

How Sir

Canton January 6th 1808. THAM 43

A parcel which I received last Saturday did at length put an end to the state of torture I had been long in, at not receiving any letters from my family. This parcel contained three letters; one from you, one from Edward, & one from Crabtree; in yours, you refer to other letters from yourself & from William, but which I have seen nothing of. The Retreat Brig, which left England in January 1807 & arrived at Macao in the summer, was my first vexation. Then the "Bombay and China fleet" which arrived in October, pouring forth letters to all except ["]unfortunate me. Lastly came in the Direct fleet" the first packets from which came up to Canton on Xmas day; & as each packet in order arrived I proceeded from suspense to misery - misery indeed, when the last, which came 3 or 4 days afterwards was to me as silent as the rest! 'Tis neither your fault nor mine - we are both perfectly ignorant about these things; but I wonder Mr Crabtree should not have known that the proper place to put letters is the India house - they go into the Company's dispatches, & come free to all the world. (of Europeans in China). These packets are

Of course the very first thing that can be
delivered from the ships. as for parcels they
are sometimes forgotten, sometimes lost &
never thought of pressing consequence. & they
should always be noticed, together with the
ships name they are sent in by some
letter properly sent. Edward tells me he
has sent a parcel, but I don't know even what
fleet it came by. it may be in the river
in some ship at Whampoa, or it may be
in London, or in the Surat Castle which put
in lately at Rio de Janeiro; if so I shall
have it by the time I get back to England.
Or it may be in the Alfred which is
expected in every day. — Mr Pendergast
is very sorry that he was not aware of
the importance ^{to me} of this parcel (I have just
received) but he says as was given him
a month before he left London, he had
no idea that it could be of pressing import.
When you consider that it was almost two years
since I had heard from you you won't be
surprised when I confess that I was a little
damped at first by the silence of all the packets
& having nothing sent to me or hinted to me as
being in petto, by any one. I sulked for a
few days, & did not even join the Xmas party.
However I began the new year with lively hopes

having heard of a parcel, & being almost
sure that it must contain a letter from
you. We sat down a party of 50 & I was in
an uncommon good spirit. — such is the effect of
removing a negative! for as yet I had had
no positive news from you.

Your political news makes me smile. Why
~~the~~ the very fleet your letter came in, brings
English papers up to the 19th of April inclusive.
Then from Constantinople we have news sometimes
almost as soon as you in England.

If we could believe all we hear from
that quarter we should say that Sweden has
signed an armistice — but I hope that is
not true. — I wrote to you a short
letter by the Castle Breeze in the summer
you'll receive this first perhaps. I wrote
you another last November, which I sent
by America — they were both short &
gossiping. I have not time now to say
more than that I am well & going on well.
I was too low spirited to write before I received
a letter, & now I am driven up in heaps.
for the fleet is about to sail. I will write
or perhaps leave a letter for the next fleet
that shall be more particular. — I write to
Edward by the True Briton to Davy by the Retreat.

6 Jan. 1828
The Rev. Mr Manning
Meeting
~~at~~
~~at~~
near Brandon
D. 1828
Manning
D. 1828

I had almost forgot to say that I send a chest
of supernaculum tea for the rectory. The Duty
on it will cost you as much as the whole price
of ordinary tea, but that I can not help. You'll
find none such in the shops, altho' there may be
as good to your taste, & even better. It is directed
to Mr Hambl who will take it out, as they call it,
& pay the duty, which Edward will pay him I
suppose. W. D. S. 7. 11.