

Tuesday after
Ash Wednesday
Mar 9. 1802

TM/11/113

Boulevard Italien
Maison Magnan
No 342.
Tuesday 18th Ventose

Dear Sir

If I was to sit down now
from now till tomorrow morning, I should
not be out of debt with all my correspondents.
I mean if I gave them letters of a decent
length - when one is in a foreign country, one
does not like to send a scrap of a letter. You
must observe I do not rank you among
my Creditors - for in strict Justice you
owe me a letter. However I allow you
argument in part to be good with respect to
the greater variety I see here. Yet the
most interesting part of my varieties is not
easily made the subject of correspondence.
For you know I live here very retired - I spend
no money - scarcely ever go into high society
- yet Paris is a place where luxury abounds
& riots uncontrolled - I used the phrase, "you
know" - ~~that~~ it may mislead you - my re-
tired & unexpensive mode of living is not be-
cause I am afraid to spend my money, but
because at present it would answer me no
purpose of importance - Circumstances may
arise, that will induce me to live at the rate
of 3 or 400 £ a year - is not likely; &
you may depend upon it, some higher motive
than a love of luxury must lead me to it.

I have made two acquaintances since I wrote
last, that be very useful as well as agreeable.
The one is with Mr. Demainville, a learned
man, who has invented a new Language, which he

calls Pasigraphie. A friend of mine gave me a
"ticket for two" to a lecture ^{Mr D.} ~~he~~ ^{gave} gratis on the
subject to those whom such things interest, & I
went there with Tabbie. We afterwards called
on him together, & had some conversation ~~together~~,
with him, the result of which was that he of-
fered to give us a private lecture, on ami,
which we accepted. This morning I sent him
a short letter written in Pasigraphie - tho I
have studied it not more than 8 or 9 hours
altogether - & the manner of writing is not by let-
ters & syllables, nor has any connexion with the
alphabet. Whether Mr D. & I shall "set our
houses together" as they say at Dips, I cannot tell yet.
For he does not at all know me at present.
He is very intimate with the Abbé Picard
The famous teacher of the deaf & dumb. —
The other Gentleman I alluded to, is an Englishman
I met him at a Restaurateur's (a place where one dines)
we were almost vis à vis to each other, & sat for some
time silent - it was almost dark, & I took him for
a frenchman. At last he had occasion to ask me to
pass the salt, or some such thing, & I not under-
standing him promptly, apologized for the hesitation
with which I acceded to his request on the score of
being a Foreigner - this produced an éclaircissement
& set our English tongues at liberty - we passed
from pepper & salt to Metaphysics, & we found so
many more points of contact than is usual on such
subtle subjects, that we outset partie after partie
without perceiving it, till at last we were almost left
alone in the Salle - we exchanged our cards, & a day
or two afterwards I went & breakfasted with him.
I find he is somewhat in the confidence of the French
Government, having a civil place in Belgium
He introduced me that morning to Mrs Casway,
an English Painter & Engraver, who is publishing
Sketches of the Pictures in the National Gallery
He is to call on me one morning & go with him to the

Bibliothèque Nationale where he has some researches
to make & he has offered among other things to introduce
me to a man who has travelled in the interior of China
& who is acquainted with Chinese manners - a subject
that much interests me. He tells me he can be of
service to me in a literary way. I believe he both
can & will. — I had a ticket for the last review & he
admitted me into the antechamber, where Bonaparte passed.
I had an excellent view of him both in his going
out & his returning - what a God like countenance
he has! his demeanor to the spectators was very affable
& unaffected. I have so exalted an idea of him as a great
man, that when he passed & turned his face to the
party where I stood I had a violent emotion even to
tears. Much is said against him here - some things
perhaps justly - others certainly not - & this injustice
works such a counteraction in my mind, as breeds
in me a most violent attachment to him.

A great many benighted men have
taken place lately, they say - La Harpe is put
off - & he was ^{one of} our best lecturers at the Lycee.
myself have no doubt but these precautions are
very far from being needless.

When you see Mr Pernech next, ask him
if His Bank is at all in any way connected
with Mr Perigaux the banker here - I wish
now I had brought over with me a considerable
sum of money, I intended with Mr P.
For it is an introduction to his house, & he is a
very amiable man, & a great friend of Bonaparte's - not to mention that the Champagne he
gives at his Dinners is, they tell me, very excellent.
I will put by now till tomorrow.

Wednesday. In looking over my letter, I find I have ta-
ken no notice of the Carnival, which concluded yesterday
evening - in fact there is nothing worthy of observation
in it - some hundreds of people dress themselves up in
masques & all kinds of disguisements, & parade the streets
which for the last 2 or 3 days of the Carnival are full of spectators.
It was, I said, during the stern times of the revolution, I recom-

mentioned in a slight manner last year - but this year
it has been more & adulously followed or as the Parisians would
say, has been more brilliantly than ever was remembered

There is very little character in the Masques, & still less
wit. I don't trust to my own ears, but have particularly en-
quired. 'Tis strange to an Englishman to see thousands of
people in the streets, & nobody drunk - no riots - no mis-
chief except one or two little accidents. The Cent is set in,
the Masque balls are not yet given up, I find. A subscriber

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The Revd Wm Manning
Diplomat
England



procured me a ticket the other day for the "Bal des Ettrangers"
which is the greatest public ball in Paris - there were
some hundreds of people there, & hardly room to dance
I was a good deal amused, & had some remarkable people
pointed out to me - but the private balls, which are given
here in immense numbers, are the thing - Walsing is
all the fashion - the Grand use of the Masked balls is for
the married women to intrigue in. - I was in company
with Madame de Staal the other day, & shall I be-
lieve be introduced to her parties - all the known
world goes there, & some besides. - I called on La Grange
one morning, & am to call there again - he is absolutely absorbed
in Calculations, inasmuch that I don't like to interrupt him
T.M.