

Louisa. Countess of Alton to
Lord Alton.

3139A

Grafton Street
Sunday Aug: 18th 99

This is a most dreadful day to us all, My Beloved Lord,
The Funeral reaches Longon today & I need not tell you the kind
of painful impression it must inevitably make upon us all. This
day separates us all for ever in this world from that best of Being
I cannot describe to you the impression that was made by My
Dearest Father's own Bay Horses drawing his Hearse. The Crowd
in the Street actually shed tears when they saw it & some of the
Newspapers mentioned the funeral & added "His own Hays drew
"their Venerable Master to the Grave" His Tenants meet Him
at the Boundary of his Estate to bear the Coffin which went
down attended by three mourning coaches - Besides what was
settled by our Marriage Settlements the Estates in Nottinghamshire
& Leicestershire are left to be equally divided between the three

at My Uncle's Death to be divided between the other two Sisters
 if one Sister dies without any Children settled upon our younger
 Children if we have any & otherwise upon our only Children - Mary
 has at present 20000[£] Stock only; At our Dear Mother's Death she
 gets whatever funded Property is left & her Choice of Poston Lodge
 Estate or the Middleton Estate (which was Mr John Bowes's & from
 whence Mrs Bowes jointure is paid) The other left to My Dear
 Mother's own disposal she enjoying the profits of both the Estates
 & the funded Property during her Life with 2000[£] Jointure besides
 off the Langer Estate which produce to My Uncle besides about
 1500[£] per Ann. That is pretty nearly the Sketch of the Will - Let
 me know My Dear Lord what I shall do with your Will which
 was left in my Dearest Father's Hands & I forgot to mention that
 this House is My Mother's to do just what she pleases with it & the
 House next to Mrs Bowes's where Mrs Heywood lives is hers also for
 Life & Mary's at her Death This House is to be sold the moment a

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Purchaser can be got for it & My Dear Mother has hired the House
near to Mrs Keywoods, paying two Hundred a year for it, & means to give
a communication between the two & here there Mrs Keywood goes into
Kington Street & the new House No 10 being the east Courtyard part
of Mrs Howes (which is left to Mary) the furniture of the one will
exactly suit the other at Mrs Howes Death - All the Personalities are
left entirely to My Mother - I got yesterday two Letters of Friday
one by private Hand & one by Express to Wallinasloe & one by Post from
Westport of Saturday - I cannot understand your not having received
My Express before you wrote on Saturday, or at least that you did not
write later after you got it, what a cruel derangement of all our
Plans! It seems to be fated that you & I, who both hate it so much
should live warmer all this Summer, I trust in God you will not
be displeas'd at my having come over without waiting to consult
you first, If ^{you} are not, it will be a happiness to me to the Hour of
my Death that I did do it - I cannot tell you the kind Things

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My poor Mother says about it - She has repeatedly said that while
she lives she never will forget the proof of affection I have
given Her by it & that if My Dearest Dear Father could look down
from Heaven & see it It would be of all things in this world
what He would most approve of & would give Him most satisfaction
Conceive what all that is to My Heart, a Happiness or sooner a
degree of Happiness. I did not think I could have felt immediately
after so dreadful & so unexpected a blow. Mary told me when
in Dublin that for years He had not looked or seen so well
& walked all round the sand walks at Kottenow with merely his
common stick. He was not thought to be in any danger till
past twelve on Sunday night & it was over before ten the next
morning; Dr. Ross during those hours never left the bedside
My Adored Father was taken from us with his hand in Dr. Ross
I cannot tell you how much My Mother says of Dr. Ross's attention
& friendliness. She says she shall love him to her Death & will

Her Children will do the same. we hope to get to Pothen by this day
 sevenight so as to stay there some short time. I wish much to know
 your Plans, I have settled them in my own Mind now the French
 Spanish Fleets are safe that you will bring your Dear Boy over
 to put him to school stay here some time & both of us return to
 the Meeting of Parliament before which time My Mother will be
 a little settled & reconciled to her new lonely Situation and long
 I fear, it will be! My Sister Mary is doing much better today than
 she was yet done & does not seem ^{now} to think that it is a proof of
 affection to My Beloved Father to nurse her Grief & to resist
 all attempts to turn her Mind from it for even a Moment. She
 has today taken up a book for the first time; I do not expect
 to profit much by what I read but I am convinced it is my
 Duty to try to collect my Attention a little & not to brood over
 my Misfortune till I teach myself to repine at the dispensation
 of a just God who knows what is right for us

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I think before I left Dublin I concluded all your business except
directing what things were to be sent to Lagers to go to Westport by
the Kelp Kelp, I did not buy the chairs. I left the rest of the
attentions with Murgine (who was more friendly than I can ex-
press) to be sent to you. I did not pay for them nor did I
pay Lettas for Peter's Patent to hold whatever as I could not recollect
the amount I wrote to Peter for it but got no answer from him
I left £10 with Murgine of which he said he owed about ten
I send you a list of the drafts drawn by me on Messrs. July 14th £22.15.0
July 22th £22.15.0. July 31st £50.0.0. all to Messrs. Aug 6th £79.6.6. to Murgine
Aug 17th £82.15.7 to Kepton. Aug 28th £100.0.0. Aug 10th £20.0.0. Both to Messrs
out of Murgine's Money he gave me £55.12.9 in Cash which I paid after
for our Journey (while thinking what the Journey would be that I
should use it in) the £100.0.0 was to pay off Lettas & every other Debt
& to supply Mary who had wanted in all £60.0.0 which she has
repaid me. I paid all the expences on our Journey (which they say was

more rapid than any Courier) & yesterday we cast it all up & Mary
 paid me half exactly, so that our Journey cost us £7:6:0 English each
 & I have now about £80:5:0 left; Masters sent me word he has
 £36:13:6 in his bank - You should also give directions for the £6:13:2
 (which is your third of the Bedfordshire Estate I mentioned in my
 last) to be paid, till it is sold, into his Bank, Miss D'Epine's Portion
 will also come to us equally at My Mother's Death & I should not omit
 to mention that My Dearest Father left with his will a Letter to
 My Mother dated just at the beginning of the disturbances in
 Ireland stating "That from the uncertainty of the Events of this
 War he recommended to My Mother to give during her Lifetime
 the Portion of her Property, intended for her, to such of his Daughters
 as from circumstances may require it" Evidently alluding to the
 if your Irish Property was lost; How kind & considerate he was
 on every occasion! Tho' our Journey was so rapid (from one on
 Sunday Afternoon to Evesham on Monday Night) My Tide has not in

the least suffered from it. - I have had slight Head aches these two days past but I attribute them to the constant constraint I live in, to support My poor Mother all the long Morning that we are alone; In the Evening My Uncle & Mrs Howe come from ten to ten & during that time, I never open my Lips being worn by the exertion from eight in the morning that we breakfast before that we dine - My Mother also sits & talks quietly to Macy & from ten till eleven after My Uncle & Aunt & Charlotte are gone she comes at eight to breakfast & stays till night. My Mother has courted me in the most flattering manner about every arrangement & matters relative to herself & to Macy & has entrusted me with many secrets about her Money concerns which she does not mean to tell any third person not even My Sister or Mrs Howe nothing can go beyond the flattering attention of all the Family to me - There is a degree of respectfulness in My Uncle & Aunt's manner to me with is beyond description. - I say, I may truly say

I have done my duty to my Parents. Charlotte has acted with the most Masculine sense & resolution & has done what I believe few if any women in the world could have gone thro'. She has transacted every part of my Mothers Business both relative to the will & to the Funeral. My poor Mother has scarcely ceased crying one moment this day; whatever I have felt, I have kept it so entirely to myself that no human being could form a guess that this day was worse than the preceding or succeeding one, but it is a great relief to my heart to talk, even in this way, to you. It is much the most severe day we have had. Tomorrow will be very bad also. The Hatchments are to be put up & ~~my~~ all move down stairs into the back Drawing room next to the room, where my Beloved Father expired. We have hitherto slept & lived eating up two pair of stairs in Mary's Apartment. My poor Mother cannot bring herself to call my Uncle William by his Title. She does not like to call him Sir now & therefore calls him always

My Brother but other people will call him by his Title which I
 am afraid will distress her dreadfully at first. You cannot think
 how kind Mrs Balfour & Merygine were to me in Dublin & Brighton
 still more than any. It was with great difficulty I could keep him
 from coming with me to London lest I should be ill & at last
 made Mary promise to write to him, if I was at all unwell upon the
 road & said he should be with me instantly. Merygine gave me five
 guineas & worth of silver the day we sailed I had requested him to
 get 4 guineas for me from Lindsey that I had lent my Hospital
 so that I owe him still one guinea which I will beg you to pay
 him for me, when you see him - Adieu now for the present, My
 Dearest Lou, I shall probably write more tomorrow, at least I shall
 tell you how my poor Mother is after this dreadful Day -
 Monday Morning - Thank God My Dearest Mother was much
 calmer the latter part of yesterday; from the moment that she
 thought the News would have reached the Boundary of the Estate

till she concluded the Funeral service was over she never ceased
the most violent agony of crying; The Watchment is up without her
knowledge, but she will have another severe trial on going down
stairs to prove the will this morning. Many told her that I had
been ordered to ride every day & she has set my Uncle to work to look
out for a horse to hire for me to take down to Posters Lodge when
we go there. Nothing can be handsomer than my Mothers conduct
to all her servants & to all the Family; she has given to Mrs. Howe
Lady Pitt Mrs. S. Howe & my Aunt Lady Howe each of them a most
beautiful magnificent ring with my Dearest Fathers Hair set
round with Diamonds. she offered the same to us, but we all refused
it not choosing to wear it even as an ornament. I cannot tell you
how dignified my Mothers conduct is throughout the whole. I
trust in God I shall hear from you my Beloved Lord by this days
Post I am very very anxious for it indeed. I fear it was a severe shock
to you indeed. I have as yet only got a black Sacket, waistcoat, & Breeches

for the two Men, shall I order each of them a new per Coat ^{or} or waist
 till you come for I think you will come when you have finished with
 Cornwallis's Business. The Post is come in two Letters from you! I am
 disappointed & uncomfortable at it! I have one from Mrs. G. of the
 15th, I feel half alarmed at not having heard from you: This Letter
 is so long that I shall not attempt to send it without being ^{frankly}
 I shall therefore enclose it to Mr. Drogshoday in a Note requesting him to
 forward it to you in Franklin Street Adieu now My Dear Dearest
 God Almighty bless & preserve you your Dearest Boy

I enclose you ^{also} a paper from Salts in a Holyhead The Linen
 was bought at Clarendon but I do not know from whom or in what
 form to get the Certificate Can you manage it for me Also to get the
 Drawback form for Mary's Chaise I directed it to be paid to Mrs. M.
 Let me know what it is that I may pay it to My Brother

From Mrs. G.
 to Mrs. M. from Mr.
 Drogshoday

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