

## Dinton - Dalwood Letters

'Dinton', 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1828

My dear Margaret,

Having an opportunity of sending you a package by Mr. Matcham, who is going out on the same speculation that you and George went last year, I have undertaken writing to you, and Mama to George, whose letter from Hobart Town reached us safely, whilst in London on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. I cannot say I have much interesting intelligence to tell you, our thoughts being occupied by a projected tour to the Lakes, Edinburgh, etc., to finish with the Doncaster Races and York Music Meeting. I see George laughing at the idea of us setting out. It has often been talked of, but Papa has some grouse shooting promised him in the South West Part of Yorkshire. Papa has promised Mr. Oddie, on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, then they are to proceed the following day, to the moors to be ready for the 12<sup>th</sup>; the ladies are to make what excursions they like, meet Papa at Kirkby Longsdale, and then to proceed to the lakes of Westmorland and Cumberland, and into the south of Scotland, if we have time before the Doncaster Races which Papa is determined to see. All this is so far settled that we most certainly shall go unless anything at present unforeseen occurs, but the time is now drawing so near to a close that the probability of such a thing lessens every day. I fear much that George II will not find the climate so good as he anticipated. I cannot say I like to hear of those draughts, by which all accounts it seems so liable.

The growth this summer of all the shrubs George planted a few years since, has been prodigious, especially the Portuguese Laurel on the Western side of the house. The political changes have been very great since you left. The Duke of Wellington, the present Premier, would please George. He brings business so quickly to a conclusion, and it is said that he frightens all the clerks extremely. One story is not bad of his telling the clerks at the Treasury he would send one of the serjeant-majors to teach them how to do their business in a more expeditious manner.

Another most remarkable thing is the return of Mr. O'Connell for Clare. He is a Roman Catholic, but according to a new theory that has arisen, they say that nothing can prevent a Catholic sitting in the English House of Commons for any place in Ireland, according to the Act of Union. A Mr. Butler, a very clever young man, and a lawyer, has so given his option (opinion), on the strength of which Mr. O'Connell intends to take his seat; but I believe not till next session. Of course this will prove a Law question. The manner in which the election was conducted, proves the immense influence of the priests. There was not the slightest riot during the whole of the polling, and the electors marched up in order, preceded by the priests with crucifixes, etc. It has of course created great interest throughout the country. Many people stayed in London to see O'Connell arrive.

Charlotte is writing out some waltzes for you. Uncle Charles is making great improvements at Donhead, which interests him very much. Harriet Ella Dugdale has a little son, born this spring, and because it is a little treasure it is delicate. All the other members of the Portman family are well.

Your affectionate Mother,

Laetitia Wyndham