

My Dear Roberts

I am really beginning
to fear that you will think I
have forgotten my promise
regarding our worthy friend Dyer's
papers belonging to the Scottish
Academy, but this is very far
from being the case. The truth
of the matter is that there has
been no meeting of the Council
since my return and it did
not appear to me to be a
proper course to call one for
the

In haste

purpose. I expect however that
there will be one very soon and
you may rely on it I shall
make every exertion in my
power to accomplish the object
in question. . . . I took home
with me the other day a set of
the prints from your drawing in
the Holy Land to the great delight
of my sister who are both quite
charmed with them and will
they may for the whole thing is
really beautifully got up
the letter press is admirable and
if any thing could add to the merit
of the artistic part of the work
it is well calculated to do so

By the bye, There is a recipe
for making Apple jelly which
one of my sisters promised you
but which has been forgotten and
whether the blame lies with her
or me is not easily discovered
here it is however common
kind and believe me
Very sincerely yours
John Watson Gordon

12³ George Street
Edinburgh 1844
25th May

My Dear Robert

I received your letter some
time ago and regretted very much that
you were obliged to take short cut to the
south as it deprived us of a week after
noon Crack - however we look for
better luck another time -

The Brown Console went to the na-
tional Gallery was satisfactory enough
Johnsen went round the rooms with him and
discharged the duty very satisfactorily I
joined them occasionally and had some
conversation with his Key of Keys which was
seemingly to know something of art
and did not as some who make great pretensions
talk nonsense on a subject of which they
know precisely little with a grave face

Infordom

at this dull season of the year there is very
little stirring in the town the weather is dark
and dismal and I have no news

I hope you are in the enjoyment of
the same good health as when you were
here in the autumn and that all your
dear ones are well and happy

I am thankful to be able to give a good
account of myself being now quite well
and in good condition for working

My brother Henry is determined to run
had an ulcers again of the foot in his
right hand but I think he is much
better to day - My sister is quite well

They both join me in very kind regards

and remain very sincerely yours

Wm Watson Gordon

David Roberts Esq Rtd

120 George St' Edinburgh 10 Nov 80

^{scarcely repeat}
P.S. I said not, what I have said so often
before that I feel most deeply interested in
every thing that concerns the Royal Academy
and will really take it very kind of you
can let me know of any change that takes
place or in short any thing that occurs to
that most respectable body M.G.

We have had a very severe winter and
our households have ^{suffered} a good deal from
cold &c but I am thankful to be
able to say that the fine weather
totally has been productive of great
improvement and with the
united kind regards of my brother
and sister I remain

My Dear Roberts very
Sincerely yours

John Watson London

Your exhibition this year has been
exceedingly good your picture occupies
one of the best places and is much
admired My

123 George Street Edinburgh
10th April 54

David Roberts Esq R.A.
d d d

My Dear Roberts

I was exceedingly happy
to learn that you had spent such
an agreeable winter in Italy and
I am sure you must have treasured
up many pleasing recollections as
well as something of a more tangible
description that may in due time
appear to dazzle your friends and
the public and not be like Shakespeares
ghost "vanish into thin air"

I expect that the new building
will be ready for our reception early
next spring when there will of course
be a great demonstration

I cannot fail to
stimulate

very highly the kind manner in which
you recall your promise of contributing
one of your valuable works for the
new Gallery and I am sure the members
of our Academy feel as I do

I have also to thank you
for the handsome manner in which
you received my humble endeavours and
at the same time to say that I rejoice
at your success at the ^{be}convivial meeting
on Christmas day. I see that our
old friend Lawrence has not forgotten
his native land, and a work worthy of
him will be most acceptable to the
Academy. The unexpected and very
liberal offer of Mr Gibson we shall
also look upon as a great boon.
I shall be sure to take the first
opportunity of laying all your kind
statements before the first meeting we

have. I am sure you will be
a little surprised when I tell you
that I do not intend visiting London
this season. The truth is that I have
been so much engaged that I cannot
leave this with satisfaction and I am
obliged to make the best of it at home.

This being the case it will be doing
me a very great favour if you will
take a fatherly charge of my
pictures and see that all is right
none of them I expect will require any
touch as they left this in complete
order. I am also anxious that my
tickets for the private view should
be sent to Lord Kesteven but as
I do not as yet know his address I
will have to trouble with another
epistle before the time.

Mr

most severe. I never remember any thing
to be compared to it in my day ~~and~~
~~and~~ The snow is about fourteen inches
deep in our back court and to day
has than in bringing it off the house
tops in masses with a noise like
distant thunder.

I am thankful to be able
to give a good account of all our health
notwithstanding the severe weather
Harry has just concluded a most
melancholy study he had to superintend
all the arrangements connected with
the death and funeral of the lamented
Earl of Dalhousie and this' thread
with an attack of Gout he has not
been the wiser for his exertions

And how my Dear Roberts wishing
you all the compliments of the season
in which I am most heartily joined by
my brother and sister

Y^r Obedt^l Serv^t & Nephew
John Lubbock

125 King's Bench
31st Dec^r
1860

My Dear Roberts

I have to thank you
very much for your last letter and
the information it contained which is
exceedingly interesting to me - It was
however more than I desired as I was
in your debt but I promise better
behaviour in future

I am glad to find that the
alterations are going on in the R^y
Academy and that the rooms will
be ready at the usual time for the
reception of the specimens - I hope that
the Royal Academy news will be moved
from Trafalgar Square whatever
becomes

of the National Gallery

I am also glad to find that
The President has returned in good
health which I hope will long continue

I remember the old life school
in the Cupids and Statuary thought
that it was too confined for such a
purpose in London - We have now
got splendid accommodation in the
new building on the Mount for our
life studies nothing can exceed it

I am sorry to learn that your
term in the Council is nearly over
but perhaps it is a relief to you -
I hope that our friend John Lewis will
have some success at the next election

It is a melancholy subject for re-
flection that so many distinguished
Members of the Academy should have
been

removed in so short a period but so does

(Dei Transiit gloria Mundi)

It was very satisfactory to me to find
that Dr. Hall and Harney had written
you on the position of your picture in
the National Gallery - The truth is that
I was exceedingly anxious on the same
subject and had two or three conferences
with Johnston about it, which ended
in the conviction that he could not
have done otherwise under existing
circumstances. I hope however that at
the next change a better place may
be found - The smelliness of the octagon
in the Room is very annoying considering
the number of large pictures there are
to hang. The picture at the same time looks
favorable and well. The weather
with us for the last fortnight has
been