offended by advice. “I am self-educated, and perhaps I hardly rely sufficiently upon my own powers. I wish therefore that my companion should be wiser and more experienced than myself, to confirm and support me; nor have I believed it impossible to find a true friend.”

¶“I agree with you,” replied the stranger, “in believing that friendship is not only a desirable, but a possible acquisition. I once had a friend, the most noble of human creatures, and am entitled, therefore, to judge respecting friendship. You have hope, and the world before you, and have no cause for despair. But II have lost [34:]every thing, and cannot begin life anew.”

¶As he said this, his countenance became expressive of a calm settled grief, that touched me to the heart. But he was silent, and presently retired to his cabin.

¶Even broken in spirit as he is, no one can feel more deeply than he does the beauties of nature. The starry sky, the sea, and every sight afforded by these wonderful regions, seems still to have the power of elevating his soul from earth. Such a man has a double existence: he may suffer misery, and be overwhelmed by disappointments; yet when he has retired into himself, he will be like a celestial spirit, that has a halo around him, within whose circle no grief or folly ventures.

¶Will you laugh at the enthusiasm I express concerning this divine wan- [35:]derer? If you do, you must have certainly lost that simplicity which was once your characteristic charm. Yet, if you will, smile at the warmth of my expressions, while I find every day new causes for repeating them.

August 19th, 17—.

¶Yesterday the stranger said to me, “You may easily perceive, Captain Walton, that I have suffered great and unparalleled misfortunes. I had determined, once, that the memory of these evils should die with me; but you have won me to alter my determination. You seek for knowledge and wisdom, as I once did; and I ardently hope that the gratification of your wishes may not be a serpent to sting you, as mine has been. I do not know that the relation of my misfortunes will be useful to you, yet, if you are inclined, [36:]listen to my tale. I believe that the strange incidents connected with it will afford a view of nature, which may enlarge your faculties and understanding. You will hear of powers and occurrences, such as you have been accustomed to believe impossible: but I do not doubt that my tale conveys in its series internal evidence of the truth of the events of which it is composed.”

¶You may easily conceive that I was much gratified by the offered communication; yet I could not endure that he should renew his grief by a recital of his misfortunes. I felt the greatest eagerness to hear the promised narrative, partly from curiosity, and partly from a strong desire to ameliorate his fate, if it were in my power. I expressed these feelings in my answer.

¶“I thank you,” he replied, “for [37:]your sympathy, but it is useless; my fate is nearly fulfilled. I wait but for one event, and then I shall repose in peace. I understand your feeling,” continued he, perceiving that I wished to interrupt him; “but you are mistaken, my friend, if thus you will allow me to name you; nothing can alter my destiny: listen to my history, and you will perceive how irrevocably it is determined.**†**

¶He then told me, that he would commence his narrative the next day when I should be at leisure. This promise drew from me the warmest thanks. I have resolved every night, when I am not engaged, to record, as nearly as possible in his own words, what he has related during the day. If I should be engaged, I will at least make notes. This manuscript will doubtless afford you the greatest pleasure: but to me, [38:]who know him, and who hear it from his own lips, with what interest and sympathy shall I read it in some future day!

**this and preceding pages]***at an average of 150 words of 1818 text produced by each manuscript page (this average computed from pages 41-60 of Notebook A), the 4870 words in 1818: Vol. I, Letters I-IV, pages 1-38 (likely produced by text occupying missing pages 1-33 in Notebook A: 33x150=4950) could be further refined as follows: page 3 in this edition has 1211 words that were likely produced by text occupying missing pages 1-8; page 4 in this edition has 1188 words that were likely produced by text occupying missing pages 9-16; page 5 in this edition has 1195 words that were likely produced by text occupying missing pages 17-24; this page 6 has 1276 words that were likely produced by text occupying missing pages 25-33* **1818 text:53]***compositor omitted double closing quotation marks after* determined*, but they were restored in 1823 (I, 37) and in 1831 (page 17)*

[39:]

FRANKENSTEIN;

OR,

THE MODERN PROMETHEUS.

CHAPTER I.

I am by birth a Genevese; and my family is one of the most distinguished of that republic. My ancestors had been for many years counsellors and syndics; and my father had filled several public situations with honour and reputation. He was respected by all who knew him for his integrity and indefatigable attention to public business. He passed his younger days perpetually occupied by the affairs of [40:]his country; and it was not until the decline of life that he thought of marrying, and bestowing on the state sons who might carry his virtues and his name down to posterity.

¶As the circumstances of his marriage illustrate his character, I cannot refrain from relating them. One of his most intimate friends was a merchant, who, from a flourishing state, fell, through numerous mischances, into poverty. This man, whose name was Beaufort, was of a proud and unbending disposition, and could not bear to live in poverty and oblivion in the same country where he had formerly been distinguished for his rank and magnificence. Having paid his debts, therefore, in the most honourable manner, he retreated with his daughter to the town of Lucerne, where he lived unknown and in wretchedness. My father loved Beau- [41:]fort with the truest friendship, and was deeply grieved by his retreat in these unfortunate circumstances. He grieved also for the loss of his society, and resolved to seek him out and endeavour to persuade him to begin the world again through his credit and assistance.

¶Beaufort had taken effectual measures to conceal himself; and it was ten months before my father discovered his abode. Overjoyed at this discovery, he hastened to the house, which was situated in a mean street, near the Reuss. But when he entered, misery and despair alone welcomed him. Beaufort had saved but a very small sum of money from the wreck of his fortunes; but it was sufficient to provide him with sustenance for some months, and in the mean time he hoped to procure some respectable employment in a mer- [42:]chant's house. The interval was consequently spent in inaction; his grief only became more deep and rankling, when he had leisure for reflection; and at length it took so fast hold of his mind, that at the end of three months he lay on a bed of sickness, incapable of any exertion.

¶His daughter attended him with the greatest tenderness; but she saw with despair that their little fund was rapidly decreasing, and that there was no other prospect of support. But Caroline Beaufort possessed a mind of an uncommon mould; and her courage rose to support her in her adversity. She procured plain work; she plaited straw; and by various means contrived to earn a pittance scarcely sufficient to support life.

¶Several months passed in this manner. Her father grew worse; her time [43:]was more entirely occupied in attending him; her means of subsistence decreased; and in the tenth month her father died in her arms, leaving her an orphan and a beggar. This last blow overcame her; and she knelt by Beaufort's coffin, weeping bitterly, when my father entered the chamber. He came like a protecting spirit to the poor girl, who committed herself to his care, and after the interment of his friend he conducted her to Geneva, and placed her under the protection of a relation. Two years after this event Caroline became his wife.

¶When my father became a husband and a parent, he found his time so occupied by the duties of his new situation, that he relinquished many of his public employments, and devoted himself to the education of his children. Of these I was the eldest, and the destined suc- [44:]cessor to all his labours and utility. No creature could have more tender parents than mine. My improvement and health were their constant care, especially as I remained for several years their only child. But before I continue my narrative, I must record an incident which took place when I was four years of age.

¶My father had a sister, whom he tenderly loved, and who had married early in life an Italian gentleman. Soon after her marriage, she had accompanied her husband into her**†** native country, and for some years my father had very little communication with her. About the time I mentioned she died; and a few months afterwards he received a letter from her husband, acquainting him with his intention of marrying an Italian lady, and requesting my father to take charge of the in- [45:]fant Elizabeth, the only child of his deceased sister. “It is my wish,” he said, “that you should consider her as your own daughter, and educate her thus. Her mother's fortune is secured to her, the documents of which I will commit to your keeping. Reflect upon this proposition; and decide whether you would prefer educating your niece yourself to her being brought up by a stepmother.”

¶My father did not hesitate, and immediately went to Italy, that he might accompany the little Elizabeth to her future home. I have often heard my mother say, that she was at that time the most beautiful child she had ever seen, and shewed signs even then of a gentle and affectionate disposition. These indications, and a desire to bind as closely as possible the ties of domestic love, determined my mother to consider [46:]Elizabeth as my future wife; a design which she never found reason to repent.

¶From this time Elizabeth Lavenza became my playfellow, and, as we grew older, my friend. She was docile and good tempered, yet gay and playful as a summer insect. Although she was lively and animated, her feelings were strong and deep, and her disposition uncommonly affectionate. No one could better enjoy liberty, yet no one could submit with more grace than she did to constraint and caprice. Her imagination was luxuriant, yet her capability of application was great. Her person was the image of her mind; her hazel eyes, although as lively as a bird's, possessed an attractive softness. Her figure was light and airy; and, though capable of enduring great fatigue, she appeared the most fragile creature in the world. While I ad-[47:]mired her understanding and fancy, I loved to tend on her, as I should on a favourite animal; and I never saw so much grace both of person and mind united to so little pretension.

¶Every one adored Elizabeth. If the

**this and preceding pages]***no manuscript is extant for the dedication page, for the* PREFACE*, for the introductory* LETTERS I-IV*, or for this first section of* CHAPTER I*: the preface was apparently written later (probably by pbs in Marlow in September 1817, the date appended to the preface in 1831), but the introductory letters (4870 words) and this first section of Ch. I (1075 words) most likely occupied all of the now missing pages 1-40 (representing 20 folios) of Notebook A: at an average of 150 words of 1818 text produced by each manuscript page (this average computed from pages 41-60 of Notebook A), the 4870 words of the introductory letters were likely produced by the text occupying the missing pages 1-33 of Notebook A (33x150=4950), and the 1075 words of the text of Ch. I above were likely produced by the text occupying the missing pages 34-40 of Notebook A (7x150=1050)* **1818 text:35]**her *is compositor or mws error* *for* his *(see 1818 Thomas [I, 44] where mws canceled* in her *and inserted* his *in text; see 1818 Rieger [page 29] for a record of this and other Thomas emendations; and see 1823 [I, 44], where* his *is correctly printed)*

i

~~A12~~

A 11

{?} Autograph

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Part of the MS of

Frankenstein

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pp 64-172 (of vol I.?)

ch. 6-17

vol II. pp 1-150

ch I-XIV

Corrections in another

hand

Dep. c. 477/1

**entire page]***page 1 of a torn blue wrapper that was placed around most of the extant draft pages of the disbound Notebooks A and B, the penciled notations written at some time after 1903 by an otherwise unidentified R. L., who surveyed the mws and pbs manuscripts for one of the Lords Abinger (see letter from this R. L. to Lord Abinger in Bodleian Dep. c. 810/2, fasc. ii; see also another note in Dep. c. 767/7, Item 4)—also compare the section and/or bundle numbers* ~~A12~~ *[canceled A twelve] and* A 11 *[A eleven] above with two other penciled numbers by R. L.:* ~~A11~~ *[canceled A eleven] in fair-copy Notebook C2 (Dep. c. 534/2, folio 31 recto [page 185/mws], line 1), the cancelation possibly suggesting that A12 was the number finally used for the disbound fair-copy pages; and* A13 *[A thirteen] in draft Notebook B (Dep. c. 534/1, folio 79 recto [page 173], line 1), this* A13 *confirming that the last 31 pages (folios 79-94 [pages 173/174 to 203/blank]) of the draft were not included in this blue wrapper at the time of the survey*  **1]***Bodleian folio number* i *(folio i verso is blank and not represented in this edition; the second half of this bifolium wrapper [that is, folio 64, which is blank except for Bodleian notations] is also not represented in this edition)* **7-10]***these page and chapter numbers incorrectly represented what was contained in this wrapper at the time of the survey: "*pp 64-172 (of vol I.?)*" and "*ch. 6-17*" actually designated most of the white-paper draft (with insert pages) of Notebook B (now Dep. c. 534/1, folios 19-94 [pages 62/63-203/blank=Draft: Vol. II, Chs. 6-18 of the manuscript novel]), apparently lacking pages 62/63 (now folio 19) and pages 173/174-203/blank (now folios 79-94 [Ch. 18 to the end of novel], which were separately labeled* A13 *at time of survey); "*vol II. pp 1-150*" and "*ch I-XIV*" actually designated all or most of the blue-paper draft (with insert pages) of Notebook A (now Dep. c. 477/1, folios 1-3, 4-28a, 28b-62 [pages 41/42-159/160=Draft: Vol. I, Chs. [1] (partial) and 2-14 of the manuscript novel] together with now Dep. c. 534/1, folios 1-18 [pages 160/1, 2/3-20/21, 57/59, 60/61, 62/blank, blank/63, 57/58, 59+64/65, and unpaginated scrap/blank=Draft: Vol. II, Chs. 1-2, 3 (partial), [5] (labeled "*another Chapter*") of the manuscript novel])—however, it is likely that the "later" blue-paper section of Dep. c. 534/1 (which began with the words "*Vol. II*" and "*Chap I*" on page 1 [now folio 1 verso] of Volume II) was placed on top of the "earlier" blue-paper Dep. c. 477/1 (which began with page 41 [now folio 4] of Volume I)* **11-12]***"*corrections in another hand*" designated the hand of pbs* **13]***Bodleian number (in pencil) identifying Abinger deposit* **following page]***first extant page of blue-paper Notebook A*

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| ✗  ✗  ✗ yet  there was an  harmony in  that very diss  imilitude–    We were strangers  ✗ to any species  ✗ of disunion  or dispute    ✗  I delighted in  investigating  the facts relating  to the actual  world, she  busied herself  following  in the aerial  ^ creations of the  poets.– The  world was to me  a secret which  I desired to disco  -ver,–to her it  was a ~~haven~~  vacancy which  she sought to  people with  imaginations of  her own. | ~~sevr~~ servants had any request to make (41  her 4  it always through ~~the~~ intercession ~~of~~  ~~Elizabeth~~ ~~For me I loved he~~ ~~We agre~~ed  pe~~rfectly although there were many~~ [5]  ~~There~~ For, although  was a great dissimilitude in our  characters.✗ I was more calm and phi  losphical than my companion  Yet I was not ~~n~~ so mild or yielding. [10]  My application was of longer endurance  ~~than hers~~ but it was not so severe  endured  ~~as hers~~ whilst it ~~lasted~~ ~~my amusements~~  ~~were studying old books of chemistry~~ [15]  ~~and natural magic those of Elizabeth were~~  ~~drawing & music.~~ ✗  ~~When I~~ ~~I had~~ My brothers were consi  derably younger than myself but I had    a friend ~~who~~ ~~who~~ in one of my school [20]  deficiency.  fellows who compensated for this. Henry  Clerval  ~~Carignan~~ was the son~~s~~ of a merchant  ~~an~~ of Geneva ~~and~~ an intimate friend [25]  of my father~~'s~~ – he was a boy of singu  lar talent & ~~fancy~~ fancy I remember  when he was only nine years old he  wrote a fairy tale which was the  delight and amazement of all his [30]  companions. ~~Like Don Quixote~~ his  consisted in  favourite study ~~was~~ books of chi  when very young, I can  valry & romance and we used to [35]  remember that ^  act plays composed by him out of  these ~~favourite~~ books, the principal  ~~car~~ characters of which were Orlando  Robin Hood, Amadis and St. George– [40]  No youth could could be more happy | servants had any request to make,  it was always through her intercession.  We were strangers to any species of disunion and dispute;  for although there  was a great dissimilitude in our  characters,  there was an harmony in that very dissimilitude.  I was more calm and philosophical  than my companion;  yet my temper was not so yielding.  My application was of longer endurance;  but it was not so severe  whilst it endured.  I delighted in investigating the facts relative to the actual world; she busied herself in following the aërial creations of the poets. The world was to me a secret, which I desired to [48:]discover; to her it was a vacancy, which she sought to people with imaginations of her own.  ¶My brothers were considerably  younger than myself; but I had  a friend in one of my schoolfellows,  who compensated for this deficiency. Henry  Clerval was the son of a merchant  of Geneva, an intimate friend  of my father. He was a boy of singular  talent and fancy. I remember,  when he was nine years old, he  wrote a fairy tale, which was the  delight and amazement of all his  companions. His  favourite study consisted in books of chivalry  and romance; and when very young, I can  remember, that we used to  act plays composed by him out of  these favourite books, the principal  characters of which were Orlando,  Robin Hood, Amadis, and St. George.  ¶No youth could have passed more [49:]happily |

**this and following pages]***first of 77 surviving leaves (Dep. c. 477/1, folios 4-28a, 28b-62 [pages 41/42 to 159/160]; and Dep. c. 534/1, folios 1-17 [pages 161/1 to 59+64/65]) that made up Notebook A of continental laid paper, blue color, measuring 270-271 x 186-187 mm.; the first 71 of these leaves (142 pages) have a pencil-ruled left margin* **entire page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate curled paper at left edge as well as soiling and discoloration of paper at right edge;* *all words and marks in ruled margin on this page are by pbs* **margin:7]***misformed insert mark* ✗ **margin:8]***blotted* t *in* there *(with crossed* h*)* **margin:11]***uncrossed* t *in* imilitude*; n-dash overlays {*?*}* **margin:12]**rs *in* strangers *overlays* th *in canceled* than **margin:26]***horizontal tear line above* busied herself **margin:38]***tear line through* she **margin:39]***tear line to left of* people  **margin:40]***uncrossed* t *in* imaginations **1]***numeral* 4 *overlays smaller numeral ?*2 *in page number* 41*, suggesting that mws changed from foliating to paginating Notebook A (see following pages* 43 *and* 45*)* **2]***Bodleian folio number* 4 *(in pencil)* **4]***uncanceled* ed *in* ~~agre~~ed **5]***uncanceled* pe *in* pe~~rfectly~~ **8-9**]*misspelled* philosphical **14]***pbs* st *overlays mws* e *in* whilst **14-17]***pbs cancel lines, period, and insert mark* ✗ **20]***hyphen-like ink stroke after* school *is probably carry-over (from final stroke at right edge of preceding but now missing folio)* **24]***canceled terminal* s *in* son~~s~~ **26]***apostrophe and* s *canceled by pbs in* father~~'s~~ **38]***pbs* ese *overlays mws* is *in* these **40]**Robin Hood *(in different ink) possibly added at later time; possible period after* lain St **41]***repeated but uncanceled* could

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| 42)    desire of  the  ✗In ~~this~~ descrip  tion of our do  mestic circle  I include | My  than mine. – ~~Our~~ parents were indul  gent, and my companions amiable.  ~~and our stud~~ Our studies were never  forced, and by some means we al- [5]  ways had an end placed in view which  in the prosecution of them. method  excited us to ardour. It was by this ~~&~~  ^  not by emulation that we were  urged. Elizabeth was not told to apply [10]  that  herself to drawing ~~or~~ her companions  might not the  ~~would~~ outstrip her, but by ~~was~~  ~~knew how~~ pleasing her Aunt ~~would~~ [15]  the representation  ~~be~~ by ~~a painting~~ of some ~~of her~~  favourite scene~~s~~ done by her own  hand. ~~Latin~~ We learned Latin &  that we might in [20]  English ~~to~~ read the writings ~~of~~ those  languages and so far from study  r  begin rendered odious ~~by~~ to us though  ^  punishment, we loved application [25]  would have been  and our amusements ~~were~~ the  labours of other children. perhaps  we did not read so many books  or learn ~~a~~ languages so quickly [30]  those who are disciplined according to the ordinary  as ~~another child~~ but what we  method, the more deeply  learned was impressed on our  ✗ Clerval, [35]  memory. ~~I include~~ ~~Hen~~ Henry ~~Carignan~~  he  ~~in this account~~ for was~~con~~ constantly  ^  with us. he went to ~~sho~~ school  with me and generally passed [40]  the afternoon at our house for | than mine. My parents were indulgent,  and my companions amiable.  Our studies were never  forced; and by some means we always  had an end placed in view, which  excited us to ardour in the prosecution of them. It was by this method, and  not by emulation, that we were  urged to application. Elizabeth was not incited to apply  herself to drawing, that her companions  might not outstrip her; but through the  desire of  pleasing her aunt,  by the representation of some  favourite scene done by her own  hand. We learned Latin and  English, that we might read the writings in those  languages; and so far from study  being made odious to us through  punishment, we loved application,  and our amusements would have been the  labours of other children. Perhaps  we did not read so many books,  or learn languages so [50:]quickly,  as those who are disciplined according to the ordinary methods; but what we  learned was impressed the more deeply on our  memories.  ¶In this description of our domestic circle I include Henry Clerval;  for he was constantly  with us. He went to school  with me, and generally passed  the afternoon at our house; for |

**entire page]***as he did on recto (page 41), pbs punctuated much of this page (e.g., periods in lines 2 and 3; commas in lines 3 and 5)* **left edge]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling and discoloration of paper as well as crumpling of paper at left edge* **lower left corner]***fold line in paper* **8]***pbs caret obscures pbs period after* ardour *in photofacsimile* **14]***pbs* by *overlays mws* she **15]***pbs* ing *overlays mws* ed *in* pleasing **18]***terminal* s *canceled by pbs in* scene~~s~~ **21]***pbs* ings *overlays mws* ers *in* writings **24]***horizontal tear line in paper extends from right edge to* to us **30]*?****mws* s *added in* languages **34]***?stray pbs cancel line on* on *(or possibly mispositioned beginning of a caret) is not reproduced in transcription* **35]***comma (with stain dot above) after* Clerval **36]***pbs ink blot below canceled* Carignan*, evidently the name for Clerval/Clairval in ur-text (see lines 23-24 on recto of this folio 4 verso; see also Introduction and notes in Dep. c. 534/1, Notebook B, folios 39 verso [page 100] and 46 verso [page 108])* **37]***pbs ink blot above* e *in* he **38]***canceled* con*, apparently because mws omitted spacing after* was*; tear lines in paper above and below* antly *in* constantly *(in which* l *is added)* **39]***blotted period on fibrous speck in paper*  **41]***wet offset ink blot on* at *(from pbs cancel line on* ~~at~~ *on facing folio 5 recto [page 43], line 36)* **1818 text:2-36]***in 1818 Thomas (see 1818 Rieger, page 31), mws marked this paragraph "bad" and wrote two ?substitute sentences at bottom of page 49*

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| ~~record~~ | being an only child, and desti  (43  tute of companions at home, his  5  {?~~to~~} father was pleased that he [5]  should find associates at our  house and we were never com  pletely happy when Clerval was  absent.  ~~In this account of my early~~ [10]  ~~youth I wish particularly to men~~  ~~tion those circumstances w~~hich  led to and nourished my taste  for that science which was  the principal amusement of my [15]  boyish days and in ~~the end deci~~  ~~ded my destiny~~. I mentioned before  my taste for old books of chemist  ry and natural magic and I remem  ber very well that I learned latin [20]  principally that I might read  Pliny's Natural History my father  refusing to allow me to read a  translation. I used when very young  to attend lectures of chemistry [25]  given in Geneva and athough  I did not understand them the  experiments never failed to  m  attract my attention. ~~I remeber~~ [30]  ^  fourteen  ~~also~~ [When I was about ~~twelve~~ years  old we were at our house near  Belrive when we witnessed the ~~t~~ a  and [35]  violent ~~at~~ terrible thunder storm | being an only child, and destitute  of companions at home, his  father was well pleased that he  should find associates at our  house; and we were never completely  happy when Clerval was  absent.  **[*The shaded areas here signal that MWS altered her draft at this point. She apparently had already drafted in Notebook A the following three sections: the now missing Draft: Vol. I, Letters [I-IV] (on now missing pages [1-33]); the partially missing Draft: Vol. I, Ch. [1] (on now missing pages [34-40] and extant pages 41-46); and Draft: Vol. I, Ch. 2 (on extant pages 47-54, a chapter that she later renumbered Ch. 3). Before MWS began drafting her next chapter that concerned Victor's first university experiences in Ingolstadt, she apparently did the following: she began a rough draft of a new "half chapter" that would further detail Victor's scientific knowledge; she referred to this new "half chapter" when she entered "*Write Ch. 3½*" in her Journal on 27 October 1816, a rough-draft "half chapter" that is extant on 6 consecutive unpaginated insert pages (folios 1-3: see pages 16-25 and 32-35 in this edition); she decided instead to interpolate 5 of these 6 rough-draft insert pages into her text at this point in Vol. I, Ch. [1], page 43, where she canceled lines 10-30 and headed the insert "*Chapt. 2*" (see transcription page 17 in this edition); because the second "half" of this new "*Chapt. 2*" was the already written and remaining portion of the original Vol. I, Ch. [1], she altered her Journal note from "*Write Ch. 3½*" to "*Write Ch. 2½*" (that is, "*½*" or the first half of "*Chapt. 2*"); and then she renumbered her originally written "*Chapter 2*" to "*Chapter 3*" (see transcription page 41 in this edition). All of these separate actions were apparently completed before MWS wrote an unemended "*Chap. 4*" as the heading for her next chapter on Victor's university education (see transcription page 55 in this edition), and all of them most likely took place sometime between 27 October and 4 November 1816 (see Frankenstein Chronology in Introduction; see also MWS Journal, I, 142, and II, 700).***  ***This transcription page 15 (immediately followed by the 5 unpaginated insert pages) is repeated, with different shading, at transcription page 27 in this edition, where the narrative resumes at line 32.*]** |

**left edge]***glue residue; the remaining stub between lines 7 and 10 comes from folio 4 (the last leaf from preceding Quire II) and is attached by glue to this folio 5 (the first leaf of Quire III)* **bottom of page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate surface texture of paper* **margin:10-13]***brown hair (rather than line) to right of* record *is affixed to paper apparently by ink in final stroke of* d **margin:19-21]***horizontal tear lines in paper* **margin:23]***ink blots (part of which is a wet offset from or to pbs cancel line on* ~~were~~ *on facing folio 4 verso [page 42], line 27)* **2]***mws page number* 43 *is apparently an alteration of mws folio number* 22 *(see also preceding page* 41 *and following page* 45*)* **3]***pbs* is *overlays ?misformed mws* is *in* his **4]***Bodleian folio number* 5 **10-30]***mws vertical cancel line* **13]**t *overlays {*?*} in* to **20]***lower-case* l *in* latin **21]***ink blot above* n *in* principally **23]***bleed-through* *orange-brown stain below* o *in* allow *(from ?food stain on folio 5 verso [page 44], line 27)* **26]***misspelled* athough **29]***?pbs* m **32]***mws bracket marking paragraph break (or place where the originally written text in Notebook A would resume after the 5-page insert that follows—see explanation in shaded area above);* W *overlays* w *in* When **34]***show-through ink mark beneath* the *(from large ink blot on folio 5 verso [page 44], margin, line 38)*

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| Chapt. 2 1  Those events which materially influence our fu  derive thier origin from a  ture destinies ~~are~~ often ~~caused~~ ~~by slight or~~ tri  ~~statement of the~~ [5]  vial occurence~~s~~. ~~Strange as the simple fact~~  ^  ~~may appear my fate had been~~ ~~Chemist~~ Natu  ral philosophy ~~has~~ is the genius that has  desire  regulated my fate I ~~wish~~ therefore in this account [10]  of my early years to state those facts which  ~~first aqu~~ predeliction for that science.  led to my ~~love~~ ~~pursuit~~ ~~of that study~~. When  I was eleven years old we all went on a party  the bathseanear Thonon. [15]  of pleasure to ~~Thonon~~ ~~and were confined there~~  ~~b~~ ~~obil~~ ~~obliged by the rain~~ ~~and~~ The inclemen  cy of the weather obliged us to remain a day  confined to the inn. In this house I chanced  to find a ~~fo~~ volume~~s~~ of the works of Corne [20]  lius Agrippa. ~~And~~ I opened it with apathy  demonstrate and the wonderful facts that  the theory that he attempted to d  ~~but continued~~ {?~~to re~~} ~~with~~ enthusiasm. A new  ^ he relates ~~chan~~ soon changed this feeling into [25]  light dawned upon my mind and ~~I~~ ~~com~~  bounding with joy I communicated my  discovery to my father. I cannot help here remark  instructors posess  ing the many opportunities ~~parents~~ ~~have~~ [30]  ^  of directing the attention of their pupils to  useful knowledge, which they utterly neglect.  My father looked carelessly at the tit~~t~~le page  of my book — ~~Ah~~ and said Ah! Cornelius  Agrippa! — My dear Victor do not waste [35]  your time upon this – it is sad trash.  If instead of this remark or rather excla  mation my father had taken the pains to  lain  exp~~ound~~ to me that the principles of [40]  ^ | ¶I feel pleasure in dwelling on the recollections of childhood, before misfortune had tainted my mind, and changed its bright visions of extensive usefulness into gloomy and narrow reflections upon self. But, in  drawing**†** the picture of my early days, I must not omit to record those events which led, by in- [51:]sensible steps to my after tale of misery: for when I would account to myself for the birth of that passion, which afterwards ruled my destiny, I find it arise, like a mountain river, from ignoble and almost forgotten sources; but, swelling as it proceeded, it became the torrent which, in its course, has swept away all my hopes and joys.  ¶Natural  philosophy is the genius that has  regulated my fate; I desire therefore, in this narration,  to state those facts which  led to my predilection for that science. When  I was thirteen years of age, we all went on a party  of pleasure to the baths near Thonon:  the inclemency  of the weather obliged us to remain a day  confined to the inn. In this house I chanced  to find a volume of the works of Cornelius  Agrippa. I opened it with apathy;  the theory which he attempts to demonstrate, and the [52:]wonderful facts which he relates, soon changed this feeling into enthusiasm. A new  light seemed to dawn upon my mind; and,  bounding with joy, I communicated my  discovery to my father. I cannot help remarking here  the many opportunities instructors possess  of directing the attention of their pupils to  useful knowledge, which they utterly neglect.  My father looked carelessly at the title-page  of my book, and said, “Ah! Cornelius  Agrippa! My dear Victor, do not waste  your time upon this; it is sad trash.”  ¶If, instead of this remark,  my father had taken the pains to  explain to me, that the principles of |

**this and following pages]***first of 6 consecutive unpaginated insert pages into Notebook A: folios 1-3 (one bifolium measuring 315-318 x 403-404 mm., and one singleton) of British laid paper, cream color—see Introduction* **entire page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling, discoloration, and curling of paper; vertical tear lines at top and bottom of page (e.g., through* C *and* t *in* Chapt.*, line 1); horizontal tear lines at left and right edges (especially at folded center)* **1]***Bodleian folio number* 1 **2]***misformed* ou *in* our **3]***misspelled pbs* thier **6]**s *canceled by pbs in misspelled* occurence~~s~~ **8]***?water stain obscures part of second* has **10]**their *altered to* therefore **12]***misspelled* predeliction **15]***pbs* the baths *overlays mws* the baths*; uncanceled* ea *from ?mws* near *between pbs* baths *and pbs* near **17]**and *canceled by pbs; mws* the *altered by pbs to* The **20]**d *overlays* ed *in* find*;* *canceled* s *in* volume~~s~~ **22-23]***rewritten* d *(or false start* d*) below blotted* d *in* demonstrate **25]***faint ink line (extending from* he *back to middle of preceding line) suggests word sequence* **29]***misspelled pbs* posess **31-32,33]***horizontal tear lines at left edge of paper* **33]***blotted* a *in* at*; misspelled* tittle *was corrected by canceling third* t **35]***partly re-inked* M *in* My **37]***ink blots on* If **38-40]***tear and fold line from* m *in* mation *down to* e *in* exp~~ound~~ **1818 text:**

**1-10]***?PBS text added in ?proof—see Frankenstein Chronology for 24 September 1817* **1818 text:5]**w *in* drawing *is barely visible in most copies of 1818*

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| Agrippa had been entirely exploded. ~~And~~  a modern  ~~aan~~ and that ~~another~~ system of science  had been introduced which possessed much  greater power than the ancient because [5]  the powers of the ancient were pretended  and chimerical, while those of the moderns  are real and practical; under such  circumstances I should certainly have thrown  Agrippa aside, and with my imagination [10]  warmed as it was should probably have  aplied myself to ~~m~~ the more ~~ra~~ rational  has resulted from modern discoveries  theory of chemistry which ~~has at presen~~t  It is even possible that the train of my ideas might never have recieved [15]  ~~the approbation of the learned.~~ But the  that fatal impulse which led me to my ruin.  cursory glance my father had taken of  my volume by no means assured me  its [20]  that he was acquainted with ~~the~~ contents;  ^  and I continued to read with the greatest  avidity. [When I returned home, my first  the whole  care was to procure ~~this~~ works of this [25]  ^ ^  author and afterwards those of Paracel-  sus and Albertus Magnus. I read and studi〈ed〉  the wild fancies of these authors with  delight, they appeared to me treasures  known to few besides myself; and, althoug〈h〉 [30]  communicate  I often wished to ~~discover~~ these secret stores  of knowledge ~~from~~ to my father yet his in | Agrippa had been entirely exploded,  and that a modern system of science  had been introduced, which possessed much  greater powers than the ancient, because  the powers of the latter were  chimerical, while [53:]those of the former  were real and practical; under such  circumstances, I should certainly have thrown  Agrippa aside, and, with my imagination  warmed as it was, should probably have  applied myself to the more rational  theory of chemistry which has resulted from modern discoveries. It is even possible, that the train of my ideas would never have received  the fatal impulse that led to my ruin. But the  cursory glance my father had taken of  my volume by no means assured me  that he was acquainted with its contents;  and I continued to read with the greatest  avidity.  ¶When I returned home, my first  care was to procure the whole works of this  author, and afterwards of Paracelsus  and Albertus Magnus. I read and studied  the wild fancies of these writers with  delight; they appeared to me trea- [54:]sures  known to few beside myself; and although  I often wished to communicate these secret stores  of knowledge to my father, yet his indefinite |

**top and bottom of page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling, discoloration, and curling of paper; vertical tear lines at top and bottom edges of paper* **3]***canceled false start* a *together with canceled* an *in* ~~aan~~ **4]***blotted* d *in* introduced **5]***wet offset ink dots below* ancient *(from pbs* the subject *on facing folio 2 recto, line 6*  **6]**t *overlays ?*d *in* pretended **7]***misformed pbs comma* **11]***pbs* sh *overlays mws* w *in* should **12]***misspelled* aplied*; misformed and canceled* ra **18-19]***horizontal tear and fold lines in paper are visible between the two lines of text; two tear lines extend from right edge back through* of *in line 18*  **19]***wet offset ink blot above* m *in* me *(from cancel line on* ~~tæ~~ *on facing folio 2 recto, line 19)* **23]***mws bracket marking paragraph break*  **27,30]***letters missing from* studi〈ed〉 *and* althoug〈h〉 *were probably torn away with bottom part of folio 2 (bifoliate with folio 1)*  **28]***pbs* se *added in* these **32]***tear line in paper at right edge obscures* s *in* stores **33]**\pard plain *tear and fold line in paper at bottom left corner passes through* f know; *misformed* w *in* knowledge

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| 2  definite censure of my favorite Agrippa,  always withheld me. ~~I let~~ I disclosed my secret  to Elizabeth therefore, under a strict promise  of secrecy; but she did not interest herself [5]  ~~my~~ the subject,  in ~~them~~ and I was left by her to pursue  my studies alone.–  It may appear very strange that a desci  ple of Albertus Magnus should arise in the [10]  eighteenth century, but our family was not  had  scientifical, and I ~~did~~ not attended any of the  lectures given at Geneva. My dreams were  therefore undisturbed by reality, and I entered [15]  with the greates diligence into the search  or if you chose petrum philosophale elixer of life  of the philosophers stone and the ~~elizer vi~~  ~~tæ~~. But the latter obtained my most undi  ved attention; wealth was an inferior [20]  object but what would be the glory  of the discovery if I could ~~besto~~ ~~forever~~  banish disease from the human frame  invunerable to  and render man ~~unatainable~~ ~~by~~ any [25] | censure of my favourite Agrippa  always withheld me. I disclosed my discoveries  to Elizabeth, therefore, under a promise of strict  secrecy; but she did not interest herself  in the subject, and I was left by her to pursue  my studies alone.  ¶It may appear very strange, that a disciple  of Albertus Magnus should arise in the  eighteenth century; but our family was not  scientifical, and I had not attended any of the  lectures given at the schools of Geneva. My dreams were  therefore undisturbed by reality; and I entered  with the greatest diligence into the search  of the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life.  But the latter obtained my most undi- [55:]vided  attention: wealth was an inferior  object; but what glory would attend  the discovery, if I could  banish disease from the human frame,  and render man invulnerable to any |

**entire page]***part of a bifolium (folios 1 and 2); lower quarter of page was torn away apparently after mws finished writing on folio 1 verso (where letters are torn away) but before she finished writing on this folio 2 recto (where no text is torn away: see continuation of text with* violent death *at top of folio 2 verso)* **top of page]***darker area in photofacsimile exaggerates soiling and discoloration of paper* **1]***Bodleian folio number* 2 **2]***variant spelling* favorite **4]***stray mws ink dot (above pbs comma) on final stroke of* therefore **6]***pbs* ~~my~~ *(with unfinished* y*) could be* ~~me~~ **9-10]***variant spelling* desciple **13]***pbs* ed *added in* attended*; blotted or misformed* h *in* the **16]***misspelled* greates **17]***pbs addressed mws, offering her choice of English or pseudo-Latin phrasing, and ?mws chose English by canceling* elizer vitæ *(and by ?ignoring* petrum philosophale*); pbs* petr *overlays {* ? *} in pbs* petrum*; variant spelling pbs* elixer **19-20]***misspelled* undived *(for* undivided*)* **22]***uncrossed* t *in canceled* besto **24]***misspelled* invunerable **25]***misspelled and then canceled* unatainable

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| {?} violent death.  but a  Nor were these my only visions, the  was a promise liberally accorded by  raising of ghosts or devils ~~was also a favour~~ [5]  ^  my favourite authors; the fulfilment of which I most eagerly sought;  ~~ite~~ ~~pursuit~~ and ~~If I never saw any~~  & if my incantations were always unsuccessful  attributed ~~it~~ rather to my own inexperience  the failure to a or fidelity [10]  ~~th~~ and mistake, than want of skill in  ^ ^  my instructors.  ~~When I was about fifteen my f~~  The natural phænonema that take~~s~~  place every day before our eyes did not [15]  escape my examinations. ~~I remember~~ ~~The~~  ~~fermentation~~ ~~of liquors~~ – ~~di~~stillation of which  {?no}  my favorite authors were utterly ignorant  excited my astonishment, but my utmost [20]  engaged by some experiments ~~electrical machine~~  wonder was ~~caused~~ ~~by an~~ ~~air pump~~  on an air pump  employed  which I saw ~~used~~ by a gentleman whom [25]  we were in the habit of visiting.  The ignorance of my philosophers on these  and several other points, served to decrease | but a violent death!  ¶Nor were these my only visions. The  raising of ghosts or devils was a promise liberally accorded by  my favourite authors, the fulfilment of which I most eagerly sought;  and if my incantations were always unsuccessful,  I attributed the failure rather to my own inexperience  and mistake, than to a want of skill or fidelity in  my instructors.  ¶The natural phænomena that take  place every day before our eyes did not  escape my examinations.  Distillation, and the wonderful effects of steam, processes of which  my favourite authors were utterly ignorant,  excited my astonishment; but my utmost  wonder was [56:]engaged by some experiments  on an air-pump,  which I saw employed by a gentleman whom  we were in the habit of visiting.  ¶The ignorance of the early philosophers on these  and several other points served to decrease |

**entire page]***part of a bifolium (folios 1 and 2); lower quarter of page was torn away apparently after mws finished writing on folio 1 verso (where letters are torn away) but before she finished writing on folio 2 recto (where no text is torn away) and began writing on this folio 2 verso* **top of page]***darker area in photofacsimile exaggerates soiling and discoloration of paper* **1-2]**b *in* but *in line 2 overlays {*?*} in line 1* **8]***ink blot or cancelation after pbs ampersand* **9-10]***pbs ink line below pbs* the failure **12]***pbs* s *added in* instructors **13]***it appears that mws began to rewrite the beginning of the* thunder storm *scene from folio 5 recto (page 43, lines 32-33:* When I was about twelve years old we...*) and then canceled the false start in order to provide more information on Victor's scientific knowledge* **14]***misspelled* phænonema*; canceled* s *in* take~~s~~ **15]**d *overlays* n *in* did*, preceded by ?stray ink line or blot* **16]***misspelled mws* exanimations *was altered by pbs to* examinations **17]***?miscanceled* di *in* ~~di~~stillation *and remainder of word underlined (possibly suggesting that word be retained)* **18]***pbs ?*no *possibly denies that these authors were "*utterly ignorant*"* **19]***variant spelling* favorite **25]***incomplete* m *in* whom  **27]***ink blot below* Th *in* The *(?offset from ?missing facing page); pbs* s *overlays mws ?*es *in* philosophers*; compressed* se *in* these

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| thier me  credit with – but I could not entirely throw  ^ ^ {?~~some~~} some should  them aside before ~~any~~ other system ~~cocc~~ 3  occupyd their place; {~~?~~} in my mind– [5]  Among other questions suggested by natural objects  ~~An~~d I ~~as~~ eagerly enquired of my father  the nature ^& the origin of  ~~what~~ thunder and lightning. ~~was~~. He  ^  replied, electricity; describing at the same [10]  constructed  time the effect of that power. He ~~made~~  a small electrical machine and exhi  bited a few experiments and made a  which [15]  kite with a wire & string ~~and~~ drew down  that fluid from the clouds.  This last ~~blow~~ ~~st~~ stroke compleated  the overthrow of Cornelius Agrippa, Albertus  Magnus and Paracelsus, who had so long [20]  reigned the lords of my imagination. But  by some fatality I did not feel enclined to  commence any modern system and this  disinclination  ~~inclination~~ was influenced by the following [25]  circumstance.  My father expressed a wish that I  should attend a course of lectures upon  cheerfully  natural philosophy, to which I consented ~~and~~ [30]  ^  ~~one evening~~ that I spent in town at the  house of Clerval's father I ~~heard that~~  ~~M~~ ~~r~~  ~~— was lef at~~ met M. ~~O P~~ a proficient  in Chemistry who left the company at  an early hour to ~~h~~ give his lecture upon [35]  that science enquiring as he went out | their credit with me: but I could not entirely throw  them aside, before some other system should  occupy their place in my mind.  **[*The shaded areas here signal that MWS did not insert the 6 unpaginated rough-draft pages all at once into Notebook A: her narrative stopped at line 5 of this folio 3 recto (the 5th of the 6 unpaginated insert pages), resumed at line 32 of the originally drafted Ch. [1], folio 5 recto (page 43), continued through line 32 of folio 5 verso (page 44, where MWS canceled lines 33-38 and then canceled lines 1-18 on the following page 45), and then resumed again at line 7 of this insert folio 3 recto (line 6 was not used).***  ***This transcription page 25 (immediately followed by pages 43-45 of Notebook A) is repeated, with different shading, at transcription page 33 in this edition.*]** |

**top edge]***vertical tear lines in paper: one extends through* could *in line 2, through ?*~~some~~ *in line 3, down to line 5; another is above* ul *in* could *in line 2* **bottom edge]***darker area of photofacsimile exaggerates curled edge of paper; vertical tear lines extend from edge up through last line of text; both bottom corners folded and torn* **1]***very faint and misspelled pbs* thier **4]***Bodleian folio number* 3 **5]***faint pbs* y *overlays mws* ie *in* occupyd*, the final* d *uncanceled; ?pbs ?comma below mws period after* place **7]***uncanceled* d *in* ~~An~~d **12]***pbs vertical ink line below* m *in mws* made *(canceled by pbs)*  **16]**t *overlays {*?*} in* kite*; pbs ampersand added after* wire **18]***variant spelling* compleated **20]***horizontal tear and fold line in paper crosses the page;* a *overlays {?*re*} in* Paracelsus*; stray ink dot above comma* **21-26]***curled-back left edge obscures some initial letters*  **21]***tear in paper obscures* r *in* reigned*; ink blots above and on pbs period after* imagination **28]***pbs ink blot below* rs *in* course **31-36]***pbs cancel lines* **33]***cancel line in transcription obscures m-dash (representing unspecified name) after canceled* M **35-36]***tear and fold line in paper extends from partially missing* a *in* an *down through* that **35]***pbs ink blots after and below* e *in* lecture **36]**t *overlays* n *in* that

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| ~~record~~ | being an only child, and desti  (43  tute of companions at home, his  5  {?~~to~~} father was pleased that he [5]  should find associates at our  house and we were never com  pletely happy when Clerval was  absent.  ~~In this account of my early~~ [10]  ~~youth I wish particularly to men~~  ~~tion those circumstances w~~hich  led to and nourished my taste  for that science which was  the principal amusement of my [15]  boyish days and in ~~the end deci~~  ~~ded my destiny~~. I mentioned before  my taste for old books of chemist  ry and natural magic and I remem  ber very well that I learned latin [20]  principally that I might read  Pliny's Natural History my father  refusing to allow me to read a  translation. I used when very young  to attend lectures of chemistry [25]  given in Geneva and athough  I did not understand them the  experiments never failed to  m  attract my attention. ~~I remeber~~ [30]  ^ fourteen  ~~also~~ [When I was about ~~twelve~~ years  old we were at our house near  Belrive when we witnessed the ~~t~~ a  and [35]  violent ~~at~~ terrible thunder storm | **[ *The shaded areas here signal that MWS altered her draft at this point. She apparently had already drafted in Notebook A the following three sections: the now missing Draft: Vol. I, Letters [I-IV] (on now missing pages [1-33]); the partially missing Draft: Vol. I, Ch. [1] (on now missing pages [34-40] and extant pages 41-46); and Draft: Vol. I, Ch. 2 (on extant pages 47-54, a chapter that she later renumbered Ch. 3). Before MWS began drafting her next chapter that concerned Victor's first university experiences in Ingolstadt, she apparently did the following: she began a rough draft of a new "half chapter" that would further detail Victor's scientific knowledge; she referred to this new "half chapter" when she entered "*Write Ch. 3½*" in her Journal on 27 October 1816, a rough-draft "half chapter" that is extant on 6 consecutive unpaginated insert pages (folios 1-3: see pages 16-25 and 32-35 in this edition); she decided instead to interpolate 5 of these 6 rough-draft insert pages into her text at this point in Vol. I, Ch. [1], page 43, where she canceled lines 10-30 and headed the insert "*Chapt. 2*" (see transcription page 17 in this edition); because the second "half" of this new "*Chapt. 2*" was the already written and remaining portion of the original Vol. I, Ch. [1], she altered her Journal note from "*Write Ch. 3½*" to "*Write Ch. 2½*" (that is, "*½*" or the first half of "*Chapt. 2*"); and then she renumbered her originally written "*Chapter 2*" to "*Chapter 3*" (see transcription page 41 in this edition). All of these separate actions were apparently completed before MWS wrote an unemended "*Chap. 4*" as the heading for her next chapter on Victor's university education (see transcription page 55 in this edition), and all of them most likely took place sometime between 27 October and 4 November 1816 (see Frankenstein Chronology in Introduction; see also MWS Journal, I, 142, and II, 700).***  ***This transcription page 27 (immediately preceded by the 5 unpaginated insert pages) repeats, with different shading, transcription page 15 in this edition.*]**  ¶When I was about fifteen years  old, we had retired to our house near  Belrive, when we witnessed a most  violent and terrible thunder-storm. |

**left edge]***glue residue; the remaining stub between lines 7 and 10 comes from folio 4 (the last leaf from preceding Quire II) and is attached by glue to this folio 5 (the first leaf of Quire III)* **bottom of page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate surface texture of paper* **margin:10-13]***brown hair (rather than line) to right of* record *is affixed to paper apparently by ink in final stroke of* d **margin:19-21]***horizontal tear lines in paper* **margin:23]***ink blots (part of which is a wet offset from or to pbs cancel line on* ~~were~~ *on facing folio 4 verso [page 42], line 27)* **2]***mws page number* 43 *is apparently an alteration of mws folio number* 22 *(see also preceding page* 41 *and following page* 45*)* **3]***pbs* is *overlays ?misformed mws* is *in* his **4]***Bodleian folio number* 5 **10-30]***mws vertical cancel line* **13]**t *overlays {*?*} in* to **20]***lower-case* l *in* latin **21]***ink blot above* n *in* principally **23]***bleed-through* *orange-brown stain below* o *in* allow *(from ?food stain on folio 5 verso [page 44], line 27)* **26]***misspelled* athough **29]***?pbs* m **32]***mws bracket marking paragraph break (or place where the originally written text in Notebook A would resume after the 5-page insert that follows—see explanation in shaded area above);* W *overlays* w *in* When **34]***show-through ink mark beneath* the *(from large ink blot on folio 5 verso [page 44], margin, line 38)*

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| 44)  its progress  with curiosity  & delight | it advanced from behind Jura ~~and~~  ~~the~~ and the thunder ~~was heard at~~  ~~once from~~ ~~the~~ {?~~d~~} ~~several quarte~~rs  at once  ~~of the heavens and~~ burst with ~~and~~ [5]  from various quarters of the heavens  frightful loudness. I ~~witnessed the~~  ^  ~~elemental~~ ~~storm with pleasure~~  the storm watching its  and remained while ~~it~~ lasted ~~at~~ [10]  As I stood at the door  ~~the door~~ ~~watchin~~g. ~~When it was most~~  on a sudden a stream of  ~~violent~~, I beheld ~~the~~ fire issue  ^  from an old ~~be~~ and beautiful [15]  oak about ~~wh~~ twenty yards from  so soon as  our house and ~~when~~ the ~~dazz~~  dazzling light ~~had~~ ~~dissa~~ ~~dissappeared~~  ~~the~~ {~~?pa~~} vanished, the oak ~~hand~~ [20]  & remained  had dissappeared ~~an~~ nothing but a  blasted  ~~rent~~ stump. ~~remained~~. When we  ^  visited it the next morning we found [25]  the ~~trea~~ tree shattered in a  singular manner. It was not splin  tered by the shock, but entirely  reduced to thin ribands of wood. ~~The~~  ~~C~~ I never saw any thing so utterly [30]  destroyed. The catastrophe of the  tree excited my extreme astonish  induced  ment ~~and caused me to aply w~~ith  ^  ~~fresh di~~ligence to the study of [35]  natural philosophy  ~~chemistry~~ which promised an ex-  ~~clamatio~~ planation of thise sort of | It advanced from behind the mountains of Jura;  and the thunder  burst at once with  frightful loudness from various quarters of the heavens. I  remained, while the storm lasted, watching its  progress with curiosity and delight.  As I stood at the door,  on a sudden I beheld a stream of fire issue  from an old and beautiful  oak, [57:]which stood about twenty yards from  our house; and so soon as the  dazzling light  vanished, the oak  had disappeared, and nothing remained but a  blasted stump. When we  visited it the next morning, we found  the tree shattered in a  singular manner. It was not splintered  by the shock, but entirely  reduced to thin ribbands of wood.  I never beheld any thing so utterly  destroyed.  ¶The catastrophe of this  tree excited my extreme astonishment; |

**lower left corner]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate surface texture and discoloration of paper* **margin:12]***repeated but uncanceled* its *(see* its *in line 9)* **margin:29]***wet offset ink marks (from pbs* thro which *on facing folio 6 recto [page 45], line 25)* **margin:38]***large ink blot and smear*  **3]***uncanceled* rs *in* ~~quarte~~rs*, where* t *overlays* d **7]**e *overlays* is *in canceled* the **9]***stray vertical ink line (originating from ink blot on* w *in* with *in line 8) overlays* e *in pbs* the **10]**ed *added in* remained **16]***re-inked* a *in* yards*, possibly by pbs*  **19]***misspelled and then canceled* dissappeared

**20-22,24-25]***horizontal tear lines in paper at right edge* **21]***pbs ampersand* **22]***mispositioned* o *above ligatured* ss *(or ligatured* ss *reformed to be distinguished from* p*) in misspelled* dissappeared **27]***orange-brown ?food stain before* manner **33-38]***mws vertical cancel line* **34]***misspelled and then canceled* aply*;* *uncanceled* ith *in* ~~w~~ith **35]***slight ink smear below* to the **36,37]***pbs* natural philosophy *in pencil;* chemistry *canceled by pbs in pencil* \pard plain **38]**i *overlays* e *in* thise, *with uncanceled terminal* e*; ink smear above and after* f *in* of

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|  | phænonema. On Elizabeth and (45  6  Clerval it produced a ~~di~~ very different  effect. They admired the beauty  of the storm without wishing to [5]  analyze its causes. Henry said that  the Fairies and giants were at  war and Elizabeth attempted  a picture of it.  As I grew older my attempts [10]  in science were of a higher nature.  I ~~endeavou~~ produced little earthquakes  and tried every kind of combination  of gasses ~~to~~ and elements to ascertain  the results. [15]  ~~As I before mentioned my brothers~~  ~~were much younger than myself.~~  ~~Ernest the second of our family was five~~  also  Another task ~~soon~~ devolved upon [20]  ^  me when I became the instructor  of my brothers. Ernest was five years  younger than myself, and was my  principal pupil. He had been aflicted  thro which [25]  with ill health from his infancy ~~&~~  Elizabeth and I had been his constant  ~~m~~ nurses ~~I~~ his disposition was gentle but  he was incapable any severe appli  cation. William the youngest of our [30]  family was quite a child and the  most beautiful little fellow in the  world, his lively blue eyes dimpled cheeks | **[*The shaded areas here signal that MWS did not insert the 6 unpaginated rough-draft pages all at once into Notebook A: she returned to her original draft of Ch. [1], canceled lines 33-38 on the preceding folio 5 verso (page 44), canceled lines 1-18 on this folio 6 recto (page 45), continued her narrative on the last 2 of the 6 unpaginated insert pages (from line 7 of folio 3 recto through line 41 of folio 3 verso), and then returned to this folio 6 recto (page 45) to resume her narrative at line 20.***  ***This transcription page 31 (immediately followed by the 2 unpaginated insert pages) is repeated, with different shading, at transcription page 37 in this edition.*** |

**left edge]***five sewing holes are distinctly visible against black background* **top right corner]***edge folded under* **1-14]***mws vertical cancel lines* **1]***misspelled* phænonema*; mws page number* 45 *is apparently an alteration of mws folio number* 23 *(see also preceding pages* 41 *and* 43*)* **2]***Bodleian folio number* 6 **3-4]***faint horizontal crease line in paper* **8]***ink blot above* r *in* war *(wet offset from or to* w *in* with *on facing folio 5 verso [page 44], line 8)* **9]***wet offset ink blots above* r *in* picture *(from blotted* A *in pbs* As *on facing folio 5 verso [page 44], line 11)* **11]***possible period on final stroke of* nature **13]***wet offset ink blot below* d *in* and *(from blotted pbs* as *on facing folio 5 verso [page 44], line 17)* **19]***?mws* also **22-23]***see transcription page 37 in this edition for full note on* five years younger **24]***misspelled* aflicted **28]***final* e *overlays {*?*} in* gentle **29]**of *omitted after* incapable **30]***?pbs* st *overlays mws* r *in* youngest

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| thier me  credit with – but I could not entirely throw  ^ ^ {?~~some~~} some should  them aside before ~~any~~ other system ~~cocc~~ 3  occupyd their place; {~~?~~} in my mind– [5]  Among other questions suggested by natural objects  ~~An~~d I ~~as~~ eagerly enquired of my father  the nature ^& the origin of  ~~what~~ thunder and lightning. ~~was~~. He  ^  replied, electricity; describing at the same [10]  constructed  time the effect of that power. He ~~made~~  a small electrical machine and exhi  bited a few experiments and made a  which [15]  kite with a wire & string ~~and~~ drew down  that fluid from the clouds.  This last ~~blow~~ ~~st~~ stroke compleated  the overthrow of Cornelius Agrippa, Albertus  Magnus and Paracelsus, who had so long [20]  reigned the lords of my imagination. But  by some fatality I did not feel enclined to  commence any modern system and this  disinclination  ~~inclination~~ was influenced by the following [25]  circumstance.  My father expressed a wish that I  should attend a course of lectures upon  cheerfully  natural philosophy, to which I consented ~~and~~ [30]  ^  ~~one evening~~ that I spent in town at the  house of Clerval's father I ~~heard that~~  ~~M~~ ~~r~~  ~~— was lef at~~ met M. ~~O P~~ a proficient  in Chemistry who left the company at  an early hour to ~~h~~ give his lecture upon [35]  that science enquiring as he went out | **[*The shaded areas here signal that MWS did not insert the 6 unpaginated rough-draft pages all at once into Notebook A: her narrative stopped at line 5 of this folio 3 recto (the 5th of the 6 unpaginated insert pages), resumed at line 32 of the originally drafted Ch. [1], folio 5 recto (page 43), continued through line 32 of folio 5 verso (page 44, where MWS canceled lines 33-38 and then canceled lines 1-18 on the following page 45), and then resumed again at line 7 of this insert folio 3 recto (line 6 was not used). This transcription page 33 (immediately preceded by pages 43-45 of Notebook A) repeats, with different shading, transcription page 25 in this edition.*]**  and I eagerly inquired of my father  the nature and origin of thunder and lightning. He  replied, “Electricity;” describing at the same  time the various effects of that power. He constructed  a small electrical machine, and exhibited  a few experiments; he made also a  kite, with a wire and string, which drew down  that fluid from the clouds.  ¶This last stroke completed  the over- [58:]throw of Cornelius Agrippa, Albertus  Magnus, and Paracelsus, who had so long  reigned the lords of my imagination. But  by some fatality I did not feel inclined to  commence the study of any modern system; and this  disinclination was influenced by the following  circumstance.  ¶My father expressed a wish that I  should attend a course of lectures upon  natural philosophy, to which I cheerfully consented. |

**top edge]***vertical tear lines in paper: one extends through* could *in line 2, through ?*~~some~~ *in line 3, down to line 5; another is above* ul *in* could *in line 2* **bottom edge]***darker area of photofacsimile exaggerates curled edge of paper; vertical tear lines extend from edge up through last line of text; both bottom corners folded and torn* **1]***very faint and misspelled pbs* thier **4]***Bodleian folio number* 3 **5]***faint pbs* y *overlays mws* ie *in* occupyd*, the final* d *uncanceled; ?pbs ?comma below mws period after* place **7]***uncanceled* d *in* ~~An~~d **12]***pbs vertical ink line below* m *in mws* made *(canceled by pbs)*  **16]**t *overlays {*?*} in* kite*; pbs ampersand added after* wire **18]***variant spelling* compleated **20]***horizontal tear and fold line in paper crosses the page;* a *overlays {?*re*} in* Paracelsus*; stray ink dot above comma* **21-26]***curled-back left edge obscures some initial letters*  **21]***tear in paper obscures* r *in* reigned*; ink blots above and on pbs period after* imagination **28]***pbs ink blot below* rs *in* course **31-36]***pbs cancel lines* **33]***cancel line in transcription obscures m-dash (representing unspecified name) after canceled* M **35-36]***tear and fold line in paper extends from partially missing* a *in* an *down through* that **35]***pbs ink blots after and below* e *in* lecture **36]**t *overlays* n *in* that

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| Some accident prevented my attending the ~~series of~~ these lectures  ~~if any one would~~ { ~~?~~ }{ ~~?~~ }{?~~him~~} ~~I went~~ but  until t~~hey were nearly over~~ ~~they~~ it was nearly finished. The (3v  ~~this lecture was unfortunately nearly~~ ~~the~~  lecture which I attended being thus ~~the~~ almost the last ~~in his~~ [5]  ~~las~~t in his course – the professor talked  ^was entirely incomprehensible to me.  with the greatest fluency of potassium &  Boron ~~zinc bismuth~~ – of sulphats and oxids  terms [10]  ~~and displayed so many~~ ~~words~~ to which  no  I could ~~not~~ affix ~~any~~ idea: ~~that~~ I was  disgusted with ~~the appearance~~ ~~of~~ a science  that appeared to me to contain only words. [15]  From this time untill I went to  Colledge I entirely neglected my formerly  the science of natural philosophy  adored study of ~~chemistry~~ although I still  read with delight Pliny and Buffons [20]  ~~ar~~ ~~of~~  authors ~~that stood about on a par~~  in my estimation of nearly equal interest & utility.  occupations  My ~~studies~~ at this age were ~~th~~ principally the [25]  mathematics, ~~which I delighted in an~~ and most  of the branches of study appertaining ~~th~~ to that  science. I was also busily employed in learning  already  languages Latin was familiar to me and I began to [30]  **^**  lexicon  read without the help of the ~~dictionary~~ some of the  also  easiest greek authors. –I understood English &  is [35]  german perfectly: this~~e~~ ~~are~~ list of my accom-  th~~e period~~ the age of  plishments at ~~that~~ ~~time~~ and you may  conceive that my hours were fully employed  in acquiring and maintaining a knowledge [40]  of this various literature. | Some accident prevented my attending these lectures  until the course was nearly finished. The  lecture, being therefore one of the last,  was entirely incomprehensible to me. The professor  discoursed  with the greatest fluency of potassium and  boron, of sulphates and oxyds,  terms to which  I could affix no idea; and I became  disgusted with  the science of natural philosophy,  although I still  read [59:]Pliny and Buffon with delight,  authors,  in my estimation, of nearly equal interest and utility.  ¶My occupations at this age were principally the  mathematics, and most  of the branches of study appertaining to that  science. I was busily employed in learning  languages; Latin was already familiar to me, and I began to  read some of the easiest Greek authors  without the help of a lexicon.  I also perfectly understood English and  German. This is the list of my accomplishments  at the age of seventeen; and you may  conceive that my hours were fully employed  in acquiring and maintaining a knowledge  of this various literature. |

**this and preceding pages]***last of 6 unpaginated insert pages, folios 1-3, used for rough-draft insert in Notebook A* **entire page]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling and discoloration of paper and, in the case of right and bottom edges, curling of paper; vertical tear lines extend up from the bottom edge* **3]***Bodleian folio number* (3v **9-14]***numerous mws and pbs ink splashes and blots near center of these lines* **9]***ink blots below first* o *in* Boron*; variant spelling* sulphats *and* oxids **16]***variant spelling* untill **17]***variant spelling* Colledge **18]***?pbs* natural philosophy **19-20]***more ink blots (some of which may be wet offsets), e.g., on* study *(possibly acting to cancel the word), on and below canceled* chemistry*, and above and on* with **20]***horizontal tear and fold line extends from below* read *through* ons *in* Buffons *(either misspelled or a possessive without apostrophe)* **34]***lower-case* g *in* greek  **36]***lower-case (and blotted)* g *in* german*;* these *altered to* this **37]***pbs omitted the specific age, given as* seventeen *in 1818*

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|  | phænonema. On Elizabeth and (45  6  Clerval it produced a ~~di~~ very different  effect. They admired the beauty  of the storm without wishing to [5]  analyze its causes. Henry said that  the Fairies and giants were at  war and Elizabeth attempted  a picture of it.  As I grew older my attempts [10]  in science were of a higher nature.  I ~~endeavou~~ produced little earthquakes  and tried every kind of combination  of gasses ~~to~~ and elements to ascertain  the results. [15]  ~~As I before mentioned my brothers~~  ~~were much younger than myself.~~  ~~Ernest the second of our family was five~~  also  Another task ~~soon~~ devolved upon [20]  ^  me when I became the instructor  of my brothers. Ernest was five years  younger than myself, and was my  principal pupil. He had been aflicted  thro which [25]  with ill health from his infancy ~~&~~  Elizabeth and I had been his constant  ~~m~~ nurses ~~I~~ his disposition was gentle but  he was incapable any severe appli  cation. William the youngest of our [30]  family was quite a child and the  most beautiful little fellow in the  world, his lively blue eyes dimpled cheeks | **[*The shaded areas here signal that MWS did not insert the 6 unpaginated rough-draft pages all at once into Notebook A: she returned to her original draft of Ch. [1], canceled lines 33-38 on the preceding folio 5 verso (page 44), canceled lines 1-18 on this folio 6 recto (page 45), continued her narrative on the last 2 of the 6 unpaginated insert pages (from line 7 of folio 3 recto through line 41 of folio 3 verso), and then returned to this folio 6 recto (page 45) to resume her narrative at line 20.***  ***This transcription page 37 (immediately preceded by the 2 unpaginated insert pages) repeats, with different shading, transcription page 31 in this edition.*]**  ¶Another task also devolved upon  me, when I became the instructor  of my brothers. Ernest was six years  younger than myself, and was my  principal pu- [60:]pil. He had been afflicted  with ill health from his infancy, through which  Elizabeth and I had been his constant  nurses: his disposition was gentle, but  he was incapable of any severe application.  William, the youngest of our  family, was yet an infant, and the  most beautiful little fellow in the  world; his lively blue eyes, dimpled cheeks, |

**left edge]***five sewing holes are distinctly visible against black background* **top right corner]***edge folded under* **1-14]***mws vertical cancel lines* **1]***misspelled* phænonema*; mws page number* 45 *is apparently an alteration of mws folio number* 23 *(see also preceding pages* 41 *and* 43*)* **2]***Bodleian folio number* 6 **3-4]***faint horizontal crease line in paper* **8]***ink blot above* r *in* war *(wet offset from or to* w *in* with *on facing folio 5 verso [page 44], line 8)* **9]***wet offset ink blots above* r *in* picture *(from blotted* A *in pbs* As *on facing folio 5 verso [page 44], line 11)* **11]***possible period on final stroke of* nature **13]***wet offset ink blot below* d *in* and *(from blotted pbs* as *on facing folio 5 verso [page 44], line 17)* **19]***?mws* also **22-23]***sometime between draft text of* five years younger *(for which no fair copy is extant) and 1818 text of* six years younger*, mws (or pbs) added a year to Victor's age (or subtracted a year from Ernest's)—this and other changes reflect the care that mws (and possibly pbs) took with the time sequence in Frankenstein (see also folio 42 verso [page 120], line 5 and note)* **24]***misspelled* aflicted **28]***final* e *overlays {*?*} in* gentle **29]**of *omitted after* incapable **30]***?pbs* st *overlays mws* r *in* youngest

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| 46)    neither  ~~we none~~ of  us possessed  an envied  preheminence  over the other | and ~~affectionate~~ endearing manners  inspired the tenderest affection. Such  was our domestic circle from which  care and pain seemed for ever banish  ed. ~~f~~ My father directed our studies [5]  and my mother partook of our  enjoyments. ~~we were all equal~~ the  voice of command was never heard  among us but mutual affection  engaged us all to comply with, & to [10]  obey the slightest desire of each  other. | and endearing manners,  inspired the tenderest affection.  ¶Such  was our domestic circle, from which  care and pain seemed for ever banished.  My father directed our studies,  and my mother partook of our  enjoyments. Neither of us possessed the slightest  pre-eminence over the other; the  voice of command was never heard  amongst us; but mutual affection  engaged us all to comply with and  obey the slightest desire of each  other. |

**top left corner]***folded-over paper obscures part of page number* 46 **right edge]***five sewing holes are distinctly visible against black background* **bottom edge]***darker areas in photofacsimile exaggerate soiling and discoloration of paper* **margin:9]***variant spelling* preheminence **below margin:12]***various wet offset ink blots (from pbs additions on facing folio 7 recto [page 47])* **2]***horizontal crease line in paper; wet offset ink blot below* r *in* inspired *(from ink altering numeral* 2 *to* 3 *on facing folio 7 recto [page 47], line 2)*  **5]**My *could be* my **10]***wet offset ink blot on* it *in* with *(from pbs* made *on facing folio 47 recto [page 47], margin, line 13);* n *pbs ?comma after* with*; pbs* to *after ampersand*