

going in a few days to N.Y., on their way to England, we have had very severe frost but expect the Indian Summer will give us a few weeks of fine weather before winter.

[38th Letter]

YORK, DECEMBER 22ND, 1817.

My Dearest Brother

Mother's health is declining fast. Letters from Norwich to this effect as late as 30th Sept. [Mrs. Irvine seems not to have delivered the letter entrusted to her for Mr. Murray. Mrs. P. accounts for it * * * she might have met her worthless husband and been obliged to submit to his control] * * * Mr. Crookshank took long letters * * * We hear that Charles Shaw and his wife spend the winter in your city. The October mail brings commissions or rather appointments to Mr. Boulton as Judge and Mr. Robinson as Attorney-General. It is a great advancement for a young man of 26, the situation is about £1800 stg. per annum.

[39th Letter]

YORK, 26th JAN, 1818

[Family matters. Praises a nephew for having erected a stone or mural tablet with very appropriate inscription over the remains of "our lamented John" Mr. Murray's only son] * * * The late grievous news from England caused a universal shock to the people of the Province and doubtless throughout the whole British domains: it is a great national as well as domestic calamity; that heart must be hardened which does not sympathize with the survivor, rare and perfect domestic happiness subsisted between the Royal Pair: it is almost a solitary instance of a connexion in that rank of life being formed upon principles of affection and the choice of the parties: as a national loss it cannot be estimated. May Heaven avert the evils threatened by the unexpected visitation. [This event so much deplored was the death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, the only child of the Prince Regent (George 4th) and the Princess of Brunswick (Queen Caroline) she was married on the 2nd May, 1816, to Leopold, Duke of Saxony, and Prince Saxe Cobourg and died in childhood the following year. Princess Charlotte was heir to the throne of England after the father's death] * * * The Legislature meets the 5th Feb. and my cares begin.