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### Letter from Alexander Carlyle to his brother, Thomas Carlyle

Alexander Carlyle

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~~Monday at 10 o'clock. Dear Mother in Edinburgh & no reply  
though has been here for more than a month. The letter of  
I had will not forget to tell you a piece of money more  
part of letter for you when  
little brother has a little  
brother has already had many messages of the sort from  
with without looking a moment on  
My dear brother~~

Leeds 18 Jan. 1829

Although I have nothing of the slightest importance, in shape of news, to communicate yet I know well you will right gladly pay the 8<sup>th</sup> of post age to know that we are all in our usual way; and happily I am still enabled to quiet your anxiety on this score. Our Father who has just left us now for Mainhill and our Mother who only a month ago ceased from urging me to write, headless of every excuse: yea even that very common 'tis not by any means unimportant one "if having nothing to write about was in her estimation completely done away with by this single reply "How can you tell them that we are a well" did they not tell thee to write surely". I was eternally to say above but have failed it seems, that our Father and Mother were every whit as well as when you last saw them; and the rest of us from myself down to little Jenny are in perfect health of body and soundness of mind, thanks be to kind Providence why then should we vex ourselves about the pitiful things of this world as long as we are all shared

in health and life. Is there not as you remarks  
"aye life for a living load" aye some sort of web given  
longer or shorter, coarser or finer wherewith to shape  
one's coat from; and I trust that we have all of us  
long ago learned to be contented "with such things  
as are convenient" that is to say learned to let  
things (without grumbling) were their silks and fogs  
go off their wind believing after all that "an honest  
independant man's the man for a' that". We not  
then, my dear brother, anxious about us. It is true the  
change of times has also with it changed consider-  
ably the weight of our, and others purses, but then  
we have stolen no mans goods. we have robbed no  
churches neither have we been burthensome to any  
one; and over and above all this mass of genuine  
consolation our Father will be enabled to meet  
him his "Honour" on the next day which occurs  
in about a fortnight. With regard to our rent here  
we are not to settle the Lammes when our but-  
-ings are finished.

I wished greatly to have it in  
my power, before writing, to tell you of our final settle-  
-ment with his Honour; but our Arbiters have not been  
able to meet, the last Saturday was appointed, owing

to the boisterous state of the weather. I know not whether  
you are acquainted with the circumstances and subject  
of dispute, or whether I shall be able to tell you with-  
out occupying more of the sheet than it really deserves.  
It now appears from these articles of soup (which tell  
lately we never once could get our eyes on) that we  
have erred in taking two successive white crops from  
about ten acres of land last season, about forty acres  
his Honour calls it "silla man" and on this alone he  
founder his claim of 100 guineas of damages more or less  
if we have really committed <sup>an error</sup> which, in justice "may be  
strongly doubled" It was Blackadder who caused us. He is  
now far removed from the tricks and villany of this  
life having received judgement and justice in the  
Heavenly high courts where his Honour's interest and  
influence is unfelt and where no sneaking, petty-  
fogging, some of mischief does to uplift his voice.  
We agreed to have the thing settled by Arbitration merely  
to keep us out of the law. Haining is our man and  
Caruthers of Limekiln Street. The damage will probably  
amount to £14 or 16 and three times that sum at  
least will be gained from the farm this year had as it  
is. We have not yet determined whether or not we will  
keep it another year. My Father is heartily tired of it.  
They speak of me going to live there in the event of  
keeping it and what might hinder Rachel to accompany  
me tush! tush!!! You judge but too surely my

my dear brother of the state of my feelings. would  
to Heaven that I may be enabled to make proper use of  
your more than brotherly advice. Thats my honest kind  
man Jack for his kind little note - tell him that the Parlo  
grate is now fixed up and we are anxiously expecting him  
home to treat him with all possible kindness in our own  
rough honest way. I greatly fear he is too anxious about em-  
ployment. Tell him that the just man's sud here never been left to say

Your dear well in my opinions upon  
the whole not to encourage our ladies  
still continue to call on you again. This  
is a worse man than you are aware of

Mr Barbye  
21 Cornley  
Edinburgh

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I am much obliged to you for your hearty invitation to Edin  
and sorry to tell you that I cannot come we are so busy along  
-ing. I will however if spared some time or other see your  
house in Edin. Our mother desires me to bid you thank her  
dear daughter for her mindfulness and say moreover that she ex-  
pects a long full letter from her when it is convenient. - She  
has all our loves. Some of the German tates are excellent. Lorie  
is not sold - The marine is filled with gratitude. at Carlisle