





MISS MITFORD

To John Keaton Esq. Torquay, Devon.

... It is... enough that last autumn (... that now my good friend is greatly broken) we were.. by Sir William Alford & his daughter & son in tow Sir George & Lady Adams to spend some months with them near Totness- also Mr. Heathwot wished us to wire to him for the Recess at Tiverton - & I have another dear friend in Devonshire - or rather two dear friends - Mr & Mrs. Philip Crowther near Exeter - Have you heard of them or been there? They are .. - & not rich - but they are chosen people - quite worthy of the circle into which you have fallen - & that is saying much. - What a charming book Mr. Landor's must be - Will you make my respectful compliments to him. - One does not like to forfeit one's right of acquaintanceship with such men - there are not overmany in this world of ours.

Saturday morning. - I will keep this as long... You cannot think how I have been dwelling upon the scenery you describe - it is like being it. Once (from the time that I was nearly nine years old till nearly ten) we lived as near Devonshire as Syme - in a large romantic old house about the middle of the Town with a porch before - & gates with spread eagles on one side - a very large old close(?) house built round a quadrangle, the porch covered with myrtles passion flowers & ... the back looking into a garden which edged off with steep declivities with a grotto nook in one of the banks, & a small stream for a boundary. It was a romantic old place. - The drawing room had a chimney piece copied from Shakespeare's Monument in Westminster Abbey. I seem to see it still - & in the garden were such Arbutus trees as I have never seen before or since (by the way I have just gathered a real ripe strawberry from the edge of one of my flower beds - large & fine as in July) You must come to talk of Devonshire - but I have not been well enough to travel anywhere this autumn. Every morning is passed in great pain & constrained quiet. - Well but I have had a quiet comfort today - a letter from dear Henry telling me that the letterpress of The T'bleaux is ver.. better.

On verso

(Corner of paper torn, words missing... unless Mr. Macready chooses (?).. to play it himself.....a delightful part made up of all that is manly & chivalrous & .... is youthful & buoyant. I am proud of this play which would not I think have been finished but for my ... on, & which must stamp the writer as a real dramatic poet & as something better & more for it is one of the most highminded & graceful productions that I ever read - none but such a person as Henry Chorley is could have written it. I wish you were here reading it at this moment. - My poor Otto is in Mr. Macready's hands - but not having had an answer I don't think he meant to take it... - send it, he says, with a letter urging him to produce it for his own sake - I have seen him in Reading for ten minutes about three weeks ago when he told me this - but have heard nothing from him since - He then spoke very highly indeed of the piece and was cordial & kind. I have more hope of Mr. Charles Kean who is engaged after & was at ... here (Mr. Macready has Covent Garden) & will want a new play - but then Mr. Macready is retaining mine...we shall probably find Mr. Kean's wants supplied. Such are the miseries of authorship. I have another affair to tell you also when we meet... Poor Mrs. Blagrove has had another attack, & dear Mrs. Duping (?) is at present & has been for many weeks her constant companion & nurse. The articulation is now fearfully affected - & the next stroke will be the last. - What a grief it is - that a woman ... as she was - such intellect, such life such knowledge - ...last is now dying - the only words that can now be..... attention & of generous unselfish feeling. It is to me the

..... you describe. Are any of Miss Garrow's... to be seen? Wallace & my early .... came out at the same time & we need to be compared & talked of together. - I had an interesting letter the other day about ~~some~~ <sup>our</sup> young <sup>Queen</sup> ... Stacy Anne Kennett (Mr Mathew's niece & a very very clever person) says that she is a girl of great power - sedate & serious far ~~many~~ above her years & fully equal to all that she has to do. She also speaks enthusiastically of the Queen of the Belgians & says that King Leopold feels as much about the poor Princess Charlotte & Claremont as when he first returned thither. What a letter this is. - My dear father who is quite well (is our Martha & Duck..... for thinking of them) sends his kindest regards - most grateful yours .....