

NOTE.

The opportunity is welcomed of appending to this volume an unpublished letter of Mrs. Grant, the original of which is in the possession of the Hon. John V. L. Pruyn, to whom this edition is dedicated by the editor. The especial object of Lady Charlotte Bury's appeal to her kindness does not appear from the letter itself nor in the *Diary* ascribed to Lady Bury, published in London in 1838, and which contains other letters of Mrs. Grant not in her published correspondence. It illustrates, however, the characteristic traits of the author.—*M.*

Brac House, July 9th, 1831.

MY DEAR MADAM :

I lose no time in answering your Ladyship's letters, and only grieve that I have nothing very satisfactory to communicate. Tho' the noble and affecting candour of your communication has deeply interested me, I think there are very few to whom you are known who would not willingly pay this slender tribute to difficulties with which every person capable of estimating your many claims to consideration must sympathize. I have been casting about in my own mind the great number of persons who I think would have pleasure in giving this testimony of respect and esteem. For instance, there is the Family of Miller of Earnock, very wealthy, liberal in the use of that wealth, and childless. They value themselves not a little in being pretty nearly connected with your family. I think both he and his sister would give their names readily, if properly applied to. I would send one of the proposals you inclose were it not like taking too great a liberty both with them and you. But, if you sent me a few lines addressed to these kindred of yours, expressing your wish that an object of some importance to you should receive their assistance, or something to that purpose, I would inclose one of the proposals and send it to them. I shall mention certain Highland Chieftains who I should suppose would feel honored in adding to your list. Lochiel, Chime, Macintosh, Grant of Glenmoriston. I should have said first the Honorable Col. Grant, Charles Grant, M.P., John Grant of Kilgraston, Lord Macdonald, Macleod, etc., etc. Now I think if you inclosed to each of these Gentlemen a proposal accompanied with a few lines expressive of a peculiar urgency which induces you to put the good will of your friends to this proof, I think there could be no disappointment. "Often shall we find the sharded beetle in a safer hold, than is the full wing'd Eagle." Thus after long and severe struggles with I find myself in a kind of safe tranquillity as to circumstances which your rank, and the sphere you have to fill in society, besides I could mention many others but as yet writing is not indulged to as I am slowly recovering from a severe illness. I should indeed be glad had I the power to promote that or any other object desirable to you, being with much respect and regard.

Your Ladyship's obedient Servant,

ANNE GRANT.