

and general literature; here also she met with many distinguished people, amongst others Lady Ferard, wife of the Hon. John Foster, afterwards Lord Oriel, and her daughter who married the first Lord Dufferin. Lady Florence Balfour was also a visitor at Collon.

Miss Beaufort took charge of her little cousin Frances' education, and continued from that time till her marriage her constant instructor, and steady faithful friend till her death in 1865.

At Collon, too, she had for a companion and friend, Francis Beaufort, Miss Beaufort's brother, who entered the naval service early in life, and rose quickly in his profession, and was in after years distinguished as Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort, K.C.B., and closed in 1857 a long life spent in the service of his country.

When about ten years old, Frances spent eight months on a visit to her relatives, the Edgeworths, at Edgeworthstown. These visits were always spoken of as the most charming events of her life, and the pleasure and advantages she derived from the society of this remarkable and accomplished family was very great, as her correspondence with them, and her other friends in after years, fully shows. She joined her young cousins in the daily routine of lessons, and entered into all their pleasures and amusements. One of the pastimes of the whole family was for Mr. Edgeworth to call upon all of them to hear and judge of all he and his daughter Maria were writing. The taste for literature was by this means formed and exercised in the family. Stories for children exercised the judgment of children, and so on, as to their respective ages, all giving their opinion and trying their powers of criticism. Miss Edgeworth sometimes wrote short plays for the birthday amusement of her brothers and sisters, and Frances generally took a part in them. Occasional visits were made to Pakenham Hall and Castle Forbes. At Pakenham Hall they met Lady Catherine Pakenham, afterwards married to the Duke of Wellington.

During these years, and up to the year 1809, Frances regularly corresponded with her mother at Bath. Mrs. Brown's letters, though very short on account of the difficulty of writing, are filled with expressions of love for her little daughter and thankfulness for the kind friends, and the means and opportunities these friends had provided for the improvement of her