

How for Per. (23 Plaviose. ^{THURSDAY} Friday.
Feb 12th 1802.
Maison Magnan, Boulevard
Hibern, no 342.

I did not intend to have delayed writing so long - In England I have always been in the habit of going thro with a letter at one sitting; & consequently of waiting till I could have full leisure - but here I might wait a month - for I am not an early riser - something or other breaks in upon my morning, & after dinner I have a necessity of seeing somebody to talk with, or I should be melancholy - it will not always be so - when I shall have succeeded in all my plans of acquaintance, I shall not feel that irritation, & nervousness which I experience at present - in fact I met with a disappointment in the letter I depended upon - it was from an Emigrant to a Republican (who had been his intimate friend) & did not produce the effects which so warm a ^{recommending} letter of introduction naturally ought - Mr Ventenat, the Introducé, who is a celebrated Botanist, is very civil if I call upon him, & that all I have had another little subject of dissimilitude in receiving no answer to a letter I sent Mr Lafrange, to whom I addressed a ~~mathematical~~ question, concerning where I might find the solution of a demonstration of a certain Theorem, & which he has never sent any answer - & the Question is important to me - as, I believe, no one

has ever demonstrated the theorem satis-
factorily, & I possess in my mind a genuine
demonstration. I mention these things to you
tho not directly interesting to you, because
they account in part for my silence, & ex-
plain the state of my mind. Having said
this, I must observe on the other hand that I
am not in the least disappointed, otherwise
than temporarily; I have full confidence
in being able to accomplish all the objects
I reckon important. I have the best of
introductions to Mr Chateaubrien, which is
the same as to be introduced to all the persons
of belles lettres in Paris. He, at pre-
sent is so occupied in printing a large work
on the political & moral beauties of the Christian
religion, that he has no time for any body
— but it will be out in about a fortnight. He
has introduced Tuthill to Madame de Staël,
who is considered here as a very great woman,
& receives all the literati at her house on
set days — I also shall be introduced to her.
A person, like me, who speaks the French lan-
guage with difficulty, should be introduced
first to the Savans, & not to the literati tho
he can express ~~for~~ himself less clumsily — but
being unknown in my own country, it would be
~~not~~ unreasonable in me to expect to find
every thing here prepared for me in the smooth-
est & readiest manner. I could
easily enough form acquaintance with the En-
glish here — but I avoid it carefully — I know
that in spite of my care I shall at last have
too much of it. Of the strangers here, I at present
have visited none but Tuthill, & L^d Henry Petty.
Yesterday L^d H. Petty brought with him Mr
Parnell (of the Irish family) who, I find is desirous
of being acquainted with me. I just knew
him at Cambridge — he is a very amiable
& sensible man, & I expect great pleasure in ac-
quainting with him.

I have not seen Bonaparte yet otherwise than in public, at the review. The number of troops reviewed was very considerable (10000 they say) the sight of them & of Bonaparte, & of the Tuilleries, that scene of such various changes brought such a flood of sensations, ^{& reflections} into my mind as almost overpowered me. My view of B. was very indistinct, next time I shall have a ticket for the Gallery of the Tuilleries, where he passes.

The only Great Man I have seen in private at least, that I consider as of all great, is Tom Paine. Him I consider as by no means occupying so high a situation in the Temple of Fame, as he deserves & will, I think attain. I only saw him for about 10 minutes at Mr. Holcroft's & consequently had no opportunity of hearing his conversation, which I understand from Mrs. H. is impregnated with the same masculine sense that so eminently distinguishes his writings. It was towards evening, & I could scarcely distinguish his face. His manner & appearance is that of a Gentleman of the old school, which I did not expect. As he only called, en passant, I was not introduced to him.

I have been to no place of public entertainment since I wrote to you last William (setting aside Coffee houses, cellars & eating houses) except one Masquerade. That began at midnight I found it just entertaining enough to stay till 6 but they are dull things - the French themselves yawn at them - it was a novelty to me, otherwise nothing can make them tolerable but a large acquaintance. As for the Theatre, I so infinitely prefer the private & a friend that I cannot drag myself to them, but I must as the comparison of them with the English is one of my objects. I subscribe to the Lyceum, where 10 or 12 professors give lectures in various arts & sciences. Among the great men, the most distinguished, who lecture there, are Fourcroy, Laplace & Cuvier. There is a library, a conversation room, & a reading room where are taken all the French Journals & reviews, & some of the English, & either two or 3 lectures every day, except decadi. It

continues the whole year, & the subscription is
 4£, which I think very cheap indeed.
 I will now look to your letter & see what I may have
 there to answer. The Tutkells were a whole
 night at sea off the French Coast & could not
 land for the boisterous weather & contrary winds.
 I am glad to find money is so abundant with you in
 England. Good beef here 5 pence per lb. I could
 easily have obtained a W. Tooke's branch while in England.
 I will write to Edward. The postage from here to Calais
 which I pay for all the letters I send is very trifling. Let-
 ters from England cost me 10. & living is very dear
 in Paris; but I think it costs me less here than in London.
 A wood fire need not be kept up when you are absent - this
 advantage does not attach to families.

PARIS

The Rev. Mr. Manning

Dip. Norfolk.

England

Remember me affectionately to Mr & Mrs Woodward.
 Tell Edward I shall write to him, Mr A.
 might have better with him, I think. Depend
 upon it I shall not neglect to write to some one of
 my family very often. A letter to me I consider
 as a letter to all - is not that right? I am
 charmingly situated here. I am on the 4th floor -
 which is in fact the 6th for all the houses have
 entrances to the 1st & 2^d floors. I pay 3£ per month.
 I shall be glad to hear from you always Mr & Mrs J. Manning