

Thomas Taylor to Dawson Turner: 26th October 1814

Transcription of the letter given by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Trinity College Cambridge. Released on www.ellenhutchins.com on 1st November 2024.

I hasten on the receipt of your letter to communicate to you, my dear Mr. Turner, what information I possess on the subject of our mutual friend Miss Hutchins's health. She is recovering, though very slowly, from the complicated distress of a severe disease and a severe remedy, which, in addition to the unmerited and unmeasured irritation she is exposed to from the conduct of her eldest brother, have for a long time incapacitated her from writing to any of her friends. A letter however from her sister-in-law, Mrs Hutchins, which reached one of the members of my family about a week ago, assures us that though the effects of the mercury she has used for her liver complaint have left her a mere skeleton, yet her physicians have pronounced her out of danger. I trust their opinion will be found correct; but I can't help thinking that the chances of her complete restoration are considerably lessened by her proximity to her eldest brother; whose behaviour is such that for the honour of humanity I am glad I can persuade myself it can only be attributed to insanity. Upon the death of her mother (of which I suppose you have already been apprised) I solicited her in vain to leave the source of her distress and come to Dublin, I hope however should she recover strength sufficiently for such a journey her good sense will aid my renewed attempts to snatch her from the neighbourhood of Bantry, that is to say, from destruction.

Many thanks to you, my dear Sir, for your information respecting my friend Hooker; tho' he was kind enough to write to me also from Bern yet I am delighted to hear anything in addition respecting him. Your letter made me long to change situations with that same mule of his which bears his treasures but again I remembered in such a place, I should be too strongly tempted to run away with my burden. There is no sacrifice I could confidently say that I would not cheerfully make to be present at the opening of his Continental Budget; and I am exceedingly gratified and grateful for Mrs Turner's & your invitation to Yarmouth, a place I left with unfeigned regret and where certainly I should prefer visiting to any spot in England, but alas, my fates have determined it otherwise; nor will the impediments that beset me be removed so soon I fear as Mr Hooker's return. You seem resolved to visit the Continent again and are kind enough to express a wish that I should accompany you, now without having it in my power to promise to do so, I shall be much obliged by your informing me of it when you are about to set out; as should circumstances permit nothing could give me greater pleasure than to be of the party.

Pray make my best respects to Mrs Turner and the members of your family & believe me Dear Mr Turner your sincere friend.

Thomas Taylor

27 Baggot St [Dublin]

October 26 1814