

Definitely worth a read, the notes accompanying these letters were made by my brother John. John had added a number of links to further information which unfortunately no longer work, I have sought to replace them with the same, similar or other relevant links.

Pete Coleman 15/04/2025

In 1814 Catherine Major wrote a series of letters home to her mother in Manchester, while staying in London with Mrs Holt (her mother's sister-in-law?). Catherine Major was my own great great great aunt:

Catherine MAJOR [126] is John Derry COLEMAN [80]'s 3rd Great-Aunt

Catherine was baptised on 23rd October 1796 in Great Bolton, Lancashire, she was therefore 17 when she wrote these letters. Her parents were John Major and Ellen Holt. John Major was a cotton spinner with large business interests. The family had a house in Piccadilly in Manchester.

Catherine's younger sister Mary, Ann's twin, married Edward Hayling Coleman on 11th April 1826 in Manchester.

Trish Hedges has kindly provided images of transcripts of the letters.

Tom Robinson kindly provided this image of the Major Sisters, Catherine is the older one in the middle, the others are her twin sisters, Ann and Mary. Ann Major is Tom's GGG Grandmother, Mary Major is my GG grandmother:

Mary MAJOR [34] is John Derry COLEMAN [80]'s Great-Great-Grandmother



I have transcribed them again with the help of Optical Character Recognition (OCR) but I have retained the page numbering as shown in the images of Trish's typed transcript. Some sentences seem quite questionable, no doubt due to the original transcriber's difficulty in reading Catherine Major's handwriting. I am sure Catherine's English grammar was perfectly well formed. I was quite torn between honouring the words in the given transcription and replacing them with phrases which seemed to make more sense. Generally I have taken the former approach. I still have my copy of the transcript typescripts if anyone would like to improve on my effort. Unfortunately we do not have Catherine's original, hand written, letters.

Pages 7 and 8 seem to have gone missing somewhere, probably my fault.

The Major Letters, 1814

I have 'corrected' some typos and punctuation, and inserted a few newlines. Also, I have inserted a few of my own annotations (in square brackets []) with hyperlinks and modern day references to events and persons described by Catherine Major.

I presume the despicable Mr Holt was Catherine's uncle but I have been unable to prove it. Catherine's Mother's maiden name is Holt, she was Ellen Holt (1774-1841) but if Mr and Mrs Holt were Catherine's maternal grandparents surely Catherine would have named them as such? So I presume he must have been an uncle, her mother's brother, but Catherine doesn't use the terms aunt and uncle either. Answers on a postcard please, or just email john.coleman@bcs.org.

Page 1, Chelsea June 2nd

My father's letter would have told you he had excused me from writing but I cannot excuse myself. I much wish to hear from you, yet don't. expect it till I have written myself.

My father told you all concerning our journey so I need not dwell upon that, but I will tell you how I have spent my time, since my arrival in London.

On Wednesday we walked through the Asylum for poor old soldiers and soldiers children that are educated at Chelsea. There are twelve hundred children it is really an excellent institution. The girls learn to read, spell and sew, the boys learn trades as well as their books. There is a room full of them learning to be tailors and another room full of little cobblers which looks very pretty. The old men are provided with little rooms and beds just the same as those you saw at Greenwich. They have a chapel in the inside of the building. There are also some fine paintings but the buildings are not to be compared with Greenwich Hospital.

My father dined with us Tuesday and Wednesday, his business would not allow him to come on Thursday. We spent the morning in shopping in the neighbourhood and in the evening Mr Holt, Mrs Holt and myself were out to tea. Miss Holt was to have been there but was prevented on account of Miss Mary Ann being very poorly, poor girl she is very delicate. The fits she has had have left a weakness on one side which I hope time will cure.

I have not yet seen Master Tom, though the next door, but he is to come home tomorrow, having a holiday, it being the King's Birthday.

But to return to the evening party I never was in such an elegant drawing room before. There was about eight ladies and about a dozen gentlemen. As soon as tea was over cards were introduced, the elderly part of the company at one table and the young at another. I was obliged to join as well as I could the young ones of the house who were very kind in assisting me. It was about half past ten when we broke up.

Today we are weather-bound and cannot go anywhere it is so very wet. Tomorrow Mrs. Holt says we are to see a panorama. The Battle of Vittoria.

Perhaps you have seen in the papers. the correspondence between the Queen and the Princess of Wales whom the Queen refuse to receive in her drawing room which she held yesterday. It is said the marriage of the Princess Charlotte to the young Prince of Orange is to take place very soon, his father sent to this court a list of those he wished to be present on the occasion. To this list the Princess Charlotte added her mother, who was not before mentioned but a stroke being drawn across her name which when the young Princess saw, she drew another across the young Prince of Orange.

It was understood in Manchester that the Duchess of Oldenbourg lodged in an inn, the house she occupies whilst she is here has been made use of something in that way but it is a very elegant house and was originally built for a lord. She paid £5000 for the use of it for six months for herself and suit. So the family that resided in it will be handsomely repaid for giving it up during the princess's stay, they left as much of their furniture as the Princess chose to keep.

You will have heard before this time that the definitive Treaty of Peace is signed. The great personages are to embark for this country tomorrow. There are to be illuminations and grand doings when they arrive here.

See: [Allied sovereigns' visit to England - Wikipedia](#)

The Allied sovereigns' visit to England occurred in June 1814 to celebrate the peace following the defeat of France and abdication of Napoleon Bonaparte in April 1814. The sovereigns and generals of the Coalition Allies – comprising Austria, Prussia, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and a number of German States – took part in a state visit and various peace celebrations in London before progressing to the Congress of Vienna later that year.

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A number of nobles, sovereigns and dignitaries attended the celebrations. These included Tsar Alexander of Russia (who stayed with his sister, the Grand Duchess of Oldenburg at the Pulteney Hotel in Piccadilly); King Frederick William III of Prussia; Prince Metternich, Chancellor of the Austrian Empire; Field Marshal Blücher, Prince Hardenberg, the Chancellor of Prussia; General Yorck; General Bülow; Count Barclay de Tolly.

Miss Holt sends her love and says she will write to you by my father, he does not know that I am writing so I can say nothing for him.

Give my love to Ann and Mary, Uncle and all enquiring friends and accept yourself the very best love of your dutiful daughter

C. Major.

Page 2, Chelsea June 8th

My Father breakfasted with us this morning and showed your letters which was a great treat and highly pleased me. He had told you I see that Mrs. Holt expected him to sleep here and had prepared a bed for him but as he had so much business to do he could not stay so far from the city.

The great folks are at last arrived; I thought of giving you a list of them but that would take up half my letter and no doubt you would see their names in the public papers. We waited in St. James Park from twelve till six o'clock to see them on Tuesday and only saw a part after all, for they had taken different ways.

We saw old Blucher and another that some said was the Emperor and others that it was Sir Charles Stuart. Be which it might it was a very handsome man, I shall know him again whenever I see him. He leant quite out of his carriage and seemed much pleased with the cheering of the people. The populace took the horses out of Blucher's carriage and drew it along themselves from the Horseguards to Carlton House. His son and several Cossacks were with him. They look very fierce men, their faces are almost covered with hair. The Emperor of Russia took up his abode with his sister, the Duchess of Oldenberg..

Thursday 10th

Yesterday I was obliged to leave my writing in a hurry to go with a party to see the Panorama as we did not go at the time mentioned before. The British Gallery and the Juggler's Father was our beau all the day. I. will not take any room in giving you an account of what we saw yesterday as my father can tell you all about it. But upon second thoughts that would not be obeying your orders you wish to have my own account upon different things I see. So I will begin. First we went to the Panorama which is very beautiful, The Battle of Vittoria. The figures are as large as life and are said to be good likenesses of those for whom they are meant. It as the appearance of a fine country and a pretty little town. One has a view of many miles rounds it. The remark I was led to make upon this scene was that it would be an unpleasant sight to all those that had lost friends or relatives in the battle. The French are retreating.

See: [George Jones \(1786-1869\) - The Battle of Waterloo](#)

George Jones was an all-rounder: a serving officer in the Peninsular War; an active member of the Royal Academy; a friend and biographer of Sir Francis Chantrey (1781-1841) and J M W Turner (1775-1851) as well as an artist in his own right. In 1817 he published an illustrated account of the Battle of Waterloo, which earned him the nickname 'Waterloo Jones'. He specialised in battle scenes at a time when spectacular panoramas were the rage in London – Henry Aston Barker (1774-1856) exhibited the battles of Vittoria and Waterloo at Leicester Square Panorama Theatre in 1814 and 1816 respectively. These two battles scenes (RCIN 407186 and 407187) were commissioned by George IV in 1822; they were hanging in the Throne Room at St James's Palace by 1824 and remain there to this day. The Battle of Vittoria, fought on 21 June 1813, was a decisive victory for the allies (British Portuguese and Spanish) lead by the Marquess (later Duke) of Wellington against the French. Jones shows early evening when Wellington ordered his final advance. He and his staff officers occupy the foreground while the pattern of the battle is visible behind. To the left two rings of British troops in immaculate order, in the centre a column of Hussars and to the right an advance of Foot Guards and Rifle Brigade. The French are represented in the middle distance as a somewhat undifferentiated and perhaps disorderly mass, surrounding the city of Vittoria. Wellington is shown in a light cape on a white charger; the city and

entire background appears transfigured as the clouds and smoke catch the evening sunshine: by these effects Jones suggests that the Napoleonic war is a crusade.



We next went to me British Gallery. The pictures are most grand and very numerous. I could with pleasure spend days in examining, admiring and scrutinising them. From there we went to see the Jugglers, before we went in I did not know what the term Jugglers meant but I soon understood it. They were black men dressed in white, performing sleight of hand tricks. One swallowed what he called a sword and drew it up again but it was dull at both edges. I could not have believed this if I had not seen it in open daylight but on reflection these are silly thing, entertaining a little for the moment but what one can desire no useful knowledge of from a second thought. I like to see a thing that one can turn over again in one's own mind with pleasure and profit. To see the above took up nearly a whole day. In the evening the Illuminations began, which are to be tonight and tomorrow night also. We are so far in the country there is not much stir here and we are so completely tired that we do not intend to go in to town any of the three nights were there all grand grand things in lamps. Father is to dine here tomorrow.

Saturday night, Eleventh of June

I had to scamper away in a hurry yesterday to smarten myself up to receive Mrs. Robe who had just reached the door in a chaise. She is a very nice Lady and has given Mrs H and myself an invitation to go to Woolwich on Sunday and stop till Tuesday as all the great Personages will be at the Arsenal on Monday so we will have a

good opportunity then of looking at them as much as we please. All these great People are cunning. They go to see all they can in plain dresses so that they can scarcely be known, but on Monday they must appear in style I understand. I have not seen the Emperor yet, it was not him that was with Blucher in St. James Park. The Emperor seems to be the greatest favourite as there is no passing the places where they are at, when they are in, for the crowding.

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Today we have been wandering about to see different sights. We first visited Somerset House to see the paintings. I need not say much about this because it has much the appearance and style and quantity it had when you were there. I think it exceeds the British Gallery in regard of taste. We next went to see an exhibition of watercolours and from thence to see a celebrated picture, an enormous crucifixion of our saviour, which I thought worth all the rest. There were in it about 80 figures as large as life. It would cover the sides of a large room. So we were picture hunting all the day.

I intended to have said and a great deal more to you but Mrs. Holt says I must give over and go to my tea, it is now near nine o'clock. I will conclude with sending my love to sisters and friends

My father will hand you this from your ever affectionate and dutiful daughter,

C. Major

Page 4, Saturday June 18th

My dear mother,

I feel quite delighted that you approve of my letters, for all the pleasure of this world would give me no satisfaction unless my remarks pleased and indeed all my conduct was approved of by you. When I have reason to believe I please my dear parents it adds to all my other pleasures. I told you in my last that Mrs. Holt and myself were going to Woolwich on the the Sunday. We did so and did not get back till Wednesday. Mrs. Robe is a every handsome lady as lusty as you but taller. Miss Robe is not yet got home but I hear is mending fast. Miss H says she is not yet gone out of mourning for her cousin Lieut. Watt that she was to have been married to. Miss Watt, the Lieut's sister was at Woolwich. I think her a little masculine and rather odd in or way - the second Miss Robe is about seventeen and is near sighted. The next daughter is that poorly little girl you saw 4 years ago. She in very much grown but is still lame. The youngest is a very beautiful little girl that was an infant when I saw her last but is now a sprightly little girl called Vimeria after the Battle of Vimeria. These with 5 sons are the whole of Col. Robe's family. He is himself a plain good natured gentleman.

We drank tea with Mrs. Watt, mother to Mrs. Robe and Mrs. Holt. She is settled in Woolwich and has a daughter with her, who I may say in the old maid's row, this Miss Watt is a cousin to the Miss Watt I mentioned above. Old Mr. Robe the Col's father is poorly so I did not see him. There it an old maid there too, the Col's sister. I saw her she is indeed a very nice lady. It is, I think what you did not know before, that there is a maiden lady in each family.

See: [William Robe - Wikipedia](#)

Colonel Sir William Robe (1765–5 November 1820) KCB KCH was a British Army officer of the Royal Artillery who served in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. He was praised as an artillery commander in combat and an organiser of military operations, as well as starting the first regimental school for soldiers' children, and serving as the architect of Quebec's Anglican cathedral.

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Robe married Sarah, daughter of Captain Thomas Watt of Quebec, about 1788 in Canada. Robe died at Shooters Hill, near Woolwich, on 5 November 1820, and was buried in the family vault in Plumstead churchyard. They had five sons and four daughters. Sarah died ten years after him, on 4 February 1831.

All of his sons joined the British Army and all but one died while serving. Their eldest son, William Livingstone, was born in 1791, and served alongside his father in the Peninsular War before dying at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Their second son, Alexander Watt (1793–1849), was a lieutenant-colonel of the Royal Engineers, and their third son, Thomas Congreve (1799–1853) a lieutenant-colonel of the Royal Artillery. Their fourth son, Frederick Holt (1801–1871), was major-general and colonel of the 95th Regiment of Foot, and the Governor of South Australia. The fifth son, George Mountain Sewell (1802–1825), was a lieutenant in the 26th Bengal Native Infantry, served as adjutant in the First Burmese War, and died on passage to Chittagong. Robe's daughters were unmarried. The youngest, Vimiera, died in December 1893 at Woolwich. She presented to the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich all the medals, orders, and decorations of her father and eldest brother, together with miniature portraits of each of them.

On Monday all the great folks arrived at the Arsenal by water, there were some hundreds of elegant barges that shone like gold with colours flying and music playing. it was such a scene of grandeur all at once for the eye to feast upon that it is impossible for me to describe it. We had a very good view of them all as they arrived, but were not allowed to follow them. They were very strict in not letting People into the Arsenal, no one could get in on that day on any pretence whatever nor could we have got in if we had not gone the day before. The orders were that there was not a lady to be seen nor a gentleman but those that had on the military uniform. It was about twelve o'clock when they landed. They examined every thing in the Arsenal very particularly and quitted it about three, and went up to the common to view the cadet barracks and we followed them but could not have got near them if Mrs. Robe had not been with us. For the soldiers had formed themselves into a large circle round them to keep people off. When we got to the soldiers, they said we cannot let anyone pass. but Mrs. Robe said Col. Robe's lady must pass. There was an officer near that said is that Mrs Robe? you let her pass. So she got into the inside the ring and we with her, and quite close to them all. I was so near old Blucher I could have shook hands with him if I could have been so rude. I really thought that he would have been pulled from his horse, one or another kept snatching his hand sometimes they were pulling at both sides at once. He did not seem at all angry but rode among those he thought wanted to touch him and seemed gratified by the great show of affection amongst the people. I no pretty near the Prince Regent too but there were so many foreign princes that as one looked at one it drove another out of one's head. There was a deal of manoeuvring with the Horse Artillery; they returned to town about eleven o'clock in three carriages.

Yesterday we had a very good sight of them all again at Chelsea Colleges. We were in along with them and as none but ladies were admitted. we were not the least incommoded and could make what observations we liked. The King of Prussia is a tall middle aged brown man, he seems rather low in spirits. It is said he has never been lively since the death of his queen. He was dressed in a plain brown coat and had no orders on. The Duke of York was on one aide of him and the Duke of Gloucester on the other. In a little while after came the Emperor and the Duchess. I think her the handsomest woman I ever saw. There is such a sweet openness in her countenance, her person is rather thin but she is a very neat figure about the middle size. She had on a very large cottage bonnet with as I thought about half a dozen ostrich feathers in it, all standing erect.

I might go as far in praise of the Emperor but you say I should never see men's beauty, but on such an occasion as this you will allow one to be a little scrutinising, he is certainly a very [PTO]

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elegant person, neither too fat nor too thin and his features very much resemble the Duchess..

The King of Prussia's two sons are both handsome young men. The young Prince of Orange I had a. good look at,.he is handsome too and seems about three or four and twenty. He had some greet lady linked in his arm but I could not learn who she was, only that she wee e foreign lady.

The foreigners that are now in London are almost innumerable and scarcely can be counted. When they left Chelsea they went to dine at the Merchant Tailor's Hal and today they are to go in grand procession to Guild Hall to partake of a Civic Feast as it is called. The Prince Recent will make use of his state carriage with eight cream coloured horses, indeed I believe they are all. to be dressed in the richest manner and all ere to go in very showy carriages. No coaches whatever are to be allowed to pass that way but those in the procession. The shops are ell shut and stages ere erected outside the windows of both shops and private houses. They let the seats end ask for an upstairs window ten guineas and for a seat only, thirty shillings. The crowding will be so great that I am afraid some accident will happen. There is to be an immense number or soldiers and they are so fierce and ready at striking people with their swords and running their horses among the throng. As we have seen so much of them we are not for going after them today but stop contented in the house and out of danger.

You did not tell no how you liked your gown and Ann and Mary their frocks. You can do it yet.

Give my love and duty to Father and accepyt my love yourself.

I remain affectionate and dutiful daughter,

Catherine Major.

P.S. Pray write as soon as you can.

Page 6, London June 28th

My dear Mother

I am afraid that in my last letter I did not notice yours as I should have done but my head was so full of these great people and wishing to give you all the particulars respecting them that nothing less than Emperors and Kings would do to talk about. The whole set of them left London last Tuesday, for Portsmouth. The Prince Regent went along with them and several of the Dukes.

I was afraid I was deficient in acknowledging and thanking you for your kind letter as my conscience tells me I was. I hope you will excuse me and now take the will for the deed. I was so sorry to hear that in my father's absence you were so low, but now hope you will recover your spirits I was extremely glad to hear of his safe arrival amongst you. It is my earnest prayer that you may have your health, so pray do not sit so much to sewing but take more exercise than you used to do.

The one thing that was so generally expected, the Princess Charlotte's marriage, is quite done away with. I dare say you have had this piece of intelligence in the papers and the reasons she gives for disappointing the Prince, which is not willing to leave her country, I suppose this arises from reflecting on the manner in which her mother is treated.

The young prince they say went away quite downhearted. He had promised the Dutch to take her back with him. I hope you have seen all the particular accounts concerning these great folk. I have often wished in my own mind that if it could be, you would have taken a trip and looked at them and seen all the great folks.

Our great hero the Duke of Wellington arrived in London on Saturday afternoon, amidst the shouts of the people and on Sunday he followed the other Great Personages down to Portsmouth.

Wednesday Morning, 29th.

Mrs. Holt, Miss H and myself have been making each of us one of these fashionable drawn cottage bonnets. I dare say you will not have seen any of them in Manchester. They are made of book muslin with drawings about two nails from each other with broad wire ribbon lapped within the satin ribbon run through the slots and a little net quilled on the edge a silk tassel where it is drawn together behind a rose on the top of white ribbon with a flower hanging from it on the left side. I said I thought you would laugh when you heard I had been bonnet making.

We are going into the country. Mrs. H says to a place of the name of Worthing about 59 miles from London and eleven Westward of Brighton. I have read a most flattering account of it in a book of Mrs Holt's. Mrs. K- bids me tell you there will not be an opportunity very soon to write to my cousin G and if there was she would wait to receive a letter from you. She sends her love.

It has been such winterly weather ever since I came to Town that we were quite chilled sitting over the fire till yesterday when the weather experienced a sudden change and is now as hot as it was before cold.

It is said that the Duke Charles Stuart will go ambassador to Holland. I long to see the Duke and hope I shall by some means or other.

If you write soon, direct here, but if not Mrs. H says you had better direct to Worthing. I think we shall not go before the end of next week, I shall send you the directions there as soon as I can. Mrs. Holt sends her love and tells me I shall send all the news and leave nothing to say, and so I do send you all I can possibly scrape up.

Give my love to Ann and Mary and tell when I will write to them before I am many days older. Poor girls they will think I neglect them.

I remain my ever honoured parents' dutiful daughter,

C. Major

P.S. I hope all old friends are well. Remember me to both mine and yours and all inquirers when you have an opportunity.

Page 9, London July 6th

My dear Mother

I received your kind letter yesterday and hasten by the first post to return you my sincere thanks for the kind and flattering way in which you are pleased to address me. I am sure I have everything to be thankful for, suoh very dear kind parents and so I assure you I feel the weight of obligations I am under.

In my letter to Mary and Ann I said I thought it would be next week before we could set out for Worthing because Mr. Holt would not set down to there till then when he wished but by some conveyance he went on Monday and returned last night. He has taken a good sized house by the seaside; I think I heard them only it contained seven beds and he engaged for two months. We set off on Saturday so I suppose this will be the last letter from London for some time, when you write direct to Mr. Holt, Fenchurch St.

Mr. and Mrs. Holt are gone today to the funeral of Mr. Robe. Mrs. H intends to ask leave for Miss Eliza Robe to come down to Manchester with me. She is an amiable girl and has a great deal of knowledge for her years but as I said before being so near sighted is much against her. Miss Robe in got home but walks on crutches yet I am afraid.

Glad you approved of your gown, I intended to have been at the choosing of it but it was impossible so I was obliged to give it up. You wish to know which or my clothes I wear the most. I mostly wear the frocks that are flounced because are so general here and always silk stockings in an afternoon. If I had not brought some with me I should have been obliged to buy (it is morning here till after six in the evening). No one goes out here without a veil. I showed Mrs. Holt my clothes which she thought very handsome, my best frock she has in her care and on any particular occasion I always put on what frock she pleases but it being summer there is not much visiting. Great numbers of families are leaving London or have left, some for their county seats and others for different watering places.

We were in the park on Sunday to look at the battleships as they are called, there are one and twenty for a sham fight on the twelfth of August, the Prince Regent's birthday. They are so busy working in the temporary workshops erected in the park that they work on Sundays. We have heard the hammers and other implements going at a fine rate. I think it is shameful especially as it is only for pleasure. In St. James' Park they are building Chinese Bridges and making other great preparations..

You ask if I have got my hair cut. I have not, Miss Holt thinks it would spoil it. I am happy I can tell you I have not had any such bad headaches since I came here as I used to have at home, except that Sunday night before Father left us and he knows I had a bad one that night.

I will write soon after I get to Worthing. I am obliged to finish my letter sooner then I intended because William is waiting for this as he is off to the post office with one from Mrs. Holt.

I am my Father's and yours most affectionate daughter

C. Major

I have scrawled this quite in a hurry.

Page 10, Worthing, Sussex - July 13th

my dear Mother,

I told you in my last letter that we should come down to Worthing on Saturday. It was Mrs Holt's intention so to do but she could not be ready before Monday so on Monday we arrived here. We came down rather different to what I thought we should but I was quite as well pleased. Miss Holt and I came down in the stage, Mrs. Holt, the children and nurse travelled in a Chaise. The stage from Charing Cross left London at half past seven in the morning and when we got over Westminster a hackney coach should have met us with the luggage out of the city. There had been some mistake between the coachmen so we had to turn back and went over Blackfriars Bridge past St.Pauls, the Royal Exchange, the Bank and the Monument and over London Bridge so we had ride through the City and, what in singular, crossed the Thames three times, The passengers were grumbling at losing so much time but I assure you I was very much gratified for Mrs. Holt tells me that for choice she never goes near the City, which I don't mind as I saw all that was worth seeing there when I was in London before. There were three very agreeable ladies and a gentleman in the coach, we breakfasted and that was all we had upon the road except a little cake and a sandwich. We got here at five in the evening and Mrs. Holt arrived about seven very much fatigued, the children had been very fidgety crammed up in a chaise. As far as I can judge Worthing is a very pleasant place and I think about the size of Runcorn. From where we live to the shore is about five minutes walk, and beautiful sands. The water is very salt, and nice bathing. There are machines the same as at Liverpool but no ropes to take hold of but a woman who serves the bathers. It is a shilling a piece each time. I intend to begin tomorrow and go on regularly. Miss Hope did not intend to bathe but Mrs. Holt says she must, so perhaps she will for fear or being called a coward, for to tell you the truth I think she is afraid of the water, though she will not own it.

It would make you laugh I am sure the little gigs drawn by donkeys which drive about here in abundance at a shilling an hour and ladies riding upon them single and a boy running behind with a whip to beat them forward if they should turn stupid but in general they are very submissive. Tell my dear father I intend to learn to ride them against he buys me one as he used to tell me in joke. Allow me to joke a little if you please.

It is said the Princess of Wales has taken a house here so of course it will be a very jolly place. There are now a great many genteel smart people at Worthing. I am going to out off the train of my thin muslin frock. Mrs. Holt advises it and you said I might if they were not worn. It is in every other respect quite in taste being drawn both in the body and sleeves and this is quite the go with flounces upon flounces.

I ventured to mention to Mr. Holt our plan of Miss Holt and me setting off for Manchester the beginning of August. I said it your wish we would so, that we might have at least two months of fine weather after my return. But I thought he would have been angry, he said we must not go before September and very [PTO]

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and very likely he might escort us down, but he could tell better nearer the time, but that he would satisfy my dear mother. So as the subject did not please him I was glad to change it. So at the present I cannot tell how it will be. Mrs. and Miss Holt beg to be kindly remembered to you. Give my very best love to my kind father and dear sisters and accept the same yourself.

From your ever affectionate and dutiful daughter

C. Major

Page 12, Worthing Sussex - July 21st

My ever dear Mother.

I should have written yesterday but though I should have I letter from you today which I have Just received with great eagerness and pleasure, I cannot suppress my anxiety to hear from from home.

I have bathed but once yet because I have had a slight sore throat which I think I. caught in the coach. I should have mentioned it in my last out I thought it trifling. I am now got quite well thank God and leaving off my flannel by degrees.

On Sunday we walked to a. village called Broadwater about two miles and a half from Worthing which had a very pretty country church and a good clergyman. No one can gain admittance without paying eighteen pence a piece and they get a ticket which takes them in the afternoon if they choose to go. This I think is an out of the way thing and quite shameful as it causes some people to make game of religion instead of reverencing it. The gentleman that went down in the coach with us said it cost him half a guinea to take his family one Sunday to chapel. The reason they give for adopting this plan is on account of the chapel being in debt...

On Monday we were at another village about the some distance but in another direction called Tarring. There is a great curiosity, a church built entirely or flint stones which makes it very dangerous in time of lightening but they have a large iron attractor from the top to the bottom of the steeple to avoid danger.

I was very much surprised to see the houses built of round flint stones, which before I thought impossible. On Tuesday Mr Tom and I had a donkey ride. I assure you I shall not desire my father to recollect his promise for they are tiresome things and I dare say I shall have enough of them before I leave here. Yesterday Miss Holt ventured into one of the gigs with Mr Tom and rode about three miles from Worthing but it was not one of those gigs that stand the streets (as they do here the same as hackney coaches do in Manchester) it was one that was only let out as a favour because it is such an excellent goer. We kept up with the gig that was going to the Millers house. This is one of the wonderful things of Worthing true, I'll give you the account. A miller who lived alone about five miles from Worthing had his tomb and everything appertaining thereto made ready against his death upon a high hill where he meant to be buried. He had his epitaph and his coffin made 25 years before his death and had castors fixed to it that it might to move about and it was wheeled under his bed every night. We reached the bottom of the hill and should have ascended, but it was so near dinner time that should we have taken that trouble we could not have stayed to examine it so we mean to walk there some fine day all together and go early.

Arundle Caetle is another place that strangers make a point of seeing. Mrs. Holt says we must visit it though it is not to be viewed but on the first Sunday every month and is about ten miles distant from Worthing. It belongs to the Duke Of Norfolk.

There is a gentleman here that was once partner with Mr. Holt [PTO]

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his family have been here a long time but are going away soon an account of the boys going to school. This gentleman, Mrs. Holt, Miss Holt and I are going to Brighton tomorrow in two gigs. I shall like very much to see Brighton because it. is a place we hear so much about. Before I was told it. was ten miles off but now I hear it is fifteen. I had almost forgot to tell you I gave three shillings for an oilcase cap because the bath people do not keep them. If I had not done this I should have had great trouble to get my hair dry, it is so very thick.

Mr Holt came down on Sunday and returned on Monday.

I have not lost any of my cheerfulness as you kindly hope and as it is agreeable to you and is the wish of my friends that I should prolong my stay I am very content to do so, and with pleasure inform you I am very happy and remain (my love to Father, sisters and all enquiring friends) your affectionate daughter

Catherine Major.

Page 14, Worthing – July 27th

My dear Mother

on Friday last we went to Brighton as I said in my last I thought we should. Our Party consisted of Mr Henry and three boys his sons, Miss West Mr Henry's sister and a Mrs Iron, Mrs H, Miss Holt, Mr Tom. Brighton is a clean neat little town but for walks and pleasant country Worthing is preferable. There is a scarcity of trees about Brighton which given it a bare appearance. We arrived about half past eleven and partook of a cold collation at the best inn, called the Castle. It is the next building to the Prince Regent's new pavilion which he has had lately built, indeed it is not yet furnished, workmen are busy about it. It is a beautiful building. I am told it is in the Chinese style of architecture. This I don't know but I can see it is in the form of a crescent. The stables are very handsome the building in some respects exceeds the house in beauty. They have in some respects the appearance of a seat in fine stone cut and carved in a curious manner, the top of it forms a large dome all of glass. It looks well but does not answer for stables they say it destroys a good many horses, so much glass about it makes it warm like a hothouse. We did not get to see the inside of the buildings no one can have that liberty but those that have an order from General Pilkington which we did not know in time but Mrs. Holt has written to Col. Robe to get her one to be ready if we should chance to go again to Brighton which will be very full next week as it will then be the races there. There is beautiful grounds all round the Pavilion. The Chapel and Theatre are behind it at some little distance from each other.

Brighton Dome (1803 – 1808) was commissioned by the Prince of Wales (later King George IV) whose taste for flamboyant fashions, outlandish architecture and mistresses is well documented.

When visiting Brighton, the Prince was accustomed to staying at a small lodging house overlooking Old Steine. Additions and alterations to the lodging house eventually led the Prince to commission architect William Porden to draw up plans for a vast new stable block (Concert Hall) and riding house (Corn Exchange) for his horses. It replaced the original stables which were located south of what was to become the Marine Pavilion.

The project would take five years to complete at a staggering cost of £54,783 (a small fortune at the time), almost bankrupting the Prince in the process, and resulting in the King having to appeal to Parliament to clear his son's debts.



Inevitably, given the project's scale, the townspeople soon remarked that the Prince's horses were housed more favourably than the Regent himself, spurring him on to transform his relatively modest Marine Pavilion into today's grand palace, the Royal Pavilion.

There is to be a very grand ball on Monday night. The ballroom is at the Castle Inn and an elegant room it is. one of Mr Henry's boys had heard there was a curious old romantic building at the village of Shoreham and he was anxious to see it. So part of us rode round that way in search of curiosities but found no ancient building but an old church, However had the pleasure of seeing a little more of the country which pleased me as I shall probably never see this part of the kingdom again and we were only half an hour after the rest of the party. We have had pony and trap: races here at Worthing and gentlemen running on foot. The donkeys caused the most laughing, as for the ponies I did not like to see them so hurried. The gentlemen played at what I call a babies play and seemed to take great pleasure in it. It was so childish, they had a large circle made with ropes and in the inside of it there was a man with a bell tied round his neck and six men blindfolded, and whoever could catch the man with the bell first got rewarded. All the day people here walk about where they please but tea in the fashionable time for walking. The fashionable the Steine as it is called, it is a large grass plat opposite a row of houses called the Steine Row, with a gravel in front there ladies and gentlemen assemble about eight o'clock and parade backwards and forwards till nine and then they flock into the library and talk and stare at each other it they please till ten, when they depart. Every other night there is a little girl, not much bigger than my dear Mary and Ann, that sings and plays on the pianoforte for the amusement of the company and performs [PTO]

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very well. But poor girl I could not help feeling sorry for her being brought so publicly forward, it gives her a bold look. Mother teaches music so is fond of exhibiting her daughter as a specimen of her abilities.

Mrs. Holt has just told me I may make myself as smart as I please tonight for Mr. Holt who is here for the whole of this week has just been to the theatre and taken a box for this evening. I am sorry to say Mr. Holt is not so very well which is the reason for his stopping all week here but I am happy that I can inform you that my throat is got quite well. The way of bathing here is every other morning which is only about three times a week, so I pursue this plan. There is no danger for the water is not rough at all and there is always two women in the water ready to assist the bathers.

I told you of a Miss Hall that would have been with us but could not on account of her aunt being very ill. She died last week so Mrs. Holt has sent Miss Hall an invitation to join us as her health is but bad. Col. Robe has got both his sons at home, one to stay and the other is going to America.

The Princess of Wales is coming to her Residence here for a short time when it is expected she will no to her own country and some think she will not return.

Mrs. and Miss Holt desire to be affectionately remembered to you.

Please to write soon to your dutiful daughter

Catherine Major.

give my best love to Father and sisters, remember me to Uncle and all friends.

Page 16, August 3rd - Worthing

My dear Mother

I should have written to you earlier in the week but fancied I should receive a letter from you by this morning but though I am baffled in nor expectation I will delay no longer because I think you will say I ought not to wait for yours.

I told you in my last that we were going to the theatre, so we did but I was not at all carried away, in my mind the contrary. In some parts I was much shocked. The play was 'The wonder: a woman keeps a secret' and the woman who kept it was one of the ladies that was in the stage coach that Miss Holt and I came down in. I could scarcely credit it for she was a middle aged person pleasant and agreeable, and in general those kind of people are disgusting off the stage as well as on it. Her husband I hear is a performer too. The theatre is a small neat building but is poorly attended. Though I never seen a play before I don't care if I never see another, I am not entertained by seeing people make fools of themselves to please a few lookers on. I think they will have a deal of stories to answer for at the last day for they scarcely speak but they tell one.

On Thursday we went to see the Princess of Wales' house she really displayed a good taste in the choice of residence for her stay here. It is about two miles from Worthing at a little village called Sumpton. Her house is almost buried in trees. As we were returning we met her carriage. The little boy that she keeps and a lady, one her companions, was with her. She is rather lusty but I could not distinguish her features because she had a white veil almost over her face. I have seen her twice but she always a veil on, she seems to have sorrow in her countenance. The little boy is a fine little fellow. I see it in the newspapers they have it up in the Parliament House about her leaving this country, but you will see that, so I won't take up time in telling about that.

The Princess Charlotte is at Weymouth I believe. I would like to know what you think of her conduct. in running out of the house, some papers say without bonnet or cloak. When her father went to reason with her and talk things over quietly, as must be his intention or he would not have taken anyone with him. You would also see by the papers that when they were altogether in the parlour she made some excuse to leave the room and ran through the kitchen into the street and went up to the Haymarket and there flung herself into a stand coach and desired to be driven to her mother's without even a servant or anyone to attend her. I like e girl of spirit but this was going too far. She must have done it without thought poor girl. They say she looks very ill, it is no wonder for she is in an awkward predicament between father and mother.

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Recuperating in Weymouth 1814

In 1814, Charlotte visited Weymouth again, to try a sea water cure for the severe pains she was suffering in her knee. She was also emotionally worn down at this time, as her father's reaction to her behaviour after breaking off her engagement to Prince William of Orange had been severe. Her party included Countess Rosslyn, Countess Ilchester, Mrs Campbell, the Misses Coates, General Garth and the Reverend Dr Short.

On Friday we visited the Miller's Tomb. Mrs. Holt took part in the gig and the rest walked and those that rode there walked back. In this way it was pleasant for us all and not fatiguing, this miller must have been a man above the common class of millers. He must have had a great taste [PTO]

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for nature for on this hill you may contemplate it in its true light as this is the highest eminence about this neighbourhood. The prospect is beautiful, the Isle of Wight can be seen from it. The tomb is railed in and has yew trees at each corner. There is a little summer house near it where they say he used to study and smoke his pipe. His granddaughter has a house on the descent of the hill and makes tea for the company that visit Greenburn Hill as it is called if they choose. We got tea in the little summer house. We expect Mrs Robe, Miss Hall and Mr William Robe every moment here to pay Mrs Holt a visit and to stay a few days. Miss Hall will stay till Mr. Holt returns to town. I am rather in a hurry as I have to, change my frock to receive them so must hasten to conclude as I wish this letter to be in time for the post tonight.

Colonel Robe sent his compliments to me and said Miss Eliza should accompany me with pleasure to Manchester. Mr. Holt left us on Sunday for London. After a week's stay he was much better in health. He asked me if I had kindly remembered him to you. He forgot to tell me when I was writing my letter, but said he hoped I would always do it without being told. Miss H desires me to say she intends writing very soon, Mrs. H. also. With your leave I should also like to receive a letter from Ann and Mary, give my kind love to them and my best love to Father. Accept the same yourself and believe me to be your ever affectionate and dutiful daughter.

C. Major.

P.S. Remember me kindly to Uncle and all enquiring friends.

Page 18, Worthing – August 11th

Dear Mother,

you flatter me very much by taking the trouble to transcribing my letters to you. It is more than I expected or desired because I know my best endeavours at letter writing is but a poor production, it was my intention to have collected them all together when I got home and made a fine bonfire of them but I must say I feel very much pleased that they have met yours and my dear father's approbation for it adds very much to all my other enjoyments.

When I wrote my last I was in a hurry because we were expecting Mrs. Robe and all of them down here that evening, but she did not arrive till Friday about half past three, when we had the pleasure to receive Mrs. Robe, Miss Hall and Mr. William Robe. He is without exception the tallest man I have ever seen and they say his brother Alexander is taller than he. In joke they are called the two dwarfs. Alexander is expected here to take leave of his aunt before he sets off for America.

We have been very cheerful ever since Mrs. Robe's arrival, she and Mr. William leave us tomorrow. Miss Holt will stop as long as Mr. Holt stays. I am sorry to be the communicator of unwelcome tidings but Mr. Holt is hesitating about coming with us down. He says business obliges him to postpone his journey to Manchester to some future period though he says there is nothing that would give him greater pleasure

Mrs. Robe intends writing to you from Woolwich. She intended writing a little in Miss Holt's letter that she is writing to you today but now says she will write to you from Woolwich. As Mr. Holt does not return with us we shall be with you rather sooner than we should if we had waited for him and as you say you are waiting for a jaunt with us we shall hasten our departure for Manchester as much as we can. I am very sorry to keep you in suspense as to the time but I really cannot yet tell it exactly.

It is time for me to say some more about my outs. On Monday we visited Arundle Castle. It is indeed a beautiful building, there are some remains of the old castle but not much. The chief of it is newly built and the Duke of Norfolk is now making more additions. The inside did not correspond in its appearance with the outside, I will attempt to describe some of the apartments. The dining and drawing room are prettily furnished but nothing extraordinary. But the chief thing this place is celebrated for is the immense quantity of mahogany used in the building, the doors are all made of it, the window frames the inside shutters and the cornices which are finely cut and curved end kept very bright. Some say it is much spoken of for fine paintings but they are chiefly family pieces. Now for the bedrooms. The first we were shown into, the room and bed corresponded. They were hung with white satin embroidery with large flowers. It was very grand and rich looking. The bed curtains, bed covers, window curtains and walls [PTO]

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were completely covered with this satin and even the chair bottom. The bedstocks were mahogany beautifully cut and carved. The next we saw was the blue room. The bed and chairs were blue embossed, satin the stocks were fine carved mahogany. The next was a green satin embroidered bed with carved oak stocks and very old fashioned oak chairs. The next room was a very antique one indeed, it must have belonged to some of his great grandfathers. It was yellow covered with a very old fashioned thin stuff but embroidered with very large flowers. I no not know how to describe it better but I dare say you will know and understand what I mean. All the furniture in the room was equally ancient, we returned back to dinner.

I need not enumerate names for we mostly keep together in our excursions. We went in a hired sociable on Monday. We took a trip towards the princess's house, Mrs. Robe wished to see it. We found one of the gates open and walked in. It led us to the garden in which we walked till we drew near the entrance into the house, where there was a livery servant standing looking through a spying glass at the sea, but he very soon made us his object and looked at us. Two or three other servants came to stare at us and we stared at them till we turned and walked away without saying a word.

Tuesday we went out to dine at a friend of Miss Holt about seven miles distance. A country clergyman whose family of himself and his wife and thee sons live in a beautiful house indeed and drive their carriage. They are very stylish people. The lady amused us by playing on the piano and singing. We went in a chaise with a large dicky so it held us all. You asked if had ever exercised my fingers on an instrument, I have not. For I am never near one except in company and I have not that opinion of myself to venture to play before judges .

We visited Brighton again yesterday purposely to look through the Pavilion. It is fitted up in the Eastern style, everything is very grand and beautiful quite in the Chinese manner. There are half a dozen rooms below that are all fitted out with old China no matter what it is so that it be old China. I have neither time nor room to give you a minute description of it so must defer it to a future period. It is is very throng indeed in Brighton

I received your letter with great pleasure this morning I am greatly obliged to you for writing it. I verry much wished to know your opinion of the proceedings of the Princess Charlotte and it was just what I expected. Miss Hall and I are as intimate as if we had been acquainted for years. She is a very nice girl about eighteen. The Princess of Wales set sail yesterday from Lancing, a little village about a mile from Worthing, in the Jason Frigate for Germany, they say for three months. It is quite a pity we missed seeing her embark, we were engaged another road before we heard of her going, or we certainly would not have missed the sight. She was long and loudly cheered by the people. She has left servants in her house here, she took three carriages with her.

Miss Hall, Master Tom and I had an other donkey ride on Monday, they are sad jolting things. I think I shall never ride one again. We ongoing to dinner at three today that we may have a longer evening to take a little excursion to the miller's tomb for Mrs. Robe to see it. Her and Mrs. Robe rides in the gig, the rest or us are to walk.

Mrs Robe desires to be particularly remembered to you and my dear father. She has a wish to visit Manchester but cannot on account of the Col. being such an invalid. Mr Robe can just walk on his own with the help of a stick. Mrs. H desires to be kindly remembered to you. Miss H. is writing to you by this post. Give my very best love to my father and sisters and accept the same yourself. And believe I remain your ever affectionate and dutiful daughter.

C. Major

Page 20, Worthing – August 18th

My very dear Mother,

I am just come in from paying Mrs. Gledhill a visit. I went in style with my black servant behind me, I was much surprised to hear by yours received on Sunday that she was coming to Worthing. If I had met her by chance I should have scarcely have believed my eyes. She thinks I look better than when she saw me last at home. I was very pleased to receive my dear sisters letters by her, thank them for me for writing such long ones, and so full of news. I showed them to Mr. Holt. He said they were very clever little girls, Mrs. Holt also praised them.

I was sorry to hear you and were unwell but hope and pray you may be quite recovered by this time as you were mending fast. I was much shocked to hear of my uncle's accident that it was well no one was in the room but Miss Hall. If you have not received a letter from Mrs. Robe you may expect one for she said she would write from Woolwich an apology for Miss Eliza's change of mind. They wish me to again spend a day or two with them before I return home but I think I shall not as Miss E.R. cannot be of our party to Manchester.

I believe this will be my last from Worthing as Mr. Holt, Miss Holt and myself are setting off for town tomorrow morning on account of Miss Holt having to get some of her clothes altered and others made as she is going out of mourning and this will require some little time. Mrs Holt and Miss Hall stay behind a little longer. Mr. Holt is a great deal better than he was. He seems as much disappointed as you can be at not being able to come down with us but at present he cannot leave London above a day's journey. On Sunday we went in Worthing Chapel for the sake of saying we had been there. When we arrived at the door we were asked whether we would choose an eighteen penny seat or a shilling one. We did the former thinking it must be the best though we did not know whether it was upstairs or below, some people have the audacity to call them pit and gallery (indeed it is giving occasion to all those who are ready to catch at every opportunity to slander religion and to pass their jokes). Mrs. Holt, Miss Hall, myself, Mr. Tom, four of us, went and they gave us tickets that would take the same number in the afternoon. I am going to the play for the second time tonight. I must conclude for the dinner is on the table and I must hasten to join the family in the dining room.

Give my love to our dear father and sisters and accept the same yourself I remain your ever affectionate and dutiful

C. Major

Direct your next to Chelsea

Respects to uncle and all friends.

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My ever dear Mother

I hasten to tell you that Mr. Holt now thinks that he can come down with us. I really am ashamed to say one thing in one letter and another thing in the next but I cannot help it. When we arrived here Mr. Holt found letters that required his presence in Liverpool. If he does come as is now probable we will direct to Manchester without going to Birmingham as Mrs. Holt has written to you was her wish that we should. I hope you will get this before you shall have written to my Aunt Hewit about our stopping one night with her.

It is scarcely necessary to tell you that we arrived here safe for if we should have met with any accident I should have mentioned it first thing. We left Worthing at about eight in the morning and arrived here about five in the evening.

We went yesterday to see the remains of the fine doings in the park. It must have been very grand and beautiful when all the lamps were lit and the fireworks exhibiting the temple. Is surprising now, and what must it have been when it was illuminated. I hope you saw one of the papers that had it all sketched out for it is impossible for me to describe it. The Chinese bridge is to remain and in fitting up with a new pagoda in the place of that which was burnt. It was a shocking accident, there is seldom any public amusements but there are some sufferers.

I told you in my last that we were going to the theatre that evening the play was Love in a village. I did not think much of it but admired the singing. Mrs. Dickins was the principal singer, some prefer her to Madam Catalina. I have bought a little trench handkerchief for you, I think you will like it to put over your shoulders when you go out. You generally wear something and I think this will be the very thing. I bought a little Morocco case in Worthing for pound notes and intend this for a present for my uncle, and two little Worthing pin cushions for Ann and Mary and a toy box that I am sure they will like. I have thought of buying Nancy a new gown, it will perhaps be the most acceptable thing to her. Now for my dear Father, I am worst puzzled what to get for him that will be both pretty and useful and I must present you all with something coming from London.

I will attend to your commission. Miss Holt and I intend going to Mr Herne for it some fine day. I have kept memoranda of all my expenditure since my dear father left me and supplied me so plentifully with cash. I often think I have such parents as no one in a hundred have for there are not many that would go to such expense for the pleasure of a child I am sure. I have a great deal to be thankful for, both in a spiritual and temporal sense and I pray that I may never be ungrateful.

Miss Holt says she anticipates great pleasure in being with you and so do I.

Love as usual to Father and sisters.

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Respects to Uncle and tell him I am putting him in mind of his promise, which was if I would send for him he would come and cord my box for me when I returned. Tell him I have just sent for him though I know he just meant it in joke when he was cording my boxes the night before I left home.

I remain as ever you very affectionate and dutiful daughter

C. Major.

write to me soon if you please if it be but a short letter, if it be but to any how you all are.

My dear Mary and Ann.

I am taking the liberty to cross my dear mother's letter because I went to thank you for your two very pretty letters. They contain a deal of news and pleased me very much. You say I have not forgot you. No my dear loves there is not a day but I think of you. I was very glad to hear you were going to have a little excursion from home. I think it will do you good but I felt afraid lest you should be too venturesome in the water. I am glad to hear they are making such great improvement about out house, it will make it a very pretty walk on all sides when it is finished. I was sorry to hear Mr. Dowty was going to leave Manchester, he is a nice good little man. If he is not gone and you see him again you must bid him goodbye from me, I feel a great respect for Mr. Dowty.

I was glad to hear that all the fishes were still alive and the globe, I hope it is not broken. You made master Tom laugh my dear Ann by wishing he was a little girl, he is sending you each a present and that is a couple or packs of puzzle cards. You will not be short of peas and beans as you have got Mrs. Rowe's stock. You did not say what sort of next door neighbours you have got.

Poor James Barlow. I was dreaming about him one night, I don't know what should put him into my head in my sleep but I have felt anxious to know whether he was dead or not ever since. Poor fellow he is better off. You must return my remembrance to Nancy as she sent hers by you.

My dear girls I must too you goodbye for the time. Accept my kindest love.

I remain your affectionate sister

C. Major.

Chelsea, August 27th 1814

My dear Mother

the weekly express, as I term my letters, has with an interruption. I have been down at Woolwich and did not receive your last till yesterday. The servant told me it came in ten minutes after Miss Holt and I had set off for Woolwich. Mr. Holt forwarded it yesterday. I did not intend visiting the Arsenal again after Mrs. Robe and the Col., indeed the whole family, were so very pressing for me to visit them once more before I left London, that I could not get off going down. All of them are so very affectionate and agreeable that it is very pleasant to spend a little time with them. I never had so many [PTO]

Page 23, August 20th cont.

hearty shakes of the hand before as I have had since coming down to this quarter of the world. I have been introduced to all the family except Mr. Alexander. He has been spending the week that he got leave of absence for at Worthing with his aunt. I thought he would have spent an day or two with his parents but I understand there is too great a loadstone at Worthing. Perhaps you will not understand me if I don't explain, but I will tell you as it is openly mentioned in the family that he is very partial to Miss Hall. They are all expected to arrive in London tomorrow in a couple of chaises. But I will now return to myself. Last Sunday in the morning we went to Chelsea Church and heard an excellent sermon, from these words "He that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." it was an admirable discourse, well calculated to make the people give, though they had not previously intended it. In the afternoon Miss Holt and myself went to the Abbey but were rather too late and could not get into that part where the service is performed but amused ourselves with looking at the monuments about the entrance, for every other part is shut up during service. But we heard the chanting of the anthems very distinctly, the organ plays soft and the loftiness of the Place gives it a divine sound. I cannot describe what were my feelings at the time, they seemed to aspire above everything in this world and gave me new ideas of another and better above. I felt lost and carried away for a moment with thoughts to heaven. On I thought, it was delightful and I felt convinced if we contemplated as much on what is above as we do about this world, we should be so wicked as to wish to die, that we might enjoy it. I intend to persuade Lisa Holt to go with me again tomorrow and go very early. Mr. Holt would have gone with us but that he expected Coll. Robe, who was to stay all night. He was taking one of his sons to Sandhurst College where he is to be a Cadet. He is bringing up all his sons to the Army, except George.

On Monday it was very fine so Miss Holt and I took the opportunity to go to Mr Herne. My father had left me the address, so I found it without any trouble, I believe I could find my way in London better than Miss Holt that has been in it so long. At Worthing they used to call me their pilot. Mr. and Mrs. Herne were not at home. They were gone to Ramsgate and were not expected back of three weeks. We saw their two sons who were very polite and expressed great regret at their parents' absence who they said would be very sorry not to see me. They had all concluded I was returned home without calling upon them. They had expected me so long which would have been the case if you had not given me a commission that obliged me to go for I felt backward at introducing myself. We were shown into a parlour and pressed to take some refreshment but we declined it for we had just spent thirteen pence in a pastry cooks. (the very same that you and Miss Holt and myself waited in for my father the day we went to see St. Paul's, we both recollected and mentioned it). We stayed about half an hour, the chief of our conversation was about Worthing. They hoped they should have the pleasure as they called it of seeing me again but I declined making any engagement. They begged to be remembered to Mr. and Mrs Major and I left my respects for Mr. and Mrs Herne.

On Tuesday we went to a street near Portman Square to visit a lady that has lately come over from Canada, an acquaintance of Miss Holt's, it was almost as long as we had on Monday.

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On Wednesday we went to Woolwich in one of those long coaches with twelve inside passengers, we had a very good quiet ride. The chief of them were young cadets going back to their barracks, after the vacation. They almost all slept all the time.

My dear mother. I am very sorry I cannot yet tell you the time of our coming home. When Mr. Holt comes comes we are to fix the manner and the time for our journey. I am sure you are extremely kind to mention my having another jaunt with you when I return. I never thought of such a thing, I intended to keep house while you were away. Poor dear Mary I am sorry to hear she is so very pale. Tell her to take plenty of exercise in the swing, I think it would do her good..I hope she drinks plenty of water. I suppose little frisky Ann is well. My respects to all end friends, and duty to Father.

I am as ever your affectionate and dutiful daughter

C. Major..

September 2nd 1814

My dear Mother,

on Sunday last Mrs. Holt, the children and Miss Hall, her brother and Mr. Alick Robe all returned from Worthing in a couple of chaises. The gentlemen stayed to dine with us and then went to town because Mr. Robe was setting off early in the morning for Portsmouth. Mrs. Holt and children are very well. You may well say my dear mother that you meet with nothing but disappointment for now there is another scheme in preparation. Mr. Holt will see me home himself and he must insist on Miss Holt giving up her journey till next spring when they will make up a party to visit Manchester. He objects to Miss Holt's journey at present on account of their moving and he will not have Mrs. Holt left at such a time, which draws near and Miss Holt could not be back in time to take part of the care of Mrs. Holt. And in the bustle of removing which Mrs. Holt is determined to do on account of the dampness of their of present situation. They have not yet fixed upon a house but intend to do it as near Russell Square as they can because they are partial to their old neighbourhood so it will be somewhere not far from Heppel Street I dare say. Mrs. Holt and I were house hunting all yesterday and saw several but did not finally fix till Mr. Holt could go himself. When we got home we were completely fatigued.

I believe Miss Holt was as much disappointed at her journey going off as you can be, I assure you she shed tears about it and no wonder after expecting it so long and getting ready but Mr. Holt is peremptory and all give up to his will..

Our friends have been very pressing to get my assent to stay all winter with them. One day last week at dinner Mr Holt. kindly said he very much wished me to consent to stop and he would write to you on the subject. He said so much that I felt a deal of pain on refusing. I said I was extremely obliged to him but could not think of being from home all winter as my mother's health was so precarious and I should never forgive myself if she was taken ill when I was from home. He said I could go down in two days any time I was wanted, indeed I was almost overpowered by his and Miss Holt's argument.

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At last they told me they believed I had left my heart behind me in Manchester, and made us all laugh. I told them I had left it for no one but my father and mother and sisters and that I could not man my conscience easy to be from home so long. When Miss Holt and I were reasoning upon it afterwards I said to her I was afraid Mr. Holt would think me very ungrateful. She said he would not no for he knew my reasons were good and that he thought no worse of me for them. She said she could assure me he and a high opinion of me or I should not have had such a pressing invitation.

I cannot yet mention positively the time you may expect to see me but I think I shall be with you to receive your well wishes on my birthday. Mr. Holt asked me last night if I should take long to get ready for he could not let me know above a day before setting off.

I have written in a great hurry for Miss Holt and I are going to town to make some purchases. Adieu my dear mother, pray give my duty to my dear father and love to sisters and accept yourself the same from
your affectionate daughter

C. Major..

September 3rd 1814

My very dear Mother,

this ought to have named the time of our setting out from London but now I no not think I shall kow the time soon enough to communicate it to you, so all I can now say is that you may be is looking out for us, we shall be with you very soon. Mr. Holt bid me e say to you that we should be within a few days but he could not say which. Mrs. Holt tells me she does not think I shall [get] any warning but she expects he will come home some night and say he has taken our place for the next morning. I have not sent my clothes to the wash this week that I may be in readiness for our journey at an hour's notice. When Miss Holt and I come from Worthing to London along with Mr. Holt he only concluded upon it the evening before and so we had to pack up after returning from the theatre at nearly midnight. But I shall not be taken unawares this time.

Miss Hall is at present here and remains with us until the beginning of next week when her brother is to fetch her, we are very sociable. Mrs. Wilson, a neighbour and friend of Mrs. Holt's, went to visit the sick patients at the poor house last Sunday afternoon. She is one or the constant visitors. I found great happiness in going there. There was one young women in the sick room that talked so sweetly did me good to hear her. She spoke much of heavenly and spiritual things. She s in a consumption and although so young is perfectly resigned. She has the bible and a great many tracts lying beside her and is very thankful when any one will read to her. Before she was so bad she made little pincushions sitting up in bed (but now she can hardly stir). She would
[PTO]

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make me accept one. I did not offer her any money because I know it was useless to one in that situation but promised to go again to see her and take her some lozenges which she and was good for her cough. But she said she wished more for good to her soul than her body, indeed I believe she was very happy. There was several very old women that had bibles and appeared glad when anyone read to them. I read to them and talked to them but I did not think they understood the scriptures as well as the young sick woman.

You mention in yours having received a letter from Gladhill. Both Mrs. Holt and Miss got each a letter by the same ship. Mr. Holt was quite pleased with his, he gave it me to read. It was indeed a clever letter, he has got on famously to be the first store keeper. In Miss Holt's he gives a description of a grand ball he had been at and of his dancing with one of the first ladies of the place.

I am very glad to hear that my dear Mary is getting better, I hope Ann keeps better. It is my constant prayer that you may all keep your health and that I may meet you all in peace and safety.

I shall write to Mrs, Gladhill tomorrow to tell her of my returning home and that no one but Mr. Holt is going with me at last, although some others were fully expected.

Miss Holt intends taking Miss Hall to see West's picture and although I have seen it once I intend to go with them. I gave you a history of it in a former letter. You will recollect it is crucifixion of our saviour and is very beautiful, I should like very much to see it a second time.

Your letter to Mrs. Holt is just arrived. She says the uncertainty you are kept in is quite shameful. She blames Mr. Holt out I really believe he cannot help it. He has do much business on hand I am very sorry for him, he gets no relaxation. If he could spare the time I think he would go to some watering place for a little while and I think he stands in much need of it. I have bought some Epicurean lozenges for the sick girl and intend going to see her to bid her goodbye. I don't think I shall write any more from here as I shall very soon be jogging along road to Manchester. I with pleasure anticipate our meeting and think you will joyfully receive you grateful affectionate daughter,

C. Major.

Respects from all to all