

ployed. I hear that during the winter the Presbytery, owing to the representation of Mr. Gale of Hamilton, are going to supply the church here, which will be a great interim advantage.

I am sorry I made the mistake about Aunt Jessy's Loan, although, as you say, it doesn't matter much, but if I had looked a little more particularly to your letter of the 27 June I would have seen that what you say is, that she lends, not will lend, it to me. I might also have considered where the second cash (£150) was coming from; but we understand each other now, and I would have discovered my mistake much sooner, if the Letter the Draft was sent on had been perused as frequently as all the other letters I have received; but the fact was that you had only room to say a few words.

I am glad you were pleased with the sketches I sent; but I don't know where the errors in the perspective will be. It is very possible there may be such, but I think you should come out and examine the place itself before you pass judgment. I shall hope to see improved ones by yourself some day. Madame Janet's critical sketches will be most acceptable; I suppose she means to retaliate on me, for (ignorant as I was of the art of coloring) sometimes daring to criticize some of her paintings; but I believe in the present case she is quite right, for I myself did think my Trees were rather extra superfine; but she must not alter any of my Pines beside the Bridge, for they are quite natural.

Many thanks to Arthur for his attention about the Observers. I received five about a week ago: up to the 2nd Oct'r. You needn't have made any remark about your crossing for it is quite easily read. One part of your letter I was particularly delighted with: it was that where you say that you think none of you would have much objection to try how American air would agree with you. What ideas this excited in my mind!—along with what Mamma said, that if you would have let her, she would have been more than half inclined to come over with Mrs. Littlejohn. God knows I should be the very last person in the world to advise my dearest friends to take a step which it was possible they might afterwards repent of; but you cannot but allow that the very idea of this taking place, was sufficient to elate me considerably. As for American air, I can only say that it agrees with me every bit as well as home air; and I am very sorry that in my last letter I should have mentioned my having often been troubled with a complaint, which since I left Fergus and came to Irvineside, now four weeks, I have never had the slightest attack of, except once, and that only for a single day. I cannot explain where the difference lies between this and Fergus, but I must refer it, either to something different in the water, or to something unwholesome I have been accustomed to eat there. Now perhaps I shouldn't have referred as I have now done, my dear Father, to the part of your letter which struck me so forcibly, because it was said perhaps in a joke; but I would rather not think so, and shall not till you bid me. And why