BETWEEN 1818 and 1824, Landor's life in Italy was primarily devoted to his growing family and to his writing. After 1824, however, he was drawn more and more into the society of young, liberal writers and artists as a result of his fame as the author of the Imaginary Conversations and the arrival in Florence of the Keats-Shelley Circle. His letters to his mother and sisters Elizabeth and Ellen written between 1826 and 1829 reflect these influences. The thirteen extant holographs of this correspondence constitute the present edition: three of these letters are in the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection, New York Public Library (hereafter Berg Coll., NYPL) and ten are in the John Rylands Library (Eng. MS. 1237/4-6, 9-15).¹

In the summer of 1823, Leigh Hunt and his family settled


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Editorial intrusions are in square brackets. Deleted words and phrases are indicated thus: [land -], and the number of deleted and illegible words thus: [2 x]. Landor's spellings, punctuation, and capitals are retained throughout.
near Florence, followed shortly by Charles Armitage Brown\(^1\) and Lord Henry Dillon.\(^2\) William Hazlitt arrived in February 1825 and promptly marched up to Landor’s house to introduce himself. Later he introduced Landor to Hunt.\(^3\) Landor also made many new friends among artists, including Seymour Kirkup,\(^4\) George Augustus and Trajan Wallis,\(^5\) and Joseph Severn.\(^6\) These new friendships inspired in Landor both a new enthusiasm for Keats and Shelley and an intensified interest in art.\(^7\)

However, the strongest influences on Landor during this period resulted from the renewal of his acquaintance with Francis George Hare (1786-1842), who settled in Italy around 1819. In July 1825, Hare renewed his friendship with Landor, whom he had met in Tours in 1815.\(^8\) Hare remained in Italy until 1827. A former student at the Universities of Leipzig,


\(^2\) Henry Augustus Dillon-Lee, thirteenth Viscount Dillon (1777-1832), author of minor works of fiction, poetry, and politics.

\(^3\) There are a number of conflicting stories as to how members of this group became acquainted with Landor. Whether Hazlitt introduced Brown to Landor or whether Brown was already acquainted with him is unclear. However, I have followed Super in giving precedence to Hazlitt’s statement in his review of Hunt’s *Lord Byron and Some of His Contemporaries* (Weekly Review, 17 May 1828) that Hazlitt introduced Hunt to Landor. See R. H. Super, *Walter Savage Landor: a Biography* (New York, 1954), pp. 177-8; P. P. Howe, ed., *New Writings by William Hazlitt* (London, 1925), p. 66; John Forster, *Walter Savage Landor, a Biography* (London, 1869), ii. 201; Stillinger, pp. 15-16.

\(^4\) Seymour Stocker Kirkup (1788-1880) was known as much for his wide literary acquaintance in Florence as for his paintings, which were frequently portraits of his friends.

\(^5\) George Augustus Wallis (1770-1847) was primarily a landscape artist. His son Trajan was his pupil (E. Bénézit, *Dictionnaire critique et documentaire des Peintres, Sculpteurs, Dissinateurs et Graveurs*, rev. ed. (Paris, 1948-55)).

\(^6\) Joseph Severn (1793-1879), painter and friend of Keats, whom he met in 1816 and later accompanied to Italy.

\(^7\) No doubt his enthusiasm was also intensified by the number of Italian paintings now on the market as a result of Peter Leopold’s dissolution of the Tuscan monasteries. Landor was a pioneer among Englishmen in his taste for Italian primitives (Super, pp. 177-9, 180).

\(^8\) Super, pp. 131, 185. Landor was also a good friend of Francis’s younger brothers, Augustus William (1792-1834) and Julius Charles (1795-1855). The latter arranged for the publication of the *Imaginary Conversations* (1824-9).
Göttingen, and Christ Church, Oxford, Hare at twenty was reputed to have had "not all the knowledge, but more than all the experiences, of most men of forty".¹ As he grew older, his vast amount of information on all possible subjects became known to his contemporaries through his conversation rather than his writings. Kirkup remembered the consul-general at Rome calling Hare a "monster of learning".² There was always a constant struggle of competition and display between Landor and Hare. According to Kirkup, Hare avoided the classics, and Landor the sciences, above all, the "exact", and all relating to numbers except dates, where, owing to his prodigious memory, he had generally the advantage when Hare gave him the chance. Considered infallible, Hare was often astonished at being corrected.³

Landor not only respected Hare's learning, but also appreciated his encouragement. In November 1828, Landor wrote Southey that in response to Hare's constant urging, he had expanded to a hundred the number of his Imaginary Conversations.⁴ Landor paid appropriate tribute to this encouragement in his dedication to Gebir, Count Julian, and Other Poems (1831): "It was your persuasion, and through your attention, that I publish my Imaginary Conversations; most of which, unless you had animated and excited me, would have remained for ever unfinish'd" (pp. iii-iv).

Hare was even more influential on the expansion of Landor's social life. When Hare renewed their friendship in 1825, Landor was out of favour with English society in Florence, probably because of his quarrel with the British minister Lord Burghersh and his secretary Edward Dawkins.⁵ After his arrival, however, Hare quickly drew the aloof Landor into the gay social life of Florence. By 24 November, Brown could report to Hunt, now back in England, that "the strangest piece

² Forster, ii. 3.  
³ Ibid.  
⁴ Ibid. 165.  
⁵ For the details of Landor's attacks on Edward J. Dawkins (1792-1865), whom he accused of insulting his wife, and on John Fane (1784-1859), eleventh Earl of Westmorland and Lord Burghersh, see Super, p. 156, and my article written under the name of Prasher, "The Censorship of Landor's Imaginary Conversations, BULLETIN, xlix (1966-1967), 432, n.
of news that I can tell you is that Landor, within the last week, has been to TWO Balls!—one given by Mr Hare, and the other by Lord Dillon;—besides which, he lately went to a Musical Conversazion. I hear he is quite gay in his new element, joking and laughing ad libitum among the flounced and feathered company."  

Hare was also the means by which Landor became part of the Blessington Circle. In February 1827, before his departure for England, Hare visited the Blessingtons in Pisa, where they had gone for the earl’s health. Learning that Landor was ill with quinsey, Hare announced his immediate return to Florence. Blessington said, "You don’t mean Walter Landor! ’ ‘The very man,’ replied Hare. His Lordship rang the bell and ordered horses to be put instantly to his carriage." The next morning Blessington was announced by Landor’s servant. When Landor replied that he knew no such person, Blessington immediately entered, saying "Come, come Landor! I never thought you would refuse to see an old friend. If you don’t know Blessington, you may remember Mountjoy." Landor did indeed, and in a few days Blessington brought his lady "to see me and make me well again". By May the Blessingtons had settled in Florence and Landor had developed a strong affection for his old acquaintance and his beautiful wife.  

Although Charles John Gardiner, Lord Blessington (1782-1829), is remembered primarily as a devoted husband who literally spent a fortune to live in lavish splendour, nevertheless he was respected by friends like Byron and Landor for his knowledge, achievements, and generosity. He succeeded his father, the second Viscount Mountjoy, to the title at the age of 16 in 1798; was elected a representative peer for Ireland about 1809; and advanced to the earldom in 1816. The author of three pamphlets on Ireland, Blessington reveals himself in his

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1 Stillinger, p. 237.  
2 Super, p. 191.  
5 Ibid. p. 201.  
6 Since the Blessingtons resided in Florence from March to December 1826, visiting such friends of Landor as Francis Hare, Lord Dillon, and Lord and Lady Normanby, it is odd that they did not meet Landor then. (Lady Blessington, The Idler in Italy, 2nd ed. (London, 1839), ii. 285-9).
letters to Byron and Landor as being genuinely informed and concerned about politics, particularly those of his native Ireland.\(^1\)

He was also interested in literature and wrote not only poetry, but also an historical romance in three volumes entitled *De Vavasour; A Tale of the Fourteenth Century* (1828).

His wife, Marguerite (1789-1849), was born Margaret Power, the daughter of an impecunious drunken father who married her at age 14 to one of his drinking companions, a Captain Maurice St. Leger Farmer.\(^2\) During the three months they lived together, Farmer beat her, deprived her of food, and locked her up in his absence. She left him to return to her home, where her father (who had known of Farmer’s fits of madness before his marriage) greeted her with hostility. When her husband went to India to recover his fortunes, after being forced to resign his commission, she refused to follow.\(^3\) Although her life from 1804-7 is difficult to trace, there were rumours that she was the mistress of Lord Glengall at Cahir.\(^4\) Learning that her husband was returning from India, she placed herself under the protection of Captain Thomas Jenkins, a man of both respectable background and substantial income. Presumably from 1807 to 1816, she was, in her words, “that despised thing, a kept mistress”.\(^5\)

That year, Jenkins, by now deeply in debt, accepted from Lord Blessington £10,000 “for jewels and apparel” he had given Margaret.\(^6\) She then accepted the love and protection offered by Blessington. After her husband had been killed in a fall from the window of a debtor’s prison in 1818, she and Blessington were married.

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\(^3\) Ibid.

\(^4\) Lady Hardy to Byron, 17 June 1823, cited in Lovell, p. 11.

\(^5\) Morrison, p. 169.

The couple then moved to 11 St. James Square, which quickly became a gathering place for men influential in politics, literature, and art, who were drawn not only by the personalities of the genial host and beautiful hostess, but also by the knowledge that they would find both lavish entertainment and stimulating conversation in an elegant setting. However, the society which sought out Lady Blessington was almost exclusively male. Because of her past, respectable ladies ostracized her.

In addition to developing a reputation as a charming hostess, Lady Blessington, who now called herself Marguerite, was also developing one as a writer. In 1822, she published *Magic Lantern: or Sketches of Scenes in the Metropolis; Sketches and Fragments; and Journal of a Tour through the Netherlands to Paris in 1821*. In August of 1822, the Blessingtons left London for a tour of the Continent, from which Lady Blessington did not return until November 1830, eighteen months after the death of her husband in Paris.¹ They were accompanied by her youngest sister Mary Anne Power and Charles Mathews (the son of her close friend Mrs. Charles Mathews). In February 1823, while touring France, they persuaded Alfred, Count D'Orsay, to join them.²

By the time the party reached Italy, Lady Blessington's present life was the subject of as much speculation as her past because it was widely assumed that she and D'Orsay were lovers. The gossip became even more scandalous when, shortly after the death of the young Earl of Mountjoy, Lord Blessington added a codicil to his will in June 1823, providing that D'Orsay should marry one of his daughters and inherit his Dublin estates.³ D'Orsay chose to become engaged to Blessington's legitimate daughter Harriet Frances Gardiner, then eleven. The marriage, which took place in December 1827, despite the attempted intervention of Lord Burghersh, was rumoured to be a blind behind which Lady Blessington and D'Orsay could carry on their

² Ibid. p. 52. D'Orsay was also a close friend of Francis Hare (Hare, i. 18).
³ Sadleir, pp. 72-76. Luke Wellington Gardiner, Viscount Mountjoy, died c. 27 March 1823 (ibid. pp. 72, 58; Lovell, p. 33).
affair. As a condition to her consent to the marriage, Lady Blessington insisted that it not be consummated for four years. It survived until August 1831, when Harriet left D'Orsay. Despite increasingly slanderous attacks on her moral character, Lady Blessington maintained her intimate friendship with D'Orsay until the end of her life.

Having always lived in male society, Lady Blessington knew how to create an environment in which men of talent and genius could feel at home. Few women could match her combination of beauty, wide reading, knowledge of the world, understanding, and generosity. Although there are varying accounts of her nature, Landor greatly admired her: "I never knew so brilliant and witty a person in conversation. She was most generous too, and kind-hearted. I never heard her make an ill-natured remark." Forster indicates that the attraction of her home for Landor was "even less the accomplishments and grace of its mistress, than her trueheartedness and constancy in friendship; and no one had reason to know this better than Landor".

Lady Blessington was equally fond of Landor. Reading his Imaginary Conversations had convinced her of his genius even before they met. However, she had not expected "the high breeding and urbanity of his manners, which are very striking, ... the only singularity I can discern is a more than ordinary politeness toward women—a singularity that I heartily wish was one no longer". After the Blessingtons settled in Florence, Landor spent every evening at their home, where he met many distinguished men. However, the influence of Lady Blessington on him extended beyond the few months she and her husband spent in Florence. After her return to England, she served as his literary agent from around 1833-8, when he began en-

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1 Sadleir, pp. 97-99; Willard Connely, Count D'Orsay, The Dandy of Dandies (London, 1952), pp. 106-14. Landor staunchly defended the marriage and resented both Burghersh's interference and his rudeness to Lady Blessington. See W.S.L. to Lady Blessington, 4 November [1827]. (Manuscript in the Carl H. Pforzheimer Library (MS. 1082, La45); cited by permission.) See also Morrison, p. 91.

2 Sadleir, pp. 135-47.

3 Kate Field, "Last Days of Walter Savage Landor", Atlantic Monthly xvii (April 1866), 393.

4 Forster, ii. 326.

5 Lady Blessington, The Idler in Italy, ii. 310-11.
trusting his manuscripts to John Forster. During this period, she was given first refusal of his works, which she frequently published in her *Book of Beauty* and *The Keepsake*. Even after she was no longer acting as his agent, their friendship remained strong. As long as she lived in Gore House, it remained for him a haven where he might meet the most illustrious men of his age and where he was always welcomed with warmth and affection.

Another life-long friend Landor made at this time was Joseph Ablett (1773-1848), to whom he was introduced by Ablett's neighbour in Wales, Mrs. Maria Dashwood, Francis Hare's cousin. Ablett was the wealthy squire of Llanbedr Hall, near Ruthin, Denbighshire, whose father had made his fortune manufacturing thread and fustian in Manchester. At an early age, Ablett retired from the family business and moved to Wales. By 1809, he had sufficient standing in the community to be elected high sheriff and in 1826 stood for Parliament for Denbigh Borough, withdrawing his candidacy when the election was disputed. In his old age, he was active on the Bench, served as chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Ruthin Workhouse, and was an enthusiastic member of the Cambrian Archaeological Association.

A very religious man, he achieved some notoriety as the magnate who refused to grant the Non-Conformists of the Llanbedr district a site for a proper chapel until circumstances compelled him to allow the Methodists a plot of land. He also fined his servants for taking the Lord's name in vain, swearing, and speaking Welsh. In 1835, he published his rendition of the first five books of the Old Testament into more comprehensible English: *The Book of the Law from the Holy Bible*. . . .


2 Anna Maria Dashwood (d. 1841), daughter of William Davies Shipley (1745-1826), dean of St. Asaph, was the widow of Lt.-Col. Charles Armand Dashwood (d. 1812), whom A. J. C. Hare described as a "savage paralytic" her father had forced her to marry (i, 158; iii, 126-27). See also the Rev. A. T. Mitchell, ed. *Rugby School Register* (Rugby, 1909), i, 80.


4 Ibid. pp. 141, 142, 166.
However, Ablett is best remembered for his many acts of generosity and charity. He donated considerable funds to initiate the North Wales Lunatic Asylum and established twelve almshouses in Ruthin. He also offered financial aid to William O. Pughe for the publication of his English translation of Mabignon.¹ A collector of paintings and sculpture, he commissioned several works by John Gibson, the Welsh sculptor and pupil of Canova. Among these was a bust of Landor, which he generously had duplicated for Landor's mother and wife.² During his residence in Italy, Ablett's greatest act of generosity toward Landor was purchasing the Villa Gherardesca for Landor and his family, accepting no security and refusing all interest.³

The measure of friendship between Landor and Ablett is that it was to Llanbedr that Landor came after he left his wife in the summer of 1835. There he remained in seclusion until February 1836.⁴ Perhaps to occupy his friend's mind, Ablett persuaded Landor, Mrs. Dashwood, and Leigh Hunt to contribute poems and prose pieces for Literary Hours. "By Various Friends", which Ablett published at his own expense in 1837. When he died in 1848, Landor wrote his brother Henry: "Never was there so kindhearted a man—He seemed cold—but there was a hot spring gushing from a vast depth thro a glacier. Good generous Ablett! one more tear for thee."⁵

Despite Landor's eight-year absence from England and his new life in Florence, his mother and sisters still urged him to return or at least to educate his oldest son Arnold in England. In the first letter received from home in 1826, his sister Ellen reminded him of the happy weeks she, Elizabeth, and Mrs. Landor had spent walking through Llanthony's beautiful hills and peaceful valley. To Ellen's comment that she hoped Arnold would not only like Llanthony but also live there and become an Englishman, Mrs. Landor added forcefully that she hoped "he will settle his son in England; but she would like to see him at Ipsley or in Staffordshire, rather than among those Welsh

² Super, p. 200.
³ Ibid. p. 208.
⁴ Ibid. p. 262.
⁵ W.S.L. to Forster, endorsed 16 January 1848, manuscript in the Henry E. Huntington Library (HM27261); cited by permission.
who made everything so uncomfortable".\(^1\) Knowing her son shared her love of gardening, she promised to send him many fruit seeds, slips, and cuttings if she went again to Ipsley that summer. She also forwarded the news that Dr. John Johnstone\(^2\) was going to write Dr. Parr's life, with the none-too-subtle hint that “she thought it might have been better to get somebody to write it who was accustomed to write something else besides prescriptions”.\(^3\)

The letter probably arrived after Landor had finally left with Francis Hare on 24 January for his long-anticipated trip to Rome.\(^4\) Landor carried with him a letter of introduction from Charles Brown to the artist Joseph Severn.\(^5\) Landor and Severn so enjoyed one another’s company that Brown’s letters to Severn thereafter frequently contained messages from Landor. During his visit to Rome, Landor also met the Danish sculptor Bertel Thorwaldsen\(^6\) and Lord Guildford.\(^7\) Despite his obvious enjoyment of his visit, his letter to his mother below is filled with loneliness for his children:

**Rome Feb. 8 [1826]**

Dear Mother,

Your letter was forwarded to me from Florence, and I am very much grieved to hear that you have suffered so much from the cold weather. It was so severe at Florence, that if I had not accepted the kind offer of my friend Mr. Hare to give me a place in his carriage, I should rather have given up all ideas of seeing Rome than have ventured out. The change of air, however, has done me good—

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\(^1\) Forster, ii. 128-9.

\(^2\) Dr. Johnstone (1768-1836), a physician, was the close friend and biographer of the classics scholar Dr. Samuel Parr (1747-1825).

\(^3\) Forster, ii. 129.


\(^6\) The Danish sculptor Bertel Thorwaldsen (1768-1844) was a leader in the circle of Classicists in Rome.

\(^7\) Frederick North, fifth Earl of Guildford (1766-1827), founded with Count Giovanni Capo d’Istria (1776-1831) the Ionian University of Corfu, which was inaugurated in May 1824. Landor dedicated volume five of the *Imaginary Conversations* (1829) to Guildford.

\(^8\) Four pages, 9\(\frac{3}{8}\) × 7\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches. Addressed on the back (as are all subsequent letters): Mr. Landor/ Warwick/ Inghilterra. Postmark: 28 February 1826. Stamps: Roma/ St. Pantel; I.T. (Ryl. Eng. MS. 1237/4).
but all the wonders of Rome do not console me for the absence of Arnold and Julia,1 and tho I promised to remain here three weeks, I shall return within the fortnight. This is the first time in my life that I have ever been twelve hours without seeing Arnold, and he is now eight years old within a month. He has written me a letter, which came together with yours, and which I must not lose a post in answering. I spend my hours from nine til five, in looking at the antiquities and the churches. As it happens that I know several families here who have carriages, I can run over every thing very curious in the fortnight. If I went on foot, a month or five weeks would be insufficient. Rome is certainly the finest city in the world, exclusive of the antiquities. It never contained in ancient times two such buildings as the Vatican and Saint Peters. It is the only place in the world where I have ever met with very great attention. Here both the natives and the English treat me magnificently.

As I have only one room, I admit no one; but I meet every evening the best and most spendid society in the place. This only makes me melancholy, for I think incessantly of Arnold, and of the greek [sic] he is learning, many sentences of which he speaks correctly. When I return to Florence I shall answer Ellen’s letter, and request of her to inform me how you and Elizabeth do, for the weather has been excessively severe long after the date of your letter. I pray to God I may receive a better account of you both.

Believe me, dear Mother,
Your ever affectionate Son
W Savage Landor

Perhaps because his many friends were willing to show him the antiquities, Landor overcame his loneliness sufficiently to remain in Rome for a whole month.2 On 9 March, he wrote Ellen that he was so occupied “with the antiquities and magnificence of that city, as to defer the business of letter writing”.3 Much concerned about his mother’s health, he hoped that she would be well enough to enjoy the change of air and scene at Ipsley, “which certainly has those two advantages”.4 He also told her of a visit from a Mr. Entwistle,5 who had purchased

1 Arnold Savage Landor (5 March 1818-2 April 1871) and Julia Elizabeth Savage Landor (6 March 1820-2 May 1884) (Burke’s Landed Gentry (1952), s.v. “Landor of Llanthony Abbey formerly of Ipsley Court”).
2 W.S.L. to Southey, March 1827, in Forster, ii. 164.
3 W. N. Landor’s transcript.
4 Ibid.
5 This was Thomas Entwistle. The Warwickshire land tax returns indicate that he bought the estate previously owned by John Iddins and that his name first appears in 1817. After 1818 the farm was let to a tenant. Francis White’s History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Warwickshire (Sheffield, 1850) states that although Landor was lord of the manor and principal owner of Ipsley, Entwistle had an estate there. He is not in the 1851 census under Ipsley. (Information provided by Mr. M. W. Farr, County Archivist, Warwickshire County Record Office.)
an estate in Ipsley and who hated it as much as he did—a com-
ment which could hardly have strengthened his mother's hope
that he would one day return there. He wrote too that he had
replied to Dr. Johnstone's request for permission to print some
of his letters to Parr.¹

Though Ipsley held little attraction for him, he still retained
vivid memories of Swansea's beauty. The news of his sister's
visit there, probably in late 1826, revived his memories of his
own visit in 1807.² His description of the coast in his letter
to Ellen below was later included in two versions of "Aber-
tawny".³ However pleasant, the memory alone did not lure
him back. In answer to his mother's persistent urging, he
emphasized once more his contentment with his life in Florence:

Dec. 1. [?] [1826]⁴

Dear Mother,

I received the few lines you added to Ellen's letter, this morning, just at the
moment I was about to write to you. According to my reckoning, from the
badness of the roads and the overflowing of the rivers, this will reach you about
Christmas—May it be a happy one to you and all the family. We are very gay
here at Florence. Last night we were at a private play, given by Lord Normanby.⁵

¹ W. N. Landor's transcript.
² Super, p. 79.
³ I (pub. 1897), II (1863), The Complete Works of Walter Savage Landor,
ed. T. Earle Welby and Stephen Wheeler (London, 1927-36), xv. 360, 356; here-
after CW.
⁴ Four pages, letter to Mrs. Landor on pp. 1-2; 9 \( \frac{3}{4} \) x 7 \( \frac{3}{8} \) inches. Addressed :
Miss E. Landor/ Warwick/ Inghilterra. Postmark : 19 December 1826. Stamps
Firenze ; Toscana ; I.T. (Ryl. Eng. MS. 1237/9).
⁵ Constantine Henry Phipps, Viscount Normanby (1797-1863), married
Maria Liddell in 1818, succeeded to the earldom of Mulgrave in 1831, and
was created first marquis of Normanby in 1838. He was Lord Dillon's cousin.
Lord Normanby was popular among the English residents of Florence for his
elaborate theatricals. He later left Florence to hold a number of political and
diplomatic posts abroad. In 1854, he returned to Florence as the British min-
ister to the court of Tuscany, a post he resigned in 1858. Feeble and paralytic,
his friend, he lived 2 miles from Landor, whom he wrote and stopped several times to see.
In December 1858, Landor, somehow convinced that Normanby had deliber-
ately snubbed him, attacked his old friend in a note demonstrating that age had
smothered neither his fiery pride nor his Republicanism: "We are both of us
old men, my Lord, and verging on decrepitude and imbecility, else my note might
be more energetic. Do not imagine I am unobservant of distinctions. You, by
the favour of a Minister, are Marquis of Normanby; I by the grace of God am
Walter Savage Landor." Normanby's reply was returned unopened. (Quoted
in Super, pp. 465-6.)
He and Lady Normanby act admirably. Arnold was very much flattered by being invited and the more, as he was the only one of his age who received an invitation, and many persons of some consequence would have given the world to have received one. Julia is less proud, tho the Duchess of Hamilton gave her a thousand kisses and played to her on the piano-forte an hour together. They are both in excellent health—I wish I could say as much for the infant, who has been christened by the name of Charles, after my grandfather. Last night is the only one that Julia has left him a single hour for three months. He continues to suffer extremely by his teeth, four of which are cutting at once. Two medical men have recommended the lancing of the gums, but Julia will not hear of it. He neither sleeps by night nor allows her to sleep. Walter is troubled with chilblains, but is otherwise very well. I have improved my digestion by the use of cayenne pepper, and never was so little bilious these last twelve years. I hope you will continue in good health, & remain, Dear mother, Yr ever affec. W Landor

Dear Ellen,

I am happy to hear that you enjoyed your Welsh tour. The streak of black along the most beautiful coast in the universe has not quite rendered me indifferent to Swansea. How beautiful did I think the seashore, covered with low roses, yellow snapdragons, and thousands of other plants, nineteen years ago! Two years afterwards the detestable tramroad was made along it. Would to God there was no trade upon earth! Besides, before this, thousands of smaller vessels covered the bay, laden with lime, and whatever else is now carried with these iron waggons. The gulph of Salerno I hear is much finer than Naples. Give me Swansea for scenery and climate. I prefer currants to grapes and good apples to bad peaches. If ever it should be my fortune, which I cannot expect and do not much hope, to return to England, I pass the remainder of my days in the neighbourhood of Swansea—between that place and the Mumbles. Nothing but the education and settlement of my children would make me at all desirous of seeing England again—Lord Guilford has given me a very pressing invitation to visit him in the Ionian Islands . . . but I do not think I shall ever move farther than a morning’s walk from the table where I am writing. Julia joins me in love to Elizabeth & yourself. Believe me Yr affectionately.

WSL

2 Charles Savage Landor (5 August 1825-12 February 1917) (Burke’s Landed Gentry (1952), s.v. “Landor of Llanthony Abbey formerly of Ipsley Court”).
3 Walter Savage Landor, his son (13 November 1822-9 March 1899) (ibid.).
4 Cf. “[Abertawny]” (Pub. 1897):

Along the seaboard sands there grows
The tiniest and thorniest rose,
And tawny snapdragons stand round,
Above it, on the level ground. (CW, xv. 360)
Mrs. Landor was not to be so easily discouraged. According to Forster, she continued to treat his disinclination to return as merely the whim of the hour and keep steadfastly before him the necessity of limiting his exile, if only for the sake of his children. However, she did threaten to discontinue sending him news of Warwickshire.¹ Landor’s birthday letter below indicates that although he was still eager for news of his boyhood home, he was now reconciled to remaining abroad:

January 30. [1827]²

Dear Mother,

I write to you on my birthday, as usual—Never do I remember so unpleasant a day as this, tho the weather is milder than we have had for some time past. For two entire months we have only had eight fine days: but it rarely has happened in any year that there has been so much frost and snow. The English for several days have been skaiting [sic] round the water that encloses the city-walls; on which water there is ice several inches in thickness. We heard the other day of the Duke of York’s death.³ I have some friends returning to England, but as they may very probably be detained by the snows upon the Alps, I will not entrust my letter to them. The children and Julia have been better than could have been expected. Only the baby has suffered, and he too is much better. I kept the house nearly a week, and escaped a sore-throat by taking physic in time. Letters I have received from Rome tell me that many of the English there have been unwell, tho at this time of the year the city is not thought unhealthy. I had two different invitations to pass some time there, but felt little inclination to leave home. I am afraid, if you have such a season in England, that neither you nor my sisters can venture out of doors. Those who have been accustomed to Italy suffer much from the heat of coal instead of wood. I had a letter yesterday from Lady Paul,⁴ who tells me that she has had perpetual head-aches in London in consequence of it. Certainly we lose some comforts here but we have many others instead, and I for my part am perfectly reconciled to my destiny, of living the remainder of my days on the continent perhaps altogether in Florence.

I hope to hear all the Warwickshire news you can collect. There must be changes every year. [I x line] I shall have completed in four months in [sic] the

¹ Forster, ii. 133.
³ Frederick Augustus (b. 1763), Duke of York and Albany and second son of George III and Queen Charlotte, died on 5 January 1827.
⁴ Frances Eleanor Paul (d. 1833), first wife of Sir John Dean Paul (1775-1852) had brought her four daughters to spend several years in Italy. According to A. J. C. Hare, Landor adored her and rejoiced to bring his friend Francis Hare into her society (i. 21). She and her daughters returned to England at the end of 1826, followed a few months later by Francis Hare (Super, p. 191).
thirteenth year of my absence from England. Many who were children when I left the country, have now children of their own. Among my oldest acquaintances is Mrs. Cook of Tachebrooke— at Bath very few are remaining—I suppose John Venour’s eldest son is gone to the University. How many children has he? If I go on with these questions, I shall only tire you—so I will finish them. Julia and Arnold desire their love to you & my sisters.

Believe me
Dear Mother
Your ever affect. Son
W S Landor

Early in August of 1827, Ellen wrote to introduce a Mr. Middleton, the portrait painter, and his wife. Landor’s reply indicates that he had once more wrenched himself away from his children, this time to accompany Lord Blessington on a yacht trip aboard the Bolivar to Naples:

Dear Ellen,

Since I wrote to you, a few days ago, I received a very pressing invitation from Lord Blessington to accompany him in his yacht to Naples. As I never have seen Naples, and never could see it to such advantage, as in the company of a most delightful, well-informed man, and as four hundred ayear do not afford all the facilities and agréments of forty thousand, you may be assured I was not very reluctant to accompany him. Arnold has given me leave, tho he wishes me to sit with him. Since however the fever has left him entirely, and there are strange unaccountable shells to be picked up for him on the shores of Naples, of Elba, of Salerno, & twenty other places, he has given me leave of

1 I am unable to identify Mrs. Cook. 2 Manuscript torn. 3 William Briggs Venour (b. 1810), the first son of the Rev. John of Bourton on Dunsmore, Warwick (1768-1839), entered Worcester College, Oxford, in October 1828 (Joseph Foster, ed., Alumni Oxonienses, 1715-1886 (Oxford, 1888); Michell, Rugby School Register, i. 213, 74; R. H. Super’s notes on the genealogy of the Landor and Savage families. Unless otherwise indicated, information on the Venour family is taken from the latter source. 4 Forster, ii. 135. James Godsell Middleton, a London portrait painter, exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts from 1826-72 and at the British Institution from 1828-64. (Information provided by Mr. Philip James, Royal Academy of Arts. Also, see Bénézit, Dict. des Peintres). 5 Lord Blessington’s stories of Byron’s conduct when he purchased the Bolivar from him in May 1823 only increased Landor’s dislike of Byron. For Blessington’s version, see W.S.L. to unknown correspondent, endorsed 23 August 1847. (Manuscript in National Library of Scotland, partially printed in W. Forbes Gray, “An Unpublished Literary Correspondence”, Cornhill Magazine, n.s. 61 (July 1926), 89-90.) For Byron’s version, see Lovell, p. 63. 6 No date. For pages 9 3/4 x 7 3/4 inches. Address : Inghilterra/ Miss Ellen Landor/ Warwick. Postmark : 16 August 1827. Stamps : Firenze ; Toscana ; I.T. (Ryl. Eng. MS. 1237/10).
absence for twenty-five days. Pray inform Mr Middleton that I return on the
27 of this month to Leghorn; if the winds allow it, and am on the 29 at Villa del
marchese Castiglione, called Poggio alle mele, two miles from Florence, out of the
Porta San Niccolò. I shall be very happy to shew him the curiosities of Florence,
and Julia is always at home in the evening.—I am always at the Blessingtons from
eight til eleven... I mean when I am in Florence. At present I do not go over
to them more than once or twice a week, the distance being three good miles.
Remember me to all at home & believe me

Dear Ellen

Yrs ever WL

As Mr Middleton may not know what scoundrels the greater part of the Florence
innkeepers are, not to say thieves and assassins, I would recommend to him
either Buonaccorsi—alle quattro Nazimi—Lungo Arno—or Madame Lambert,
also Lungo Arno—or the Scudo di Francia, Piazza San Firenze, near me,
I hope my nephew Charles continues to gain strength.

Because his family was quite ill that autumn, Landor saw
little of the Middletons. The details of their illness he sent
in his letter to Elizabeth of 1 October. When he received no
word at Naples about Arnold, Landor was almost mad with
worry over whether his illness had returned. “I hesitated
between drowning myself and going back”, he wrote.¹ Lord
Blessington had set sail for Leghorn, where he transmitted to
Landor a note, enclosed in a letter to him, informing Landor that
Julia had been so ill she had been in danger of her life, but was
now better. The doctor had visited her twice a day for forty-
three days. According to Forster, Lady Blessington had pre-
vented the spread of the fever to the other children by taking
them to her home in Florence.² After returning home, Landor
brought his wife to Florence. The youngest child Charles,
who caught the fever from her, was despaired of for three days
but had recovered and was now as strong as ever. “These
afflictions”, he told Elizabeth, “have turned the rest of my
hair white, after taking off what was refractory and would not
return. However, it has left me strength and spirits better
than ever.”³ Now that his family was well again, he was very
busy at the public library.⁴

Elizabeth replied that Walter’s was “not the only white head
in the family. Charles’s hair altered completely in about six

¹ W. N. Landor’s transcript. ² Forster, ii. 136-7.
³ W.S.L. to E.L., 1 October 1827, W. N. Landor’s transcript. ⁴ Ibid.
months, so that when he came here last winter my mother admired it, and wondered to see it become just the same as when he was a boy: a beautiful flaxen head, she called it: almost every hair is white, and as frizzy and abundant as ever."¹ His nephew Charles,² not yet 15, was as tall as his father. Their old friend Dr. Lambe³ had not altered in the least and their mother, who seemed smaller than ever, was very nimble and "altogether wonderful, as her writing perfectly without glasses at eighty-four proves".⁴

By the end of the summer, the Landors had settled in Florence, presumably at the Casa Medici. However, by the end of winter, they moved to the Casa Cremani at the Croce al Trebbio, perhaps as a result of a disagreement with their landlord, the Marchese de' Medici-Tornaquinci.⁵ On 18 November, Landor wrote Ellen that because Julia's recovery was slow and because of their changes in residence, he had been unable to spend much time with the Middletons. Landor would have dissuaded Middleton from purchasing a picture for sixty pounds which was worth nothing. Nevertheless, Middleton had purchased another for the same price worth the money or more. "A man must live in Italy, and many years, and visit pictures daily to know them well. I am but a child at them, tho they think me knowing."⁶ In the same letter, he sent a description of the sights he had seen on his trip to Naples. He was now inclined to think the people of southern Italy better than the Tuscans and was particularly impressed with Count de Camaldoli, with whom he had conversed most evenings during the last six weeks.⁷

He also expressed his exasperation at the delay in printing his Conversations. Despite the fact that the third volume had been

¹ Forster, ii. 134.  
² Charles Willson Landor (1812-77), then in his first year at Rugby (Burke's Landed Gentry (1952), s.v. "Landor of Llanthony Abbey formerly of Ipsley Court"; Michell, Rugby School Register, i. 228.  
³ Dr. William Lambe (1765-1847) succeeded to Dr. Landor's practice in Warwick in 1790. He moved to London around 1800, where he continued his practice. ⁴ Forster, ii. 134.  
⁵ Super, p. 197.  
⁶ W. N. Landor's transcript.  
⁷ In 1827-8, Francesco Ricciardi, Count of Camaldoli (1758-1842), made a trip throughout Italy, during which he met many literary men. Landor first met him at the Blessingtons in Florence ("Ricciardi, Francesco", Enciclopedia Italiana; Super, p. 192).
printed ten or eleven months, Colburn had delayed publication. However, by early January 1828, he was sure that the fifth volume would be published in March:

Dear Mother,

It is a long while since I have written to you, and a still longer since I have heard from any of the family. I have delayed writing from day to day, and now there are so many people in Florence who bring me letters of introduction, that I have hardly an hour to myself. To mend the matter, I have a return of my old complaint, the rheumatism, not however so violently as formerly. Julia and the children are all perfectly well. Arnold grows every day much stronger, and the youngest, tho born at seven months, promises to be as strong as any of the rest. I understand that the fifth and last volume of my Conversations will be printed and published towards the end of March. I have mentioned my kind old friend Doctor Parr, with the regard and gratitude I owe him, and express at the same time my regret at another loss, in a man no less friendly nor less learned, poor Lord Guilford; to whom, altho now dead, I inscribe the concluding portion of the work.

Julia desires her best love to you and my sisters—

Believe me,
Dear Mother
Your affectionate Son
W Savage Landor.

Evidently the family expressed some concern about the subject matter of the Conversations, because in Landor’s letter to Ellen below, which he enclosed with that to his mother dated 4 February, he assured her that Southey and Hare had found it necessary to erase only two paragraphs. His statement is puzzling in the light of the fact that Southey was no longer arbitrating disputes between Landor’s publishers and his agent Julius Hare. Further, Southey and Hare had erased far more in the first edition alone.  


2 Volumes four and five, published by James Duncan, were advertised in The Athenaeum for 20 May. Although volume six was never published, its contents were included in the 1846 Works (Super, The Pub. of Landor’s Works, pp. 44-45).

February 4. [1828]

Dear Mother

I received your very kind letter by the last post, and am very much obliged to you for the thirty pounds you send me. The children, Julia, and myself, have been better than usual at this season of the year; but Walter I begin to apprehend has caught the mumps at school; he was rather unwell yesterday, and is confined to his bed today, not without a good deal of fever. I do not imagine you would thank me for tiring your eyes with a long letter, so that I will give up the remainder of the sheet to Ellen and Elizabeth, and remain, dear Mother, with Julia's and the children's love,

Your ever affec[6] Son

W S Landor

Dear Ellen,

I am too good an economist, at least of paper, to write three letters where one will do. Therefore [sic] you and Elizabeth will divide these two opposite pages. I remember our good friend D[5] Lamb, thirty years ago, saying that John Tomes[2] had indeed got over an alarming illness, but could not live seven more. Again let me advise you, or any of the family who may like pictures as well, not to omit the purchase of his picture. Be assured, Salvator Rosa never painted any thing so fine. This painter has much merit, but very much below his celebrity. Claude, Titian, Schiavone, the two Poussins, Swaneveldt, Bergham, Ruysdael, and Rubens, are superior to him—I mean in Landscape. You amuse me by wishing the very thing that has been done. Southey and. Hare have full power, to erase whatever they think proper to erase from my Imaginary Conversations. At present, as far as I know, they have exerted their authority over only two paragraphs, which they thought actionable. As for the rest, they would, as they will tell you, as soon think of cancelling a scene of Shakespear. Doctor Wade[4] and Doctor Innes[5] would be braver.


2 John Tomes (c. 1761-1844), was a friend of Dr. Parr. He served as M.P. for Warwick borough from 1826-32 and also as coroner (Gerrit P. Judd., iv. Members of Parliament, 1734-1832, Yale Historical Publications, ed. Lewis P. Curtis (New Haven, 1955), 356; Gentleman's Magazine, cxiv (July, 1844), 94).

3 On 29 May [1823], Landor wrote his publisher John Taylor that he was satisfied with the arrangement by which Taylor would agree to publish the Imaginary Conversations, subject to such omissions as Southey might think proper (quoted in Prasher, p. 438).

4 Arthur Savage Wade, D.D. (1789-1845) was Landor's cousin and the son of Landor's maternal aunt, Susanna Savage Wade. He served as the vicar of St. Nicholas, Warwick, from 1811-45. Active in radical politics, he was the author of Letter to the Rt. Hon. George Canning (John Venn and J. A. Venn, eds., Alumni Cantabrigienses, Pt. II, 1752-1900 (Cambridge, 1940-54)). Landor included a poem on his fiery cousin in Heroic Idyls (1863), CW, xv. 423.

5 Probably George Innes (1760-1842), assistant master of Rugby, 1783-92; master of King's School, Warwick, 1792; and rector of Hilperton, Wiltshire, from 1798 until his death (Foster, Alum. Oxon.).
I am very much grieved to hear that my nephew Charles remains still [sic] in so precarious a state of health. I wrote long ago to thank Charles for a clever dialogue he sent me, between the old king and another. I have lately had a curious anecdote of the old rogue. Ld Cambden [sic] and Count Munster were deputed to make inquiries into the state of his property, and they found that he had mortgages on the property of almost every prince in Germany, at the time when Pitt brought in a bill to exonerate the civil list. He never forgave Ld Cambden for knowing it. & he said so. While there is a king or priest on earth—as poor old Lyttelton said ... but what poor old Lyttelton said I shall reserve for my next discourse ... and now, to God the father ... &c &c

I remain, with Julia’s love,

Dear Ellen & Elizabeth

Your ever affectionate brother

W L

On 25 April, Landor wrote his mother and sister Elizabeth, sending his letter with Augustus Hare, who was leaving that day for England. He told his mother that Mr. Middleton had half finished a most beautiful drawing of Arnold and Julia and alerted Elizabeth for a possible visit from his friend Mrs. Dashwood and Mrs. Young, Mrs. Ablett’s sister, who were to visit Leamington. From Mr. and Mrs. Ablett, the Landor’s had “received a thousand acts of kindness. Ablett is the kindest and most generous man in existence, and particularly attached to me”.

He wrote Elizabeth that the children were all well but that Julia had begun to complain a little within the last two days. He also expressed concern about Ellen’s health, worrying that she hazarded too much in her weak state of health and hoping that she had returned to Warwick without injuring it. Evidently

1 I find no evidence that Charles Pratt, first Earl Camden (1714-94) and the Earl of Munster, later William IV (1765-1837), made such inquiries. Professor Earl Reitan, Department of History, Illinois State University, indicates that there were frequent rumors that George III was storing up money for his personal use while asking the nation to pay his personal debts. However, in his study of the Civil List, Professor Reitan finds no evidence either to support or refute the charge. He suggests that the incident may have occurred in 1804, when Pitt, just returned to office, brought in a bill to increase the Civil List and pay off Civil List debts. The bill became law as 44 Geo.III.c. 80; the report on which it was based can be found in The Journals of the House of Commons, XX lix, App. No. 30 (29 March 1804), 624-76.

2 Landor probably refers to his former Warwick neighbor Philippps Lyttelton (1729-1809) of Studley Castle (John Burke, Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland (1836-38), s.v. “Holyoake, of Tettenhall and Studley Castle”, ii. 597).

3 W. N. Landor’s transcript.
Ellen had been in Bath nursing Miss Sarah Greville (b. 1796), who died in early May 1828 at the age of thirty-two and who was buried in the same grave at St. James Church as Landor's half-sister, Maria Arden.¹ He received the news of her death from Ellen.² She closed her letter with the news that his old

¹ See W.S.L. to Elizabeth Landor, 12 July [1828], W. N. Landor's transcript. Maria Arden died on 27 November at the age of 43. The little information available about Miss Greville comes from cryptic references in the letters of Robert and Henry Landor. Robert acknowledged the news of her death in his letter to Henry dated 9 May [1828]: “Miss Greville I never saw, but if she be what she is universally allowed to be, she must go to heaven, and therefore her friends should lament her the less” (W. N. Landor's transcript). Subsequently, in a letter dated only “Tuesday [1828]”, Robert enclosed an epitaph for his sister and Miss Greville for Henry's consideration, commenting: “I have touched as cautiously as I was able upon the connection between our Sister and Miss Greville... The allusion which concludes Mrs Arden's part is, I think, the more justifiable, because it relates to the highest and most marked part of her character. None besides those who are acquainted with her history will be able to apply it and I do not know what claim H. Arden had upon us for greater delicacy than this...” (W. N. Landor's transcript; the ellipses are his.) Humphrey Arden (1758-1809) married Maria Landor in 1788 (R. H. Super's notes on Landor genealogy; R. E. H. Duke, “A Pedigree of the Paternal Ancestry of Walter Savage Landor,” Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica, 4th Sen, v (June 1912), 51).

² Forster, ii. 140-1. Forster errs by twenty years when he indicates that Landor's sister died in 1828. Perhaps one of the two legacies Forster indicates that Landor received that year came to him from his sister after Miss Greville's death.
friend Mr. Rough had lately reappeared in the county, inquiring kindly about Landor and commenting that the Conversations should have produced him a good fortune. In his reply, Landor took pains to disillusion his family about his growing wealthy from the sale of his Conversations. However, it is clear that the thinness of his pocketbook had not diminished his enthusiasm for buying paintings:

Florence June 19 [1828]

Dear Ellen,

I received your letter by yesterday's post, and was shocked to hear of poor Miss Greville's death, certain as it appeared to me by your last. No man upon earth is more estimable than Doctor Carrick, and my opinion of him has never varied. As for that impostor Rough, I never hear the fellow mentioned without some fresh contempt. My friend Sir Charles Wentworth was at school with him, and related to me many anecdotes of his shabbiness and cowardice. However, if he had continued to cultivate poetry, instead of those thistles called law, he would have been perhaps the best poet of the age. If you have not read Keats and Shelley, read them. Gibson came to me the very day Colonel Acklom brought me Robert's poem and I give him two sittings, one in the

1 Between approximately 1796-1801, Landor had been friends with William Rough (1773-1838), a lawyer and minor poet who enthusiastically admired Gebir. Rough was a close friend of Henry Landor and had gone to Westminster with Southey. After Rough unintentionally offended Walter before guests, Landor broke off the friendship (Forster, i. 142-8; G. F. Russell Barker and Alan H. Stenning, eds., The Record of Old Westminsters (London, 1928)).

2 Forster, ii. 140-1.


4 Born and educated in Scotland, Dr. Andrew Carrick (1767-1837) served as physician to the Bristol Infirmary from 1810-34. The Carricks had long been friends of the Landor family and it was at their Clifton home that Landor's sisters recuperated in 1806 from illness resulting from their care of their father in his final sickness. They were also friends of Southey (Forster, i. 208). A wealthy man, Dr. Carrick owned a large estate in Nettleton, Wiltshire. (Information provided by Mr. W. S. Haugh, Librarian, Bristol Public Libraries. See also G. Munro Smith, A History of the Bristol Royal Infirmary (Bristol and London, 1917)).

5 Sir Charles Mary Wentworth, attorney (1775-1844) (Barker and Stenning, The Record of Old Westminsters).

6 John Gibson (1790-1866), Welsh sculptor. Gibson's bust of Landor is now in the National Portrait Gallery. For details of Ablett's patronage of Gibson, see Tydeman, pp. 149-55.

7 Probably Robert Evatt Acklom, who was made a Lieutenant Colonel on 1 January 1812 and who served in the First or King's Regiment of Dragoon Guards.
morning one in the evening—There have been three days, and there will be four more, before he takes the cast in plaster of Paris. I am told that Chantry is equal to him in busts, but very inferior in genius. The one is English upon principle, the other Attic. On Sunday I read Robert's Preface, which is well written. I shall not begin the poetry till I can give it an undivided attention, which will be when I get into the country and lie under the vines all day. I hope to begin this mode of life on the first of July. I am very much obliged to Henry for his kind offer of letting me have the legacy now. I do not want any money for myself, but shall be very happy to pay off one hundred pounds. The mine of wealth derived from my Conversations brought me three hundred and seventy-two pounds, the two Editions. One hundred L seventy-two the first—200 the second. Mr. Burrow, Julia's uncle, lent me 400£ before I left England, with which I paid my silversmith's bill—I have returned him only 100£ and this from the last Edition—68£ more went in payment of what was given to Julia, but which I insisted should not be given. I laid out nearly 100 in pictures, part of which I sold again for 180, and the better part is left yet. If I had had 3000£ eight years ago, I could have cleared 12,000 in the two first years. The dealers here know only the Florentine school, and one of them, the best and most honest, often asks my opinion even on this. I have put a few hundred pounds in his


1 Sir Frances Legatt Chantrey (1781-1842), English sculptor and painter.
2 Rev. Thomas Burrow (1756-1837), who served as vicar of Bampton, Oxfordshire, from 1799 to his death. He was the son of James Burrow, of Exeter (Rev. J. A. Giles, History of the Parish and Town of Bampton, 2nd ed. rev. (Bampton, 1848; privately printed), p. 162, and information supplied by Miss J. M. Eletenton, Local History Librarian, Oxfordshire County Library. See also Foster, Alum. Oxon.).
3 The unpublished correspondence of Walter Landor of Rugeley, Landor's lawyer, with Messrs. I. and P. Jones, Abergavenny Bankers, indicates that Landor's creditors were pressing for payment. In his letter to the bankers dated 24 September 1827, Walter Landor stated that Mrs. Landor was then sacrificing about £700 for her son's support and that the property was relieved from £3,000 of debt by means of a proposal made to accept £5,000 for the £8,000 owed. Nevertheless, even at her death, Landor's debts could not be paid immediately since the increased income that would result would be the only means by which he could gradually liquidate his debts.

He made a similar point in his letter of 7 April [1828], emphasizing that his cousin's debts imposed such an overwhelming burden upon the estate that it would be holding out false hopes to the creditors to suppose that any of them could look for payment from Llanthony. (Manuscripts in the Carl H. Pforzheimer Library (Misc. 167, La32 and Misc. 166, La31); cited by permission). Also in this collection are the account sheets from Messrs. Jones for June 1813-20 June 1824; June 1813-July 1830; July 1830-20 June 1836 (Misc. 172, La37).
Our friend Mr. Middleton could not be prevailed upon to buy a Raffael for 500£. It is worth 2000, and will bring it ere long. He buys Carlo Dolci and gentry of that kidney—but he has also bought a Pietro Perugino who in my opinion comes immediately after Raffael & Frate Bartolommeo. I could have had it, if I had had the money, for 15 pounds. It is worth about 300. He gave seventy, I think. His picture of Julia is perfect. Arnold is much handsomer than he has made him. His face has the radiance of a young Apollo.¹

Do me the kindness to write to Henry, and thank him for me, and tell him I shall be glad if he will send an order for the hundred pounds,—three months after date will do. Give my love to my mother and Elizabeth, & believe me Dear Ellen

Yrs ever W S L

Landor's next letter to Elizabeth, dated 12 July, indicates that he was so concerned about his children's ill health that he seriously thought of leaving Florence. However, regardless of the Florentine climate, his children were now of an age to catch one childhood disease after another and young Walter's mumps of the preceding February were but the first of these. Lest his sister nourish the hope that he might one day leave Europe to reside in Ipsley, he stated once more his dislike of the residence so loved by his mother:

Florence July 12 [1828]²

Dear Elizabeth,

I do not remember whether or not I am a letter in your debt, but suspect I may be. In a little while you will see Colonel Ackelom, who carries one for my mother. I saw but little of him: he appears a strange foolish creature. His daughter is a very amiable girl. But of all the delightful and sensible girls I have seen for many years, and indeed almost at any time, Miss Middleton is the most so. Her father has made a very beautiful picture of Arnold and Julia. He has not made Arnold so handsome as he is, or rather as he was—for in Summer he dwindles to a shadow. At present he and all the rest have caught the hooping [sic] cough thro which neither they nor I have any rest, day or night. They are so altered in one fortnight that nobody would know them. It is not unlikely that in another year I may remove to the borders of the Rhine, on account of the general badness of the climate in Italy. I should very much regret to leave Florence, where I have several friends, excellent and well-informed men—English you may suppose; for none such are to be found among the natives.

¹ Augustus Hare carried the portrait of the children to Mrs. Landor. According to Forster, "she thought it priceless; and until within a day or two of her death, morning and evening, used to salute the two little faces, and wish them good morning and good night" (ii. 142).

The greatest loss, after this, would be the public library, and then the picture-gallery. But the children cannot resist the heat, and I am in danger every Summer of losing one or other of them. We have had no rain for two months, and there is no appearance of any.

I hope Ellen has not suffered in her health by her close and long attendance on Miss Greville.—My bust is finished or rather the mould for it. Never was any thing in the world so perfectly like. Gibson is the sculptor; and I doubt whether any modern one excells him.

I shall be happy to hear that my mother is in the full enjoyment of [her?]¹ health at Ipsley—in my opinion the most melancholy place upon earth.

I remain
Dear Elizabeth
Yr affect Broth
er
WSL

A little over a month later, Landor sent his mother news of his invitation to stay with Lady Blessington in Paris, using the opportunity to character defend her vigorously:

Florence August
19. [1828]²

Dear Mother,

I was very happy to hear yesterday from you and Ellen, who tells me that Ipsley has quite brought you about again. It appears that England has been almost overflowed with rain, while we in Italy have not had a single shower for about four months. The children and myself have all had the whooping-cough, and have it still, altho much more lightly. It has lasted me about seven weeks. Nothing is absurder than that certain disorders can come only once. In the same country they may never return, but a new climate makes a new creature. Besides the whooping-cough, we have all been covered with the nettle rash—which I am sorry for, as I believe it to be an incurable disease, and likely to return every year. It has ruined the skin of my hands. In this country a warm bath is requisite from the beginning of April to the middle of October. Without it there is no health or comfort. I have received an invitation from Lord Blessington to stay with him at Paris or rather with his family, and remain until he returns from England.³ This would delight me, if I could leave the children. Lady Blessington is, without any exception, the most elegant and best-informed woman I ever conversed with; but, as she is accused of some incorrectnesses in early life, the ladies (at least the English ladies) do not visit her. In France she

¹ Manuscript torn.
³ The Blessingtons had arrived in Paris by June 1828. In a letter dated 14 July 1828, Lord Blessington wrote that “Lady B. . . wishes much that some whim, caprice, or other impelling power, should transport you across the Alps, and give her the pleasure of seeing you.” He also informed Landor that he was leaving Paris for England the next day. (Quoted in Madden, iii. 447, 449).
enjoys the first society, and admits only the first.\footnote{Cf. Landor’s account of her alliance with Blessington and his defense of her character in his letter to *The Athenæum*, 17 February 1855, which concludes: “Virtuous ladies! instead of censuring her faults, attempt to imitate her virtues. Believe that, if any excess may be run into, the excess of tenderness is quite as pardonable as that of malignity and rancour” (p. 201).} Never was there a woman more generous or more high-minded. What can such creatures as Jim West\footnote{James West (1775-1838) married Anne, daughter of the late Joseph Roberts, in 1808, whereupon he assumed the additional name of Roberts. West was not only a former student of Dr. Parr but also a close friend. (Burke, *Landed Gentry* (1852), s.v. “West of Alscot Park”; Warren Derry, *Dr. Parr, A Portrait of the Whig Dr. Johnson* (Oxford, 1966), pp. 62, n. 313).} and his wife do out of England? Holland is the only country they ought to visit. What lady did young Holyoake\footnote{Sir Francis Lyttelton Goodricke-Holyoake (b. 1797) married Elizabeth Martha Payne on 2 August 1827. He was the son of Landor’s friend Dorothy Lyttelton Holyoake of Studley Castle, Warwickshire. In 1833, he inherited the estates of Sir Harry Goodricke and assumed his surname (Burke, *Peerage* (1840), s.v. “Goodricke”).} marry? I am writing [nearly] as much to Ellen as to you[\!] I hope she will tell Elizabeth that there is no necessity to call on M’\footnote{Manuscripts torn.} Dashwood—not the least—but, if she comes, to receive her courteously, as a most accomplished woman, and the particular friend of many friends of mine—my particular friend too, and Hare’s cousin.

I remain

Dear Mother

Your ever affect. Son

W. S. Landor

By winter, the Landor family seemed to be recovering from all their various illnesses and Landor’s letter of 8 December to his family was full of news about English—and especially Warwick—visitors to Florence. He also enthusiastically called his sister’s attention to Southey’s tribute to him in his *Vindicææ ecclesiææ anglicanæ*:

Dear Ellen and Elizabeth,

I am too economical to write you a letter each, not having the skill of our divines, in dividing and subdividing the heads, necks, bodies and extremities,

\footnote{Four pages, 9\(\frac{1}{2}\) \times 7\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches. Addressed: Inghilterra/ M’\footnote{Manuscripts torn.} Landor/ Warwick. Postmark: 20 December 1828. Stamps: Firenze; Toscana; I.T. (Ryl. Eng. MS. 1237/13).}
of my discourses. Altho I am sitting before the fire, I can hardly hold my pen, from the excess of cold. We have had ice in the streets for several days. What has happened in England I cannot tell; but I had a letter from Paris, dated the fourteenth of November, in which Count D’Orsay tells me that there was six inches deep. Such a season never was known. Yet the children seem to be recovering from the effects of the whooping cough, which has not quite left me, and probably never will, being the first serious mark of old age. It is however curious that this species of cough should attack one a second time, and at so advanced a period of life. Julietta has had the small-pox, tho she was vaccinated at Pisa, and the pustules were remarkably fine. The others would not catch it. I was exceedingly grieved to hear so alarming an account of poor Mrs Bevan’s health. Whenever you write to her, pray remember me to her, with my best wishes for her speedy recovery, if indeed that is to be hoped at all.

I hear from Rome that the cast for my bust is very much admired. Mr Ablett has given me leave to have one taken for my mother and another for my wife, and they will be sent to us in the end of winter or the beginning of spring. This morning I met Sir Robert Lawley, who walked with me for about half an hour, and made many inquiries about the family. He had taken it ill that I had declined two or three of his invitations to dinner-parties—but I told him I never intended to be at one anywhere all the remainder of my life. My friend Hare has married Miss Paul, the daughter of Sir John Paul, and has twenty thousand pounds with her. His brother Augustus writes me word that he follows the good example in the summer, and that Lady Jones gives him 400 a-year. She is his aunt and the widow of Sir William. Have you read Southey’s Vindiciae Ecclesiae Anglicanae? He has sent it me: it contains the highest eulogy on me I ever received or ever shall.

I remain Your ever affectionate brother

W S L.

1 Mrs. William Bevan, wife of the attorney of Bristol and Clifton. (Information provided by W. S. Haugh, Librarian, Bristol Public Libraries.)

2 Lawley (d. 1833), the son of Dr. Landor’s old Whig friend, Sir Robert Lawley (d. 1793), became Baron Wenlock in 1831 (Burke, Peerage (1840), s.v. “Lawley”).

3 Francis Hare married Anne Paul (b. 1801) on 28 April 1828 in London. According to their eldest son, A. J. C. Hare, the marriage was greatly desired by Mrs. Dashwood and Landor (i. 26, 32-33).

4 Augustus Hare married Maria Leycester on 2 June 1829 (ibid. i. 43).

5 At the age of five Augustus Hare had been adopted by his maternal aunt, Anna Maria, Lady Jones, widow of the Orientalist Sir William (1746-94).

6 In this work, published in 1826, Southey wrote of Landor: “… It cannot be necessary for me to say that there are points of importance in which my opinions differ widely from those which are expressed in these Dialogues. But I should be ashamed of myself were that consideration to withhold me from expressing my admiration of a book [The Imaginary Conversations] which, for felicity and force both of conception and language, has rarely been equalled and never surpassed.” (Quoted in Super, p. 172).
Dear Mother,

Having written for half an hour to Ellen and Elizabeth, I cannot well reconcile it to my conscience not to add a few lines to you. The last accounts of you were very favorable, and I hope you will guard against the severity of the winter. On the second of this month I walked thro a beanfield, all in flower, and saw yellow and white butterflies upon them. On the third people were collecting ice for the ice-houses. The changeableness of an English climate is nothing in comparison with this when there is sometimes the difference of sixteen degrees between the front of the house and the back. Florence is full of English, among the rest are Lord and Lady Warwick.1 His Lordship is grown very like his father: I hope he is less of a rogue, but his countenance does not promise it. The young Lord Monson2 looks very amiable—My children all desire their love and I remain, Dear Mother,

Your ever affectionate Son

W S Landor

Although between 8 December 1828 and 8 July 1829, there are no extant holograph letters from Landor to his family, Forster cites three from Mrs. Landor to her son. Replying on 7 January to his December letter, she informed him that she had purchased Robert a living near Pershore "in a pleasant country, and not far from Ipsley".3 She also thanked him for the portrait of his two beautiful children. In the same letter, she expressed her pleasure both in Southey's comments on her son in one of his books and in Bishop Heber's quotation of Landor's poetry in his journal,4 which her daughters had been reading to her. She expressed similar pride in her letter of 19


2 Frederick John Monson, Baron Monson (1809-41) of Burton, Lincolnshire (Burke, Peerage (1855), s.v. "Monson").

3 Forster, ii. 213. In the spring of 1829, Robert moved to St. James Church, Birtlington, Worchestershire, where he remained until his death (Eric Partridge, Robert Eyres Landor, A Biographical and Critical Sketch (London, 1927), p. 12).

4 The Rev. Reginald Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, quotes Gebir, v. 5, 7 in his description of the ruins of Gour (entry dated 5 August). Bishop Heber (1783-1826) was the husband of Amelia, daughter of Dr. Shipley (Narrative of a Journey through the Upper Provinces of India, from Calcutta to Bombay, 1824-1825, ed. Amelia Heber, 2nd ed. (London, 1828), i. 253).
March, in which she told him of the handsome things Lord Aston\(^1\) has said of the author of the *Imaginary Conversations*. She sent him news of the activities at Warwick Castle and Guy's Cliff, and told him how much Sir Robert Lawley had lamented "Walter's unwillingness" to see more of him in Florence.\(^2\)

In May she wrote that her grandson Charles was in the fifth class at Rugby and that the new master (Thomas Arnold) had had a wonderful influence. Not only did the boys work very hard to gain his approval, but flogging and fagging were nearly abolished altogether. "I hope the boys won't study more than is good for the health of them, and I did not like to hear that the playground is deserted."\(^3\) Forster indicates that this letter was her last to her son at Florence. That spring she became ill and never quite recovered.

The gap in Landor's extant correspondence with his family may be explained by the fact that during the spring he became involved in a new quarrel with the Florentine officials, which resulted in his temporary banishment from Tuscany. The incident began with Landor's report to the police that a servant to whom he had given notice had taken with him the key to his outer door and used it to enter and steal some silver plate. Unfortunately, when Landor reported the matter to the police, he also accused them of protecting thieves when they committed theft against foreigners. During the exchange with the police officer which followed, Landor not only called attention to the rebuke he received from the Buon Governo but also threatened to drag the President by the throat before the Grand Duke if he did him another act of injustice or used such threats in the future.\(^4\) Summoned before the police commissary the next morning, he was ordered in the name of the President to be out of Tuscany in three days, to which order he replied disdainfully, "Tell the President I shall neither be out of Tuscany nor out of Florence in three days; and let him use force if he dares; I will repel it."\(^5\)

However, Landor did petition the Grand Duke directly to void the expulsion in a letter dated 15 April. Informed that the current President was not the same man who threatened him with expulsion the year before, Landor apologized on 18 April. Nevertheless, he deliberately delayed his departure for thirteen days after the order (c. 28 April), when he left for the Baths of Lucca. It is evident that his friends in Florence were more concerned about his safety than he was because Lord Normanby, a Mr. St. John, and Sir Robert Lawley appealed to Don Neri Corsini, the Secretary of State for alleviation. The British Minister, Lord Burghersh also interceded on his behalf. Even Corsini himself recommended leniency. Finally, Landor was informally permitted to return on 7 June, which he did, roaring with laughter over the affair. The procedures involved in the recall, however, dragged on twelve days more. After Julia submitted a formal petition to the Grand Duke, Prince Corsini issued on 19 June the recall order, which was subject to Landor's future good conduct.

Not a hint of this appears in Landor's letter to his mother of 8 July—undoubtedly because he did not wish to worry her or his sisters. He did, however, transmit the news of the death of Lord Blessington, which had been sent to him on 29 May:

Florence July 8 [1829]

Dear Mother,

Some time ago I had the pleasure of hearing from Elizabeth, and only waited for another letter to know whether you remain at Warwick or return to Ipsley for the summer. We have had the pleasantest weather I ever remember. Tell

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1 Quoted in *High and Low Life in Italy* (1837-8), *CW*, xi. 87-89.
2 Super, p. 205; Charles Wentworth Dilke to unknown correspondent, April 1829, in *The Papers of a Critic* (London, 1875), i. 19-20.
3 Don Neri Corsini (1771-1845), Florentine diplomat and minister (Super, p. 205; Charles A. Brown to Leigh and Marianne Hunt, 9 August 1829, in Stillinger, pp. 279-80).
4 Super, p. 206.
5 Madden, ii. 355, n. On 23 May 1829, Blessington was stricken by apoplexy while horseback riding after lunch; he died two days later at the age of 46 (Gentleman's Magazine, xcix (July 1829), 80).
Elizabeth or Ellen to save me some gooseberry, raspberry, currant and strawberry seeds, and to gum them on the inside of the letter. I am particularly desirous of the black currant. None of the others are yet come up, tho constantly watered, and in excellent soil. I have had the misfortune to lose my excellent friend Lord Blessington, who died at Paris of apoplexy.

The children are all well, but Walter has not yet quite recovered his strength.
I remain Dear Mother, 
Your ever affectionate Son 
W S Landor

Despite Landor's care, news of his difficulties must have reached his family because his letter of 28 July to Ellen alludes to the matter. Unfortunately, the brevity of his description of the incident must have raised more questions than it answered. Obviously loth to give a detailed account of the incident, he chose rather to devote the bulk of his letter to matters pertaining to Lord Blessington's death:

Florence July 23 [1829]

Dear Ellen,

I received your letter and a few lines from my mother this morning. The scoundrels here who protected the robbers of my plate, wanted me to make an apology for the language I had used toward them. Instead of which, I wrote instantly to the Granduke, who gave direct and positive orders for my recall, which these fellows kept back for several days, and I returned (to their great annoyance) before I received it. The original grudge was the note on Corsini selling his wife's clothes [sic] before she had been dead a fortnight, and the character I had given Florentine patriots and Florentine justice.

The death of poor dear Lord Blessington affected me very severely. He was fond of Arnold, whom he called the most gentlemanly boy, and would have

Ablett had purchased the Villa Gherardesca for Landor in early spring 1829. Landor immediately devoted his energies to planting and improving the property. Charles wrote Leigh Hunt on 1 June 1830 that work on the villa was going on "at the rate of fifty things at once; oh! such planting and transplanting, such watering, such nursing of flowers, and such choice grafts!" (Stillinginer, p. 319)


Southey and John Taylor, Landor's publisher, wished to delete these criticisms from the first edition of the Imaginary Conversations. Landor made the charge against Corsini, who was known for his parsimony, in "Peter Leopold and the President DuPaty" (1824), i. 219 n. For Landor's comments on Italian justice, see "Peter Leopold" (1824), i. 215-17; for those on an Italian patriot's insolence to an intellectual English gentleman, see "Cavaliere Puntomichino and Mr. Denis Eusebius Talcranagh," deleted in 1824, ii. 140, but restored in 1826, ii. 292-4. See also Prasher, pp. 442, 445.
introduced him into public life to the greatest advantage. He was the most
intimate and confidential friend of the Dukes of Suffolk and Clarence. 1 Never
was there upon earth so true a patriot—for when his agent and engineer proved
to him that, by the suppression of public works, streets, squares, &c. in Dublin,
by the Union, he would lose forty thousand pounds a year, he replied that he was
bound in honor to consider it as a public measure not as a private one, and should
vote for it. When he was Viscount Mountjoy he was very much noticed by the
present king, who, in bringing his charges against the queen, said I hope I shall
find in Blessington as warm a friend as I found in Mountjoy. He replied that,
he was afraid the prosecution would make the Regent unpopular, and that he
never could be the advocate of a measure that might lead to recrimination. 2
We thought differently on many points, particularly on the political abilities and
integrity of Canning. 3 Yet you will find by the letter of Lady B, which I shall
transcribe for her honour, that an opposition in sentiment did not alter or diminish
our mutual esteem.

My dear Mr Landor, Tho in a state of mind that renders me little capable
of writing, I cannot allow your kind letter 4 to remain unacknowledged. You,
who know that dear noble generous Being, who has been so cruelly and so sud-
denly borne from me, you who have so often witnessed his goodness and gentle-
ness, and the thousand proofs of attachment that he was always lavishing on me,
can easily imagine that my heart is too bruised ever to recover from this blow.
Had I been prepared for such a calamity by any previous illness, that, during

1 William IV. was created Duke of Clarence in 1789. Landor may allude
to Thomas Howard, sixteenth Earl of Suffolk (1776-1851) (Burke, Peerage (1855),
s.v. "Suffolk"). I find no evidence to substantiate these relationships.
2 Cf. Landor's note to "Lord Mountjoy and Lord Edward Fitzgerald",
forwarded to Julius Hare in a letter dated 28 January [1829]: "Lord Mountjoy,
killed in the beginning of the insurrection, left an only son, the Earl of Blessington,
who voted for the Union, in the hope that it would be beneficial to Ireland, tho
the very project had suspended the erection of several streets and squares on his
estate in Dublin, and it was proved to him that he must lose by it two-thirds
of his rent-roll. He voted likewise in defence of the Queen, seeing the insuffici-
ency of the evidence against her, and the villainy of the primary law-officers
of the Crown, altho he esteemed her little, and was personally attached to the
King. For these votes, and for all he ever gave, he deserves a place by the side of
his father in the memory of both nations." (Manuscript in the Carl H. Pforzheimer
Library (Misc. 1086, La 49) ; cited by permission.) See also Morrison, p. 97,
n.). For Blessington's views on Ireland, see Madden, i. 139-40. I find no
evidence to confirm Landor's interpretation of Blessington's vote on Queen
Caroline. The attendance rolls in The Journals of the House of Lords indicate
that he did attend the trial. Also, see Madden, i. 51.
3 George Canning (1770-1827) had been prime minister briefly in 1827.
Landor strongly opposed both the man and his policies.
4 In his letter dated 6 June [1829] sent from the Baths of Lucca, Landor
wrote: "Every one that knows me knows the sentiments I bore toward that
disinterested and upright and kind-hearted man, than whom none was ever
dearer or more delightful to his friends." (Manuscript in the Carl H. Pforzheimer
Library (Misc. 1089, La52) ; cited by permission.) See also Morrison, p. 98.
a long disease I might by my never-ceasing attentions have smoothed the bed of
dead, I might perhaps have borne up against it. But, in the full enjoyment of
health and spirits in one moment to have him torn from me, without one word
one look of adieu, the blow is too heavy and I find myself sink under it.
I cannot continue this letter—My tears blind me. It will be a pleasure to me to
hear from you, as, independent of my own feelings of friendship for you, I will
know that there was no man breathing for whom my ever-to be lamented husband
entertained a higher opinion or felt a warmer regard. And I have with encreased
friendship to all whom he valued, or who estimated him as he deserved to be.¹

I do not imagine my bust is in marble. Whatever it is, it is the present of
my incomparable friend Mr Ablett of Llanbedr Hall near Ruthin. I am particu­
lar in this, as perhaps you would wish to thank him for it. He desired I wuld
request your acceptance of it with many kind expressions. You will admire him
the more for being a most religious man—and not the less for giving many
thousands ayear to those who little suspect from whence it comes.

Pray remember to keep some white raspberries, & white and black currant
seeds for me, and some of the hautbois strawberry and white raspberry, & goose­
berry. Elizabeth’s did not come up. They may be enclosed in a piece of capp­
paper, & gummed.

I remain
Dear Ellen
Yr ever affec. brother
WL

On 8 September, Ellen replied that the beautiful bust had
arrived without the slightest injury and was much admired,
particularly by Lord Aston. Though their mother had returned
from Ipsley very feeble, she had insisted on the usual gaieties
being held. The Studley-Castle people (Dorothy Lyttelton
Holyoake’s daughters) were staying with them and they had had
a succession of archery meetings.² Landor expressed his
growing concern about his mother’s health in a letter postmarked
2 November : “At her age we cannot expect any great renova­
tion of strength, but God grant her many days yet of health and
happiness.”³ He also wrote that the arrival in Florence of Jane

¹ In his reply, dated 21 July 1829, Landor gently tried to assuage her grief :
“Longer life was not necessary for him to estimate your affection for him, and
those graces of soul which your beauty in its brightest day but faintly shadowed.
He told me that you were requisite to his happiness, and that he could not live
without you. Suppose then he had survived you—his departure, in that case,
could not have been so easy as it was, so unconscious of pain, of giving it, or
leaving it behind.” (Manuscript in the Carl H. Pforzheimer Library (Misc.
1090, La53) ; cited by permission. See also Morrison, p. 98).
Swift, now the Countess of Molande and once more a widow, had roused him from his depression over the death of Lord Blessington.

What Landor did not know at the time he wrote this letter was that his strongest tie to England had already been cut. On 8 October, one month before her eighty-sixth birthday, his mother had died. He acknowledged the news of her death in the brief letter below:

Dear Elizabeth¹

Tho Ellen's letter gave me much uneasiness, yet I did not apprehend at present the sad loss we have all sustained. My mother's great kindness to me, throughout the whole course of her life, made me perpetually think of her with the tenderest love. I thank God that she did not suffer either a painful or a long illness, and that she departed from life quite sensible of the affectionate care she had received from both her daughters.

I am not sorry that she left me some token of her regard, but she gave me too many in her lifetime for me to think of taking any. You and Ellen will retain for my sake the urn and the books. I wish to have her little silver seal, in exchange for an oriental cornelian, which you and my brothers gave me, belonging to my father. I have his arms, which is enough. The one I mean is pretty in its setting, and contains the word Leiton in persian letters. My brother Henry was so kind as to purchase two Venetian paintings, once mine, and to place them at Ipsley. I thanked him at the time, and thank him again, but I am resolved to accept nothing whatever from any of my relatives. If my mother's picture was repurchased at Lantony, I would buy it gladly.² Pray let me hear about it. I remember it at my grandmother's fifty years ago. Adieu—I am ill disposed for writing more.

Yrs affectionately

WSL


² Almost twenty years later, Landor was once more concerned about the disposition of his mother's silver tea urn. On 16 January [1849], he informed his brother Henry that he had left it to him when he made his will two years earlier. Henry's letter of 18 June declining the legacy contains one of the few character portraits of their sister Elizabeth extant in their correspondence: "That greatest Aristocrat of our family—Elizabeth Savage Landor—would forbid my entering her House, if I deprived the future owner of Ipsley of this Heir Loom: we must not offend her, who governs all of us" (manuscript in Berg. Coll. NYPL). After Elizabeth's death, Landor offered it once more to Henry, who accepted the gift on 16 March 1854, with the stipulation that it would go to Arnold should he ever part with it. (See W.S.L. to H.E.L., n.d. (c. before 11 March 1854), manuscript in the James M. and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Yale University Library (cited by permission); H.E.L. to W.S.L., manuscript in Berg. Coll., NYPL).
Writing to Southey about the effect of her death on him, Landor commented that “after not seeing her for fifteen years, I fancied I should have been less affected by it. But it is only by the blow itself that early remembrances are awakened to the uttermost. She had always been kind to me.” He expressed similar affection in his letter to his cousin Walter Landor of Rugeley, the day after receiving the news of her death: “From her invariable kindness to me, I always loved her far beyond any other of my relations, and no change in my fortune can compensate to me for my loss.”

Despite his grief, he was very conscious of both new and old debts. Consequently, he proposed in his letter that his net income be divided into three equal portions: two for his creditors and one for his family. He suggested the £100 half yearly be paid to his wife’s uncle the Rev. Mr. Thomas Burrow, who lent him £400, and that an equal portion and in equal degree be paid to Messrs. I. and P. Jones, Abergavenny bankers. His other debts included the £106 9s he owed to Hare and £40 to the grocer. He also hoped to see £100 laid out in planting at Llanthony.

On 16 November, Walter of Rugeley forwarded the letter to Henry with the comment “W evidently knows little of the income he proposes to divide, & would find it difficult to manage with one third of it.” Still deeply in debt from his Llanthony misadventure, fifty-four-year-old Landor was as incapable as ever of coping with his financial affairs. For the most part, he wisely left their management to his brother Henry and his cousin Walter of Rugeley.

The death of his mother brought to a close one of the most significant periods of Landor’s life. Despite his ever-present financial worries, the last decade had been the most happy and
most satisfying of his life. His devotion to his children had been rewarded by their unrestrained affection for him, and his dedication to his writing by his renown as the author of five published volumes of *Imaginary Conversations*. Never again would Landor experience the combination of personal contentment and literary productivity he achieved in this decade.

received on 4 August) that he advised his cousin not to sign such a note since he could not possibly pay it. His letter to the bankers of 8 September implies that they requested a bond. (Unpublished correspondence; manuscripts in the Carl H. Pforzheimer Library (Misc. 168, La33; 169, La34; 170; 171; cited by permission).