Rev. Robert Fletcher
Mr Yates's
Carlisle

Carlisle, Nov. 26. 1819

Dear Robert,

I cannot name the date of the last from you as I have left it in Caldergate; but it was by post acknowledging the receipt of Newspaper containing the account of the last meeting on Coal fell hill. —

About 10 days ago I was much surprised ~~with~~ by seeing on the desk at the Journal Office a letter signed Petronius in your hand writing. I believe the Office knew the hand, indeed I scarcely miss knowing it, — & I thought it best to observe whose hand it was. — If it be no secret I should like to know where performance it is — Some time ago the same signature came to the Journal Office, & I think was inserted.

The communication of which I now speak (I mean that just now rec.) was written on

a half sheet of foolscap & was charged treble postage. now one sheet of foolscap, or even of extra post, would have contained it. — The circumstance of the postage was sadly ~~against it~~ against its meeting a favourable reception; but very injudiciously a person of no political or literary ~~&~~ import ance was thrust forward as the principal personage; — he should have merely been brought forward as an individual of a genius. — But at any rate it is not desirable to excel in satire. It was returned to the Post Office.

We are all well; I have not for many years been so free from the rheumatism.

I am Dear Robert

Your affectionate Father

Wm Wrathall

~~before~~ declined naming any until he had seen & conversed with you; so I would recommend you to come over this week, not later than Saturday; but before would be better. — Marrs is a modest unassuming young man falling fast into practice. You would see very honorable mention made of him at the last meeting of the subscribers to the dispensary. —

I am, Dear Robt. with love to your aunt. Your affectionate Father
Ed Wheelan

Robt. Wheelan
Robert Gates' Saddler
Gt Smith.

Carlisle Feb. 23, 1820

Dear Robert,

In the 4th Stanza of the Imitation signed Petitions the first & 2d lines begin with the conjunction "that," & the last line of the same Stanza begins with the relative pronoun "that"; grammatical precision requires "who" in the later instance.

I enclose a clean proof of "Death-fell".

I have your letter of the 15th inst. before me, which by mistake you have dated 1819, which has been the case before at least once. I am perusing for the first time "the destruction of Senacherib" & shall give my opinion of the passages which you have marked as exceptionable. "Came down" in the first line of the 1st Stanza I like; it is simple English. In the 2d line "Colours" is an allowable liberty. In the next line I join with your opinion of the word "sheen". Stanza 2d, last line "withered" may be allowed in poetry. 3d Stanza, 3d line; "waxed" is scarcely allowable by analogy; we say grew sleepy, but we do not say grew deadly; we do indeed say colloquially, he grows worse. In the 4th line I consider "forever" as being too colloquial, almost vulgar. Stanza 4th 1st line, "all"; too much in the low style.

For the rest the often repeated conjunction "and" I think with you is objectionable; it is not only superfluous, but it weakens the impression. I do not think your criticism on idols well founded; Baal might be represented by more than one idol. "Then hasta thee to thy sea girt isle" is indeed

strange line for a poet of commerce.

I think I never acknowledged before the receipt of the Extracts from Cobbet's Grammar. I suppose that I shall have plenty of time to take them into consideration.

I am afraid that you neglected to call to see Joseph Wilson.

again dated 1819 Feb. 27.

Your letter of the 24 Inst. was rec.d in course. We must all feel very much obliged by your Aunt Anne's kind offer to you; I should have written to you sooner on the subject to which it & your letter refers if my spare time had not been much taken up with the business of the Assizes.

You mention the preference which you give to the watch maker's & engraver's business, which you say "are here joined together." In this I apprehend that you are mistaken. A dog collar, or a miserably executed house head, is about the height of the ambition of a Watch maker's engraving here. The only persons deserving the name of engravers who ever were in this country were two artists who were indeed at different times, ~~at different times~~ by the proprietors of the Journal, to come here, one from Dublin, I think, & the other from Edinburgh; but although they each monopolized all the engraving in the country it would not support either of them. The beautiful Sheet map of Cumberland, which the elder Ellis published, & which is now grown very scarce, was the performance of the Irish man. I apprehend you form a very wrong estimate of the business of what is called "a watch maker," & that it is far from affording any great scope to the powers of reasoning; however if it were likely to afford the power of living in reasonable comfort, I should ~~so~~ consider the other as a matter of comparative indifference, therefore I thought it proper to make some inquiry respecting J. Baird. I am personally though but slightly acquainted with the gentleman, & have conceived a very favourable ~~of~~ opinion of his habits of life; & your mother, who occasionally meets his wife at the house of a common acquaintance describes her very favourably likewise; but previously to my making any inquiry, I understood from common & credible report, that his business in the watch trade was mostly confined to selling by commission for a wholesale house; & I knew that he had the reputation of being little skilled in the mechanism of clocks & watches; & that his business is principally that of an ironmonger. However your mother made inquiry in a quarter where she was likely to obtain information, & learned that he wanted a boy as an apprentice to clean clocks & watches, & had applied for a boy who is brother to one of Robt. Effin's apprentices; but the boy's mother, a poor widow in Rickergate, had declined the offer. So much for this business. — There is no Stationer in Penrith to whom I should like to have you engaged, even if a situation offered; & the only person in Carlisle, whom I should think eligible, is John Ellis, who has all the good properties of his brothers, the printers, without their faults; but I do not know whether he will want an apprentice soon, (but I can easily inquire). You must take into consideration that your ~~op~~ attendance would be a great objection in the business which I have just been speaking of; it would not be of quite so much importance in the medical profession & in this I think success much more probable than in any thing which you have named, though you seem to think otherwise.

Feb. 28.

Since writing the above I came to the resolution of asking Dr. Mitchell if he wanted an Apprentice; he will be very shortly. I wished to know his term, but he

Carlisle, Oct. 29, 1823

Dear Robert,

Yours of the 25 came to hand on Monday consequently the delivery was too late for me to see George Marr; but I communicated your letter to the Doctor. I am happy to hear that you get so comfortably away & have such a prospect of being comfortably situated in Edinbro'.

I observe by the London Newspapers that Dr. George Birkbeck, who lectured formerly, at the Anderson-ian institution in Glasgow, is now practising in London.

With this you will receive a ham & two boxes, the smaller one containing a ~~box~~ pot of butter; the other contains the books which you selected, We could not find room for the ~~boxes~~ books except the small ones in a drawer; so they must be sent afterwards.

The box containing the books is my hat box; as the

Robt. Stephenson
Mr. Geo. Clifton
17 Arthur St.
Edinbro'

box which you selected would not admit the butter to be properly packed; so you will be attentive to return it if a convenient opportunity should fall out.

We are all very well & the whole family, but the little one, join me in love to you

I do not trouble you with advice because I doubt not that it will always be present to you that all your future prospects depend on your diligence & good conduct.

I forget to tell you, that George had along with him to Glasgow, a young man of the name of Smith, (a nephew of Dr. Elliott I believe) & another of the name of Edmondson from Keswick, a brother I am informed of a medical gentleman of that name practising in Keswick. But this you would probably learn from the parties.

The weather broke the day before yesterday, & yesterday was very wet.

I send your goods by Hargraves at 9 p. St.

I am Dear Bob.t

Your affectionate Father

Thomas Abraham

Dear Robert,

Carlisle, Nov. 5, 1823.

By this time you will have rec.d the ~~three~~ two boxes & the ham, sent by Hargreaves on the 30 Ult. I rather apprehend that they would not be forwarded from Carlisle before Saturday. —

I wrote to you two or three days ago by post directed, University Edinburgh. — I sent the first funnel as agreed on, directed, Post Office, Edinburgh; I send another this morning. Return the feathers & the paper used in packing in the empty boxes.

We will send you the ham, soon as ever we receive it from Thursby. — The bread we send is not so good as we could wish, — the flour appears to be partly new; — however we send the ~~best~~ better of two bakings — 18 lb. 3/2 — We hope to get better flour next time.

I think you told me that Robinson, at Fisher's, said I might leave Smith's Beattie of nature with him; I took it there yesterday, & he seemed not to know any thing about it, — perhaps I misunderstood you.

Robert Beck desires me to tell you, that he will be obliged by your purchasing for him, with the 2/6 remaining in your hands, a pair of dissecting forceps, or any other instrument which you may think likely to be of more use to him.

An address should be written very distinctly; — Robt. Beck read that with which you furnished him 7 Arthur St. —

I am, Dear Robert
Your affectionate Father
~~Robt~~ Thomas Abraham

Robert Abraham
Mrs Mc Glashan's
17 Arthur St.
Edinburgh

Mr Robt. Abraham
17 Wm. Mc Glashan's
Arthur St.
Edinbo'.

Forward by
Mr Walker.

Carlisle, Nov. 12, 1823 –

Dear Robert,

On the 5 of this month I forwarded by Hargraves a box of bread with a letter inclose; & which I suppose would reach you on the 8th.

This morning the Journal left here for you, directed "University."

I am desired by R. Tiffin to request you to call at Barclay's for his Umbrella which he left in the lobby when coming away. It has a buck hook & is of a purple colour. – Tie a piece of paper to it directed for him, & give it to any one of the coach guards.

On 19 inst. two geese will be forwarded from here by Welsh, directed to Wm. Hawson, ~~Hows~~ Fishhook maker, Princes St. One of which is for you, & you will find it stuffed with onions which must be taken out and sliced. It will be proper to dress it soon after it gets to hands. It is hardly necessary to add, that it will be made ready to put to the fire, before it is sent off. – The carriage will be paid.

Miss Muncaster called here yesterday; she has not heard from Mary Tiffin since ~~she~~ her ~~returned~~ to London. Miss Pope is about marrying; so that Mary will get the whole of the business; her Sister Elizabeth sets off in a day or two to assist her. Miss Muncaster desired to be remembered to you.

When you return the boxes you will inclose a few lines, as well as the newspapers; & wrap both carefully in the brown paper. We shall keep the geese alive as nearly as we can to the time of sending it off.

We are in good health, & ~~hope~~ shall be glad to hear of your welfare.

I am, Dear Robert,
Your Affectionate Father
Thomas Abraham.

The goose is a present from Jane. On second thoughts we have some thoughts of sending it by a coach guard, in which case it will get sooner to hand, enquire as above.

Mr Reussa would oblige by carrying this &
the goose to be delivered as soon as it may get to hand.

Robt. Abraham
Mrs M.c Glashan's
17 Arthur St.
Edinburgh.

With a
goose

Dear Robert,

Carlisle, Nov. 17, 1823.

On the 15 Inst. I forwarded you by Hargrave a Ham 26 ℔. weight, 13/- It is from Evening Hill, & will ~~be~~ prove as choice a one as the other.

I wrote a letter a few days ago, & left it at Mr. Mears's shop to go to you by Mr. Watson late of the dispensary; whether it is gone forward or not I do not know; amongst other things I name in it a request from Mr. Tiffin that you will call at Barclay's & enquire for an Umbrella left by him in the lobby when he was coming away — It has a Buck hook, & the colour is purple; tie a piece of strong paper about it, directed; & give it one of the coach guards coming here. — With this you have a goose, filled with onions; the onions will require slicing. — I am told at Mr. Mears's, that Mr. Watson took the letter with him. — The Goose is forwarded per Coach, Car. paid.

I am,
Your affectionate Father
Thomas Abraham

Carlisle, Dec. 13, 1823.

Dear Robert,

We rec.d the boxes on the 11th Inst. — I cannot find Chambaud's Grammar, so I suppose you have it, & have overlooked it — I have sent a Grammar which came lately from Liverpool — Please to deliver the two enclosed parcels — Your mother sends 7 lb. bread, & as it is Christmas has put in a few currants for which she does not charge — this, & the other comes to 5/- Your mother has enclosed a small pot of preserves & is sorry that she cannot spare more — I neglected to send the paper the day I neared the first week — I hope you get it regularly

I am Dear Robert,
Your Affectionate Father
Thomas Abraham —

Wilbert Wakeham

Mrs Mc Glashan's

17 Arthur's St

Edinburgh