

Wigan Archives Service, WLCT
The Edward Hall Diary Collection

The Fuller Family Letter Collection

Transcript produced by
Gillian Lloyd, Archives volunteer

EHC/201



Edward Hall, c.1932

The Fuller Family Letter Collection

Introduction

The loose miscellaneous documents in the first section were accumulated by the Stratton family, relations by marriage to the Fullers. The Strattons were partners in a wealthy London firm of merchants trading with Russia. These papers are mainly concerned with business and personal finance. Some medical notes throw light upon treatments used at the end of the eighteenth century.

The main section comprises letters bound into a book and giving an insight into the life of a middleclass farming family and their acquaintances. The Reverend John Fuller and his wife Mary lived at Germaines in Chesham and had three sons, John, Stratton and Benjamin. Mary's sister, Deborah Stratton, and a number of servants completed the household. All the letters were sent to John Fuller junior in 1805 and 1806, when he was living and working in London. Stratton also left home during this period to learn about agriculture from an uncle in Berkshire. Both boys were much missed by their anxious mother, whose comments and advice filled many pages.

Other relatives contributed, as well as a friend, Charles Raymond Barker. The correspondence covered many subjects, including local gossip, domestic concerns, health issues, travel and national events. The threat of French invasion and deaths of Nelson, Pitt and Fox made this an unsettled time, which is reflected in the letters. The merits of politicians were discussed, along with those of books and horses. A light-hearted element was provided by accounts of visits to the theatre, seaside and races.

The wealth of topics and differing viewpoints of the writers make for interesting reading. Personal characteristics are revealed and curiosity aroused as to the fate of those mentioned, particularly the Fuller boys. Unfortunately little is known of John and poor Stratton died in his twenties. Benjamin, on the other hand, survived until 90 years of age, managing the estate and serving as a J.P. and magistrate.

Editor's Note

All diary transcripts have been produced with the intention of faithfully reproducing the text of the original manuscript exactly as it appears. All spellings and punctuation marks have been transcribed as they appear; where clarification was thought necessary by the transcriber, an explanation, current spellings or punctuation have been added in square brackets or as a footnote.

The authors had no thought of posterity and failed to leave a margin for the tape which was later used in the binding process, so that some words were covered. In addition, a few passages were completed in shorthand and not all were translated, but these small omissions are insignificant amongst one hundred letters.

FIRST SECTION – loose letters and documents 1787 – 1834, not in date order

Letter A1 [from John Brogden] page i

Clapham 8th Sept 1787/

Dear Sir/

I doubt not but you will be/ much surprized at having a Letter/ from me addressed to you at Chesham,/ but as I have not been able to meet/ you in Town for these 14 Days past/ I could no longer delay acquainting/ you with what has greatly agitated/ my thoughts lately about the future/ disposal & fixing of my son, the uncom/=mon & I might say almost unpara/=[]leled friendship kindness & attention/ that has been constantly & invariably/ paid to him by Mr Samuel Stratton &/ your self ever since/ he went into the Countinghouse has/ emboldened me to flatter my self with/ the hopes of future Favours, & when/ you call in the feelings of a Father/ I trust you will excuse & not think/

A1 page ii

me impertinent & assuming in [this?] / as I hereby do earnestly intreat your Favour/ & Interest with Mr Samuel Stratton to admit/ James when out of his Apprenticeship into/ a small share of the Business as a Partner[.]/ The Reputation & Credit of the thing is/ what I at present wish for & look to, I assure/ you more than the immediate emoluments/ & whatever small Share might be proposed for/ him I would most thankfully accept & concur/ in when allotted to him/

I have wanted to open my Mind to you/ upon this Head for some Time past but could/ never find you alone[.]/

Mr Piechell one Evening last/ Week was with us at Clapham when I ventured/ to ask his consent to what I am now applying/ to Mr S S & Your Self for, & he very kindly answered/ that he should have no objection[.] I informed/ him that I had not then spoke[n] to either of/ You Gentlemen & what I was soliciting/ must be [discerned?] as nothing unless I had both/ your intire concurrence by consent first, & I am/ greatly embar[r]ass'd by Mr Samuel Stratton[']s/

A1 page iii

being from home & thereby hindered from/ his advice & assistance in the Affair/ which I would most gladly have, & indeed/ he might justly be affronted at my/ attempting it in his absence, only Mr/ Peichell if you approve of it advises/ the Young Man's immediately embark/=ing for Petersburg by Capt Willis who/ says he shall only stay till next/ Saturday, which is very short Notice/ indeed, only I should be fearful of short/ Days & a Wintry passage if delayed [much?]/ longer/

I shall take the Liberty of waiting/ upon you as soon as ever you come to/ Town to talk over this Affair candidly as/ it is a very momentous one to me & mine but I have/ great Confidence in your Friendship &/ Esteem & shall Rely much upon your/ open & free advice upon it[.]/

Mr S Stratton left Brighton on Thursday last/ very well in his Way to Portsmouth
& James/ returned yesterday [pure?] well also, & highly/ sensible of the
Favour shewn him in this/ Journey, he my Wife & Family all join/ in most
Respectful Compliments to yourself Mrs/ Stratton Mr & Mrs Fuller & Miss Stratton
& I / am with the highest Esteem & Regard/
Dear Sir your Affect[ionate] & much obliged H[um]ble Serv[an]t/
John Brogden/

A 1 page iv

Samuel Stratton Esq/ at the Revd Mr Fuller's/ Chesham/ Bucks./
[franked -] SE/8/87/

Letter A 2 [from John Brogden] page i

Brighton 14th Augt. 1788/
Dear Sir

I was greatly disapointed in not/ having the pleasure of seeing you, for
I / think more than a fortnight, before I left/ Clapham to come to this Place, as
I much/ wanted to have a little Conversation with/ you about my Young Man,
who is now/ on his Way home from Russia, his Mother/ & me as well as himself
were made very/ happy about this Time twelve Month by/ Mr S Stratton & Mr
Pieschell giving him/ assurances that they intended when out of/ his Time to
admit him as a Partner in the/ Business, but the Turn Affairs seem to be/ now
taking in Leadenhall Street greatly lets/ us down again, for Mr S Stratton has
told me/ that he is determined to dissolve the present/ Partnership between
him & Mr Pieschell, &/ though both he & Mr P. have hinted that they/ should
seperately, have no objection to a Connection/ with James, yet I should
greatly prefer a joint/ Partnership, for if it was to be with Mr Saml /
Stratton you must be well aware that he/ has not hitherto taken an Active
part in the/ Business, or made himself so thoroughly/

A 2 page ii

Acquainted with it as would be necessary for at/ least one of them, in order
to the carrying of it on/ with propriety, & to the best Advantage, & as to my/
Son though I am willing to flatter my self, that his/ Care, diligence[,] Activity &
very best endeavours, would/ not be wanting, yet when I consider his Youth/
& inexperience I tremble at the thoughts of Such/ a Business as has, & I hope
will be[,] carried on in/ Leadenhall Street, being managed & transacted/
principally by him, & were they to look out for/ assistance by taking another
Partner that would be/ a very hazardous & difficult Task, the Capable & Man/
of Business & Real Property would not easily be found, / & Such as have
Capacity & Experience but no/ Money often turn out very different from the
Expectations/ that have been formed of them. On the Other hand/ should
my son join Mr Peichell seperately I could not/ bear the thoughts of his taking
a part as it might/ seem against, any One of Your Family, to whom he/ & I are
under such great Obligations, but if a/ Reconciliation could take place with
Mr P & there be/ a joint Partnership & James turn out as I hope &/ flatter my

self he would, active diligent & attentive, / there would be little Occasion for Mr. S S to do more/ than come once or twice a week to the Countinghouse/ to look into & See how things went on, or every Day/

A 2 page iii

more or less as would be agreeable to him/ & he chose it, & I do think they might/ then be the first House in London in/ their Way[.]

Several of My Friends that are experienced/ Wise & sensible Men do think the Affair/ with the dirty Jew not near so bad on Mr/ P[']'s side as was at first represented, particularly/ Mr G Thornton who always said he was too/ much & too soon frightened, & they never could/ have maintained an Action to obtain Damages[.]

Mr Saml Smith who is also a Man of great/ experience & knowledge of Mankind & has/ James's Interest much & really at heart/ thinks it a great pity when/ Messrs S & P have been so successful together/ that a Separation should now take place/ & James in every Letter to me wishes to hear/ of a reconciliation, therefore I/ now beg leave to apply to you to beg that/ you will use all your influence & persuasion/ with your Son to Soften his Resentment & See/ if you cannot bring about what I am now/ Aiming at & I really hope & believe you will/ in that be doing a good thing not only for/ my Son but for your own son also/

My Wife joins w[i]th me in Comp[li]ments to Mr Samuel Stratton & Says he/ must come & See us at Brighton[.] She will not excuse him/

We all join in Cordial & best respects to your/self & the whole Family & I am with great Esteem & Regard/ Dear Sir/ Your Affectionate & much obliged H[um]ble Ser[vant]/

John Brogden/

PS My Daughter I hope is rather better/ for her Journey but yet continues poorly/

A 2 page iv

Samuel Stratton Snr Esq/ London/

Letter A 3 [from J Brogden junior] page i

Dresden 13. Septbr [17]88./

Dear Sir

I beg your reference to my/ last letter of 23^d Ult[im]o from this place./ You will not wonder, when I tell you/ that I like Dresden, as my father has/ probably told you before this time that/ I have been feigning ill to excuse/ my long Stay here. I assure you/ however I Sh[oul]d not have been here/ had I not been confin[e]d a close pri-/soner for above a week by a Cold/ & fever. No State prisoner was ever/ kept more close to his room, by/ his Electoral highness than I was,/ by a cold and fever.

I have however now obtain[e]d my/ release, but like the man, who/desir[e]d to return to the Bastile,/

A 3 page ii

I am not as you See in any hurry to/ make use of it[.] I have this morning/
 been to see 28,000 men march into their/ Camp. As they were very much
 fatigued/ with their march, having come from/ Dresden without halting which
 is/ near two English miles distance,/ & had been very much harrass'd in/ their
 march by a number of flying/ Squadrons of Citizens, they did not/ think proper
 to attack us, & I shall/ for the future consider an army of/ 30,000 men as a very
 harmless thing./ On Monday however as the Elector is/ to review them in
 person I shall/ probably have some very hot work/ if the weather
 continues as warm/ as it has been to-day ----/

A 3 page iii

it was however seriously a very fine/ Sight to see such a No. of men form/ their
 Camp --- Dresden is as full as/ a Country town in England during/ a race
 week --- There are no less than/ 10 or 12 English here who are come/ to see
 these reviews, I intend/ leaving this place immediately after/ the Review is
 over. I beg my best/ Respects to Mrs Stratton Miss Stratton/ Mr J & Mr S.
 Stratton Mr & Mrs/ Fuller & all the family at Grove/ Street & am with much
 esteem/

Dear Sir,/ Your very much oblig[e]d/
 & Obed[ien]t & Humble Serv[an]t/J Brogden [junior]/
 I beg my best Comp[limen]ts to Mr. J Stratton/
 Senr., Dr Mayo, Mr Cole & Mr Dersham/

A 3 page iv

S. Stratton Senr. Esqr./

Document A 4 [probably from Samuel Stratton senior]

August 17. 1793. these Summs undermention'd/ to be apply'd to the Annuity
 for £1275 – with/ the Interest growing thereon - /

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Latrapessnoff's note for £20000 | £1000. – |
| Stratton, Gibson & Schonberg | 1757.9 |
| Notes - £600 £600 £900 | 87.17.6 |
| £600 | 2700. |
| Flight & Jennings's Notes. | 135. – |
| | 90. |
| | £2587.17.6 |

Stratton, Gibson & Schonberg's Note/
 For £20000. 3...[per cent?] £10000 to Mrs. Fuller/
 ----- " ----- £10000 to Miss Stratton/
 S.S. Jun[ior] 15000 - 10000 to John Stratton Jn/
 ----- " ----- 5000 to S. Stratton Jun/
 Interest £6000 reduc'd £5000 to my Wife/ for her life/
 ----- " ----- £1000 to Executors/
 £2750 4... [per cent?] £1750 to S. Stratton Junr/
 ----- " ----- £1000 to Brother John/

1000 New South Sea Annts [Annuities?] to Executors/
73.6.8 Long Annuities to my/ Wife for Her/ Natural Life/

NB the £1000 reduc'd Annts) to the Dispos[al]/ of my Will/
& 1000 3... [per cent?] Consols)
135/
33.15/

Letter A 5 [from H Rumsey] page i

Sir

As a tribute of respect due to you, for the honor you have/ done me,
to put yourself under my care, after having leaving/ little Berkhamsted, I have
taken the liberty to give you a statement/ of my mode of treating your case,
& Sincerely rejoice/ in your recovery/

Your obliged & H[um]ble Serv[an]t/ H Rumsey/

Chesham/ June 25 1794/

a Statement of the Mode of Treatment, of Mr Stratton's Case/ by H Rumsey
Apoth[ecar]y Chesham Bucks from April 24 to June 25 1794/

S Stratton Esqr came to Chesham in April last, & brought Several/ Prescriptions
from Doctor Andree, for a Violent Asthma, which/ came on periodically, but
principally at a night upon his first/ Going to bed, which obliged him
Immediat[e]ly to Get up, & Sit in a Chair/ till the fitt Subsided, the only
medicine then, which alleviated this violent/ Spasm was the following Musk
Draught according to No 4th/ of Doctor Andree['s] Prescriptions – Viz mister
[mochut Zip?]. Opii/ Compliment Instants [Parenigime
Imminde?]/ the first Medicine he took of me was one of these Draughts, on/
April the 24 ----- when Mr Stratton left little Berkham-/sted to Come to
Chesham.

Doctor Andree, or the Apoth[ecar]y who then/ attended, thought Mr
S so much better of his Asthma, as that he/ might be put upon some Tonic
Plan, accordingly I began with/ giving a Draught twice a day with the
Tinctur[e] / Aq[ua] & the musk Draught in / His breath
would not Constipating tonics, & the Musk only palliated./ I then had
recourse to Diuretics, with the [Su Diuret Spt Nitr D & Aq. piminto?]/ bis
dii [twice daily] & omni of [ather?] qt 30 Tinct Opii 9x2 20/ this
Draught I increased to 40, of the ather and thirty of Z..... [Opii?]/ This plan I
continued to May the 20th with a favourable Effect/ but still he made but little
water, and his legs & thighs began to/ Swell very much, so I changed the Day
Draughts for others made/ with the pulvis digitalis, taking one twice a day &
the Opiate/ at Night to the 27th of May - & then I omitted the Opiate and
gave/ the Digitalis forenoon, Afternoon, and Night - /

A 5 page ii

to June 13 - & then omitted the afternoon & he takes but two/ Draughts on his
..... / /

Mr Stratton has had but one bad Asthmatic fitt, since he began/ the opiate Draught, & no return Since he took the Digitalis/ ter die [thrice daily] - & that is now four or five weeks/

the Swelling is quite gone off, & he makes plenty of water/ & has none of the Spasms[.] the Digitalis Draught is as follows/

.... partes Digitalis Julepi, Camph /Aq. [fumient?] D bis
.... vit de dei [Sumendus?]/ I began with ... increased to ... now given
twice/ instead of three times a day/

all Symptoms of Threat[e]ning Dropsy are happily/ Subsided & I hope radically banished/

Mr Stratton had Several mixtures of a Solution of Gum/ in Aq
.....[pulsy?] intermediis, but I never/ found any real, permanent good,
from any medicine,/ till he began with the Digitalis[.]/

A 5 page iii [blank]

A 5 page iv

S Stratton Esqr - /

Letter A 6 page i [possibly from Dr. Andree, top of page cut off]

on March 7th. 1794 Mr S Stratton first consulted/ Dr Andree having a violent Cough & Dyspnaea/ the fits of Coughing being at times so violent/ as to nearly deprive him of Life./ He complained of having much viscid phlegm./

An Emetic was prescribed Demulcents/ Emplast [cantharid?]
scrobiculo &c w[hi]ch relieved/ but the fits of difficulty of breathing/
continueing to be frequent & very distressing/ who prescribed Rt. Mist.
Moschat.....[Zip?]/

Inct. opii. Qutt xx Haust./

instante paroxysmo sumendus./

Which draught has always relieved - & he has/

A 6 page ii

has continued to take them occasionally/ to the present time./

A moderate exhibition of Scilla &c being/ then added – expectoration became more/ free - & Mr S. went to Chesham in Bucks/ where a Relapse occurring – Digitalis/ ad Gm i ter quotidie was administered / (by the medical attendant there – who suspected/ as Dr A had from the first – water in the Chest)/ & much relief seemed to be derived from/ that medicine./
Mr S. has at times taken Cort. Perus. cum/ Bals./

A 6 page iii

Bals. Tot..[u?] &c & Infus gent. co. cum/..... [vin?] ferri. &c./

The use of Tunbridge waters were advised/ in the Summer when Mr. S. was nearly/ free from Cough or difficulty of breathing./

The appetite has not been much/ deficient – nor much thirst at any period/ - but the secretion of urine has certainly/ [been?]deficient at times./

Hertford/ 7 Octr 1794./

A 6 page iv

Miss Stratton/ Mr Stratton's/ 3 Russia Courts/ Leadenhall Street/ London/
Stratton & Co/

[franked -] HERTFORD/ AOC/8/

Letter A 7 [sender not known] page i

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| J S. recd: of S S. Estate on) | 748 0 0/ |
| Acct. Of Farm) | |
| Int. on Do. 5 Years ----- | <u>206 13 2/</u> |
| | 954 13 2/ |
| ¼ of this due to J.S | <u>238 13 3/</u> |
| Balance [agt?] J.S. | 715 19 11/ |

£5000 3 ..[per?] Cent Uncle John –

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Int on Do – 5 Years | £828 16 10/ |
| ¼ due to J.S. - | <u>207 4 2/</u> |
| Balance ... [agt?] J.S. | £621 12 8/ |

£200 to make £4800 - £5000/

Law Charges £25 10 0/

A 7 page ii

Revd. J Fuller/

Letter A 8 [from S[amuel?] Stratton] page i

Dear D S/

New City Chambers/
Nov 2. 1820/

Yours I received & thank you/ for the information it contains[.] Having/
received a letter of the same date saying/ he should not return before the
Spring/ & giving an account of the tempestuous/ weather The Rain setting it
I drop that/ I have not sent the Power as yet And think/ it quite unnecessary –
till I hear again/ from Mr King & then it will be three or/ 4 days before any thing
can be done And/ I suppose shall a weeks Notice from Charlotte/ when she
intend[s] going for Bath then/ it will be time enough to take it out/ Without
you wish for it immediately/ By giving me notice it shall be done/ directly in
Benjamin['s] Name If it had/

A 8 page ii

been made out [I] should have sent it – for/ fear it might not have been ready
the/ [Writing?] & then the Power would have been/ of no use

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| £5000 Reduced | £150 / | |
| 73.6.8 ... [Long?] Ann[uities?] | 73.6.8/ | |
| in Her Name £100 L, Ann in her No. | 100 / | I receive/ the dividend/ |
| £1300 in My hands | <u>65 = =/</u> | |
| that she receives from Us | £388 – 6 – 8/ | |
| | <u>35 – 6 – 8/</u> | |
| £92. a Year She receives | £423 -13 – 4/ | |
| from me | <u>92 – 6 – 8/</u> | |
| <u>7.10</u> less in March | <u>£516 a Year/</u> | |
| £84.10 | | |

I am exceeding sorry not to be able/ to pay £100 according to Your
wish As I/ am under the necessity of setting out some/ small things at 50 p[er]
Cent to be enabled to go/ on – It cannot be for long – suffering so much/ I
conclude with Love to all/

Yours/
S Stratton/

Letter A 8 page iii [blank]

Letter A 8 page iv

Novbr/ 1820/ XS/

Mrs D Stratton/ Revd J Fuller/ Chesham/ Bucks/
[franked -] A.N.O/ 2/ 82/

Please to inform Charlotte/ that all the things will go on/ Saturday Next from
the/ New In[n?] Old Bailey/

Letter A 9 [from S S?] page i

Dear D S/

London June 24. 1797/

I arrived in Town on Tuesday without/ Rain – But am sorry to say about 4
oClock we/ had one of the greatest storms of Thunder & Lightning/ with a
torrent of Rain for above Two hours & since/ then we have had a great
quantity of Rain/ has fallen – [I] Hope it the whole has not reach'd/ your
Country – [I] am sorry for the great quantity/ of Hay that lays in the fields within
a few/ Miles of London –There is no Oranges to be/ got – nor expected – I
have heard nothing from/ Mr S. nor My Brother[.] Miss Marianne is/ much the
same[.] Mrs Hillyard is better upon/ the whole since her return[.] All the rest of
the/ Family are well - This weather [I] am fearfull/ will keep me at home –

[I] have sent a Copy/ of the Mortgage made out from Peter
Maximoff/ the Son of Prebiten to whom the Estate Stand in/ His Name[.] since

it was bought by the Latrapessnoff/ as it cou[l]d not stand in His Name being a person/ [of] No Rank - & from Peter Maximoff to William/ Cayley with all the Peasants Wives Children/ Villages 14 in number & there [their] Habitations/ Lands Woods Meadows Fields Rivers Lakes/ Mills & Fisherys - I think all the things must/ fetch something ... [att?] the expiration of the/ Mortgage in January 1799 -

Mr S has not/ finally determined about going But [I] rather/ think he will - But he may be stop'd by the/ partys here as he is a particular witness/ in the tryal that has been so long coming/ forwards[.] [I] have agreed to allow him a trifle/ besides his Commission on what may be/ received - We have not yet seen Mr Cayley/ but hope in a few days we shall - [&] hear his/ opinion on it - The first Ship is come in/ from Russia which we have goods in that/ I shall not be able to go a great way from/ London But take short excursions -/John Fuller[']s Saddle was so bad - So that I have purchased/ one for him with a Bridle which will come by/ Tuesday['s] Waggon which I hope will suit the Horses/ that it may be wanted for - [I] shall remain at/ Hackney this Evening - due respects/

Yours/.... [S S?]/

A 9 page iv

Cayley/ Miss Stratton/

Letter A10 page i [sender not known]

Dear D S/

London June 29. 1797/

Yours came duly to hand & observe that/ I must acknowledge that I really forgot the Band/ & the Epaulette which goes inclosed with a Book/ which you may have not yet seen - I had a/ delightful day on Wednesday[.] went to the Review/ of the London & Westminster Volunteers at/ Wimbledon Comon by the King - there was an/ amazing number of gentell people[.] The/ King came upon the ground at ½ before 10 oClock/ with a great part of the Royal Family which all/ looked well - I think of coming on Saturday/ senight & bringing Stratton Coles with me/ as when his holliday begin[s] he goes to/ Trowbridge & Mrs S. I suppose soon after/ that will be at Chesham[.] I have pass'd according / to your desire £24 to Mr Fr [Fuller's?] account[.]

A 10 page ii

We had a long conversation on Tuesday with/ Mr Cayley concerning the [Finland?] Estate/ & he seems to think a person merely going there/ & staying about 14 days to see that nothing has/ been cutt down since the Mortgage was made to/ him - He seems to think by what he hears/ that there has been no delapidations & if a/ Peace shou'd come the Timber will fetch a good/ price - He thinks of leaving England in a/ Short time & then will do his endeavours for/ all partys concerned - We did not mention any/ thing concerning A S going to Russia which/ I suppose he will go shortly - And then in case/ he shou'd Mr Cayley will be the proper person/ to employ him - So

that all matters must/ be settled by him[.] We have had since writing/ the former part of this letter a good deal of Rain[.]/ [I] hope it has not reach'd Chesham[.]

If I shou'd want your horses to meet me/ at Watford [I] suppose you can favor me/

[end of letter missing]

Letter A 11 [from S Stratton] page i

Dear D S/

London July 9. 1800/

I got to Town by 12 o Clock[.] rode on/ horseback from Stanmore [&] found it very warm/ & it has continued so ever since[.] But threatens/ for Rain – Mary is much oblig'd to you for/ the parcel – I have sent your account with the/ ... [£10 or £100] you desired[.] My Brother has almost done/ his business in Town that he proposes going/ down to Berkhamstead as tomorrow Mrs Gwillam/ is tolerable & [I] hope in a little time she will be/ better – In looking over my account as Executor/

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| My Brother['s] Note was for | £748 with Interest/ |
| up to 14 April 1795 = |[takes?] 195. 7 together/ |
| | £943. 7 / |
| Bayer Cotton Bill | 25.10 £968.17/ |
| 5 Years Interest on £968.17 = | 242 - / |
| | £1210.17/ |

which comes to more than what we thought/ Mr Fr.[Fuller's?] principal on the devision of the £7000/was perfectly right – I am very unwell. The/

A 11 page ii

weather is to[o] warm for me an[d] other circumstanc[es]/ besides – But I hope on Mr G['s] return which I have/ heard nothing off[of] at present but suppose he will/ make the Month out[.] He was very well last/ Friday that I received a letter from Dolgelly on/ Monday last – The Children are well – But/ [I] understand the Boy is but little better - / The post has just brought me a letter from/ Mr G – from Carnarvon[.] he is quite well/ & intend[s] setting his horses faces London ward/ on recei[p]t of mine – Yours/

S Stratton/

A 11 page iii [top of page missing - pencilled notes -]

Pd J S Note 748/

By Do for I'terest to 14 July 1793 119/

“ “ J from July 14 1793 £/

14 April 1795 1 Yr. 9m – 75:18/

Letter A12 [from J A Gibson] page i

To Samuel Stratton Esqr. Miss Stratton, & Revd. John Fuller, /

My Esteemed friends .. I take the liberty to express my/ sentiments on the division of a certain Trust, in which I am/ Co-Trustee with yourselves, & in which I am alone without/ pecuniary Interest ... I confess the division of it as stated/ on a paper shewn to me by Mr. S: Stratton does not appear/ to me correct. – for reasons which I will assign; I will/ then state how I think it ought to be divided, & finally/ you may be assured I shall concur in any settlement you may/ choose to make--- ./

My reasons for not thinking the Principle of the statement/ referred to, correct are that I know as far as can be known that/ Mr. John S. Senr. left a larger proportion of his property to J S. Junr./ not agreeably only to the common Right of Volition; but because/ he was assured, that Mr. S S. Senr. had not taken the same care/ of him as of his other children; .. but he did not know, or/ recollect that, those children who had the means had also/ the disposition to do Justice & that they did it - / I therefore infer, I hope justly, that the remaining parties have/ suffered by this ignorance of Mr. J S. Senr --- / The statement I should make would be as follows/

| | |
|--|--------------|
| I conceive the property of the Testator to be circa 4800 3 ..[%] | 66 ... 3168/ |
| Reversion of 6000 | ... 5000/ |
| Sundries residue | ... 2000/ |
| To be divided | £10168/ |

A 12 page ii

| | |
|---|-------------|
| This divided by Four would produce to each... | £2542 - - / |
|---|-------------|

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Whereas .. One has 792 “ | “ ¼ of 3168/ |
| 5000 “ | “ Reversion/ |
| 2000 “ | “ Residue/ |
| 7792 ... & the other Three £792 each = £2376/ | |
| making together £10168. --- / | |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| I therefore feel no hesitation in saying that if the £5000 were/ | |
| divided between the Three, it would produce to each | 1666 13 4/ |
| to which add ¼ of 3168 | 792 - - / |
| & each of the three will receive .. | £2458 13 4/ |
| A sum less than the equal division - / | |

Your Sincere friend -----/J A Gibson/ 30th July 1800 ---/

A 12 page iii

[pencilled -]

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| 3/7000/ | |
| 2333 . 6 . 8/ | |
| 792/ | |
| 3125 . 6 . 8/ | |
| | 7000/ |

A 12 page iv

To whom it concerns/

Document A13 [from E Cogan] page i

Rec[eive]d of Saml Stratton Esqr Aug.† 1st 1825/ the sum of Thirty seven pounds, seventeen/ Shillings one penny the amount of/ my acct. for board & Education of Master/ Henry Stratton up to Midsum[me]r last - /
£37:17:1/

E Cogan/

A 13 page ii [blank]

A 13 page iii

Higham Hill/June 24 1825/

Samuel Stratton Esqr/

To E Cogan/

For board and Education of Master Stratton/

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| For 1 half Year | £ | s | d/ |
| | 31 | 10 | / |
| Adams Dictionary | | 19 | 6/ |
| Horace " | | 16 | / |
| Scriptores Graeci | | 7 | 6/ |
| Collectanea Graeci Majora | | 1 | 2/ |
| 3 Large and 5 Small copy b[oo]ks | | 6 | 3/ |
| Surgeon | | 5 | - / |
| Shoemaker | | 8 | - / |
| Tailor | | 8 | 5/ |
| Bill enclosed | | 1 | - / |
| Library | | 2 | - / |
| Letters | | 1 | 3/ |
| Coach fare | | 3 | - / |
| Weekly allowance | | 10 | 6/ |
| | £35 | 19 | 7/ |

A 13 page iv

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|-----|
| | £ | s | d |
| Brought over | 35 | 19 | 7/ |
| Seat in the Meeting | | 5 | - / |
| | 36 | 4 | 7/ |
| Quills | | 2 | 6/ |
| | 36 | 7 | 1/ |
| Mr Wraggs bill to the 30 th of March | 1 | 10 | - / |
| | £37 | 17 | 1/ |

Mr Cogan[']s best respects to Mr Stratton and/ informs him that the School opens/ 28th of July.

A 13 page v [blank]

A 13 page vi

Samuel Stratton Esqr/

E Cogan/ bill to Midsum[me]r/ 1825/

Letter A 14 [from John Fuller] page i

Dear Aunt/

As I think that perhaps you may have/ expected to see me this week I write to say that the/ weather having been so frosty, and raw, and having had/ several engagements in London I have deferred my journey/ till monday next, on which day I hope to have the pleasure/ of seeing you. I went to poor Manuele Cazenove's funeral/ on Monday as I proposed. She was buried at Hamp-/stead church-yard. An exceedingly plain funeral,/ attended by her father, husband, & Son, brother-in-law,/ Cousin, & myself. The service was performed by the/ Revd. Mr. [March?] minister [Done?] of the chapels at Hampstead/ who had been her great friend when she lived in that/ neighbourhood – The day was so very cold that I was/

A 14 page ii

rather apprehensive of catching a Rheumatism in my/ head but happily I escaped – I find that to make/ the illustrations of Byron complete there are three numbers/ of descriptions to the plates; these I have procured and/ the whole together binds up in three volumes, which will/ I hope[,] soon be completed. I forgot to mention this when I last/ saw you – I beg to be kindly remembered to Charlotte/ & Ben and am always/

Your very affectionate Nephew/ J Fuller/

London Decr. 27. 1834/

P.S.Tho' rather passed [past] the day I beg to wish you all/ the Compliments of the Season/

Letter A 14 page iii [blank]

Letter A 14 page iv

Miss D. Stratton/ Germaines/ near Chesham/ Bucks/

Document A 15 [from John? Dering?] page i

[First Column]

Received by ..[L.?]Dering –

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|
| Lord Salisbury | £5 | 0 | 0 |
| Mr: A Smith | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Sir Culling Smith | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Miss Smith | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Sir Wm. Horne | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Capt [Not?]ham | 1 | 10 | 0 |

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Mr: Ellis | 1 10 0 |
| Mr: L. Dering | <u>1 10 0</u> |
| | 16 0 0 |
| Expended | <u>15 10 4</u> |
| Balance paid to Mr: / | 0 9 8 |

Stratton May 15.1835/

[Second Column]

Expended/

Cooper for 26 rod of Hedge/ & ditch at 1s: Mr: Stratton/
having paid him 12s

£0 14 0/

H. Brooks for Stakes and/ Binders as p[e]r account

1 5 0/

Wm: Bryan for 38 eight/ inch pipes at 20d; do

3 3 4/

Jeffris & Man laying/ Pipes from Gravel Pit/ to Old Road do

0 6 0/

..... [Bint?] for Timber Fencing/ by do:

9 12 0/

Hancock, painting do:

0 10 0/

15 10 4/

Copy of Account signed by Mr: Stratton/ [John?] Dering/

A 15 page ii [blank]

Document A16 [will of Deborah Stratton, see model provided by Jas. Gibson
at A 17 iii] page i

Whereas by the Will of my late Father, bearing/ date about the 19th of July
1794 I became jointly/ with my brother Samuel Stratton Legatee in common/
to all my Father[']s effects of every kind and nature/ so ever, after paying his
just debts, and whereas/ there were found among his papers Memoranda
dated/ anterior to his Will, but appearing to appropriate his/ Property – Now
as it is my Wish so far as I can/ ascertain what was the desire of my Father to
act/ conformably thereto, till I have formally satisfied my/ Father[']s intentions
I do hereby authorize empower/ and enjoin the Revd John Fuller of Chesham
Bucks/ and James Gibson Esqr Russia Merchant of Russia/ Court Leadenhall
Street London my two Executors/ to investigate with all possible diligence the
said Papers/ of my Father and to act to the best of their judgment/ agreeably
to the Spirit of them, in all which I hereby/ exonerate them from any Personal
Responsibility/ relying on their fidelity for the execution thereof - /
Witness my hand/

Deborah Stratton/ Chesham Decbr 20th 1794/

A 16 page ii [blank]

A 16 page iii

To my Executors I give two hundred pounds/ each, to be deducted from the
property which/ I have bequeathed to my Sister Mary Fuller/
Deborah Stratton/ Decbr 20th 1794/

A 16 page iv [blank]

Letter A 17 [from Jas. Gibson] page i

Highbury Wednesday Evening/ 17th Decr. 1794/

Dear Miss Stratton

Your Brother having informed me that/ it was your wish to receive a counter-part to a paper/ I drew up for him by his desire, I take the liberty to/ send it to you annexed, I hope it will be such as/ you will approve,--- I add only that if on this or/ any occasion I can render you any service, I trust/ you will always find my Inclination adequate to/ the utmost of my Ability./

Mrs Gibson joins me in every friendly &/ respectful consideration of yourself[,] Mrs Stratton & Mr & Mrs/ Fuller --- Believe me very truly/

Your Sincere friend -- / Jas. Gibson/

I am persuaded on consideration that Uncle John's/ Trust Money, is included in the Estimate of Mr. Stratton's/ property, there would otherwise be an actual deficiency,/ which was too unlike Your Father's calculations to be/ supposed./

A 17 page ii [blank]

A 17 page iii

Whereas by the will of my late Father bearing date/ about the 19th. of July 1794, I became jointly with my Brother/ Samuel Stratton, Legatee in common to all my Father's/ Effects of every Kind & nature Soever, after paying his/ just debts; & whereas there were found among his Papers/ Memoranda dated anterior to the Will, but appearing to/ appropriate his Property: --- Now as it is my wish so/ far as I can ascertain, what was the desire of my/ dear Father to act conformably thereto, & knowing the/ uncertainty of Life & the possibility of my Death before/ I may formally have sati[s]fied my dear Father[']s intentions/

I do hereby authorize empower & enjoin A B C my/ Executor or Executors (hereby appointed for this purpose if/ not appointed by any other testamentary document)/ to investigate with all possible diligence the Said/ Papers of my dear Father & to act to the best of his/ (or their) Judgement, agreeably to the Spirits of them:/ -- in all which I hereby exonerate him (or them) from/ any personal Responsibility relying on his (or their)/ fidelity for the execution thereof. ----- Witness my/ hand this day of ----- [etc. ?]/

A 17 page iv

Miss Stratton/

MAIN SECTION Letters and documents attached to file

[1805 – 1806]

Letter 1 [from Aunt Deborah Stratton] page i

Friday Janry 11th/

Dear John

I was greatly concerned/ and alarmed at reading your letter this/ morning [& I] must beg you to write by/ return of post informing me how your/ Uncle Sam finds himself[.] [I] am happy the/ fever so soon subsided[.] if it does not/ keep decreasing [I] think Dr Walker had/ better be applied to[.] [I]

am quite sorry to/ find his arm is again so severely affected[.]/ when here last he says [it] was amazingly/ reduced[.] pray did he see S[i]r Charles/ before he was sent for to St Helens [Great St Helens, a London street] this/ week - surely he was not out on horseback/ on monday last that horrible wet morning/ can he sleep at night? has he the/ spasms he complained of in one of his letters[?]/

1 page ii

you will have the goodness to reply to/ all these enquiries and give me all/ the information you can in every respect[.]/ We are quite anxious to hear again[.]/

I rec[eive]d a letter from Mrs Stratton on/ thursday in which she expresses that her/ spirits are greatly depressed [&] she says she/ is obliged to exert herself to appear happy/ when she is most wretched[.] I feel quite/ uneasy about her[.] she thinks she shall/ go to Mr Newcome[']s early in next month[;]/ I shall write to her and send it to town/ by Clark next week - [I] am really/ concerned to hear the melancholy account [of]/ Mrs Bean & Miss Coote[.]/

I flatter myself I shall have a letter/ to morrow from you with better/ intelligence of your Uncle - pray give/ our love to him[;] we are extremely concerned/

1 page iii

[that] he is so poorly[& I] hope by attention and/ skill his arm will again shortly be/ better/

Your Mother is better than when/ you left us as I think she was then/ suffering with the toothache which has/ now much subsided[.] Mr F is well/ Stratton & Benjamin likewise[.] the/ latter in excellent spirits - / The weather is very with a/ heavy white frost which overspreads/ the trees and renders their appearance/ most beautiful[.]/

[I] am glad to find you got to town well/[& I] hope you will not have a return of the/ cold in your gum[;] to hear of your/ welfare will afford sincere pleasure/ to your affectionate Aunt/
D Stratton/ Comp[limen]ts to Mr Gibson/

1 page iv

Mr J. Fuller/ No 9 Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/
Jany 11th 1805/ [franked -] CHESHAM/35/

Letter 2 [from his brother, Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I am sorry to hear/ that my uncle Sam is so ill [& I] hope/ that the next account will/ be more favourable./

I am glad that your journey/ to town was so expeditious/ as I think that nothing is so/ unpleasant as being a great/ while upon a round one knows/ so well./

The young man who had the/ accident at may hall was bro[ugh]t/
down to Chesham on Tuesday/ & a day or 2 afterward his arm/ began
[bleeding?] & Mr Rumsey could not/ find the artery[;] it has stopt/ now & I
believe some hopes are/ entertained of his recovery[.] if it/ breaks out again
Mr Rumsey/ says that his arm must be/ taken off./

2 page ii

You will receive a flannel/ waistcoat by Clarke which/ you are to put
on immediately[.] Mrs Lovechild[']s pictures are to/ be sent down here
before they/ go to Hammersmith./

Have you taken any steps yet/ concerning the newspapers[?] we
have had 3 of the wrong/ sort since you went./ We all drank your health/ to
say after dinner[.] glad to hear my uncle is so much/ better[.]

Yours/ S[tratton?] Fuller/
Chesham/ Sunday evening/

2 page iii [blank]

2 page iv

Mr J Fuller/ [plus some words in code or shorthand]

Letter 3 [from his mother, Mary] page i

thursday/ [20 Jan. 1805]

My dearest John/

Much did I think of you last/ even[in]g when the wind blew[,] the rain
fell & the/ darkness was increasing – but [I] was in some hope/as you had a
slight cold you would stay in/ London – this is a delightful m[ornin]g - & you
have/ had some fine even[in]gs, we have experienced/ rather uncommon
weather, sharp frosts, even[in]g/ & night & wet morn[in]gs[;] it is the sort of
season that/ affects me & I have been much troubled with/ the
toothach[e] –

I should have written to you/ last saturday but the day was so dark [I]
could/ not see to do anything – [I] was glad you had so/ expeditious a
journey to London[,] I think the/ most so you ever went, perhaps going out
so/ directly after breakfast caus'd the sickness - / Henry had a sad cold in his
face & teeth when/ he went & much increase[e]d it was[,] very poorly/
indeed the next day, but soon got better[;] he/ went to seek after you when
he had driven/in his horses & just had [a] glimpse of the chaise/ as it drove off
– it was well you was so early / as chaises were in uncommon request[.] Mr
Lowndes came up just as your chaise/

3 page ii

drove off – I was very sorry to hear your Uncle[']s/ servant went to Stanmore
that very foggy day[.] [I] think you should give him half a crown for his/
trouble & the danger of getting a bad cold which/ perhaps he did – I gave
the same to Henry – / we miss[e]d you my dearest Love as we always do[;]/ I
felt the loss of your not sitting by me after dinner/ & when I went through your

room at night, how/ dismal did your bed look[,] unprepared to receive/ you –
[I] hope it will not be so long a time as the last/ before we see you again –
next month I shall beg[in]/ to think a little of spring –

I hope you put on/ the new flannel waistcoat before it laid in your/
drawer to contract damp, the trunk I suppose/ was pack'd up before you
rec[eive]d it – it was made of/ some flannel I had which seem'd just the
thickness/of that you had in wear & [I] thought the additional/ joins would not
be of any consequence, [I] hope it fits - / it was of Jordan[']s making[,] as was
the last two notable/ affairs –

your Father says we must retrench if/ the Income Tax is doubled as it is
talk'd in the/ paper – looking over your note just now [I] see/ you had some
intention of being at Ham[ersmi?]th yesterd[a]y[.]/ [I] was glad to see it as I
hope you got home under cover[.]/ [I] have been extremely concern[e]d to
hear of Saml[']s ill/-ness[& I] shall be glad to see him when he has gained/

3 page iii

sufficient strength & if he comes in a prudent/ manner & stays a few days
perhaps the sooner/ the better as it may be the means of improv[ing] it[,] this
message to him with my love -/

I was surpriz[e]d to hear you had been to another/ play, [I] suppose
Harriet[']s going was the cause[,] it was/ I apprehend the first time – I doubt
not you was/ much more entertain[e]d than before – but [I] hope it/ will not
be the means of making you wish to go/ often as it is a pleasure I would not
wish a/ young person to be very fond of –

Stratton says/ [he will?] not write therefore [I] must mention/ I
should have left for him – You say/ nothing about the newspaper or whether
you/ have discharg[e]d the bills – the little books are not/ quite what I
expected but the pictures will do for/ for William & the reading for the
others[.] I did not /much think of having them sent down – but/ your father
said, 'let us see them" –

I hope the/shoes fit,& if you find they keep out the wet/ I would advise
[you] to have another pair – I hope your/ cold is better – pray mind to attend
to those two/ back teeth & likewise to rub the gums, remember/ Sr John
Sinclair – we are all tolerably well - / poor Stratton[']s nose is I think worse[;] I
am distress[e]d/ whenever I see him[,] this is most cruel weather to it./ there
was here as violent wind & rain last sunday/ even[in]g as on one tuesday
even[in]g some time back, poor/

3 page iv

Mr Heelas was return[e]d from Amersham where he had/ been dining in the
midst of it "two great coats on Mr Strat[t]on/ but in short was wet through[,]
had an umbrella likewise/ should have been blown off the Common quite
stiff ne..../ in short got a bad cold again" tuesday even[in]g conversation/
with respects to Mr G – I remain Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M F/

20 Jan 1805/
Mr J Fuller

What a boisterous even[ing] you had to walk in[,] I hope [you]/
reach[ed] home before the worst of it – we had snow & sleet [&]/ rain
between 8 & 9 - & this a very wet & misty m[ornin]g[:]/ I am fearful you will get
a bad cold & that tuesday[']s/ account will not be a pleasant one – adieu/
my dearest John/
Sunday/

Letter 4 [from his father, Reverend John Fuller] page i

Dear John/

I don[']t know how I can better answer/ the proposal of your last, than
by referring you to the/ conversation we had when I was in Town before
Christ-/mas[.] The plan that was then suggested & I thought/ agreed when
would [,] if acted upon[,] have removed all the diffi-/culties &
inconveniences you [labor?] under as to Weather/ & Season respecting
your walks to & from London – I can/ not see any objection to it that may not
very easily/ be answered. Let it be understood by Mr Jennings/ that he is
generally to expect you at Islington in the/ Evening at y[ou]r usual Hour, unless
the Weather is/....., & that he is never to wait for you or expect/ you after a
certain Hour, say his supper Hour, this/ will leave you at perfect Liberty to go
down to Islington/ or not without putting him to any Inconveniences, &/ you
may on all fair nights as usual, go thither, &/ in other nights stay in Town –
Which appears to/ me under all circumstances the [far more?] eligible/
way at present – I have already told Mr Jennings/

4 page ii

this much & I see no necessity of writing to him - / Should any particular
circumstance occur that may/ make it requisite for you to stay in Town, even
when/ the weather is fair, you will probably foresee, this time/ enough to
acq[uaint] Mr Jennings that you shall not return/ to Islington that Evening the
morning before you set out/ or know it soon enough in the day to send him
intelli=/gence - - for this present Winter Season I could wish/ this plan to be
fully adopted - -/

..... [Travis?] has the past fortnight been particu=/larly negligent as to
the papers, we have had few /not mere improper ones – It is not worth
while / any notice, as the time is so short, I hope you will make/ the
necessary arrangements for the alteration, by the first/ of February which I
think is next Friday -/

During the course of the week I will thank/ you to look in at
[Leakingtons?] & elsewhere, & see if you/ can pick up a tolerable Cesari
[Commentaries?]/ cheap, for the use of Sexton, & next week – you may send
it by Clarke – We are all much as when you/ heard last - & unite in
aff[ec]t[i]onate Remembrances – my/ respects to your Uncle, [I] shall be glad
to see him whenever/

4 page iii

he is able to come down – Respects to Mr Gibson - /

Your aff[ec]t[i]onate Father/John Fuller/

Chesham. Jany. 27. 1805/

4 page iv

Mr J Fuller/ G[rea]t S[t.] Helens/

Jany. 27th – 1805/

Letter 5 [from brother Stratton] page i

Dear John/

What very cold & severe weather we/ have now [,] as much so as I ever felt[.] we have begun/ to build a large snowcock but have not made/ much progress as the snow is not very thick[.] I hope/ we shall not be able to finish it./

Mr Zincke was married here to day (Saturday) & is gone/ to London[.] I understand they intend to go to the/ West Indies for 7 years but this perhaps you know./ Young Mayo is a great deal better[,] what I meant was/ that his arm began bleeding & Mr Rumsey was/ afraid that he must have been obliged to have taken/ it off. I have enclosed a pound note[& I] hope that you/ will not keep it long as I spare it with difficulty./ I am glad to hear that my uncle Sam is so much better[.]/ [I] hope he continues to improve [&] hope that he will/ not walk or ride too much or overfatigue himself[.]/ now I have got some news to tell you which my/

5 page ii

father has just heard at Mrs Shrimpton[']s[,] that Mr G Hepburn/ is purchasing Mr plaistowe's house for Mr Biggs[.]/ a relation of Mrs Davies[,] who means to come & reside/ at it./

My mother desires me to tell you to purchase 6 pair[s]/ of stockings for yourself, to purchase them at/ Wyer & Swift where you will have them better/ & cheaper[,] you are to enquire for Mr Swift & make/ use of my father's name-/

your trunk is arrived[;] have you yet ordered another[?]/ All the Books & parcels came on Tuesday & the/ fish which proved good[.]/

We are all here pretty well[;] my mother complains/ of the toothache[.]/

I remain/ your affectionate Bro[the]r/ S[tratton] Fuller/
Chesham January 26th 1805/

You said in your/ letter that S[amuel?] S[tratton?]/ was going out of/ town[,] did you mean/ that he intended/ coming to Chesham[?]/

5 page iii [blank]

5 page iv

Jan. 26.1805/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 6 [from Stratton or his father?] page i

Read immediately/

[passage in shorthand, followed by -]

& trunk will both come up by/ the coach on monday & will be directed/ to be left till called for[,] so you will/

6 page ii

send for them at the proper time./

[passage in shorthand]

6 page iii [blank]

6 page iv

Mr J Fuller/

Letter 7 [from his mother] page i

I hope my dearest John you have not exposed/ yourself to the very inclement nights there have/ been – the walking very dangerous (at least in/ the country) as well as the nights dark – I think/ the plan your father had fix[']d before & what he/ again mention[e]d last week would preclude/ the necessity for your going to Highbury on/ very bad even[in]gs; & I hope indeed now there is almost/ an end to them, if the frost continues settled/ as there seems to be an appearance of moonlight/ even[in]gs your walks will be neither disagreeable/ nor bad for your health –

you know I have/ many fears [&] I am going to mention one which/ perhaps will make you smile, it is not indeed/ so much a fear as a precaution – it is that you/ should be well acquainted with the means of/ escape in case of Fire at St Helens, as in the/ alarm which would be caused should such a dread/-ful accident ever happen without a thorough/ knowledge of where you are to get to, the mean[s]/ for escape w[oul]d be ineffectual & this you did/ not seem much to know when talking of it here;/ I have thought more of this since you will/ sleep there oftener – but hope you[,] yourselves/ & all connections shall ever be preserved from/

7 page ii

so distressing a calamity – I thought much/ yesterday of your Aunt & Baby going to/ Pinner[:]; it was a most delightful day but/ very cold – [I] wish they may feel no ill effects/ from the change; when you hear any thing/ of them you will inform me – I thought/ of you last night, that you would be stand/-ing at the window admiring the planets - / when I went to bed & above an hour before/ it was the most brilliant sky I have beheld/ this winter – I could not withstand the sight/ tho' I had fears of again renewing my toothach[e]/ which I find I have done – I caught cold last/ sunday & was indeed quite ill with it from the former/ part of the week – it is now pretty well gone/ off – but [I] am still teaz'd with pain in my/ face – [I] hope you my dear continue/ free from it & every other indisposition[.]/ Stratton has told you of the operation he

is/ to go through to morrow[.] I wish it had been done/ sooner – I have great hopes from it – the Leeches/ are to be placed on each side [of] the Nose, Mr R[umsey] will/ attend to place them – [I] suppose we shall scarcely/ see your Uncle Saml if the weather conti-/nues so cold[.] [I] hope he gets better[.]
my love/ Your ever affect[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller/

Benj[ami]n['s] cold is better/ Sunday afternoon/

7 page iii [blank]

7 page iv

Feb. 3.1805/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 8 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

As I cannot go out to day I have sat down/ to write you a letter[.] the leeches were applied yesterday/ again & tomorrow or next day Mr Rumsey is to/ apply a Diachylon plaister so that I shall not be/ able to go out any where for I shall not like to fly/ about the country with plaisters upon my nose./

The Sale of the Books took place last Thursday[;]/ it was not so merry as it generally is[.] indeed there/ were very few books as there are a great number in/ circulation among the outsides. Mr Ja's Rumsey alone/ of the Outsides was present[.] ¹Mr King was gone to/ Wycombe[.] he has gone 2 new livings of West Wycombe/ & Haulton to be held till Sir John Dashwood[']s third/ son (who is now 10 years old) is of a proper age to hold them./ so I suppose that Mr King will withdraw/ himself from the Society. There are 2 new inside members[.] Miss/ C Bailly & Mr G Sutttery Junr & one new outside/ one of the young Brickwells[.] the society is very different/
[followed by a few words of shorthand]

8 page ii

I have enclosed a volume of Pope & likewise the/ ticket & the Key; I have read half thro' John Wilkes[.]/ some of the letters are I think rather trifling but/ infinitely better than the previous edition that the/ Society had./

How does my uncle Sam[']s arm do[?]/ I hope it continues/ better, we have had tolerable weather lately but to/ day is very dull. I suppose you have not rode on/ horseback since xmas[.] I had 2 pleasant rides with/ Samuel but have not rode since. Samuel said that/ the Major has no horse fit to ride at present - - /

We are all pretty well & desire our love to you[.]/ my mother has got a pain in her face[.]/

yours affectionately/ Stratton Fuller/

¹ Rev. Isaac King was chaplain of the small hamlet of St. Leonards and secured the temporary appointment at West Wycombe to augment his income. However, the trustees at St. Leonards would not accept pluralism, so he resigned his position there in favour of the larger parish where he prospered, eventually becoming mayor of Wycombe.

Chesham Feby 24th, 1805/

My father has sent/ a chine which had/ better be dressed as/ soon as
convenient - / you will send the/ letter to the post[.]/ I suppose the 2 penny/
post goes to Woolwich[.]/

8 page iii [blank]

8 page iv

To/ Mr J Fuller/ Feb. 24th. 1805
[followed by a few words in shorthand]

Letter 9 [from his mother] page i

Saturday March 2d/

My Dearest, dearest John/

I had some slight expect/-ation that you might come down with your/
Father this day fortnight as I said I wish[e]d/ much to see you, & Fast day
intervening[,] you/ could with little interruption of business have/ staid till
thursday – but [I] hope it will not be/ very long before you come again to
Chesham - / I hear you rode with your Uncle Saml on/ the Fast day – [I]
thought perhaps you would have/ gone (as you have before) to have heard
some of our/ great preachers in the Church – but indeed/ the Day seems
almost a Farce[,] we appear/ ourselves so much to have brought on the
cala/mity of War - & after the distress & humiliation/ which is supposed to
cause the Fast, to have such/ uncommon expensive entertainments, so/
immediately after has the appearance of our/ situation being intirely
forgotten when the/ ceremony of the day was past – but to return/ to your
ride – the horse your Uncle rode when/ here was very inclin'd to start & fly
about[.] I should have been/ frighted to have seen you mounted on him –
but/

9 page ii

suppose when in more constant exercise he/ goes more quiet, [I] think
Stratt[o]n said it was the/ horse you came down on at Xmas - I hope/ my
dear you will ride with care – poor S[tratton's]/ nose was much injured riding
with his uncle[.]/ both the days being very sharp – he has told you/ of the
plaister – it was a great shock to me when/ Mr R[umsey] first mentioned it; but
its having been/ worn these few days has inured me to it – it was/ yesterday
taken off to see what effect it had had[.]/ it was the desired one of
lessen[in]g the redness & pre-/serv[in]g the young skin from injury[:] you know/
the skin has often peeled – the plaister [h]as only the/ most innocent
diachylon spread on the thinnest/ white silk – Stratton is a pattern of
patience[:]/ when the Leeches were hanging from his nose & one/ of them
tickling so as to make his eyes water he did/ not stir hand or finger but sat like
a statue &/ never complains of the inconvenience of the plais-/ter tho' it
covers the tip of the nose down each side/ the nostril –

pray have you heard of Mr/Maitland[?] [I] suppose you have not been there/ or you would have mention[e]d it[.] [I] think you/ should take some notice of the invitation - / you might write a Note saying when you was/ disengaged & asking if that time would be convenient/ to them – [I] suppose they intend you should stay a/ night or two & if it is agreeable you could go on/

9 page iii

a saturday & return on monday or tuesday morn[in]g/ - [I] am afraid you will think I have forgot to send/ your flannel waistcoat, [I] intended sending it in a/ parcel last monday – but sunday being so very wet/ [I] was fearful it might get damp & Jordan said you/ did not put that on till some time after you/ went to London - but I think you have worn it/ longer than common - & you will be glad to/ put a clean one on directly – Jordan has been to Mr/ Williams's to get some more nightcaps[;] he had/ none left but expected them soon[.] [I] shall send her/ again this afternoon, as I think you have not/ enough – she says no new stockings have/ yet come down – a few days back you/ had some delightful even[in]gs[.] the two or three/ last have been darker & windy[.] this morn[in]g the/ earth was cover[e]d with snow but soon melted/ away[.] the sun shone so finely – [I] am fearful you/ will have more dirty walks – [I] hope you still/ continue tolerably free from cold & pain in/ teeth[.] [I] think from all the bad weather you have/ encounter[e]d you must be much hardier/ than formerly or you must have ill from it[.]/ Benj[ami]n grows very tall & very plain – Stratton/ is not so much grown of late – I have to finish/ a Letter to your Uncle which [I] beg to be sent to/ the post (if the newspapers are gone)[.] you will direct/ it properly, all pretty well/

Your affect[iona]te Mother/ M F/

9 page iv

[I] desired your father to get one of the false noses that/ are sold for masquerades, but he quite forgot it. I wish/ you could purchase one[.] it must be the most/ can be got & send it in your trunk. they are to be had at/ hardware or Toy Shops I believe – [I] have seen them/ a [stem?] to go up the forehead where they are confin[e]d by the/ you must not say any thing to S[tratton?] concerning it - /

March 2d. 1805/ Mr: John Fuller/

Benj[ami]n is oblig[e]d by Don Quixote but he seems to think/ some of it rather dry – we abound in books - / do not trouble yourself to write two letters – write to/ Stratton – My love to Saml[.] [I] am glad he continues/ better – [I] have been troubled with a swelling on my gum/which has made me fearful of going out some of the fine/days – the crocus's & primroses are blowing – a vast many/ buds on my rose tree – two I think will blow in a day or two - /

Letter 10 page i [letter in shorthand, sender not known]

10 page ii – iii [blank]

10 page iv

March 3d. 1805/ To/ Mr John Fuller/

Letter 11 [from Grandmother Stratton] page i

Mar. 20th 1805/

I must my dear John now/ apologize to you for not acknowledging your/ kind letter sooner, let us agree to forgive/ one another, this being settled I will/ proceed to tell you my dear young friend[.]/ that my mind has been most miserably/ harassed since you saw me, that it/ really has not been in my power to be a/ pleasant Correspondent to any one, so/ nervous has been my whole System that/ if I had seen you or any one of my own/ family I should have burst into an Agony of Tears - / but the fever that almost reduced me to/ Ideotism is removed, and I live in the/ hope of seeing you in London, some time/ in May; provided your Uncle can take me/ in for a short time – for I must see poor/ Hannah[.]/

11 page ii

I wish at the same time if the young/ [Roscius?] is not removed from/ London that we may see him together - / you form the same Opinion of him/ that I have heard many express, yet/ there are [those], who either do not, or affect/ not to think him anything beyond/ what any Lad of good Sense might be/ with Tuition such as he enjoys – but/ I look upon many of his severe Critiques [critics]/ as viewing him with a Jaundiced Eye - / I have spent the last three weeks at/ Redlands and have enjoyed many delightful/ walks where I once rambled with you[.]/ the weather was uncommonly fine and the/ views from Kings Weston appeared in/ high beauty – the Ships sailing upon/ the Severn[,] the Sun shining with/ oblique rays upon their whitened Sails/ had a most pleasing effect and almost/ tempted me to cross the passage and take/ a peep into the Welch Hills and Dales,/

11 page iii

so inviting in the distance – on Monday/ next I go to Glo[uce]ster which is a beautiful/ County and hope to enjoy as much of/ the beauties of that Country as Clifton/ afforded me whilst staying with Mrs Jardine - / Mrs Ward had left Bath before your/ letter reached me, so the best way will/ be to deliver your message in your own/proper person – she spoke highly [of you?]/ and wished to see more of you - [I hope]/ at [some?] time [to] travel that way[.] rem.... [ember?]/ me most kindly to her and say how [much]/ my wishes extend to her welfare - / how good has your Uncle Saml been to/ Hannah – pray give my kindest love/ to him, and accept[,] my dear John/ every good wish for your welfare from/ the heart of her who is/

Your sincere and/ Affectionate friend/ M Stratton/

Bath March the 20th/ 1805/

11 page iv

Mr John Fuller/ Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/ 9/
[franked -] BATH/ F/ MAR 21/ 1805/
March 20th 1805/

Letter12 [from Aunt Deborah] page i

Dear John

Your Uncle I presume mentioned/ to you my intention of being at [Great] St Helens/ this week[,] wednesday was the time I proposed/ but [I] must now delay it for most unfortunately/ yesterday[,] as we were returning home near/ Mrs Shrimpton[']s[,] one of the Horses run an/ immense nail in his foot[,] near three inches/ long[,] supposed to belong to the Wheel of a Cart[:]/ it bled very much and the learned are in hopes [that]/ it will not be a tedious[,] although a painful/ affair to the poor animal[,] but they are united/ in deciding that it will not be proper for/ it to be used so early as wednesday[,] supposing/ there should not be any appearance of its festering/ by that time[,] on this account my plan/ must be deferred for the present[.] [I] shall/ write to your Uncle Sam in two or three days[:]/

12 page ii

in that time a better judgment may be/ formed respecting the condition of the poor horse[:]/ Should any letter arrive at [Great] St Helens for/ me [,] will you have the goodness to enclose it/ and send it here[:] possibly Mrs Stratton may/ direct one to town as I mentioned to her [that] I/ should be absent from Chesham this week[:]/

I hope your cold is better[:] since you/ wrote last a few days have been very warm/ but the Spring is thought rather backward[.] the/ violets are just blowing in front of the house[:]/ the Sallow likewise begins to decorate the/ hedges[.] my Sister is tolerable well but the/ few warm days she found not so suitable/ to her feelings[:] she has been out twice lately/ in the Coach. Mr Fuller has a cold but he/ says it is decreasing – Stratton[']s nose Mr Rumsey/ yesterday pronounced to be much better[.] [I] presume/ you have been informed that leeches[&c?] have/ been applied [&] the chilled appearance that it had/ has in great measure abated – Stephen will/ not be in town this week but I am desired/

12 page iii

to inform you Mr [Ferret?] will bring your/ trunk tomorrow which must be sent for[.] Stratton/ thinks of putting a note into it. be assured/ I feel much interested in your welfare and/ happiness[:]/

Yours affectionately D ----- Stratton/

Sunday March 17/

All unite in remembrances[:]/ Mrs F[ulle]r desires I would/ tell you the letters will be/ put in a brown paper/[fastened?] to your trunk/

12 page iv

March 17. 1805/
Mr John Fuller/ No 9 Great St Helens/ London/
[franked -] CHESHAM/ 35/ C/ MAR 18/ 1805/

Letter 13 pages i and ii [2 pages of shorthand, sender not known]

13 page iii [blank]

13 page iv

March 24th 1805/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 14 [from his mother, with postscript from his father] page i

My dearest John/

I am waiting with anxiety/ the coming of your trunk that I may hear/ of your health in your letter to Stratton which/ you mentioned inclosing – you said in the/ letter to your Aunt you had been ill with shiver/-ings about ten days ago[,] which must have been/ about the time you wrote to S[tratton] the week before/ & you mention[e]d nothing of it – [I] am very glad/ it went off so soon – but [I] have been uneasy lest/ the wet days monday & wednesday & the cold winds/ may have brought it again – should this be the/ case I hope you will not fail to mention it - / for I cannot bear the thought of your being ill/ & your father & myself not to know it – we have/ both been very unwell for near a fortnight[,]/ your father with a bad cold & other complaints[,]/ myself with toothach[e] & pains in my head – the/ heat of last wednesday & thursday se'nnight quite/ overset me[,] your Uncle came on the first day/ to dinner & went after breakfast the next morn[in]g[,]/ he had been viewing a small Farm at Sarratt/ which he seem'd to have some intention to pur/

14 page ii

-chase but your father told him he was sure / it would go higher than the sum he thought of giving[,]/ my head & eyes were in so much pain I was oblig'd/ to leave writing & take a walk by the side of the house[,]/ [it] was very pleasant [,] safe from the wind & warm with the sun[,]/ it did me good; but I shall not be able to write/ a long letter as it is now after dinner – your/ trunk is this minute come & I am delighted/ to hear you are so well – may the health of/ my dear Son be preserved – I hope Saml continues/ better[,] my love to him - & Mr Gibson quite well[,]/ I desired some time back to have some biscuits/ but Stephen I suppose forgot to mention it[,]/ any time when it is convenient to send them/ by the Coach or any other way – I have a vast/ many little things to say but cannot now write/ any more – /

Your ever affec[tiona]l Mother/ M Fuller/

Saturday March 23/

Sunday/

Mr Rumsey yesterday towards even[in]g came to/ put a fresh plaister again on S[tratton's] nose, it never/ has had so good an appearance[,] quite the

color/ of the face except a small part on one side[.]/ you know one side was always worst – but that is now/ trifling – [I] hope when these sharp w[in]ds are over[.] it/ will bear to be again exposed – but we must not/ expect it for some time to look so well as it does at present/

14 page iii [2 lines of shorthand]

14 page iv

Mr John Fuller/

The Letter to your Uncle at Pinner/ must be there on Tuesday[.] therefore/ if you have no other way of sending/ it must go by the post tomorrow night[.]
J F/
Mar 23d 1805/
if the newspapers are gone you will/ direct the letter to your Uncle[.]

Letter 15 [from his mother] page i

April 6th/

My dear John/

I never sat down to write/ more at a loss how to begin – I will however/ first tell you tho' it will not be very agreeable/ to hear that your Father is still very dis-/tress'd by a complaint he has been for years/ subject to, but has suffer[e]d scarcely anything/ from it for these last seven years, his cold soon/ was better & he was getting better of this, but/ has been to day particularly bad[.] I hope the/ chief of it from having taken some medicine/ from which when the pain has abated [I] hope/ he will receive benefit – it is three weeks/ last wednesday or thursday since he has been/so uncomfortable[.] he can walk but very little[;]/ last monday he rode in the carriage to Amersham/ but not meeting Mr Marshall at home[.]to/ whom he went on business & thought likewise/ it would do him good (as it had seem'd to do/ the thursday before[.] when he went to Chalfont[.] we were going again yesterday but just about/ one o'clock[.] the time we were going[.] there came/ a most violent hail shower & tho' it was soon/ at an end the sky look'd so very like others/ coming up that he did not chuse to take the/

15 page ii

men out – as it happen'd I was sorry as there/ was no rain of consequence till 3 & then we/ should have just got home – it was indeed/ very cold & so it is to day & much more disa-/greeable – Your father was pleas'd with your/ letter & desired your Uncle to say he would/ write to you – he was likewise pleas'd with/ your translation which I suppose Stratton/ inform[e]d you – I am delighted that you/ fill up the leisure hours in this good way - / Your Uncle says there is very little to do[.] [I] think it would be a good time to come to/ Chesham[;] a quarter of a year appears a/ long time without seeing you – but [I] am/ afraid I must still wait: hearing Mr Gibson/ is going a journey; tho' by Saml[']s account he/ seems undetermin'd when – [I] wish he could/ decide as I think that would give us your com/-pany soon – perhaps your Uncle Saml could/ for one day spare his horses half way & we would send/ to

meet you – [I] was glad to hear you staid in/ London on the friday night[,] it was here very/ wet[.] I did not much expect Saml[,] he was very/ fortunate in the weather here – pray [give] my/ love to him & [I] hope he rested at Pinner on the/ thursday as it was a very unfit day for him/ to go in a phaeton – with us it was a day of rain - /

15 page iii

so far of my letter yesterday, & it was/ not finish'd [I] think I should not have sent it/ as your father & S[tratton] have written[,] only it was/ mention[e]d in his letter - I am not very fond of / writing on Sunday as it takes off my mind/ from what I have been hearing & thinking over[.] / perhaps to day you are with your Uncle[.] / [I] have heard you like Mr Cogan ; I hope[,] my/ dearest John[,] you improve every such/ opportunity - & that every Sunday you/ gain some good – you seem anxious to im/-prove your mind in historical & other/ knowledge – [I] hope you will be equally/ so in regard to the best, I mean religious/ knowledge & practice – poor Mrs Porter is/ still living tho' her eyesight is gone[,] she chang[e]d/ for the worse about a fortnight ago, but has/ something recover'd since except her eyesight[.] / our neighbours are all pretty well[,] but many/ children have been ill[,] two or three with the croup/ amongst which poor Mr Surman[']s but they/ have recover'd & some have the ague[,] an old/ disorder revived again which has till now/ been little felt for some years – above this last/ week I have been free from toothache[e] which/ I have not for so long together since Xmas - / Mr Gibson says you have had a cold but are now/ quite well – this must have been since you mention'd/

15 page iv

pray take care they do not settle on you - / perhaps you have not had opportunity to get/ Benj[amin][']s hat, any time before Sunday will/ do; should you have got it ready for Mr Clarke/ perhaps he will scarcely be able to bring it/ the week for your trunk – he may bring the one/ other which you think best[.] /

April 6th. 1805/ Mr John Fuller/

I don't know if Stratton ever told you M..... / Andrew quite recover[e]d excepting his inti[re]/ strength which must require time – S[tratton] has n[ow?]/ left the plaster off[.] I wish for a warmer season on his/ account – [I] suppose we shall hear which day your/ Uncle left Pinner – Your affec[tiona]te Mother
M F/

Letter 16 [from his mother] page i

My dearest John/

I am quite uneasy about/ the complaint in your Stomach & Bowels – I/ recollect you had it this time three years & - for/ some weeks before I knew of it - & remember you/ ate Oranges & Apples as you then said to work/ it off – which when I knew of your complaint/ I intreated you not to eat – I recollect

how low/ it brought you; how poorly you look'd & how weak/ you was when first you went to London – You/ now seem sensible of the need of attention to Diet/ & I hope [you] will be so till the disorder is intirely/ removed – you must stop the progress of the dis-/ease by taking warm brandy & water – or any/ thing of that kind which perhaps may by/ those who do not understand be recommended[.]/ drink warm water or watergruel – but should/ it continue [I] desire you will have some medical/ advice for a short time[,] perhaps it may rather/ have done you good than harm if your Stomach/ &c has been overloaded - if there is any return of/ the complaint [I] beg you will write by tomorrow[']s / post[.] you need say nothing just how it is - / if there has not been any return & you continue better/

16 page ii

do not write – I intended to have written yesterday/ but had the headach[e] in the morning[.] my Torment/ came to dinner which made it much worse/ likewise supp[e]d & slept here[,] paid a few visits after breakfast/ return'd to their dinner at our Nooning time/ & left us between 2 & 3: I then was oblig'd to take/ a little walk[,] so am writing in the after/-noon which is very unpleasant to me – I have/ not yet mention[e]d your father as I should have/ done/ but [I] have the happiness to tell you he/ is much better & had no bad return of pain as he/ wrote to you he expected: [I] hope he will soon/ get quite rid of the disorder – We all heard/ the Contents of tuesday[']s paper with great satis/-faction & hope that Justice will again rear/ up it[s] head: to day we have read of resignations;/ it is indeed a critical time - /

I cannot write any more – only that your/ Aunt & Stratton are gone to Pinner hill/ for a day or two, they set off just after nine - /poor Mrs Porter has been ill ever since/ last December - she is worse to day[.]/ I never thought of my receipt against the/ Ague, [I] must look after it – but I hope the disorder/ is not increasing – it is expected by the family/ that old Mr Hepburn brings his wife to Chesham/ to night[,] they think he was married this morn[in]g[.]/

16 page iii

Mrs Davis is gone to Cheneys [,] that she/ may not hear the Bells ring -/
with love & respects/

I remain/ Your ever affec[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller - /

I am surpriz[e]d &/ glad Saml got no cold/[& I] think you should not/ go to Wanste[a]d with him/ if you are not quite well[.]/ I send your father[']s & Benj[ami]n[']s love/
April 11/

16 page iv

April 11th. 1805/

Mr. J Fuller/ No 9 Great St. Helens/ London/
[franked -] C/April 12/1805/ CHESHAM/ 35/

Letter 17 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I went to Pinner hill last/ Thursday with my aunt & returned/ yesterday[;]
[I] found all the Family/ there very well[.] my uncle went to/ London on Friday
so I suppose you/ have seen him[.] they intend going to/ Berkhamsted next
Saturday./

Col. Lloyd came on Saturday while/ we were there[.] he appears to be
a very/polite gentleman./

Mr Hepburn is married at last on/ Thursday I believe[.] & Mrs Shrimp/ton
& Mr Millar among the rest dined/ with him on Friday./

So Lord Melville has resigned his/ office, there have been several
curious/ things in the paper which I suppose/

17 page ii

you have read[.] particularly the "List/ of Accidents." --- /

I suppose my mother told you/ that Mr & Mrs R Fuller & Sammy/ have
been here, their coming & my/ going to pinner hill quite put/ Knox's essays
out of my head but if/ I have time to look after them I will/ certainly send
them./

I understand that they are going to/ file a bill In Chancery against/
Ferret & Clark which in my opinion/ is the best court for them to plead/ their
cause in[.] /

We have received by the waggon/ a box & parcel containing figs
almonds/ &c but Ben's hat is not come./

My father still continues poorly but/ is better than he has been[.] /

Stratton Fuller/

Germa[i]ns April 14th, 1805/

17 page iii

As my aunt intends coming to/ town this week I shall send/ the Book by her[.] /
you are to send the parcel/ inclosed to, Mr Soames -- /& my uncle or John
Hodgkin/ will be so good as to carry the/ letter to Miss [Marion's?]/

17 page iv

To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 18 page i [page of shorthand from Stratton]

18 page ii [translated by John? as follows -]

you are to say particularly how your cold does/

D[ea]r John my aunt returned home on thursday/ about ½ past 6 in the
evening in good health[.] / [I] am glad to hear that your cold is better[.] I
hope that/ by this time it is perfectly recovered, tho[ugh] f[ro]m / the great
coldness of the weather , I am a-/fraid it is not. I shall be glad if you would/
send me down the first volume of Pope's Homer/ as I have just begun the
original. I believe/ you have done with the first volume as you/ had the

second some time ago. I think I/ shall give up learning algebra. I think it/ is rather a dry study and very difficult/ especially if I study deeper [.] / my father will go tomorrow, but I shall send/ this[,] I believe by Clark[,] as my father/ will not go if it is wet. I am .. [to?] ac-/company him in the gig, and then .. [we?] go and/ see his Brother at Lewisham. our Mili-/tary here are not as active as they are/ about London – The Volunteers/

18 page iii

have only been out once for/ two days and the Yeomanry/ not at all since Christmas[.] / I see by the paper to day/ that there has been an Earthquake/ at Birmingham and other places[.] / It is rather an unusual circumstance/ in this part of the World – I wonder how/ Clark's Chancery suit goes on, he gene-/rally has an audience of my father once or/ twice a week about it[.] /
I remain your affectionate Brother/(signed) Stratton Fuller/
Germa[i]ns/ Sunday Evening/

we all desire our Love/

April 28th. 1805/ received 29th - /

18 page iv

To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 19 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I thank you for your long letter & particularly/ for the Greek Ode which I think very pretty[.] on Friday/ my father & Benjamin went to Harrow weald &c/ so I sat down to construe it & made it out pretty well/ considering that all the Greek Books which I have read/ have had a translation[;] I construed it afterwards to/ my father who was pleased with it. I think your trans=/lation is well done & scans right. I shall follow your/ advice concerning Belsham[.] we have left off reading up/ after tea, the last Book that we read was Gilbert/ West's Dissertation on the Olympic Games. I do not/think that I shall read Cicero at present./

I am glad that you had such a pleasant entertainment/ tho' Sir Sidney would have been a great addi-/tion./

What terrible weather we have had[;] the old people/ about here say that they never remember such a day/ as last Monday at this time of year[.] /

19 page ii

I still continue to ride the poney though I suppose/ that you think I might almost as well carry her/ but she seems to carry me as well as ever./ My Mother sends her love to you & hopes to hear/ that your cold is better, indeed I think it will now/ as the weather is rather warmer here, but as yet the/ wood looks as brown as in winter./

My Father still continues very poorly[,] he will be/ in town I suppose on Wednesday[&] he desires you to/ forward the note to Mr Soames./

My Aunt received a letter from Mrs Stratton on/ Friday saying that she was pretty well & did not/ intend to return to Bath[&] expected to be at Chesham/ in June[.]/

Yours etc/ Stratton Fuller/

Germa[i]ns/ May 5th, 1805/

19 page iii [blank]

19 page iv

To/ Mr J Fuller/ May 5th 1805/

Letter 20 [from his mother] page i

[J. at Chesham May - June]/

Oh, my dearest John[,] what a sad wet/ morning you have had – it began to rain very/ heavy with us a little after half past 9 & contin/ue'd some considerable time – after that we had/ repeated showers some heavier some lighter - / but I do not write to tell you of the weather; but to/ desire if you feel any symptoms of cold which/ I think you must do – that you take care of/ yourself & nurse up at St Helens till they are/ quite removed: (as should the showers continue/ which there is all appearance of) being expos[e]d/ again may bring to a bad cold what if nursed/ in the beginning may go off lightly – I have/ been very uneasy all the morn[in]g & find some/ little relief in writing – perhaps we may hear/ of you to night but a letter written to day I do not/ think much of (unless it should inform us that/ you escaped the heaviest showers) as you would/ not feel cold directly – should you have been so/ happy as not to have taken cold from your wet/ journey[,] do not trouble yourself to write again,/ but if you are the least ill[,] I beg you will inform/ me – I hear you was vex'd you did not go at your/

20 page ii

own time – but the morn[in]g was then so unfavorable/ it would have been quite wrong to have attempted/ it – your Father was out of bed twice & myself once/ to watch the morn[in]g – I have some slight hope/ the showers may have fallen heavier with us/ than with you[,] as it often happens with those/ kind of showers & there was delightful sun-/shine between: [I] will strive to comfort myself/ to night with this thought; I could not at all do/ it in the morn[in]g, your Father too seem'd sadly/ disturb'd – My dearest Love we miss you every/ where, [I] hope it will not be long before we/ see you again – Your things shall go by tomorrow[']s / waggon – hoping this will find you well/

I remain/ Your ever affec[tiona]te/ Mother/ M. F - /

Chesham June 11th/

20 page iii [blank]

20 page iv

June 11th – 1805/

Mr J: Fuller/ No 9 Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/

Letter 21 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I am very sorry to hear/ that you got so wet in your journey/ & hope that you have caught no/ cold from it, the showers fell very/ heavy about here but chiefly in the/ morning before 12 o Clock. I hope it/ will [be] fine this week as my father &/ Benjamin are going to Aston tomor-/row: it was a fine day yesterday for/ the review[,] none of us went there[.]/ I should have liked to have gone/ but I knew my mother would not/ have liked it[,] so I did not say anything/ about it[.] Mr Clark brings back word/ that his Majesty was very much/ pleased with them[.] The Yeomanry/ dined there but not the Volunteers/ which I suppose they will not like[:]/

21 page ii

indeed it[!?] think it is hardly fair but/ I suppose it was because Lord Gren=/ville has nothing to do with them/ & perhaps could not afford to treat/ them both./

I hope you received all your things/ safe on Wednesday. I shall send/ the Books by Clark./

have you heard any thing of/ uncle sam[?] my aunt had a letter/ I think on Wednesday, he was then/ at Bristol./ We are all pretty well[,] my father/ is I think much the same as when/ you left./

Your's/ Stratton Fuller/

Germa[i]ns sunday noon/

the Oranges are not come/ nor the Biscuits[,] if John/ cannot get ½ a 100[,] he is to get/ any quantity that he can/ less than that/

21 page iii [blank]

21 page iv

To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 22 [from his mother] page i

June 21/

My dearest John/

I was extremely surpriz'd &/ happy to hear you escaped cold in so bad a/ journey, very fatigued I am sure you must/ have been from the awkwardness of the horse:/ & I am very thankful you reach'd London safely/ but certainly every circumstance conspir'd to/ render you low spirited & dull - & the weather/ since you have been there has not tended to enliven/ you - to day in particular is cold & gloomy almost/ as winter & yesterday was not much better/ but tuesday was a delightful April day & some part of wed-/nesday - your father & Benj[ami]n on the whole had a/ pleasant journey - the day before you left us/ you gather[e]d a fine nosegay of lilac[,] it was the/ last worth having[,] the rain of tuesday much in-/juring them & that of friday so washing them away/ [I] believe there was not one heard left undecay'd &/

the pretty yellow shrub in bushes fell very much[,] indeed it was gloomy to walk & see the desolation/ in these tender beauties. – but the small roses are/ now blowing & the broad piony spreading its crimson leaves - / which again enliven our pleasant shrubbery - / so my dearest Love[,] as some of your pleasures are/

22 page ii

taken from you, may others present themselves/ tho' perhaps not quite so agreeable to your taste[,] yet/ may not fail in making you chearful & happy -/ the constant riding the time you was here I think/ strengthened you to bear up against what you/ have since had to encounter – I am very concern'd/ that you are low spirited & gloomy – but hope by/ this time you are more chearful: in the bloom/ of youth with a body free from disease, & a mind untainted/ by vice[,] with a task for improving yourself in/ knowledge[,] & a situation I hope of some prospect[,] you should not indulge one gloomy idea – some dull/-nesses & inconveniences I am sure you have - / I wish you had not any – but every young person/ in your situation must have some – Those in/ a higher station not brought up to any profession/ or Trade may seem to have more enjoyment[,] whether they are really happier I don[']t know; but/ from what we generally hear I am sure they are not better./ some restraint[s] on the inclinations of youth are useful/ & I hope you will live to see the time when perhaps/ you will be thankful you had not everything quite/ as you wish[e]d – as it would most probably have/ spoil[e]d you – You recollect seeing Mars the planet with a star at a little distance from/ my chamber window, I had observ'd it many nights/ just over the corner of the house, when I miss'd it for/ as long as a week & thought it was got more round the/ house & setting earlier, when looking directly in front of/ my window I saw the planet accompanied by a star/ much about the same distance the other had been/

22 page iii

Stratton look'd in [Trend?] & found the planet was per/-forming its retrograde motion – I saw it in the same/ situation the last clear night: about 3 nights ago - /

I am very sorry for poor John Hodgkin, it must be a sad/ expensive time & I suppose he is not yet master of his two/ hundred p[oun]ds – I would have you give him half a guinea/ for me[:]; you can I suppose advance it – he must be in a deal/ of trouble – the biscuits are again the wrong sort[,] the/ oranges & raisins are come and I believe [are] good for the season[.]/ I had forgot that I had desired you to send raisins but was/ very glad as we could not get any in the town - /

here are two pr [pairs] of trousers of yours that strap under the foot[.]/ [I] believe you did not wear them last summer[:]; if you do not/ wear them again they had better be alter[e]d for S[tratton] – he has tryd/ them & says they want but little alteration – both pr are / you will say in your letter whether you will have th.....[em?]/ kept for yourself or not – I intended to have desir'd/ you not to have taken that very small pr of shoes/ [I] hope you will not wear them again; as to keep them/ & walk in them may ruin

your feet forever – if you/ have any more [Nankin?] trousers or small clothes that/ do not fit you, send them for your brother. – we rode/ in the carriage monday & yesterday even[in]gs[.] The May/ that was uncommonly full & beautiful in its bloom is/ quite decay'd by the rains we have had excepting/ some bushes in Mr Drake[']s park & here & there/ one shelter[e]d by [a] neighbouring bush larger than itself/ in the hedge/

Your father saw several fields of St foin down, in his journey[;]/ they say ours is ready to cut – the meadow[,] I am fearful/ will be a poor crop, it has got high since the rain but has/ a poor bottom – we are all tolerably well – poor S[tratton's]/ nose is as bad as in the winter – except the skin not being/ crack'd[,] it is very grieving – Benj[ami]n has had an uncommon/

22 page iv

sleepyness since his journey & looks worse than he/ generally does – I have written a long letter hoping to/ give you a little amusement as far as in my power[;]/ it has been part of two morn[in]gs employ & I have th...[us?]/ been oblig'd to leave many little things I should other....[wise?]/ have done & which Jordan has come once or twice/-ing me with – [I] don[']t know when I shall write again/
all desire their loves/

June 22d - 1805/ Mr John Fuller/

We have nothing from Saml since the first letter – per...[haps?]/ you may; the weather as usual has not favor'd him,/ continually saying it is quite a Bonnie June tho' not so/ boisterous – What sad news of the West India's but nothing/ seems certain[;] it must cause great confusion in Trade - /

Your ever tender & affec[tiona]te Mother/ M.F. - /

Letter 23 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John,/

I had not time to write to you by Clark/ so I take this opportunity by my uncle to send you a/ few lines, he arrived here very unexpectedly last/ Wednesday evening. saturday & to day we took a ride/ on horseback[,] the weather for the last 3 days has been/ very ... [bad?][;] we had a very heavy rain on Friday & some/ thunder but nothing like what you had. We did/ not begin mowing till this morning. Williams informs/ me that the hay about London is entirely spoilt./ I am glad to hear that the horse is sold so well[.]/ Samuel may think himself very well off I think with/ only 8 Guineas loss[,] he wants to buy another now/ but I think he says he has got one in his eye, the/ carriage horses as usual [are] affected with [colik?]/

My father & Benjamin[,] as I believe I told you before[,] have been to Aston & it is fixed for me to go some/ time this month I believe, Mr Thomas Fuller is to/ purchase me a horse[,] it is to be a young one & the/ price not to exceed 25 Guineas./

We have nothing new since you left except that/

23 page ii

some of the volunteers have brought home the/ small pox from Wiccomb [Wycombe?] & it happens at a very/ unlucky time as the parish is going to be vaccinated/ & it will not be known I suppose whether some/ may not have taken the small pox & so bring the/ other into disrepute./

Ferret & Clark have agreed about the house[,]/ a very poor bargain, they are to pay the original sum/ [£15?] & the interest of it for 3 months so that they are a/ great deal worse off than at first. I suppose the/ reason of it is that Clark is going to be married/ soon & so wants a house to bring his wife to[;] he is going/ to marry somebody but I suppose her fortune will not/ be quite enough to pay for the house./

We are all pretty well except Mrs Stratton who is/ affected with a head ache[,] & join in sending our love to you/

your affectionate Brother/ Stratton Fuller/

Germa[i]ns July 1st, 1805/

23 page iii [blank]

23 page iv

To/ Mr J Fuller./ 1st – July 1805/

Letter 24 [from his father] page i

Dear John/

I am at a Loss for an Answer to your/ Letter. You know my sentiments, they have suffered no/ Change – I should prefer Commerce myself to either of the pro/=fessions, Law or Medicine, of theology I say nothing, because/ I believe nothing has ever been thought – It is the surest,/ it is the least laborious, it is the most independent, - It will/ give a man command of more Leisure, having said all this/ I have nothing new to say – If your mind is so prejudiced/ against Commerce as that you cannot be happy in the pur-/suit I shall say nothing to[change?] – consider however whether the/ dislike you feel be not prejudice, whether you have any ration=/=al ground of objection, & whether any that would not hold [against?] any/ the method of providing for yourself in the world – You must/ in a great Degree judge for yourself – perhaps it would be pru=/=dent to consider that this Line is the easiest for me to assist/ you in – I could however certainly[,] though with equal/ Ease, assist you in another – Your happiness I certainly shall/

24 page ii

be most happy in promoting – I think you had the fairest/ for it in your present pursuit – You have my full opinion - / But I repeat it you must act for yourself – I will only/ just hint, suppose you make trial before you finally deter-/mine - / I shall certainly be very happy to see Mr Gibson at/ Chesham – It is my intention to fetch Harriet from Ux-/bridge myself, supposing the weather be fine – as then all my/ men will have full employment at Home – if it is other-/wise I do not think the mode of conveyance by the Gig will/ be Eligible for her, & should it bid fair to be a day of Rain [I?]/ shall not set out – Mr S. will

be so kind as to bring her [in?]/ that case under Cover – I think the plan
you propose/ of his sending his Horse to Uxbridge a good one – The man/
may return by the Coach at 2 o Clock. – My Respects/ to him & Your Uncle[.]
Remembrances from all to them/ & yourself – /
Your affectionate Father/ J. Fuller/

July.3.1805/ Chesham/

Saint Foin cut & [abroad?], prospect of its being spoiled, great/ Pity, as
fine a Crop as could well grow out of the ground - /

24 page iii

[I] shall take care to be at Uxbridge time enough & return imme=diately on
the Boat[']s arrival[.]

Henry & his whole family vaccinated this day – Small/ Pox about
[through?] there from Wycomb[e] by the Volunteers[.]

24 page iv

Mr J. Fuller/ Great St. Helens B[isho]psg[a]t[e] Street/ London/
[franked -] CHESHAM 35/

July 3rd. 1805/

Letter 25 [from his mother] page i

July 20th/

My dear John/

I wish to write to you tho' / I have nothing very particular to say; but
as/ I cannot see you[,] it in some very very small/ degree makes up that loss –
what first presented itself/ to my mind is to beg you not to eat many/ cherries
as the season has been so unfavorable to/ their ripening & they are a very
unwholmsome/ fruit if not intirely ripe – Benj[ami]n has been ill/ this day or two
from this cause – which leads me/ to mention it to you – he has taken some
medi-/cine from Mr R[umsey?] & is to day much better - / he has likewise
fatigued himself with the Hay/ as usual & is quite languid – Lewis's Orchard
which/ was the last , was carried yesterday noon; it has/ been an anxious
haytime but all is very well/ got up excepting the St foin which was cut too/
late & had likewise some rain – [I] Am sorry you/ had so dull & so short a time
at Berk[hamste]d owing to your Aunt's/ being so poorly – but the ride into the
country &/ sleeping there two nights I hope did you good[.] [I] suppose/ it
smelt as if you was sleeping in the hayfield[.] / I waked one night & perceived
that delightful smell/ in my summer room where I slept the night/

25 page ii

Mr G[ibson] came down – your father has complain[ed]/ of being cold since
we slept there – I have felt a little/ chilly getting up in the morn[in]g – it has
indeed been an/ uncommon season – but to day seems very hot[.] / Your
father this minute is going to take Mrs S out in the chaise[,] he/ has not been
out all haytime nor indeed for some/ time before; there was so very cold a
wind – [I] am glad/ the frill suits, [I] have bought some cambric rather more/

thin for the others but you will not have another/ this time, as Jordan has been differently employ[e]d/ this week - pray have you heard any thing of or/ from Mr Maitland[']s family[?] - I have long thought/ of writing but 'tis so unpleasant an employment/ to me that except writing to my dear Son & now/ & then to my Brother I should wish never to write/ another letter - I rec[eive]d a long letter from your/ Uncle which says they are all very well: that I hope/ your aunt's lowspiritedness was only a transient/ circumstance; but the letter I believe was/ written before you went except a few lines written/ on the Sunday night - when he mentions the/ horse, but says the times are so hard he cannot/ bid for it except Saml would take it upon trial/ & pay for it" - should he be inclin[e]d so to do I do not/ think he would run much risk - your father says/ he would buy him directly if he could afford it - he/ has not seen or heard of the horse since seeing it with/ Mr G[ibson?] - but the man said he should let it run a/ fortnight as it had had a slight kick - Saml asks in/

25 page iii

his letter to me if the horse would be too heavy/ for him[.] Mr G can inform him - but should we hear/ any more of it he had better take a run to/ Chesham & see it - the money came by Clarke/ but [I] cannot say I have yet counted it - my love to your/ Uncle [& I] hope he is tolerably well - he or you will let/ us know how Mrs M - continues, here is a sad/ day for invalids - there has been a great deal of rain/ in the night & there is a great closeness with rain/ this morn[in]g - if you can make John Hodgki..[ns?]/ understand the sort, [I] should like to have some biscuits/ neither Hackney or those sent last: they were/ rather a thicker kind & broke quite short - the/ last were nothing but flour & water - [I] must [now?]/ tell you a little news - we all expect & believe [with?]/ reason that Mrs Shrimpton will be married this week[.] / Should you my dear by eating fruit have any/ complaint in your bowels[.] drink warm water in prefer-/ence to brandy & water - but I hope you will continue/ well - Benj[ami]n is not quite so well as yesterday - the rest/ very well - your father desires his love & good wishes/

& I remain your tender & affec[tiona]te/ Mother/ M: F - /

Chesham July 21/

[I] hope poor John[']s wife is better[.] /

25 page iv

20 July 1805/ Mr John Fuller/

Letter 26 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I now fulfil my promise of writing a long/ letter to you[.] we have this day topped up our/ last rick just in time for I think there will be/ some rain[.] indeed there has been some this/ evening (Saturday) but I hope it will soon go/ off again as there is a good deal of hay about/ here still./

Thank you for your intention of sending the/ Greek Book but I think that I shall not be/ able to pay much attention to it as I am now reading/ Homer & shall continue to do so, I suppose till/ I go to Aston & I suppose I shall not have/

much opportunity for Greek & Latin, perhaps/ I may go to London before I go there & then/ we can settle about the Basils &c[.] I do not know/ whether I ever told you that I have neve[r] asked/ my mother for the 7 s[hillings][.] I thought that perhaps / I should want you to buy something for me &/ then we may not set one against the other./

26 page ii

there is no news at Chesham except that some/ time ago young Ball ran away but I believe/ he came back again last tuesday. The cause/ of it (as I heard the story) was that he went/ to London & staid a day longer than his father/ allowed him[.] he was very angry with him/ when he came back[,] so he went off the next/ morning./

[I am] sorry to hear that my aunt at Berkhamstead/ is so poorly[,] she was in the same state I believe/ at Beaconsfield[,] at least when I was/ there once she appeared very low. I think that/ you rode a good pace from there to London[.]/ I suppose by your riding on Horseback my uncle/ has got a new horse[,] otherwise there would not/ be one for the servant./

Mrs S. is going on monday to North end, my aunt is/ to take her to Stanmore & Mrs Ward will come/ & meet her there./

Harriet is in very good health & spirits[,] Benjamin/ has been but poorly[;] he is under Mr Rumsey's care[&] he is/ a great deal better this afternoon[.]/

I have nothing more to add but that I am/

your affectionate Brother/ Stratton Fuller/

Germain's Saturday evening/

26 page iii [blank]

26 page iv

20 July 1805/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 27 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I thank you for your long/ letter & the various advice & informa/tion[.] I carefully read over your/ advice respecting the Aston Journey/ & thought it very good tho' most/ of the particulars had occurred/ to me before[;] as you observe I shall/ want some Horse furniture but/ I have no doubt but that/ I shall be able to procure a very/ good saddle & bridle &[at?] Wallingford[.]/ I hear that you are at North/ End to day[.] I hope you have got/ a fine day[,] here it has been rather/ showery, my father has been to/ Berkhamsted to day to preach for/ Mr Hobbs who I believe is gone/ to preach for Mr R Fuller./

I do not much think that I shall/

27 page ii

come to London with my Aunt/ as I understand Mrs S. is to go/ with her from N. End so that/ you know there will be hardly/ room for me if my Unkle or Mr G/ wish to sleep in town & indeed/ hardly room in the coach if Mrs S/ joins us as Harriet is also to go./

Mrs Shrimpton is at last married[:]/ the ceremony was performed at/ Bledlow[,] the clergyman there/ Mr Gilbert[,] is a friend of Mr/ Miller[:]/ it took place on thursday/ [&] my father & fam[ily?] were sent for in/ a great hurry to be Witnesses/ to the signing &c which together/ with the badness of the road/ delayed them so long that they/ hardly got there in time[,] the clock/ struck 12 just as they got into/ the church but it was rather/ too fast./

27 page iii

my mother is but poorly having/ caught cold & got tooth ache/ & this always makes her rather/ low, Ben is pretty well [&] he went/ with my father on Friday to/ Wendover about coals/

we all send our love to you/

yours/ Stratton Fuller/

Germa[i]ns/ Sunday Evening/

27 page iv

Mr J Fuller/

Letter 28 [from his friend Charles Raymond Barker] page i

My dear friend,/

After a fortnight[']s dissipation, I have/ retired from the Gay Scenes of this place & shut myself up/ in my bedroom that I may fulfil my promise to you - / the day for my Journey was just such a one as I could wish for[.]/ I left Clapham ¼ past Eight & with very good company arrived/ here ¼ before 5 – immediately [I] sat down to dinner with ten/ people whom I had never seen or heard of – Mr. & Mrs West,/ strangers also – however the Debut being over[,] I soon became/ acquainted, Sunday proved wet, & I could not stir out till/ the Afternoon which was disagreeable, & it prevented my/ friend's joining me till Monday – on which Noon I embraced/ the Goddess Hygaea for the first time, I enjoyed her as much/ as ever & have repeated the Luxury seven times = some mornings/ it is a capital bathing indeed – Our party has encreased to/ twenty Six (pretty well, I imagine you say) – it is now/ 22 but it fluctuates every day – my friend leaves me/ tomorrow Noon & will take charge of this, which I hope/ you will be able to decypher, but if you expect a long/ letter you must dispense with some inaccuracies - /

The Company in this house is really very good - of course/ a great variety. The Situation of the house just comme il/ faut. We do not see the Sea, but hear it, & are on the Steyne/ in an instant – The South Gloster Militia parade twice a/ day before our house & the Band plays. Lord Berkeley/ joins us next week. Mr. French (the Ironbroker whom/ I suppose you know) his Wife, Sister, & a friend have been/ in this house a Week[,] we regretted their departure very/ much. They are very agreeable people./

28 page ii

I have not been to a Play yet. I believe the house is well attended/ & the comedians [tol lol?] bobbish./

I have hired a horse four times & have taken long Rides/ with my friend. from 12 to 18 Miles is our distance – for the/ Races here, they charged 10/6 for a horse, so I preferred walking/ to the course, where a Gentleman lent me a very nice Ches[t]nut/ Hack every day which of course was very agreeable./ The Sport was very very good, & a great deal of very good company[;]/ to particularize each day[']s sport would more than fill my/ paper, so I have enclosed you a paper, which is Authentic[.]/ The Race between Hannibal & Sancho was well contested./ There were great bets depending upon it. The Knowing ones/ I believe have been bit - ... [Upon?] the long run./

Merryman & Cardinal Beaufort were well matched. Lord B was no/ longer a Merryman when he saw his horse would not win - / Saturday[']s sport was rather of a novel kind - /

A hack for Lewes Races would have been 14/- a day – so I clubbed/ with a Lady & two Gent[leme]n for Post Horses to one of the Gent[lemen']s Chaise/ for Thursday & Friday – it was the pleasantest way of going &/ the most moderate. I went inside on Thursday but returned/ on the Barouche Seat which place I kept on Friday – The dust/ on Thursday was very troublesome & you never saw such a/ figure as I was when I came home at Eight o Clock./

We dined on the turf which is very fashionable (of course)[.]/ Several Marquees were erected on different parts of the Ground/ & to see the Belles sitting on the Grass, & the Carriages & Horses at a/ little distance was a beautiful sight, my pen cannot do/ Justice to it. The Duke & Duchess of Bedford formed part of the/ Group – The Dorset Militia are quartered at Lewes[,] they/ have a very fine band which played all dinner time/ from 3 to 5 – The Sport on Thursday was uncommonly/ good, & the Race between Sancho & Pavilion equal to the/

28 page iii

one between Hambletonian & Diamond – Mellish got about £10m/ by Sancho, he has matched him to run against L[or]d Darlington's/ Haphazard for £2000 next Lewes Races – Friday[']s sport was/ very indifferent - & we returned to dinner - & yesterday I did not go./ I have seen Mr & Mrs Maynard. They leave to day. Mr Coope/ was here for the Races – he asked after Mr G – Ed[war]d Townsend I/ saw Yesterday – There are not many people here whom I know[.]/ The Company will now improve very much – The Prince does not/ seem very well, he appears as if he had lived too well in town [&]/ I do not know what stay he intends making. he is making/ very great alterations but not improvements, which I view/ from the Room I now occupy – I have not been on the Sea/ we wished it once or twice but the Men would not/ - We went a large party on Monday night to the/ Race Ball which was a very good one indeed, I never felt[any?]/ thing like the heat, nevertheless I danced three dances & came/ away soon after one, when Reels commenced – The Prince, & a/ very long list of Fashionables were present, the faces of the Nobility/ are almost as familiar to me now, as my own – Vehicles/ of all sorts are visible here. I have not seen in the list of/

Arrivals yet Mr. Stratton, if he should come, & take up his/ abode at a boarding house[,] I recommend Mrs West[']s where/ he will have every thing comfortable. Did you see how I/ was served among the Arrivals[?] I was cut in two – still I/ am hearty & well, I propose returning to Clapham next/ Saturday, & on the Monday start for Fairford. I shall be much/ obliged to you to call at Lewis' the Seedsman's in Cornhill No. 34/ I think[,] & purchase 2 Books called Don's collections of Plants[:]/ they are 5/- each. I trust you will give me credit till we/meet. I do not propose being in London on my leaving Brighton/

28 page iv

Therefore I beg you will send the Books with a hat box, a basket,/ & a small box, which I left in the Room I occupied when an in-/mate in Gt. St. H. [Great St Helens][,] to Clapham, I have directed the Errand [boy?]/ to call for them. I suppose it will be Thursday friday or Saturday[.]/

Mr: Fuller/ 9 Great St: Helens/ Bishopsgate St:/

Aug 4. 1805 Brighton/

[franked -] Au. 8/ 1805/ Two Py[Penny?] Post/ Unpaid/ Lombard St/

I have no time to play at Chess or for reading – Let me hear from/ you when convenient – I shall be stationary at Fairford Park[.]/ I beg my remembrance to Mr Stratton, & Mr Gibson/ & any other friends – which includes Mr Cole./

Y[ou]rs very sincerely/ CRB/

4th: Augt 1805/ Brighton/

Letter 29 [from his mother] page i

Perhaps my dear John it will in/ some degree make up for the loss of your friends/ to receive a letter from your affectionate Mother/ who is very concern[e]d you feel so dull & have been/ so much distress[e]d with the toothache – I apprehend/ it is the second double tooth that has been stopp'd tho'/ your Aunt understands it is the first double tooth/ next the front: I hope not, but know that young persons/ often lose that tooth very early, I am quite grieved/ for it – Stratton likewise has the misfor/-tune – but his happily have not yet ached – You/ talk of not seeing him again for a very long period; nay/ perhaps years as tho' he were going an India/ voyage[.] I am very low at the thought of parting/ with him, but neither your Father or myself/ could help smiling at that expression & he said/ any time when you were here you could ride/ to Aston to see him & it is a situation that will/ not confine him so much as many others -/ & I hope he will often come to see us – I think/ he will be happy there, as when he is not employ[e]d/ he can pass the hours in reading – your Father will/ send him a package of proper books - & we must/

29 page ii

contrive to send the monthly books sometimes/ (but perhaps Mr Fuller may take in some of these)/ & other entertain[in]g ones – his relations I doubt/ not

will be very kind to him; & they are very/ friendly good & serious people[,] which is the best of all - / & makes me happy in his going there – I am/ sorry my dearest John you have spent the three last/ sundays in what I think not so proper a way[.]/ I was not pleas'd on hearing Mrs S had invited/ you to go to dine out yesterday – you go to meeting/ in the morn[in]g & afterwards mix with a party/ where I doubt if there is any thing heard relating/ to the duties of the day & what is heard I am fear/-ful only tends to dissipate any good impression/ which may have been made on the mind by/ what has been before attended to; & to a young/ person whose thoughts naturally tend most to this/ world & especially when engaged in the business/ of it most part of the week, a day of retirement/ is really necessary for their scatter'd thoughts to/ unite & tell them this scene is not to last always - / & I am happiest when you spend the day at Highbury/ or with your Uncle Saml at Wanstead where tho'/ you do not attend twice in the day you have leisure/ to think of what you have heard --- /

Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M F - /

Letter 30 page i [a page of shorthand, on the same sheet as 29, possibly from his brother Stratton]

30 page ii

Aug 13. 1805/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 31 [from his mother] page i

My dearest John/

I was glad to see a letter/ from you this morn[in]g; but extremely concern[e]d/ to read the contents – I was disappointed you/ did not come down on saturday which you/ might so conveniently have done unless indeed/ the disorder prevented you, but if then only/ slight [,] the journey & change of air might have/ happily removed – I never ask you to come/ down for so short a period when there is not a con/-venient way for your return – but when the/ weather was so fine[,] the manner of coming so/ easy, nothing to do in London & likewise Stratton[']s/ birthday[,] I cannot but think it has the appear/-ance of want of affection to your parents & an/ indifference to your old home – I am glad you/ have felt relief from the medicine you have/ taken; but if it does not intirely remove the complaint [I] desire/ you will send for Mr Field & be particular in/ observing all his directions – I think your head/ being so bad was owing to your continuing so/

31 page ii

long in London, without the usual walks & I/ think Mrs S should have desired you to have/ gone to Highbury a night now & then – I do not/ approve of the way you manage yourself/ in walking & riding so much in one day[:]/ it makes me think of what your Father often says/ that overdoing is underdoing & that if you had walk[e]d / one day & rode the other you would have done/ much better – [I] think I was more low before/ Stratton went than I am now; but when your [father]/ returns without him it will be a sad dispiriting/ appearance: the week he was in town a little/ prepared me for his longer

stay at Aston, I was/ rather unwilling he should be so long in town/ as he was to leave us so soon; but thinking you/ would like his company & he would have some/ amusement reconciled me to his absence - / he seemed quite chearful in the idea of going/ & when the preparations were making for the/ journey, & was very busy part of the two days/ before arranging his own little concerns – [I] hope/ to see him after harvest – you will write to/ him soon – I expected your father would stay/ at Aston to day but he said he should return unless/

31 page iii

it should be wet – it has been a sombre morn[in]g/ & now about 2 o'clock a heavy show'r, Benj[ami]n just/ return[e]d in the midst of it, but did not take him/ till some way this side [of] Mr. Christmas's – tis the/ first ride he has had for a long time & [he] was oblig[e]d/ to make it very short – he has had a return of his/ complaint tho' he refrain[e]d from fruit & vegetables/ but [I] believe the last time it was brought on by cold – he/ is now well again – I am very sorry to hear/ Mrs S is confined to her Room [& I] am fearful it is in-/deed what you call it – gout - & if it is not removed/ in some degree she cannot with any/ comfort go to Enfield; but [I] think it would be better/ for her to come to Chesham as[,] should she be/ long confined in London at this season it will/ perhaps injure her health – your Aunt desires/ me to send her love & if Mrs S will like to come to/ Chesham she will send the coach to meet her half/ way – Jordan wish[e]d particularly you had sent your/ clothes by Saturday[']s waggon (as she says you sometimes/ do before the great washing day) wanting the frills for/ S[tratton's?] shirts, & tells me it kept her awake [a] great part of the/ night, she intended to have sent a note the week before/ in your trunk but foolishly omitted it – the odds & ends/ you mention shall be sent on monday, on first reading it/ [I] thought you meant the things that were to be sent on saturday to be re-/turn[e]d on monday & was surpriz[e]d at your expectations – My/ last letter finish[e]d very abruptly, I was oblig[e]d to leave writing/ from weariness & the great heat & intended finishing it in the/ even[in]g, but Mr R[umsey?] paid a long visit till it was too dark to write/

31 page iv

& indeed he was so chatty I forgot for a time I had my/ letter to finish – therefore [I] am making up now, indeed/ it has been my day[']s work as you know I never sit a long[time?]/ to any thing – you must be oblig[e]d to me for it, as I have so many/ things to do just now – my little trees & flowers have all/ miss[e]d S[tratton?][,] one standing in the sun which once shone this morning/ till its leaves fell sadly, he was kindly thoughtful of them, ... / the swallows are gather[in]g about the house. I observed them/ yesterday after[noon] for the first time/

Mr J Fuller/ No 9 Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/London/
Aug 16th. 1805/
[franked -] CHESHAM/ 35/ - AUG/ 1805/

My love to Mrs S & wishes for her recovery & to your/ Uncle Saml with respects to Mr G – I am sorry you/ have so little to do – but your last letter but one to me & one/ you sent to S[tratten?] some time before bespoke you in good spi-/-rits, they were quite facetious – if you are not better/ write by return of post – there has been a succession of/ showers very heavy from between 1 & 2 till past 5 & is still/ threat'ning/

Your ever affec[tiona]te Mother/ M. F/

August 16/

Letter 32 [from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

My dear Friend,

You will think me troublesome in so/ soon answering your Letter received on Saturday evening at/ Clapham, but the truth is, I am ashamed of my conduct/ and am anxious to make atonement – you must know, I / took charge of three Letters from Brighton, one of which I/ promised to send to the Post on Saturday even[ing] but I did not/ get to Clapham till half past five, which was too late for/ the Post, & therefore, thinking the Letters would be safer in my/ hands than at the P.O – till yesterday morning, I kept/ them, & in my hurry then I forgot them, till I got to/ Salthill. I then thought the best method, was the one/ I have adopted, & shall be much obliged to you to send/ Mr. Townsend[']s to Lime St. & speak as favorably of me as/ my crime will allow you – the other Letters are for the/ Petite Poste as soon as convenient – My error gives/ me the opportunity of writing to you sooner than I/ otherwise intended – I thank you for executing my/ Commission, I certainly did not write correctly about/ it, but that you will not wonder at, when I was/ in such a scene of dissipation, instead of two Books/

32 page ii

you should have read two copies. It was for a Lady I/ wanted them, & should she wish for another, I will take/ the liberty of troubling you again, excuse my saying or/ rather, giving you the hint, that when you came to chat/ much with the Ladies, if you are conversant with the/ names & specie of each flower, it will raise you much/ in their esteem - . I started yesterday at ½ past six,/ dined on the Road & got here about eight. This place is look-/=ing beautiful – & the country I passed thro' in high order,/ the Wheat Harvest, here & there just commencing, & in/ some places the grass only now cut down. There is great/ prospects of a favorable Harvest, ten days Sun would/ be very desireable. I went one night last week to the/ Brighton Theatre, it was a poor performance & hardly/ repaid me for shutting myself up in a hot house[.] / My Walks on the Steyne by Moonlight & watching the/ Sea were much more gratifying I assure you./ I rode out two Mornings in a Gig, one day we steered/ our course to Worthing which is as full as it can/ well be, the place is very much improved & increased/ since I was there last – The Sands there are so nice[.] / I bathed on Saturday Morning, in order that I might/ have as much bathing as I conveniently could. I/ regret leaving Brighton on that account, indeed I/

32 page iii

do not know whether I shall not find out some place here/ where I can take a
dip some times – My fellow messmates/ at Mrs West[']s expressed sorrow at
my departure; it was/ mutual, but I thought my duty called me this way - / I
went to see the Pavilion on Friday Morning. The Prince/ & D[uke?] of Sussex
were not risen, so I only saw the Suite of/ Apartments on the ground floor
which are beautiful[.]/ There is too great a sameness in the Stile [style] of
them. There/ wants a Library for a Mornings Lounge, for you roam about/ Six
or seven drawing Rooms, & do not see a single book./ Sir C & Miss
[Blicke?] & Mrs Jackson arrived last Week - / I saw Sir Chas - /

Harriett was with my Nieces on/ Saturday & Sunday – she seems grown
tall – Mrs Stratton/ has chosen an odd time of year for visiting town. I hope/
she enjoys good health & spirits now. – Give my best/ Comp[limen]ts to her –
Lord Arthur S. after spending about/ £25000 – has thought fit to decline any
further contest,/ the people having declared they would always have/ such
a Man as Mr Maurice, for one of their Repre-/sentatives – he is a very low life,
being [& no?] conjuror./ I thank you for Your information respecting the/
Indigo concern – I hope the results will prove equal/ to that, in any other
Hands -, I guess what Mrs/ Stevens had to communicate & am glad I was not/
on the spot/

32 page iv

A Mr. Cowley joined our party at Brighton, I have reason to/ think he is
at the head of the house at Cowley Son & Lan.....[.]/ I shall have a great deal
to entertain you with, some long/ Winter Evenings when you have taken
possession of [your?]/ town Residence – I beg you will debit me in Acct/
the expence of attending this Parcel. - & with Kind remem/brance to Mr S. Mr
G. & other friends, believe me/

Yr sincere friend - / Chas R B[arker]/

Fairford Park/ Augt . 13th. 1805/

Fairford Pk. Aug 13. 1805/ Mr: Fuller/

Letter 33 [from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

My dear friend,/

Having procured this frank, to send the/ enclosed letters to town, I am
glad of the opportunity of/ addressing a few lines to you in these terrible
times. I understand/ you Londoners are apprehensive of an Invasion – be
prepared for/ what may happen, & disdel [dispel?] such gloomy ideas. I
suppose if/ Invasion is to be expected, you are very busy handling the
Musket./ We are not alarmed at all; Col[one]l Barker had his men/
inspected last week, they performed very well, but after the/ spruce, expert
Regulars I had been so much used to for the/ last three weeks, I thought they
did not appear to be/ quite so en militaire, as I should otherwise have
expected./ I suppose at these times Major Gibson cannot be much/ absent
from town, nor Mr. Cole take any of his long Steps./ I troubled you with a
parcel of Letters on the 13th inst./ which I hope you have received. One of
the enclosed/ I beg may be forwarded to Petersb[ur]g on Tuesday Night, &/
will you be answerable for the Postage, it is a single Letter/ the other, I wish to
have left at No. 15 Bishopsgate/ Street – I see by the papers the English Ships

in/ some of the Russian Ports have been taken up to convey/ Troops – Is that true? if it is, I suppose Freights are high./ So the Combined Fleets are at sea again. There seems/ to be strange doings at Sea on our part, I think./ I wish we could give the Monnsiers & the Don's a good/ drubbing. I suppose Sir R Calder will be called upon/ to explain his conduct; What is said of it in Town?/ I think I shall be near London next week, as I believe/ I shall take my Nieces (who will return home the end of/ the Week) as far as Salthill, but I shall turn about/ again directly, so that you stand no chance of seeing/ me unless you meet me on the road – Have you, or any of/ your family been present at the grand Fete given at Stowe?/ I call it, bribery & corruption – I suppose you have seen Mr & Mrs/ Ward lately, having Mrs Stratton with you./

You will probably receive a letter for me from Down's demanding/ the payment of four Guineas – but I will write further about it./ When may I expect to hear from you?/

33 page ii

Give my Comp[limen]ts to Mr Stratton & Mr Gibson - /& believe me/ Yr sincere friend/ Chas Raymond Barker/

Any further tidings/ of the Indigo?/

..... 1805/ [franked -] FAIRFORD/ 35/

John Fuller Esq./ No. 9 Great St Helens,/ Bishopsgate St./ London/

[intact seal -] CRB

Aug: 25th/ John Fuller Esq./ 9 Great St: Helens,/ Bishopsgate St./ London/
[address twice in different handwriting]

Letter 34 [from his mother, with shorthand postscript possibly from his father]
page i

Saturday/

I am very glad to hear, my/ dear John, that your complaint/ is removed & hope you will be/ careful not to eat anything that/ may have a tendency to bring it/ on again – I have not heard if/ you was oblig'd to apply to Mr Field/ - whether the magnesia & rhubarb/ with abstinence from fruit & vegeta/bles was alone sufficient – indeed I/ hear but little concern[in]g you[.] I don[']t/ know if you have been in London/ all this long while or if you have/ the latter part of it been now & then/ to Highbury, I hope the last: pray/ tell me all this in your letter - / I am very sorry Mrs S has suffer[e]d/ so much & hope the change of air/ will recruit her again, she says/ you have been very kind to her - /

34 page ii

we have been poorly here with/ your complaint – I have something/ of it & am fearful it will not/ intirely go off without apply[in]g to Mr/ R[umsey] altho' it is very trifling - / I desired Benj[ami]n to write you a/ letter & he seem[e]d inclin'd, but the/ fineness of the day will I believe /prevent it – he says he has never/ written a letter & knows not how - / I desired him to read Mr & Mrs. Jones's/ Letter to his Sister when just his age[.] / what a difference there is in intellect/ & public Schools certainly bring Boys/ of any ability very

forward - he read/ the letter – which rather surpriz[e]d me[.]/ I was fearful
from your head being so bad/ that you had drunk rather more/ wine than
you had used to do & perhaps/ at night & I hear madeira is the wine at St
Helens - /

Stratton has now been absent/ from us three days longer than/ ever he
was before & I begin to/ think it a long time: he has not/

34 page iii

yet written – [I] suppose he is/ much engag'd in the day ... [&]/ tired at night –
we a little ex[pect]/ a letter to day - /

I hope your tooth has been easy[.]/ pray take care of those back
ones - / poor Sam who was so bad when in town/ has been troubled with it
ever/ since & his face is now wrapped in/ a ... [hairnet?]/

we began harvest last monday - / I have just recollected, if you do
not/ send your things this week to be wash[e]d/ you will not have any clean
ones/ till tomorrow 3 weeks - therefore/ if your dirty clothes are at Highbury/
you must go & get them together/ to come by Mrs S – on tuesday - / then
they will be sent back next/ week as usual - you have/ not sent your flannel
waistcoat[.]/ you will send the letter to my brother/ in the most expeditious
way[.]/

34 page iv

Mr J Fuller/

[3 lines of shorthand]

Letter 35 [from his mother] page i

My dearest John/

I believe Benj[ami]n will never/ write to you, I often ask him & told him
you/ said you should be glad to receive a line or two/ from him & even tho'
the day has been so very/ show'ry he could not be so much abroad he/ has
not written – I am a little angry – but I/ believe the trouble of thinking tho'
ever/ so little is more unpleasant to him than any/other trouble – I began to
write yesterday aft[ernoo]n/ but was so sleepy I could not proceed & just as I/
was thinking to leave off, Mr Graham drove up to/ the gate; he left Aston in
the morn[ing]; you must/ think I was very particular in inquiring after/
Stratton[.] he is quite well – Mr G met him/ coming from the harvest field by
the side of/ a load of corn: he did not know him at first owing[.]/ he
thought[.] to the brown hat, he was mounted/ on a little useful horse about 14
hands or rather/ more but he did not know whether it was the Nag/ that was
to be purchas'd for him – or if it was a/ horse of Mr F[uller] – but should rather
think it was the/ former – as he wrote us he then rode[.] when he first went[.]
an old/ Mare of Mr F[ulle]r which most likely would have been/

35 page ii

higher & was likewise a very poor one - / I hope he has written to you before
this time/ but we must not expect letters from him often/ as I know he is not

fond of writing – [I] suppose/ he yesterday rec[eive]d the package of Books as they/ went from Chesham last monday & must I/ think get to Wallingford on thursday – Mr G/ intended going home to day, but the weather/ being very wet & not being able to get home early/ enough for the busy time of the day has induced/ him to stay till monday – [I] believe I did not/ tell you he was here yesterday se'nnight, came/ in the even[in]g accompanied by Mrs W Graham/ (whom your father had never seen) who had been/ a day or two with him at [Potton?], they set out/ the next morn[in]g after breakfast for Oxford, & from/ thence to Newbury on the monday – Mrs G- seems/ a nice woman for her situation & has been very/ pretty – We had yesterday between 6 & 8 in the/ morn[in]g 2 or 3 very long claps of thunder & heavy/ showers most part of the night, altho' the even[in]g/ had been one of the finest of the whole summer/ & likewise in the day - & today is still worse[;]/ had the weather continued fine our harvest/ would have ended by monday - there is now/ the Oats before the house, the greatest part of/ a field of Barley, & a field of Wheat excepting one/

35 page iii

load carried the day before yesterday lying to/ be thoroughly soak'd I am afraid – your father/ & Mr G are just come in from walking nearly/ 3 hours about the fields in almost continued/ showers scarcely wetted by them contriving to save/ themselves by the high hedges & their umbrellas[.]/ Your father says the rain has not penetrated/ intirely through the wheat - & I hope the sun/ which is now appearing & the high wind will/ dry it – Mrs S. has been getting better since/ thursday[,] she rode in the chaise that morn[in]g/ over Hyde Heath for the first time & walk[e]d / the Cornfield opposite in the after[noon] & it seems/ to be the beginning of her recovery – Mr Field's / medicines which she brought down did not agree/ with her stomach – Mr R[umsey] has attended her since/ the first few days & his medicines appear to/ have been useful – I hope my dearest Love you/ still continue well, pray take care of yourself/ this wet weather[.] [I] am fearful you had a bad walk/ this morn[in]g – [I] beg you will not be late in the even[in]g/ over the Fields as they begin now to shut in al-/most before you are aware – we are tolerably/ well & all join in love to you & respects to Mr G;/ [I] am glad to hear your Uncle Saml is gone for a/ little Tour as he is always the better for it & Mr/ Crisp will be delighted to see him, I rec[eive]d your/ Uncle[']s letter [&] wish I could get to see him – one of your/ Aunt[']s horses has been lame above a week & is likely/ to be so for some time longer. – Your loving Mother/ M F/

35 page iv

Sept 7. 1805/

You will be so kind to enquire the fate of the/ enclos'd Share – I send Stratton[']s letter lest you may/ [not?] have rec[eive]d one – you will be sure to return it – as I/ it being his first letter to me - /

I rec[eive]d your long letter - /

Mr. J: Fuller/

Sepr 7. 1805/

Letter 36 [from Grandmother Stratton] page i

My dearest John with/ almost wretched pen do/ I address my thanks
to/ you for every kind attention/ you paid during my/ stay in St Helens –
indeed/ you were kind, and I do/ assure you my pleasure/ arose more from
an/ admiration of your good/ disposition than even/ the benefits I derived
from/ your excellent heart - / Heaven preserve you/ my dear young friend in/
the paths of virtue and/ grant that you may rise/ in goodness as you
advance/

36 page ii

in years. the more/ you see of the world/ the more you will find/ steady good
principles/ necessary – for many/ will be the temptations/ and tryals of Virtue -
you/ must sustain – but I/ will not now moralize/ for I have both a weak/ hand
and head - /

I have a favour to ask/ of you or the Gentleman/ to let John Hoskins/
find out the Gloster/ Waggon and enquire/ whether a Box directed/

36 page iii

for me to be put [on?]/ the Chesham Waggon/ which puts up at the/
Kings Arms Holborn/ Bridge has not been/ sent by the Gloster Waggon[:]/ in
doing this you will/ oblige your sincere/ and affect[ionate] friend/

M Stratton/

I have been very ill/ since I came to Chesham/ but am now much
better/ comp[limen]ts to Mr Gibson/ tell him he talked of/ coming to
Chesham [&] I/ wish you could come[.]/ pray have you bought ... [the]/
ticket[?]/

36 page iv

Mr John Fuller/

Letter 37 [from Stratton] page i

Dear John/

I was afraid that you would think/ it a long time before you heard from
me but now/ I shall make amends & answer some of the numerous/ questions
in your letters, as you observe I find my/ present manner of life very different
from what I/ have been used to but at present I like it very much[.]/ I have
scarcely looked in a book since I have/ been here as my books are not yet
arrived at Aston but/ they are come to Wallingford so I shall have them/ here
in a day or 2[.]/ I believe you are mistaken in saying/ that I rejected your offer
of the Collectanea[:]/ I only/ meant that at that time I did not want it as then I
was/ not aware of coming to Aston so soon. I am very/sorry to hear that Mrs
S. is so ill [&] I hope that she/ will soon recover under the skilfull care of Mr
Rumsey./ We have a newspaper twice a week so that I know/ a little how
things are going on but they are merely/ County papers chiefly filled with
advertisements[.]/ I have not been to Wallingford market yet but/ suppose I

shall go next week[.] I went about a/ fortnight ago to a sheep fair at East
Ilsey/

37 page ii

but have not been to any other[.] Abingdon fair/ is I believe next week but I
dare say Mr/ Fuller will not go there as we are very busy in/ harvest but I
suppose that if the weather holds/ fine we shall have done next week[.] the
weather/ has not been very fine but upon the whole pretty/ well[;] we have
been very busy these 2 or 3 last days[.]/

I am afraid that your curiosity will not be much/ Gratified for 2
reasons[.] because I am not very fond/ of writing very long letters & I think you
will/ hardly be able to make out my writing which is/ very bad & I am afraid
hardly intelligible[.]/ there does not appear to be much sporting about us[.]/ 2
or 3 Gentlemen[went?] shooting & coursing, Mr/ Slade & Mr Bushnell of
Winterbrook[.] brother to/ Mr B of Aston[.] Mr Hopkins Lord Kensington/ &c[.]
they did not begin till this week owing to the/ backwardness of the harvest. I
have seen some nice/ coveys of partridges, & there was a man up at a farm/
upon the hill which Mr F[ulle]r did hold once who saw 26/ hares one
evening[;] there is a wood very near the farm/ which is very good cover for
them, they do a great/ deal of harm by making terrible paths among the
corn/

37 page iii

I have seen nobody here that you do not know/ except Mr & Mrs.
Searle[;] I do not/ know whether you have seen him or no[.] he is a/ droll
hand. I have not as yet seen Mrs J Fuller/

Since I have been here I have rode 4 horses[.] the/ one that I
mentioned in the letter which is a miser/able old mare that has strayed & fell
to Mr Fuller/ as Lord of the Manor, the next was Mr Fuller's/ horse which is a
heavy dull beast[.] the next was a/ young mare 3 years old which has been
rode but [very?]/ little & is of course very awkward & last /
came for me which I have rode to day ... [&]/ like very much, I wonder my
uncle bought such a/ low horse as he hates them so much[.] I suppose/ he
will sell him & lose £10 by him that / the way Mr Jas Fuller bo't a horse[.] I
believe it/ was for 20 Guineas [&] kept him 2 years & sold him/ for 46! & he has
got one now which is 4 years old &/ I think in another year he will be worth 60
Guineas[.]/ I do not know how much he gave for him. I have/ nearly filled
my sheet & have not time to write any/ more./

Yours/ S Fuller/

Aston farm Sept 14th. 1805/

you will have that letter on Monday morning so I/ would be obliged to you to
write to Chesham by Clark/ and/

37 page iv

tell my father that my box is a[t] Wallingford but that/ it came a week later
than I expected, & that I have/ got a horse which I think will suit me[.] it is 14

.... [hands?]/ high[,] 3 years old & the price is 17 ½ Guineas[;] he is/ but in poor condition at present but he is the / for that appears to be very quiet & able/

Sept. 14. 1805/

To/ Mr J Fuller/ N. 9 G[reat] St. Helens/ London/
[franked -] WALLINGFORD 49/

he appears to have been rode some time which is all the / all the good Judges here think he is a very likely horse[.]/ give my love to all at Chesham & tell them that I/ am very well[.]/
S Fuller/

Letter 38 [from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

My dear friend,/

As your long letter of the 3d Inst: mentions/ your hopes of being in Buckinghamshire before the/ Month expires I am unwilling to lose the present/ opportunity of thanking you for it, & for your care/ of the parcel which arrived in good order - & will/ answer every purpose: hitherto the contents of it, have/not been wanted – perhaps I did not describe the articles/ sufficiently, to be understood, but I meant to express/ myself so, that two [Coats?] should be sent – one for my/ brother & one for myself: however, he will not have/ occasion for his - & here I dismiss the [sable?] subject - / In such a busy scene as London, I should have thought/ you might (however stationary you may be) always/ find subject for a Letter, much better than those/ at the distance from town, I am – for in this place/ I do not speak to a creature except my own family/ for a week or more. I was sorry to hear of Mrs Stratton[']s/ indisposition – tho' it afforded you so much more of her/ society; it is unpleasant to be taken ill, when away from/ home. I have heard, that arrangements have been made/

38 page ii

for Mrs S. to return to Camden place, that she gives up/ her house to Mr & Mrs B - & is to become an inmate/ there paying very dear for it. You will wonder how/ I came to hear this – My author was Dr. Hicks who said/ he was acquainted with Messrs. S & G – he met Mrs. S - / at my Uncle[']s in this place some years ago./

I denied his assertion thinking it too incredible, & so/ very different from what I heard when in town - / When I mentioned that the Election for this city cost/ £25000, I meant between both parties, Lord A.S. pays/ £9000 (or rather has the credit of it, as the Duke of Beaufort/ pays it) - & Mr Morris £14000 - . I understand his father/ was a [Pig?] driver & I am sorry to tell you, tho' he has/ come in, in the Independent Interest, it is very likely/ you will hear of his supporting my friend Mr. Pitt./ I understand the late grand fete given in yr. county,/ was with a view to obtain favor from the rising Sun./ It appears as if some people, never examined their/ actions./

The Harvest is nearly finished in this part of/ the Country; the produce has been very great./ It was late, & prevented the Sportsmen from enjoying/

their guns so much as they otherwise would have done./ We have had a good share of birds./

Hunting will I suppose begin in about a fortnight./

38 page iii

but Mr. Beach's hounds are in Wilts, & will not return/ till the end of next Month – there is however another pack/ near enough, but I fear I shall not see much of/ them as horses are scarce; I have rode more lately/ but the cattle I sport now - would not do to follow/ the hounds with – I am surprised to hear your/ brother leaves home to learn Farming. I thought/ Mr. Fuller was a very good farmer - Benson is in Oxfordshire/ 35 miles from hence – We have had some very/ sultry weather this Week – this is the third & last/ day of the Kingscote Races, but Col[one]l B is the / only part of our family who will be [present,?]/ there are several horses named, but we have not/ heard any account of the sport yet – your cousin/ Geo: Fuller is not there, having giving up his Running/ horses – (a wise man for that), Wm. Fuller the Major/ in the Princes' Regt. has been promoted to a Lieut Col[one]l/ in another Regt. – all the Officers of consequence seem/ ordered abroad – I see Sir Eyre Coote has just taken/ to himself another Wife, what says Mr. S. to that?/ So Tilney Park will now have another Owner, but/ who the heir now is I do not know – You know that/ Sir Jas. Tilney Long is just dead – I am going to mount my/ Nag – so you must excuse my adding [no?] more than that I am/

Yr. sincere friend/ Chas. Raymond Barker/

Fairford Park/ Septr. 19th 1805/

38 page iv

John Fuller Esqr/ 9, Great St: Helens,/Bishopsgate St:/
Septr. 19. 1805/

..... [I] believe there will be a small parcel sent to/ [St H.?] directed to me – I do not know when – but I do/ [not?] want it - /

[franked -] 8 oclock/ 21. SP/1805 - /
Tw[o] P[enn?]y PO - / Unpaid/ Piccadilly/2/

Letter 39 [from Grandmother Stratton] page i

Alas! My dear John/ our expedition to the Sea/ is at an end – this lame/ horse has spoilt all and/given us great disappointment - / I am the more mortified as you/ was to have been of the/ party for some of the time/ and to have escorted us/ home – you must come/ to Chesham in lieu of/ the Sea – your Mother/ was much disappointed/ you did not come [last?]/ Saturday and I fear you/ will not come the next/ as the Squire I find is/ going to escort a Lady to/ Falmouth. I long to see/

39 page ii

you and reopen our/ Conversations, so interesting/ to me by your good sense/ and temper. I have not/ passed more pleasant/ evenings or more rational/ than with you during/ my stay in town notwith-/-standing the touch of the Gout[.]/ I have been very ill since/ I left town but am now/ much better – a little stiff/ in the hips or so - /

My dear John will you/ in your rides call upon/ Mrs Ward[,] I believe she/ must be come home &/ I wish very much to know/ how she is after her Journey[.]/ I have written to her, but/

39 page iii

told her I was going to the/ Sea side this week so perhaps/ she will not write to me[:]/ tell her that I am very/ anxious to know of her/ & Mr Ward[']s wellfare also/ the little pet – and should/ you be inclined for a/ walk to [Russell?] Square/ make the same enquiries/ after Mrs Benyon – put a/ card in your pocket[:] should/ they not be at home you/ may leave your Name[.]/ I know you will not think/ I take liberties as you/ ever seem ready to oblige[.]/ Your affect[ionate] Grandmother/ M Stratton/
Octr the... [1st?] 1805/

39 page iv

Mr John Fuller/

Letter 40 [from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

My dear friend,/

Whether you are employing your Morn[ing]s/ as I am, in writing Letters, or just levelling your Gun/ at a Pheasant or Partridge, I cannot pretend to say – but/ having procured a frank, I am unwilling to lose so good / an opportunity of thanking you for your letter of the/ 8th Inst. which awaited my return home, from Banksfee house,/ where I had been spending a compleat parson[']s week - /

I enjoyed the excursion much, I went on horseback & rode/ most days while there, We were very gay – dined several times/ at Mr. Cockerell[']s by way of securing a good batch of Billiards/ which generally employed us from the time we left the/ Bottle, till the midnight hour had struck, when my/ brother & self mounted our hacks & shot home - /

The Weather was just as we could have wished for – fine/ moonlight nights & dry days – We should not have led/ this dissipated life had there been a lady to have kept/ us in Order, but my Sister was in Norfolk./

I have very slightly skimmed Mr. Hastings' trial, I/ wish I had sufficient eloquence to persuade you to/ think better of so worthy a Man, I will try next Winter[.]/ A Lady dined here a Month ago – when my brother was staying/ here, & she was rejoiced to find herself in company with one/ whose sentiments so much coincided with her own - / I was gratified by the conversation - /

40 page ii

I hope you enjoyed the country much, & found your/ friends well – this trip will give you such a stock of/ health, that I expect when you settle in town, you will/ lead a very gay life, & that I shall seldom find you able/ to set a quiet evening with me. I thought I should be/ in town again by this time – but if there is no business/ to require my presence there, I think I am as well in/ the Country – in which case I believe I shall prolong/ my stay till the 5th Decr. & then accompany the Ladies/ to Ormond Street where I shall take up my abode till/ I can suit myself with an habitation./

I cannot guess who the person was, who enquired for/ me, unless it was the Man who acts the part of my/ Lacquey [lackey?] – he may perhaps be anxious for my return/ to town - /

Your Wintering in town, & hoaxing the Parson to house/ you for a few Months in the summer, meets my/ approbation. I think it a very good plan - /

Have you heard or seen any thing of our friends/ at No 5 this summer?/ Is Mrs Stratton at Chesham? I am very glad to/ hear of the Arrangements that have been made, for/ Mrs S's return to Camden Place - & I hope when she is/ again settled there, she will enjoy herself as much as/ she has heretofore done – It is a charming situation/ & a very comfortable house - /

40 page iii

The papers have lately entertained us with an account/ of a most magnificent theatre there; if the description/ is not an exaggeration, I should fear the building is on too/ large a scale . So old bean Tyson has withdrawn him=/=self, high time he did, I think - /

The late unsuccessful Candidate for this County, is/ likely to be more successful for the County of Monmouth,/ where I believe he will find no opposition. It was/ supposed Mr. Hanbury Leigh, would have started,/ if so, I believe Lord A Somerset would not have thought/ of it – as two contested elections in one year would/ not suit the Pockets of Noblemen[']s younger brothers[.]/ [Cure?] is with his family, now on a Visit/ friends of ours near Reading - /

I was very sorry to hear of Miss Smith, I hope the/ voyage may restore her health – Is the Miss Bailey/ her companion, connected with the Mr Bailey, Thornton's/ partner? as he is of a Lancashire family./

So your Neighbour Mrs. Shrimpton has consoled/ herself with another husband - /

I must now take my leave of you, & remain/

Your sincere friend/ Chas: Raymond Barker - /
Fairford Park/ Octr: 23d 1805./

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Octr. 23d. 1805/ Mr. Fuller/

Letter 41 [from Aunt Deborah] page i

Sunday/

Dear John/

When you left us Mrs S & myself/ intended going to Berkhamstead on the thursday/ but most unfortunately I was seized with a/ cold on wednesday that prevented my going/ and Mrs S declined going without me[.] I am/ now much better[.] My Sister heard from/ Stratton this morning[.] he reached Aston about/ four I think, it rained a good deal between/ Marlow and Nettlebed[;] he intends writing/ to you in a week or two[.] Mr F returned/ in good time for dinner[.] all much as usual[.]/ I wrote to you as from Sam[']s letter I/ find he will not be in town before tuesday/ or wednesday[&] he will most probably be/ surprised when he visits my brother to find/ we have not been there as I told him our/ intention when he was here – [I] hope you/ are free from cold/

Your affectionate Aunt/ D S/

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Letter 42 [from his mother] page i

My dearest John – I intended to have written a Note/ to you on saturday; but the fineness of the day tempted/ me to walk & I afterwards felt unfit to put pen to/ paper – my cold has not quite left me[.] it having turn[e]d/ to a cough but that is much better[.] indeed nearly gone./

I was at the meeting twice yesterday wrapp'd up/ in my plaid & took a ride after morning service to/ Weedon Common – your Aunt had as bad a cold as/ myself[;] it unfortunately came the day before she thought/ of going to Barkd [Berkhamsted?] but [she] did not give up the intention/ till the morn[in]g when she found it too bad to venture[.] I was extremely sorry for the disappointment to/ to Mrs S, as the weather was so uncommonly fine[.]/ [I] think I scarcely ever remember so late in the year/ so delightful a day as thursday – you had an unpleasant/ day on tuesday & we had indeed a very dull one, the/ house seem[e]d to have lost most of its inhabitants[.]/ the parlour seem[e]d vacant & the bedrooms/ with Stratton[']s bed turn'd up to the side very/ gloomy[.] the next even[in]g I went through the rooms by/ delightful moonlight which however shewed me too plainly/ the bed was not made up for my dear John –

[I] hope/ your cold is not increase[e]d since you left us[.] [I] wish you could/ have let Mr Jennings have known before the even[in]g that/ you intended sleeping there – your father did not per/-ceive your cold worse – he reach[e]d Chesham just before/ dinner very safe & well, [he] is gone to Barkd [Berkhamsted?] this morn[in]g/(in compliance to a wish express[e]d in a letter sent by Mr/ Tayler the morn[in]g he left home) to inquire some-/thing of the character & abilities of a young Man/ who is now with Dr Dupre but who wishes to have the/ remainder of his education among dissenters and to ac/complish himself for a minister – he had written to the Tutor/ at Wymondley who consulted Mr .. [T?]- as one of the Trust[;]/ it is rather a singular circumstance – I am very/ glad to hear Mrs [Marsons?] is not worse, should she be so you will/

42 page ii

inform me – my love to your Uncle Saml with/ thanks for the gown – the
cheesecakes sent were/ made in expectation of Mr Gibson coming down[.]/
I desired they might be particularly nice but am/ fearful they are not so – but
ventured to send the..[m]/ hoping they will not be so bad – my respects to Mr
..[G?]/ with thanks for a box of very nice plumbs[;] they m.... / help our
des[s]ert which is only a few unripe pears/ we ate of them each day - /

Mr J Fuller/

...er/ No 9 Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/

Novr 6. 1805/

[franked -] CHESHAM/ 35/ Nov 5 1805/

this letter from S[tratton] was to have been sent by ...[Clark?]/ as I had not
written to tell you how he reach[e]d [Aston?]/ but whilst putting up the
cheesecakes it was [found?]/ & knowing you would wish to hear from him
the [thought?]/ struck me to enclose two letters in one[.] you will / me
Stratton[']s, [I] hope your cold will not return, pray/ let me know where you
are - / poor Benj[ami]n has got cold again - /

Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M: F - ./

Letter 43 [from Grandmother Stratton] page i

My dear John/

Many thanks for your/ letter, the information was glorious to/ our
Country – the security of which say the politic/ is insured for some time – may
the Almighty/ grant it – the loss of our Hero [Nelson?] is a damp/ indeed, it
affected me so much that I wept/ over your lines like an Infant – your
animated/ language glowing from youthful Ardor, and/ a heart uncorrupted
and sincere, made me/ feel a revival of youth, and kindled in/ my bosom, the
patriotism almost extinguished/ by experience and Age – cultivate my dear/
young friend these noble generous principles[.]/ the love of your Country and
that of Mankind/ and without admitting any to your confidence/ consult the
good of all – you know my dear/

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John what sanguine expectations I form/ of your future good, not the extent
of fortune/ which none can secure but by the blessing/ of providence, but by
the formation of/ your character which lies in your own/ power from what I
observe I trust/ you will give, not take example, except/ from the wise and
good – with all the/ knowledge you gain[,] that of religion/ I hope will not be
left out – this will/ adorn, support and console you in/ prosperity and
adversity – I am in a/ very moralizeing mood[,] for to morrow/ I quit your
father[']s hospitable Roof/ where I have passed tranquil months/ after such
harries of spirits that almost/ destroyed me – I hope you will oblige/ me with a
line[,] for three weeks I shall/ be at Mr Chandler[']s Gloster[,] on the

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first of Decr I must go to Bath as/ Mr Broadhurst vacates my house – I am not well to day but I hope I/ shall be well enough to pursue my/ Journey to Morrow – adieu my dear/ John be assured I work amongst those/ most strongly interested for your welfare/ and at all times and places you have/ in me an affectionate friend/

M Stratton/

Sunday Novr the 10th 1805 - /

Dear John – have the goodness to enquire/ if No 11- 417 is a Blank or a prize[,] should/ it be only a few guineas I beg you will/ accept it towards a hop, step, and a Jump - / I send you the ticket, should it prove a/ two thousand pounds I shall reserve it till/ you go into trade – Oh that it would be! - / I have written to Mrs Benyon which you/ will send to the post or leave it in your walks/ as convenient to yourself - /

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Mr John Fuller/ Great St Helens/ London/
Novr. 10th 1805/

Letter 44 [Diary Nov. 11 – 15, from Stratton] page i

[15 Nov.]

Dear John/

I am much obliged to you for your letter. I/ had just heard the news of our victory before your letter/ arrived but only in a vague manner[,] but I think that/ the loss is greater than the gain, I see by the paper/ that there has been another action in which we have/ taken 4 more of the enemy's ships so that in the whole/ we have taken 24 which I suppose is the greater part/ of their fleets. The capitulation of Gen[eral?] Mack was indeed/ an extraordinary thing & it is a terrible blow upon the/ Austrians which I am afraid they will be a long/ time recovering./

I am very sorry that my aunt has had such a violent/ cold & that they did not go to Berkhamstead as/ Mrs S may not have another opportunity for some/ time. You desire me to inform you of all the news/

44 page ii

but here there is no news in general but the present/ happens to be a pretty good time. Miss Fuller was/ married last Thursday week[,] they were married here/ & afterwards went to spend the day at Oxford[,] there were/ 2 postchaises[,] Mr & Mrs Ashby in one & one of Mr A's/ Brothers[,] Miss Slade & Miss Pococke in the other, they/ are gone to live a[t] Preston Cro[w]marsh near Bensington./ Yesterday Mr. F[,] Mr Bushnall & myself went to see/ Mr & Mrs Ja's Fuller at Shillingford [&] returned home/ about 8 o Clock[,] rather dark riding along [old?] Lane[,] on-/ly the water with which the road was filled gave a/ little light./

What terrible foggy weather we have had lately[,] yesterday was a very fine day but to day is very dull &/ threatens rain./

If you write to Chesham next week tell my mother/ that I received her letter on Tuesday & shall answer it/ in due time. My horse is very well & in better condition/ than when you saw him[,] he don't do much work now/ so that he is got a little ... [awry?]./

Yours affectionately/ Stratton Fuller/

Aston Farm Nov 15th 1805/

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44 page iv

Novr. 15th 1805/

To/ Mr J Fuller/ N. 9 Gt St, Helens/ London/

[franked -] WALLINGFORD/49/ F/ NOV 16/ 1805/

[Pencilled -] Forest ... [Mill or Hill?], Milton/ Jones/

Letter 45 [Diary: 16 - 22 Nov., from his mother] page i

Novbr 22 1805/

My dearest John/

I little thought you was/ walking to & from Highbury in the dismal/ wet fogs of last week or I should have been very/ uneasy; I imagin[e]d as you was so near leaving/ Mr J's you would certainly have staid in town/ those bad even[ing]s; & am extremely surpriz[e]d, but/ very happy that you escap'd cold – on every account/ but the nightly walks[,] I am sorry you have/ left Highbury – I was unpleasantly surpriz[e]d on/ reading that you went to the play immediately on going/ to London & hope you will not go again this win-/ter – You have seen Mast[e]r Betty twice – you have/ seen a comedy & now have seen Mrs Siddons/ in what is reckon'd I believe her best character[.]/ you don[']t say if you went by yourself or with/ company; indeed John I am uneasy about it on/many accounts and it disturbs my mind when I/ awake in the night: to go once or twice in a season/ with Mr Gibson or any such friend is very well/ but I cannot read with pleasure your being so ex/cessively delighted without fearing you should/ wish to go often, which at your Age I think is a/ dangerous wish – plays in general give a taste for/

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romance & tend to make the common duties/ of life dull & insipid, & the gaiety of the Theatre/ is so enchanting to some young minds as to render/ almost every even[ing] that is not enjoy[e]d there, to/ them a lost one – I do not insinuate this may be/ your case; you have been better taught, & have sources/ of amusement from your own mind – but I am/ fearful you will night after night find it dull &/ wish for other amusements; but I hope it will/ not be so – you complain[e]d last winter you had no/ time for reading[,] you will now have I suppose full/ two hours to yourself of an even[ing], [I] apprehend Mr/ G & your Uncle do not leave London till between/ 7 & 8 & I hope you go to bed early[.] I am sure it is best/ for your health & it will likewise shorten the even[ing][.]/

I hope my dear John you will be tolerably comforta/-ble – [I] am glad to see by your letter you like it very/ well – I began to write this on saturday but

could/ not finish it, & I have been poorly since sunday[.]/ [I] believe I caught cold going to the meeting in the/ morn[in]g – [I] am glad you have heard from Stratton[.]/ [I] suppose he is well, I cannot help thinking of his/ nose these sharp frosts & desired him to tell me/ its appearance when he wrote – your Father will/ write about your lessons in dancing – I wish it was/ not so far from home[.] you do not say if it is morn[in]g/ or even[in]g[.] I hope the former, I think it will be/ known at St Helens[.] therefore it might be best to/

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mention it[.] I cannot think it will cause laughter[.]/ a little joke perhaps which you must not mind[.]/ I think you will not have much use for it – but if/ you wish it 'tis as well to know how in case you shou[ld]/ be call[e]d on at any time to make up one - /

As you have no exercise morn[in]g & even[in]g as formerly/ [I] suppose for health['s] sake you walk sometimes in/ the middle of day, if you could any time stop at/ a picture shop to try to get some pictures such as/ I used to have to paste in a book I should be glad or/ if it is disagreeable to you, to ask John Hodgkin to do it[.]/ [I?] apprehend you have by this time got my ticket in-/quired after; [I] am prepared for a blank as had it/ been a prize at least of any consequence you/ would have inform'd before now – perhaps you/ heard from Mr Clarke concerning the poor Cook['s]/ derangement, she is rather better – is at her Aunt/ Channer['s] at Amersham Common: we are fearful/ the place was to[o] much for her strength of body &/ mind; it was most melancholy to see her, & to/ get from the house was still more so, but Mr R[umsey?]/ said it was necessary; indeed we found it so - / whether she will be able to return cannot at present/ be said but [I] think we shall wait a short time to see./ I intended finishing this letter tuesday or wednesday/ but as you did not seem to expect one till next week/ & I was not much inclined to write [I] thought it would delay/ it[.]/ then yesterday was a most delightful day [so] I walk'd/ a little on the Stone walk – your father went to Chalfont/ accompany'd by your Aunt to see Mr Price who is/ confined to his bed with cold & fever – Your father preach[e]d/

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the lecture at Beaconsfield last sunday even[in]g conse/quently [he] staid there all night & having not seen Mr [P?....]/ for a considerable time call[e]d on him on monday in his/ home[.] he had preach[e]d the day before but was [then?]/ so poorly as to be in bed – Mrs P & her daughters had/ likewise been ill, your father has promis[e]d to [preach?]/ for Mr P on sunday – our neighbours are/ tolerably well – old Thos Jones has been recover'd enough to/ come & break a little wood[,] has again relaps'd & again [recovered?]/ & is today sweeping up leaves in the shrubbery. – the [bird?]/-cage only came down last saturday. – 'tis most likely you/ will write to S[tratton] before I shall [&] you will mention one/ thing I forgot in my letter, to desire he will have [his?]/ linen air[e]d before he puts it on which he did not in ...[the?]/ summer but it is now of more consequence – Jordan/ mention[e]d it to the Servant but unless he puts it out she/ cannot do it - /
Your very affec[tiona]te Mother/ M: F - /

Novr. 22d 1805/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 46 [Diary: 23 - 24 Nov., from his father] page i

Dear John/

As next Saturday the 30th. Inst. I am to/ meet Mrs. Stratton at Bath – I must get you to ask Instruc=^tion from your Uncle. & take a place for me in the two day/ coach which sets out from London on the Friday morning, my/ name must be booked, & a minute made that I am to be ta=^ken up at Maidenhead Bridge, particular enquiry must/ be made at what time that Coach will reach that place - / I hope there will be time to do all this previous to Clarke[']s de=^parture on Tuesday, if not I shall expect a Letter on Wed=^enesday morning - & should there be no such Coach as above,/ or should there be no room on Friday; you need take no/further steps, as I shall then beat my way down as I/ can, I believe thro[ugh] Oxford – present my remembrances/ to your Uncle[,] tell him I received the draft for which I am/ obliged to him – Remember me likewise to Mr. Gibson - / We are all much as usual - /

Your aff[ectiona]t[e] Father/ J. Fuller/

Chesham Novr. 24. 1805/

(verto)/

46 page ii [blank]

46 page iii [page of shorthand]

46 page iv

Novr. 24th 1805/ Mr J. Fuller/

Letter 47 [from his brother Benjamin] page i

[Diary: 25 Nov - 1 Dec]/
December 1. 1805/

Dear Brother/

I should not have written this/ note to you only I could not go out this mor=ⁿing because I have got a cold/ but I shall not write a great deal/ because my Mother wants me to read/

I go up almost every day to play with/ the boys up the hill who do what they / like from about one to three[.] We go/ hunting birds[,] two go on one side of the/ hedge & two on the other & so throw stones/ at them but we have not killed any yet/ & they catch birds in traps & put them/ in a cage & so let them fight for about/ a quarter of an hour & then let them go/ again[.] Mr. Millar rides the little/ mare of the exciseman to Wiccombe [Wycombe]/ & as he was going down Piper's Wood a dog/ jumped over the hedge & made the mare/ start so that she threw the poor gen=^tleman & kicked him upon the back but/ did not hurt him. Brickwell had an accident/ the other day[:]
perhaps you remember/ the cart they had when you was here/ that they used to ride up & down the hill/ in[,] he was riding in it one day & it flew/ back against his forehead & a nail that/ was in it cut a great place/

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so that he was obliged to go to Suthery/ & went home the next day & his father/ dressed it for him[,] he has not left of[f]/ his patch yet./

They say that we are to have an/ illumination here on thursday/ but nobody seems to wish for it./ Lownde's thinks that we must have/ one because Amersham & Rickmans=/~~=~~worth have had one[.]

I had very near forgotten to say/ that I went to Mr Millar[']s the/ 5th of November to see some fireworks[,] they had 2 rockets 2 roman candles/ & a great many pinwheels & squibs/ & we squib'd Mr Millar who pleas'd/ me very much by putting his specta/cles on to look at them./

My Father had a pretty good day/ to begin his journey on friday/ but the bell ring's for luncheon so I must/ leave of[f.]

Your affectionate Brother/ B F/
(pray tell me what colour my/ dress breeches should be)/

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Mr J Fuller/ Decr. 1st. 1805/

47 page iv [blank]

Letter 48 [from his mother] page i

[DIARY: 2 - 7 Dec.]/
[7 Dec]/

My dear John/

I have not time to write much/ having this week written a long letter to your Uncle/ of whom I have not for some time heard any tidings[.] You had a fine day to go to Mr Ward[']s: [I]am sorry you/ went on sunday as you cannot then go to meeting[:] do/ not my dearest Love neglect the best things[,] you have said/ in a former letter that sunday was very dull; I wish/ you had the same pleasure in reading books suited/ to that day as you have in other studies; those are enter/-taining & indeed instructive but these are of greater/ importance, I would purchase any books of this sort/ you would wish to have – [I] hope you still look in that/ book of devotion I gave you when you left home[,] you/ have now more need of it as you have not the/ advantage of family prayer as you used to have/ which I am sorry for; but I hope serious thoughts will/ sometimes engage your mind: ah my dearest John/ I always bear you near my heart – pray let me know/ if you have written to S[tratton.] I wish[e]d to write this week but/ on the very dark days could not do anything & the very variable/ weather brings pains about me & makes me very uncom/fortable; what I have dreaded is come, the eyetooth next to/ that which gave me so much pain at the end of my long illness is de/-caying & tho' not yet painful is a little uneasy[,] should/ it be so how I shall bear it or how I shall have it drawn/ I cannot tell – [I] hope you have not suffer[e]d with your teeth[.]

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a Dentist of eminence Mr Rumsey has attended thinks there is/ an acid concealed in [Hemet's?] remedy for the teeth which/ is hurtful[;] it must I think be in the powder & there/ it is not conceal'd: have you ever attended to the prepar[e]d/ charcoal advertised in our paper[?] – [I] think perhaps it/ might suit your teeth – [I] would not have you use the/ powder often [& I] hope those back teeth do not get worse - /

Your Father return[e]d with a cold which he much in/-creas'd I think by going out yesterday so extremely/ damp[,] he is now in bed between 1 & 2 & intends lying/ till near dinner time, he is to preach tomorrow for/ the naval charity which is [a] weight on his mind &/ makes him worse, the 3 ministers came yesterday/ morn[in]g to beg it as a great favor[;] he declined for a long/ time but they said so much he at last agreed, but if/ he is not better[,] can I think put it off by sending in/ the morn[in]g – Mrs S was charmingly well & everything/ settled comfortably[,] she intends staying a week or more/ at Bath and has promis[e]d to spend Xmas at Gloucester - /

[I] hope your uncle Saml[']s rheumatism is better[,] [I] think/ he did very wrong to ride with it such a day as last satur/-day – my love to him[,] I rec[eive]d his note – monday was/ most delightful[,] I walk'd an hour at the end of the Stones[.]/ Tho' Jones was sweeping up the leaves which have hung/ remarkably long this season. Benj[ami]n was assisting & the/ scent from them & the grass under was very refreshing[.]/ write to Benj[ami]n instead of me this time – any little/ thing to me you can put in your note to him – Jordan/ has look[e]d over the things come from washing & cannot/ find the waistcoat, you said nothing about the stockings[.]/ I hope Mr [Sleep?] will finish a p[ai]r of linings to send by Mr/ Clarke, [I] have been fearful if you have seen [them you?] might think/

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sent last week in the box [as] it was not directed as [it] should / have been & perhaps John .. [H?] might put it in his/ Mast[e]r[']s room, but I think I mentioned it in my Note./

with every wish for your welfare/ love from your father/

I remain/ your affec[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller/

Chesham Decbr 7 – 1805/

Dr. Walker had had no return of his complaint/ (ejection of food) for 19 days but had a return the/ day before your father left – it was after bathing which/ he thought did not agree with him - /

respects to Mr G[,] [I] shall be glad to see him when/ agreeable but the weather is now very dull - / perhaps you have not heard [of] the melancholy death/ of poor Miss Ann Lee of Bath, found by her Sisters hanging/ to her bedpost by a strong cord – quite dead - /

You was very decided against taking the Cook again/ but she got so well in a fortnight & was so anxious/ to try again; but [I] did not take her fearing she might/ be overcome – now her strength is more perfected she is/ come to try/

we shall hear how Mrs ... [Marson?] is - /

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Decr. 7th. 1805/ To/ Mr. J. Fuller/

Letter 49 [DIARY: 7 – 9th. Dec., from Stratton] page i

[9 Dec]

Dear John/

I am much obliged to you for the gloves/ which I dare say will be very comfortable when/ the cold weather comes on, as yet we have had no/ very cold weather but very pleasant for the time of year[.]/ you need not have been afraid about the parcel for/ the letter man always enquires at the coach office/ & if there [are] any parcels brings them./

I saw in the paper an account that the Austrians/ had concluded peace with the French but this proves/ to be a forgery, & there is a report in the paper of today/ that there has been an engagement in which the/ French have lost 30,000 men & that Bonaparte/ himself is killed but this I suppose is not true./ I had not heard of my father[']s journey to Bath[.]/ indeed I have not heard from Chesham for 3 weeks[.]/

49 page ii

your journey to Hampstead was but an unfortu-/nate one, & I had a very middling one last tuesday/ to Cro[w]marsh[;] we went to see Mr & Mrs Ashby & it/ began raining just after we set off & continued with-/out intermission all the way there[,] the wind happen-/ed to be sideways so we did not get wet, in the evening/ it cleared up & we came quietly home about 11 o Clock./

I am very sorry for Mr Millar's accident but rather/ wonder that a Gentleman of his experience in/ riding should be thrown off in such a way./

as you observe there are neither Tragaedians nor/ Comedians at Aston but I believe there was a Comedian/ vulgarly called an Andrew who acted in a place/ here called the Drove & attracted vast numbers of people./

The Latin Epigram I think very pretty but the/ Greek one I have not yet construed[.], indeed I do not/ think that I can read it[;] perhaps if we are at Chesham/ at Christmas we may read it together[;] at present I have/ not much opportunity for reading Latin & Greek [but] when the/

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spring comes on & the weather gets warmer I shall/ have opportunity enough./

when you write to Chesham give my love to all &/ tell my mother that I take care to have all my/ things well aired. I have nothing more to say but that/

I am your affectionate Bro'./ Stratton Fuller/

Aston Farm Dec 9th, 1805/

Mr Fuller desires me to tell you that he shall .. [be?]/ very glad to see you if you can make it convenient/ to come down at any time./

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Decr. 9th 1805/

Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/ London/
[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/ DEC 11/ 1805/

Letter 50 [Diary: 10 -15 Dec., from Benjamin] page i

Dec 15th. 1805/

Dear Brother/

I left a very particular thing out in my last/ letter which is that I hope you will bring your pocket full of money/ when you come as I cannot wait any longer for my money or I should/ not have written so soon to you/

You know that my father was not at home till the afternoon/ of thanksgiving day. I went to meeting in the morning & heard a/ parcel of old fellows pray & when they had done John Sexton made/ a pretty good oration for about a quarter of an hour. As I was/ going I overtook old Edwards who told me that there was a rumour/ that when my father came home he would be asked to preach a/ sermon & have a collection for the patriotic fund on the next Sunday/ which was at Church that day where they collected 16£[;] when/ my Father came home I told him of it but he said that he/ would have nothing to do with it[,] however on the Friday morning/ Sexton, ² Sleep & Surman came up to ask him/ & after a great deal of entreaty prevailed[,] when they were all/ going away & I had got into the hall Mr Sleep came back & said/ to my Mother [""] you have been a kind advocate for us indeed[""].

my Father had a slight cold in the morning but in the evening/ it was very bad indeed & he lay in bed on Saturday/ till three oclock but was so much better in the evening and next/ morning that he preached in the afternoon & the collection amoun/=ted to £28.8.8 as you have seen by the newspaper I suppose[.]/

Helas told me that³ Mrs Dearing is dead & has left all her money/ to Thomas Plaistow[;] she may have left him a great part of it perhaps/ but I should hardly think all[,] it is reported [that] she has left him/ eighty thousand pounds/

I want to know whether I should send your gun to Andrews[.]/ I do not think it is very rusty but perhaps I had better send it/

50 page ii

as I suppose you mean to shoot when you are down here[.] I have/ seen a great quantity of [felts?] about here & they all seemed to go/ that way. Your little horse looks very well[;] I do not know whether/ I should have any[thing?] done to him but I suppose not/

My Father has sent to Stratton to come the finest of the three past/ days of this week[&] my Mother wants to send Sam for him but he is not/ to go this time[.] I am afraid we shall quite break him sending/ so many letters to him. My Aunt has had a letter from Bath as long/ as one of parson Supple[']s sermons but not a word of Dr Walker[,] it is/ all about carpets & paint. I suppose you have had the parcel that/ was sent you on friday. I am sorry you

² Rev. James Sleep , Hinton Baptist Chapel 1772 - 1811

³ The Plaistowes had been lords of the manor at The Lee since 1635. Elizabeth Deering was a Plaistowe before her marriage, so Thomas must have been a relation.

was wet but I hope/ you will not get cold. I hav[e] got a very nice great coat made very/ well for Sleaf[.] I hope you will mend your pen before you write/ to me again or I shall not be able to read it[.] I could not tell what/ the name of the Lady was where you were going so I did not say any thing/ about it/
Your affectionate Brother /B Fuller/

50 page iii

Mr J Fuller/ Decr. 15th 1805/

50 page iv [blank]

Letter 51 [from his mother and Stratton] page i

[Diary. 16 Dec 1805 – 11 Jan 1806]/
Janry 11/[1806]

My dear John/

I rec[eive]d your letter with great/ pleasure & hope you will not find any inconve/-nience from attending the sight, I do not wonder/ it should have seem'd rather tedious – [I] am sorry/ you so much regretted not having been in the/ Cathedral[.] you would certainly have been present/at the most desirable part of the ceremony [Nelson's funeral] - but/ how excessively tedious would have been the/ waiting from 7 till 4 - & you not being a person/ of consequence perhaps could not have procured/ a seat to have had a good view of the interment[.] at least not without giving a sum that would have/ been too much for you to have parted with - /

a letter from your Uncle this morn[ing] mentions/ your cold as not increas[e]d [& I] was glad to hear this/ as you could not know anything the thursday/ night – [I] was surpriz[e]d to hear he went, as your/ Aunt said in his letter before[.] he mention'd he/ should keep house – you say you had/ a good journey to London – but I was very uneasy/

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fearing you would be very wet after leaving the/ chaise; as we had a good deal of rain after one till/ I believe near four at which time your father & S[tratton] return[e]d[.] [I] am sorry Mr G could not come as the day has been/ & is so fine[.] [I] hope he has not suffer[e]d from his long/ exposure & fatigue – your father seem'd rather/ to wish S[tratton] to stay till [the] beginning of next week that/ he might see Mr G or he had fix[e]d in his mind/ to have gone yesterday but the day was too rough, had/ he not determin[e]d to have staid – we have had two most/ boisterous nights & some say thunder & light'ning/ & likewise violent wind in the day which I think/ will be very serviceable after the moist heavy weather/ there has been: but we tremble a little for our troops/ who are now about being convey[e]d home - /

I am uncomfortable to day with the headach[e.] it is unfortunate as the young Shrimptons are to/ dine with us[.] Thos is just come with a hand[kerchie]f wrapp[e]d/ round his head for a sore ear – you will not/ forget to purchase a share for me if you please[.] you may again employ Mr Cole, [I] suppose the/ prize will purchase the same share again/

Adieu my dearest John[,] may God bless & preserve/ you - /
Your ever loving Mother/ M. F - /
You'll give the few lines to your Uncle/

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Dear John/

Your things will be sent by the waggon/ tomorrow[.] There will be no occasion for you to send for them[.]/ I think of going tomorrow if the weather permits/ but at present it is doubtful/

Yours/ S[traton] Fuller/

sunday evening/

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Decr. 12. 1805/

To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 52 [DIARY: 12 – 19 Jan, from his mother] page i

[19 Jan.]

My dearest John/

Stratton left us at a quarter/ after eight on friday morn[in]g [&] I was delighted he had/ so good a day but it was a very dull one to me[.] I/ miss'd him wherever I went & at night his room/ look[e]d most dismal – [I] have rec[eive]d a line this morn[in]g/ saying he reach[e]d Wallingford at three, he felt the/ cold very much at first setting out[,] particularly/ over Wycombe Heath but it was afterwards very/ pleasant, his horse went very well, & was not/ much tired tho it was a long stage from Marlow/ to Walling[for]d[.] he does not say if he met Mr F[ulle]r there/ tho' he seemed rather to wish to go on friday as/ he should then have company to Aston – Your/ father gave him a sheet of paper folded & directed/ to me & a wafer within, that had he been wet & un-/comfortable he need only have written that he was safe/ at W[allingford.] Your letter made me happy in inform/-ing me you had not found any ill effect from the/ exposure of thursday & hope now you will not: that/ [stuffing?] I am fearful you will have more or less / in the winter – I was quite vex[e]d I did not know/

52 page ii

till the saturday you had left so many pr [pairs] of/ shoes here or the things should have gone by thurs/-day[']s Waggon – then I ... [spotted] that one pr was not sent/ by Mr Clarke[,] supposing you had not more than/ 3 pr of thick ones; & am fearful you get that/ uncomfortable feeling in your head from/ getting damp feet – indeed you should have socks/ to put on with your boots which are so thin - / [I] have sent two other nightcaps but find they/ are not quite so long but think you will not miss/ that[:] the caps seem (if any difference) rather thicker[.]/ [I] am sorry you had so much trouble about the/ skreen [screen?], it does very well as does likewise the pocket/- book – I intended to have written yesterday, then/ I should have said more but I had some little things/ to do & then the day was so dark & I was tired & dull - /

there was most violent wind again last night – you/ seem[e]d surpriz[e]d at the snow with us, there was more/ on the Sunday even[ing] (I mean it snow[e]d again) but not/ so much as before – Benj[ami]n's cold is I think nearly gone/ [& I] wish he may not increase it to day, the morn[ing]/ was so cold I left going out till the afternoon - / I must now go to get in readiness - /
Your affec[tiona]te Mother - / M: Fuller/

Jany 19: 1806/

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Mr. J. Fuller/ Jan. 19. 1806/

Letter 53 [DIARY: 20 – 25 Jan., from his mother] page i

Jany 25/

My dearest John/

I had so sad a headach[e] yesterday/ which has render'd it & my eyes so very weak/ to day that I can only write a few lines – I rode in/ the carriage on tuesday which I have not done/ before I believe for 3 months, the air being so extremely/ mild tempted me to sit with my glass down nearly/ the whole of the way; & am fearful [I] have caught cold/ in my eye[,] it having been weaker than common/ ever since – I was quite struck at your writing/ at the bottom of the paper the rumour of Mr Pitt[']s/ death & still more so when it was confirmed: having/ only consider[e]d his illness as a violent fit of gout/ which he might have recover[e]d from by time – it/ has happen'd indeed at a most critical season – Ah!/ I remember him rising in the brightness of a Spring/ Sun, and [I] am concern[e]d he set in so dark a cloud - /

I am very sorry you have had another attack/ of cold but [I] hope by staying within it has intirely/ removed[;] do not fail to let us know if this is not the case[.]/ Your Uncle Saml mention[e]d in his letter to your Aunt/

53 page ii

that you had a cold & thought it would be better if you/ did not stay within so much; but I think everyone/ is the best judge for themselves – he I imagine/ often exposes himself too much when he has a/ cold – you know we talk'd about it when he was here[;]/ to go out well wrapp[e]d up in the middle of a fine day/ for a short time may I think sometimes be of service, but pray/ for the present keep within in the even[ing], perhaps/ your cold commenc'd from exposure at that season/

[I] have noticed Hopkins's advertisement & am sorry/ you did not go there[,] the walk would have been so/ short; & you I make no doubt have learn'd equally/ well[.] [I] suppose you have not forgotten, right hand/ & left - - You must send your things by Clark - / & that indeed will be too late[,] you should have sent/ them today – a flannel gown came down the day/ you went to London, it was at first thrown by[.]/ thinking it some old thing your Uncle had sent/ for some poor person; on further inquiry found/ it was a new flannel gown only so excessively/ dirty they could scarcely tell what it was – the trunk/ would not admit it last time, but it shall go on/ monday – [I] hope

you have not been cold without/ it – [I] suppose you have borrow[e]d one – or perhaps are/

53 page iii

not in the habit of wearing it – We are all pretty/ well excepting Benj[ami]n's having complain[e]d since/ monday of a pain across his chest, I am afraid/ he has strain[e]d himself working with Ned Paine[&]/ it seems to make him lowspirited – he talks of/ sending you a note by Clarke next time - /

My love to your Uncle wishing him a good/ journey[.] desire him to remember me to Mrs/ S[.] [I] shall be glad to hear how she is [& I] would have/ sent a few lines by him but am too tired to/ write any more – beg him likewise to give/ my love to all my Cousins in the West - do not/ forget this message - /

I remain with love & anxiety/ Your affect[iona]te Mother/ M: Fuller/ [I] hope Mr G is recov[er]ed/ ... [from?] his cold - / as you are to write a letter/ to your father I shall not/ expect one – only say/ how you are - /

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Jan 25th 1806/ To/ Mr. J Fuller - /

Letter 54 [DIARY 26 Jan – 2 Feb, from Benjamin] page i

Febr 2. 1806/

Dear Brother/

I believe my Mother told/ you that I should write to you this week/ but I have not got much to say[.]/ The Gentlemen have been here but/ I think that I never saw so dull a sale [of library books – note by Edward Hall] [.] / Mr King was here & slept at the/ Inn & came again next morning to/ breakfast. there are five new members/ Mr Millar[,] Biggs[,] Alnut[,] Porter &/ Grover but I think that if they keep/ on encreasing so much we must enlarge/ our room./

The famous Jew has been here and/ all the places were most excessively/ full[.] My Father went to try to hear/ him at our meeting in the evening/ but he did not know the time of begining/ & so could not get in[.] it rain'd very/ hard & after the first prayer the/ pressing to get in was so great/ that some of the people cried out/ murder & some of the women began/ fighting but what was most/

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ridiculous was that Mr Frey[.] / Hobbs & Sleap were all in the/ pulpit together./

There has been a Quaker's wedding/ here[,] Pain's daughter is married/ to a Quaker in London[;] there/ has not been one here for 30 years/ except Johnstone's which I believe/ you was at/

The hedge between the meadow/ and Lewis's orchard is making/ which makes it look very desolate/ & Chop softly is cutting posts/ & rails which will make it/ look worse/

We have had a Letter from Strat=~~=~~ton [&] there is something in it about/ the horse which you must tell/ my Uncle/

My Aunt wants to know whether/ you brought when you came last/
her ticket in Bowyer's lottery/ as she cannot find it/

I have not been out this morning as/ it snows very hard & I think we
shall/

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have a deep fall as it has threatened/ several days[;] we have got two ... /
the ground is so covered with snow [that?]/ we are obliged to take them
into the /

the Doctor[']s boys are come again & he / one more[.] Thomas
has been sweeping a path/ for his Mother almost all the way/ down the hill. I
have nothing more/ to say at present so I remain/

Yours affectionately/ B Fuller/

The Squire is gone to Lyme I believe/ by his Father's commands/

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Mr J Fuller/

Letter 55 [from Stratton] page i

[Diary: 3 – 7 Feb.]/
[7 Feb]

Dear John/

I am much obliged to you for your/ long letter, [I] am glad to hear that
you have made so/ great a proficiency in italian[.] I think it will be a/ very
good plan to take some lessons from a native/ as I suppose that, that is the
only way to acquire a/ good method of pronunciation, I think that to/ read
Quixote alone is a sufficient inducement to/ learn spanish as I suppose the
humour of the/ original infinitely exceeds the translation[.] I do/ not know
whether there are many famous books/ in the spanish Language. I have not
made much/ progress in the Iliad, [I] have finished the two first/ vol's of
George III[.] in some places I find it rather dry &/ uninteresting./

I suppose Benjamin told you that I had made no/ proposition to Mr. T. F.
respecting his horse as a=/nother person was before me, I believe he has not/

55 page ii

told him but [I?] shall not make any propositions/ to him as I was at his house
yesterday & he said/ that he would rather sell his horse to a dealer than/ a
Gentleman[;] you need not tell Samuel this, but/ only that some person was
before me as/ perhaps he may alter the plan of his journey if there/ is no
occasion for him to come round this way/

I do not know what you may mean by the Breach/ between me & my
cousin [Sam – inserted by Edward Hall] as I do not know of any/ one./

We have not yet heard precisely who are to compose the/ new
ministry[;] I understand by the County Chronicle/ that there had been
something in the way, but it/ did not mention what, I suppose we shall hear
to/ day at Wallingford. all about are great/ Pittites. I see that Lord Cornwallis
is dead in India[.] I suppose he will be a great loss to the East India/

company[.] I also saw that Lord Melville was very/ ill at Bath. It would be droll
enough if he should/ die too./

I am sorry to hear that Ben has received a strain[.] it/ is rather in an
awkward place I think, I should think/

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that he would prefer an epistle in English[.]/ I suppose at least that he will be
like me[.] answer it in/ English. I have nothing more to say & remain/

Your affectionate Brother/ Stratton Fuller/

Aston Farm Feby 7th, 1806/

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To/ Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Great St Helens/ London/ Feby 7th 1806/

[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/

[line of shorthand]

Letter 56 [from his mother] page i

Feb: 7th/

My dear John/

You do not tell me the reason/ why you did not get the letters till
tuesday morn[in]g/ but [I] apprehend Clarke did not go on the monday as/
he mostly does; on first reading I was fearful you was/ out late on monday
even[in]g & this made me uneasy/ as you know how fearful I am of your
getting cold - / but on recollecting the morn[in]g was the time for his going/
to St Helens a little dismiss[e]d my fears; & had he gone on/ monday
afternoon I thought[.] however late you might be/ out, the letters would have
been given when you return[e]d - /

My dearest John I hear nothing of you, where you go/ or who you
see – yes I did hear you din'd twice with Mr. G at Highbury[.] indeed Mr Price
told me he drank tea/ with you at St Helens last tuesday se'nnight & you was/
very well [&] I told him I had heard of you the night before - / I was much
struck with the alterations in his appearance[.] the first time he came after his
illness which is about a/ fortnight since but last wednesday [I] thought he
look[e]d much/ better – [I] was sorry to hear the sad account he gave of
Mrs./ Worthington[;] she is I am afraid not likely to live long - / speaking of Mr P
has taken me from what I was going to say[.] pray have you been to see Mr
Jennings - & have you/ yet taken the other lessons in dancing[?]: the
evenings/ have been unfavorable for your going – do you ever/ see Mr
Barker[?] I have thought perhaps he sometimes/ may spend an evening with
you – [I] hope you do not find/

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yourself dull – I long again to see you, but am fearful/ I must wait some time –
[I] suppose Mr G will come/ down on your Uncle[']s return & I hope on his
return/ you will be able to come for a short time at least, as/ there was so little
opportunity for enjoying the air/ when you was last here – Your Uncle has

been very/ fortunate in meeting Mrs Dean at Bath & was in/ expectation of Mrs Coles & her family but did not say/ a word of cousin Mary[.] Mr S Coles went down with him/ only on the outside driving [the] greatest part of the way; whether/ from London or only from Reading[.] I forget if he/ mentioned – [I] apprehend you have heard from him by/ this time – [I] suppose he will be coming home the week after/ next, [I] think he will scarcely be able to hear about the horse - / he seem[e]d undetermined which way he should return[.] / you will send back Stratton[']s letter[.] I thought much of ... [his?]/ poor nose in the last cold weather – the milk of roses I/ think cannot injure it; a bottle of that went safe in the/ parcel therefore[.] I think the ... [Hemet's?] must have been crack[e]d/ before – [I] hope before this he has rec[eive]d the others safe - /

the p[ai]r of linings you sent down are kept for Mr Sleap/ to cut a trifle shorter as he did a p[ai]r which Jordan mark[e]d/ in the band with black silk to know if they were done right[.] / perhaps you have not observ[e]d the difference, these are not/ done yet but will be done next week if you send no orders/ to the contrary[.] she tells me you could not want them/ as you have 2 or 3 p[ai]rs in London – I shall the week after next have a/ little parcel to go to Barkd [Berkhamsted?] – therefore if you are in the habit/ as formerly of sending the newspapers on monday; if/

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you will delay it till the next day[.] my little parcel can/ go with them – [I] have got the King & Queen of Hearts for little/ William[.] 'tis a foolish thing but the pictures are very gay - /

This morn[in]g is so extremely damp after the hard rain in the night/ that I am afraid to go to the Meeting – I wish to know where you/ mostly go on this day – I hope you do not stay at home one part of/ it, making your dinner time an excuse as you can dine any time/ you please & for once in the week at 1 o'clock & then you would/ have as much time as is required to sit, before you need go out again/ as the service begins so much later in London than with us – [I] should/ think you would sometimes like to hear Mr Worthington[.] he is a sen/-sible & good preacher, likewise lively & animated which is in/ general pleasing to youth – (he may not be so much so at present/ because he is in trouble) you are left much to yourself[.] / I hope my dearest Love it will not be to your detriment[.] / may you be preserv'd from every temptation that/ [might?] draw you aside from the path of goodness &/ piety - /

I remain with tender care & solicitude/
Your affectionate Mother/ Mary Fuller/

Chesham/ Febry 9th/

..... [wasted?]

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To/ Mr J Fuller/ Feb 9th 1806/
[3 lines of shorthand]

Letter 57 [DIARY: 8 -15 Feb., from his mother] page i

[15 Feb]

My dearest John/

Your letter gave me great pleasure/ giving so particular an account of yourself I could almost/ fancy myself with you – but I wish your friends would/ invite you to dinner on other days as I do not like that/ day to be spent in common company & conversation/ as it must necessarily remove the serious impressions/ made by attending divine service[.] I was glad Mr Jarvis/ was one of the party – I wish you to attend twice a day/ & am sure your memory will very well carry the substance of two/ sermons - & if you do not go in the afternoon how do you/ spend your time[?] – [I] was sorry you was disappoint'd/ in seeing Mr Jennings[& I] hope it was not so the next time[.]/ you did not mention the Hare or Rabbit[.] perhaps as/ J Hodgkin went to Islington he took the former & [I] hope/ Mrs Marsom had the rabbit next m[ornin]g – I shall send another on/ monday[&] thought it best to post them as it would make/ more variety to her & they are the last Benj[ami]n will have[.]/ he keeps two to send when his Uncle Saml returns - / I am surpriz[e]d Mrs M continues so long with so little/ alteration[&] I wish for myself that she may continue/ till the season is a little more advanced that I may once/ more see her; but am afraid she suffers a vast deal of unea/-siness tho' perhaps not much pain – I have [been?] very poorly/ again this week[;] we rode out on monday & the day being so mild/

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[I] went more lightly clothed, tho' not more so than I walk out; but the damp struck to me[.] I scarcely ever rode/ in the carriage when the water stood more on the/ ground[.] or the Lane & Pipers Wood were more damp[.]/ the next day it was a sad rimy frosty fog – frost upon/ rain & rain upon frost as it has been lately is so pene/-trating to my weak frame that I can scarcely bear it[.]/ Yesterday was rather remarkable: very hard frost in/ the m[ornin]g [&] about ten the rain began & lasted till between/ 4 & 5[.] part of the time very heavy & then a fine clear/ even[in]g – I have some little things to tell you/ but must delay till next week as the day is so/ dark & I have likewise the headach[e] partly I believe/ from some Hyacinths in the window close to which/ I am sitting, indeed I have been oblig[e]d to put them/ out of the Room for a time - two are blown so beauti-/full that I have great pleasure in looking at them & 2/ others are coming forward – out of my 8 slips of/ myrtle there is only one [which] has any appearance of life - / Benj[ami]n was pleas[e]d with his letter but [I] believe it puzzled/ him a little, for two words he was oblig[e]d at last to have recourse/ to his father but [I] fancy it was as much or more owing to the/ unintelligible writing as to the words – I hope next/ week to write to S[tratton] not having written since he left/ us but he has rec[eive]d 3 or 4 letters from one & the other:/ [I] wish I could see how his poor Nose looks – pray could/ you not purchase a silk handker[chie]f for his Neck[?]-/ Thursday[']s coach brought us a dried Fish – [I] suppose/ by the J S [John Stratton – note by Edward Hall] it came from my Brother[;] we wonder much/

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how he should have had it – [I] believe it all comes/ from the North, Parker who understands about dried/ fish says it is a Ling[,] none here but your father eat/ it - I shall however taste it – she says it is called a great/ dainty in her Country when fresh & much liked when dried./ I was writing to my brother that day & next m[ornin]g mention[e]d/ I had rec[eive]d the fish – the greatest number of Oranges/ I hear used to be your Uncle[']s present which perhaps he/ will remember – when he returns – your Aunt rec[eive]d/ a letter from him this m[ornin]g[,] he does not intend to/ come here in his way home [&] talk[e]d of setting out from/ Bath [on] wednesday or thursday – [I] should like some/butter'd biscuits[,] any opportunity that offers /

..... [You?] will be glad to put on your flannel/ waistcoat directly[,] I was angry with Jordan/ that it was not sent the last time as the last/ was not quite clean when you put it on, & that so long ago./ The last sentence in your letter my dearest Love/ delights me, persevere in goodness & God will bless/ you - /

Your affect[iona]te Mother/ M: F - /

Febry 15/

I have always forgotten to tell we had a bottle of/ Madeira to drink your health on your birth-/ day & the Servants some Strong beer as usual./ [I] hope you still continue quite free from cold - /pray do not go on bad even[ing]s for lessons in dancing[.]/ you will ask after Mrs M - & if you have heard anything/ of Mrs Worthington just mention it - /

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Febry 15. 1806/ To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 58 pages i and ii [2 pages of shorthand, sender not known]

58 page iii [blank]

58 page iv

Mr J. Fuller/

Letter 59 [DIARY: 16 – 18th Feb, from Grandmother Stratton] page i

Febry the 18 – 1806/

My dear John/

I have promised myself/ by not writing to you, as by that means/ I preclude the hope of receiving letters from/ you which gives me so much pleasure, but/ you were better to me than my sins deserve/ by sending a line by your Uncle Sam - /

thank you my dear young friend for your/ kind congratulations upon my restoration/ to that rank in Society which I have held/ all my life – but my perfect peace arises/ from restored friendship – Mr Broadhurst/ is I am sure as happy as myself and as to/ his Lady who behaves extreamly well I view/ her as his Wife and the Mother of his sweet/ Child – I have passed my time delightfully/

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with my friends and Acquaintance in/ spite of an attack of the Gout and a/
confinement of three weeks with a/ stubborn cough which obliged me to be/
blistered and disciplined in various/ ways – upon my return home my/ young
Neighbour said["] Mrs Stratton we/ must have a rejoicing night["] so I was/
coaxed with a fiddle with the proviso/ they should bring Beaus – Amongst
them/ and myself we collected a smart party/ and at twelve a Clock we had
a Sandwhich/ table, consisting of ham and Tongue Sandwiches/ Raspberry
Creams, Jellys Sweetmeat both/ wet, and dry – Cakes Wine and Ale – I
wished/ for you very much and I shall not give/ another until you visit Bath - /
but perhaps you have heard all this/ from Charlotte Hobhouse who was with/
me[,] for I hear you were to dine with/

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them a few days since - I am glad of/ it[,] they are valuable people and the/
elders of the family such as a young/ Man may visit with profit – I have/ my
dearest John introduced you to/ three families whose friendship I/ think you
may cultivate with safety/ and at whose Houses you will see [a]/ variety of
Company and learn the manners/ of Mankind, without danger to your own/
morals; the preservation of which is of/ consequence not only to your future
hap-/piness but your present good – I need not/ tell you my dearest John that
Sobriety/ integrity and honorable conduct are the/ foundation of greatness –
even in the/ most adverse circumstances it raises/ a Character to admiration
and esteem[.]/ Your rising Youth will have advantages[.]/ God grant that
advancing years may be/ crowned with blessings – I was very much/

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delighted with your grateful expressions/ of Mrs Ward[,] she is an excellent
Woman/ and I hope will ever be your friend[.] I am/ sorry she has such bad
health[.] Mrs Benyon/ you will find a pleasing good hearted/ Woman without
quite so much talent/ as Mrs Ward and Mrs Hobhouse - / pray tell me how you
like the/ Hobhouses[?] – Charlotte H is a pretty/ but very sensible Girl[,] quite a
Character[.]/ not universally liked but I think her/ estimable and she was quite
happy/ with me – her Brother is clever and/ possesses many good qualities
but he/ has been at the University[,] the sure/ destruction of most Youths –
never/never my dear John may you fall/ into the company of modern
Youths/ who think Drunkenness – Spirit and every/ kind of low Debauchery a
proof of Manhood/

Letter 60 [continuation of 59] page i

Alas how mistaken they are, as if a/ young Man could not possess as
much/ spirit – understanding and Knowledge/ without these vile debasing
manners -/ it requires courage, but only courage/ to face these profligates as
I call them,/ but however[,] you will not I trust be/ thrown much in their way - /
I believe I shall not see Chesham/ this year without it is very late/ towards

Christmas – for I am pressed/ very much to visit my friends in the/
neighbourhood of Bath – Mrs Jardine/ wishes me to spend the Summer with/
her[,] she lives close to that beautiful/ Park at Kings Weston where you and/ I
have been together – and I believe/ I shall go in April – I wish the lottery/
ticket had produced a greater sum for I/

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fear a few shillings will go but a/ little way towards cultivating the/ Graces – I
will not pester you as/ Lord Chesterfield did his Son[.]/ The Graces – the
Graces – the Graces/ but still the Graces are[,] I must/ insist upon it, of great
importance/ to Youth – I have asked your Uncle/ Sam much about you –
even he/ observes that your Bow is from/ your head not from your Body[.]/ I
am afraid you have not had courage/ to attack A la Maitre de Dance./
dear John tell me all about your/ self – for in your welfare I am/ deeply
concerned – of politics what/ say you to our present administration[?] all the
talents of the Nation are/ combined if possible to save our Country[.]/

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but all I fear will not do – should/ peace once more visit our Land/ it would be
short I fear in its duration./ bless me[,] I am interrupted by a Man/ I dislike who
has persecuted me these/ three last Years – and this minute/ he has burst in
upon me to/ declare he will settle his whole/ fortune upon me if I will but
admit/ of his making a partnership with ... [me?]/ you laugh John – to think of
.... / making love to Your Grandmother/ but altho I confess his fortune would/
be a delightful addition to my income/ I cannot take the burden upon the/
estate and have told him to this/ purpose, adieu my dear John – write/ an
acknowledgement to this medley very/ soon and oblige Your affectionate
and/ faithful friend M Stratton/

60 page iv

Bath Feb 10. 1806/ Mr John Fuller/

Letter 61 [DIARY: 19 – 27th Feb., from Benjamin] page i

Thursday the 27th. 1806/

Dear John/

I am much obliged to/ you for your latin letter but I/ had a little
difficulty in making/ some of it out not from the latin but/ but from the
writing[.] I should have/ written to you last week but could/ not find time as I
cannot write so/ fast as you can and I think if you/ did not write so fast it
would be as/ well. I am sure we did fast on the/ fast day[.] it was a very
singular/ circumstance[.] my Aunt had desired/ Clark to bring some house
lamb/ and my uncle sent the same joint/

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with a dish of fish down by him so/ we had the fish and one of the joints/ of
lamb on fast day and as it hap=~~=~~pened it was very well for at 3/ oclock a

postchaise stopped at the/ door with Mr Beasley[,] Miss Norton/ and Miss Shrimpton[:]; he got out and/ the others went up the hill[.]/ as we knew that Mrs Millar was/ gone to meeting I was sent up the/ hill to ask Miss Norton to dinner/ (which to me was not the most pleasant/ thing)[:] we came down together/ and it was all very well[.] It has/ been a very wintry day and the/ wind so very high that it has/ blown down the cowl on the top of the/

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chimney [&] it fell down on the / and broke a great hole in them, / broke a branch of one of the apple= trees and the top of a fir tree[.]/

I intend to ask Mr Gibson to take/ this note[,] who I think is in very/ good spirits and I think has got/ a very fine horse[:]; he went to Wycombe/ on fast day to hear Mr Millar/ and I should have lik'd to have gone/ with him but did not. My Mother/ says that you need not get a hand/kerchief for Stratton as my Aunt is/ coming to town next week./

Yours affectionately/ B Fuller/

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Mr J Fuller/

Letter 62 [DIARY: 28 Feb – 8 Mar, from his mother] page i

[8 March]/

My dearest John/

As I have not rec[eive]d a letter – [I] hope/ your cold is no worse – but cannot help being uneasy/ at your taking cold so frequently and am fearful you/ are not sufficiently careful – knowing how very su[s]cep-/tible you are you should take more care than others./ whereas I fear you take less: you do not mention when this/ violent cold seiz'd you – [I] think it is likely to have been com/ ing from the playhouse – pray who solicited your going/ to the Opera & to the play again: as you had been so lately[?]/ [I] hope you would have declin[e]d, tho' you had not been/ unfit to go by cold; I think you would as you mention/ you had several reasons for declining – I hope my/ dear, tho' young you will always have courage to/ decline these offers when unsuitable – You are I am/ afraid much exposed to cold coming from the dancing-/ lessons – Benj[ami]n has likewise got I think as bad a cold/ as you can have[,] tho' not exposed in the same way but/ he is apt to make himself very hot & then stand about – tho'/ this I rather think he caught at the meeting happening/ to have his hair cut the day before – by this time [I] hope/ you are beginning to eat a little boil[e]d mutton or other innocent/

62 page ii

meat – had your Aunt gone to town you would have had a/ chicken[:]; it was killed on purpose early on thursday m[ornin]g & I shall tomorrow see/ it eaten with regret as it w[oul]d have been so very suitable for you[,] as I did one the day before yesterday/ which was kill[e]d on tuesday for Mrs Marsom, but that/ happened to be very suitable to Benj[ami]n & your Aunt - / he was very

pleas[e]d with your letter & I believe not/ puzzled except through some little mistake of yours/ which I suppose he will tell you – You will I am fearful/ be impatient for the book your Aunt was to take, & I/ am sorry I did not desire you to purchase a hand[kerchie]f/ for Stratton as he will think I have forgotten him[.]/

Mr R Fuller intends going to Aston on Monday if/ the weather will suit: he took his wife to Amersham/ last monday intending himself to go forward on his/ journey, but after walking 3 miles [&] the rain coming on/ & the ways being extremely bad he turn'd back to A[mersham] &/ dined & slept here on wednesday – [I] have not heard from Stratton/ since my letter, [I] hope he will write to some one of us soon[;]/ his poor nose is continually before me – we rode in the/ carriage yesterday[,] as dull a day as ever I was out in/ & every thing look[e]d like the midst of winter excepting/ a very few branches of blackthorn & I believe one or two/ Sallows; to day is equally dull & sadly affects my spirits/ (tho' it seems a little clearing off)[;] there is not a twig stirring[.]/ even of the topmost – You have never sent any/ of those butter[e]d biscuits which I ask[e]d for so long ago: &/ John[']s oranges which were to have been of excellent/ quality are indeed very poor ones, the biscuits I should/

62 page iii

be glad of, if Clarke is loaded they may come by/ Coach or Waggon whenever J H[odgkin?] has opportunity to/ take them – I did not say Mrs Miller was affront[ed]/ [that] you did not call, only she was sorry – she is still very/ poorly – pray when you write say if you have heard/ anything of Mrs Worthington – [I] am concern[e]d for Mrs/ Davenport[;] she will be very much missed by her family/ & likewise by Mr G[. I] think I heard him say he used to be/ there in holiday time when a boy at school –

Benj[ami]n has/ had a little medicine from Mr R[umsey.] I was sorry I did/ not desire you by your Aunt[']s letter to apply to Mr Field/ if you were not better – [I] think you manage yourself/ very properly if you have a cough[,] but you may I think[.]/ take too little nourishment & perhaps some gentle dose/ of medicine would have a good effect – pray say whether/ you have any cough – Your Aunt talks of going the/ beginning of the week but [I] suppose she will write/ a note to your Uncle – [I] have nothing more to say at/ present but hope to hear you are getting rid of your cold - /

& remain with sincere affection/ Your tender Mother/ Mary Fuller./
Chesham/ March 8th 1806/

I have this morn[in]g rec[eive]d a letter from Stratton according/ to my expectations & hope – you must return it – I heard/ yesterday that Mr Lowndes has lost his little son – I am/ very sorry – [I] don[']t know if I told you he has been at Lyme/ about 5 or 6 weeks – they went there from Rickmansworth./ here is a sad day, showers of rain mix[e]d with hail sleet & snow/ [& I] am fearful I have a cold commencing – Benj[ami]n lives as you do except/ the oranges – which some say are not good in a cold, but I should/ suppose very cooling – he takes a little physic – sunday/

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March 8th 1806/ To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 63 [from Stratton] page i

[DIARY: 9 – 14th March]/
[14 Mar]/

Dear John/

I thank you for your very long letter/ part of which (that which was written across) I had some/ trouble to decypher, our messenger goes regularly to/ Wallingford, Sundays Tuesdays & Thursdays, & there/ is no necessity to write beforehand as he brings parcels/ as well as letters. If it is a small parcel[,] thursday is as/ good a day as any because then I can bring it on Friday/ if I go to market. If it is a large parcel which/ I cannot bring in my pocket[,] the day is of no consequence[.]/ I suppose my aunt did not come to town this week/ as the weather has been so very bad, a second winter - / sharp frost & snow & this morning snow rain & frost all/ together. I have not been on horseback since last sa-/turday. I am much obliged to you for your offer to send me/ some books, but I do not want any at present. I have/ not much opportunity for reading, so that I do not/

63 page ii

wish for any Rhetorical Treatises./

I am sorry that Samuel is disappointed about/ the horse but it is rather lucky that he did not have/ him as he is rather broke out about his heels & you/ know that he has no occasion for any thing of that/ sort. I shall say nothing more about the breach/ as you seem determined that there should be one./ [I] am sorry to hear that you have had a cold[;] I think/ you frequently catch one at the theatre./

as yet I have proposed no plan for my summer/ relaxation[,] indeed the busy time is just coming on/ as soon [as] this disagreeable weather goes, sowing oats &/ barley[,] setting Beans (that indeed we have finished) drilling/ pulse &c &c./

I have bought a curb bridle, not a hard & sharp/ for my horse as I could not restrain his ardour/ with the other which was only a snaffle, he had got/ an ugly trick of dashing into a gallop whenever/ we set out in a smart trot. give my love to my/ aunt & all at C[hessa]m[.]/

yours Stratton Fuller/

Aston Farm March 14th, 1806/ [few words of shorthand]

63 page iii [blank]

63 page iv

March 14th. 1806/
To/ Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/ London/
[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/

Letter 64 [from Benjamin with shorthand postscript, probably from his father]
page i

[DIARY: 14 – 15 March]/
Chesham March 15th. 1806/

Dear John/

I should have written to you last week/ but I had such a very bad cold that I could do nothing/ but sit over the fire[,] but it is a great deal better now as/ I hope your's is. There was one small fault in your last/ letter[;] you put et [quasi ?]instead of etsi which made it seem/ as if you wanted my letters to be more trifling than they/ are[,] which I think there is no occasion for. Mr Richard/ Fuller sent my Father a note on Sunday Se['']nnight/ directed to Mr Fuller Amersham to say that he was/ going to Aston the next day and if we had any letter/ to send he could take it and that he was going to take his/ wife to Amersham to stay there till he came back which/ he meant to do at the end of the week, they went to Amersham/ in a postchaise [&] he intended to go to Aston the next day/ and indeed he went a little way but it began to rain and/ it was such bad walking that he turned back again and/

64 page ii

came here on wednesday to dinner[,] I think that I never saw/ him so odd[;] he complained very much of his head and said/ that the constant pain that he had in it began to affect/ his memory[,] as his letter showed I think. I played at drafts / with him in the evening [&] he would not let me stop a minute/ to consider but kept saying all the time [""] go on master go on[""]./ he intended to have gone to Aston the beginning of this/ week but I think the weather has prevented him[,] I forgot/ to say that my Father took your letter up for the Dr to/ see. Mr. Lowndes's little boy is dead [&] it was reported that/ it was to be brought here to be buried but I find that it is/ not true. Mr Helas told me last night that Plaistow/ had [a] deal to do in his office as coroner[;] he went out twice/ this week. My Mother says that she told you to send us but=/tered biscuits instead of which you sent nasty flower [flour] &/ water things that have no taste at all. Sexton has begun the/ the greek testament & does it middling. We have had a great/ deal of snow this week and it is very much drifted[,] a great/ deal lies about now especialy under the hedges. I have nothing/ more to say at present so I remain/

Yours affectionately B Fuller/

64 page iii [half a page of shorthand, translated by John Fuller? as follows]

Mar. 16. 1805 [1806]/

I was aware that the systematic and academical form of Dodd. / would not be very agreeable. But I know of no other work so likely to give you/ the information you wished to receive. You will find it then unless I am mis-/taken a very fair and full statement of all the different opinions in Ethics/ and Divinity – [which?]existed in his time or had existed before, at least all that/ had acquired any celebrity or are supported by any ... [show?] of argument. To con-/sult all references would be a work of great labor and time and to read all the/ books referred to[,] the business of almost an whole Life. I have not Dr. B[entley?]'s/ work at large but have sent you the first volume of [Burnet's] abridgement/ of the Boyles' Lectures at the head of which[stands?] that of Dr Bentley[.] /

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Mr J Fuller/ 15 March 1806/

Letter 65 [DIARY: 13 March] page i

[13 March/ From Uncle John Stratton]/

Dear Sir/

I am much obliged by the Trouble/ You have taken about .. [Dr?] G's Work/ & to put an end to any continuation/ of it, I am willing to sport the 18 shillings/ in spite of the [methodictical?] Experiences/ &c with which you threaten me[;] a little/ of every sort of reading is useful & it is/ so long [a] time, since I read any thing/ of that sort, that it will be a novelty[.]/ I know no more of Germaine, than you/ but I should like to have both the Volumes[.]/ I put down the 18s to the account of my/ piety, when you have the Work send it/ with the next Packet of Papers, as I/ have inclosed this in a Parcel cont[ainin]g/ a Review & appendix, which are want[in]g/ to make up the last year's number &/ Pray deliver them to S.S. who I believe/

65 page ii

has more than Money enough & more/ to reimburse You the price of the/ Books, which I hereby desire him to do./ give my respects to all of your family/ at Ch[esham] & tell Mrs. F. we receiv[e]d her/ Letter & the Books for which I thank/ her, I cannot go out at present[.]/ the weather being very cold & my/ Cough very troublesome especially/ in the Night which brings a great/ lassitude & want of appetite, for some/ time I have drank nothing but/ cold Water, as you do when you/ are well, having not taken so/ much exercise as to heat my/ blood before dinner, I do not find/ that it makes any difference in/ my feelings or my Cough, at first I/ thought it allay[e]d by it which did/ not continue, since taking to the/

65 page iii

above..... [rejoinder?] I one day took nearly/ my usual quantity of Wine, which/ did not seem to make much difference/ in the symptoms[.] I have heard much/ of the benefit of cold Water in Inflam/matory disorders & I have read of a/ Physician[.] how eminent I don[']t know[.]/ who said if he thought his Lungs/ inflame[d], he would plunge immediately/ into a cold Bath. This I don[']t intend/ to with but as drinking Water/ seems at least to agree with me/ as well as Wine or spirits, I may go/ in a little with that except I should/ find some inconvenience, I have said/ a great deal of myself & my Complaint,/ but I look upon you now or formerly/ a petty [hand?] of the medical fraternity/ that must plead my Excuse,

I remain/ yours truly J S. Mar. 13. 1806/

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Mr. John Fuller ju[nio]r/ No. 9 [Great] St. Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/

Letter 66 [DIARY: 16 – 17th Mar, from Grandmother Stratton] page i

Monday March 17th. 1806/

Not to flatter your vanity my/ dearest John but to give you that ease/
which every Mortal, Man Woman and/ Child feels in a place where he knows
a/ welcome will meet him do I now take/ up my pen to give you the Opinion
of/ the Hobhouses concerning your Gentleship[;]/ you shall have it in Mrs
Hobhouse's own/ words in a letter to me – “ we had lately the/ pleasure of
seeing Mr John Fuller who with/ some other friends dined with us –“ you
cannot/ conceive how agreeably I was surprized in him[.]/ I had expected to
have found him rather awkward/ and embarrassed – his Person plain, but his/
Countenance I find intelligent and agreeable/ his manners modest and
sufficiently easy, and/ genteel, for so young a Man – has no deficiency/

66 page ii

of pleasant conversation” – so for Mad[a]m/ Hobhouse to which she adds
“my dear/ Ma'am Strat[ton] you had a mind to surprize/ us with this young
Man or you felt/ anxious that we should like him and/ therefore would not
launch out in his/ praise” but I told them you were/ my pride, and I am very
much delighted/ my dear John that you have so good/ a liking to each other
– you will meet/ there with polished manners – and talent/ good sense and
respectful behaviour/ will gain you the friendship of Mr and/ Mrs Hobhouse
beyond any thing – and when/ joined to these qualifications my friend/ Mrs H
knows you to be a Whig I [mean?]/ one of the rational sort – you will be
sure/ to please – do my dear John find out/ where Mrs Ward sojourns – I shall
write/

66 page iii

to Mrs Benyon soon[.] I owe her a letter/ and will jog her memory – I am glad
you/ like Charlotte H[.] she has a great deal/ of good sense and I think has a
good deal/of heart – should you dine with them give/ my most affectionate
love and remembrance/ to all the party and say that I mean/ to write to both
the Ladies very soon[.]/ I hear that Mr Hobhouse has the G...[out?]/ this may
prevent your visit for the[.]/ if it should, it would still be proper for you/ to
call, when you want a walk; indeed/ it will be a motive for you to use
exercise/ which you must make a point of taking - /you must not grudge the
postage of this/ letter[;] it is short, for I am obliged to go to/ a Lecture which I
attend three times a week/ and of which you shall hear more on a future/
day[;] in the mean time with love to your/ Uncle and comp[limen]ts to the
friend of the Chancellor/

I remain Your affect[ionate] Grandmother/
If your Aunt is with you my love/ also to her/ M Stratton/

66 page iv

March 17th 1806/

Mr John Fuller/ Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/9/
[franked -] F?/ Mar 18/ 1806/ BATH/

Letter 67 [from father] page i [in shorthand]

67 page ii [several lines of shorthand, then -]

and seems to be a matter of great un/certainty when [your?] aunt will go to Town[.] I shall/ send [Herodotus?] by tomorrow[']s waggon with/ [Malthieu?] for y[ou]r Uncle[.]

67 page iii

why do you use such words as descoriate[?] affect/ neither quaint words nor quaint writing. labor/ to write easily. This may appear contradictory[.]/

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Mr. J Fuller jun[io]r/

Letter 68 [DIARY: 17 Mar – 3 April, from Stratton] page i

[3 April]

Dear John/

All the family are from home just at/ present so I have a good opportunity of writing to you[.]/ I thank you for the silk handkerchief[.] it is a very/ pretty one[.] something like the other but that I do not/ think of any consequence. the watch ribbon is also very/ pretty & more suitable[,]as you observe[.] to the gravity/ of an agriculturist than the other you mentioned[.]/ indeed I commonly wear a black one. I do not/ recollect expressing any wish to see the Farmers[']/ magazine & as it is so voluminous a work beg that/ you would not send it./

last tuesday we had here an association of ministers/ (or as a Gentleman of this place calls it a preaching/ match)[:] after dinner there was a subject proposed/ for discussion, but Mr Tomkins of Abingdon/ read a pamphlet on the subject which [was long?] so that/ only one Gentleman[,] Mr Douglass of Reading/

68 page ii

delivered his sentiments, there were I think 14/ ministers present./

Dicky Fuller was at Aston last week[.] he was 3/ whole days coming[.] so that he was only one day here[.]/ I dare say he did not get home time enough to preach[.]/ I sent a letter by him to Chesham & a few hours/ after received one[insertion in shorthand] which I shall answer most likely/ next week./ I thing[think] the glee you mention very clever & pretty[.]/

do you suppose that the charges brough[t] against/ the Marquis of Wellesley can be substantiated[?]/

As Tom Case observes[.] the season for "throwing/ the seed into the earth" is rather backward. we have/ finished sowing of oats to day, & I suppose I shall/ begin sowing barley, in about 10 days[:] the sowing/ I suppose will last 3 weeks or a month, my nag is/ very much improved since he was at C[hesham]m[.] his coat/ is come off & he is got up fresh & I suppose/

68 page iii

my uncle will sell his little mare now[,] I suppose/ she will be worth 30
Guineas[,] I dare say my mine/ would fetch 25 Guineas If I had a mind to sell
him/ at Reading may fair. Mr Fuller's nag was lame/ in the winter, so he
bought a little rough 3 year old/ horse at Abingdon – in case he should be so
again he/ goes to plough now, in another year he will/ be a usefull horse, I
think I saw one of [the?]/ prettiest mares at Abingdon that I ever saw
[&?]/ not a very dear one 21½ Guineas[,] she was only 3 years/ old[,] I dare
say in another year she will be worth 40[.]/

I have nothing more to say at present. Give my love/ to all at
C[hesham] when you write, I shall be very hap-/py to see you down here
when the weather gets a/ little pleasanter, if you can make it convenient/

Yours/ S. Fuller/

Aston Farm April 3rd, 1806 - /

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April 3d 1806/
To/ Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/ London/
[franked -] F/ APR 5/ [1806?]

Letter 69 [from Benjamin] page i

[3 April]

Dear John/

Clarke did not come on tuesday till I/ was gone to bed so that I did not
receive your letter/ till the next morning[,] which I am very glad of[,] as it/
makes you the April fool instead of myself. I had/ a holy day on Middlebrook
day and the poem was read/ as usual. I hear that Mr Bailey's affairs are very
much/ deranged and it is thought that he cannot go on long./ he borrowed
some money of Mr White some time ago/ and promised to pay it in a
fortnight[,] which however/ he did not do[,] Mr White asked him for it several
times[,] but could never get it[,] but at last he gave him a note/ for it which[,]
when he sent it to London to be paid[,] there/ was no money and then he
sent Mr White several abusive/ letters telling him that he might get the money
as he could/ for he would never pay him. I suppose that Tom Case told/ you
that Mr R Fuller came here last saturday about 8 in/ the evening in his way
from Aston[;] he had been 3 days/ getting there and only staid there one
day and I think his/ journey was one of the most curious I ever heard of. my
Father/ went on saturday to see his new gig and he says that he never/ saw a
prettier thing and that people have come from far/

69 page ii

and near to see it[,] I think that I shall go to see it this week/ as it is not to
come home till next. We have had two very good/ books in the society just
now[,] Memoirs of Marmontel and/ Millars historical view of the English
government[,] I read some/ part of the first and found it very entertaining.
The weather/ has been very cold for some time and on friday we had/ a

heavy shower of hail and snow but I think it is getting/ warmer although the wind still continues in the east[.]/

I hope that I shall come to London either with my Aunt or/ Father but at present I do not know which. I have nothing/ more to say at present so I remain/

Your affectionate Brother/ B Fuller/

69 page iii [blank]

69 page iv

Apl 5th 1806/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 70 [DIARY: 4 – 20 April, from his mother] page i

Saturday/ [20 April]

My dearest John/

I am sorry you was disappoint[e]d/ in not receiving a letter from any one – but it was/ not till after we had taken our nooning on Sunday/ that the lameness of the Horse was heard of; & your/ Aunt till then had not quite given up the intention/ of going to Town: for altho' there had been a fall of snow in/ the night & it likewise continued in the morn[in]g/ yet at this season the changes from bad to fine are so/ sudden that she did not mean to determine till the day/ for setting out arrived – therefore [I] did not get a letter/ in readiness thinking you would see her instead - / my eyes have been & are worse lately than for some/ time past. I did intend to have taken a morn[in]g or two/ to have written you a long letter; but from some little/ interruptions put it off till to day, & just when I was/ going to begin[,] in came Mr R. Fuller (we have seen/ much of him of late) just before one o'clock &[,] your/ father being call[e]d to attend some business[,] I was not/ releas'd till above half past two: a sad wet walk he will/ have home, but he is tolerably well fortified with a good/ meal & two glasses of wine – I intended to have written/ a different & longer letter than I shall now be able as it is just 3: therefore/

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you must accept a little chitchat just what comes/ uppermost. – I am just come up from dinner as you/ know I often do soon after it is over & will try to write a little/ more which is what is always unpleasant to me at this/ time & was it not to you perhaps I could not so easily/ prevail on myself to do it – The volume of Ovid was/ forgotten in the disappointment the horse occasion'd/ for Benj[ami]n had talk[e]d of it before; he seems much/ to wish to see London & says he has not the least/ recollection of it – I was not very willing he should/ go with his Aunt as 'tis so long to sit on the jolting/ seat & I question if he can ride more than a very/ little time withinside: he has been every now & then/ indisposed with pain in his bowels & often gets cold:/ his nice skin is quite alter[e]d being often full of blotches/ & his nose frequently burns & looks all over almost as red as/ poor Stratton[']s, but [I] hope it will be better when he is/ able to ride on horseback, but the Poney is now ill - /

Your Father had a letter from S[tratton] last sunday[,]/ with half the sheet to Benj[ami]n[,] [he] said nothing of/ himself so [I] suppose he was well,

your father/ wrote him in the afternoon a long letter in short-/hand full of very good advice[;] it would I think/ cost him some considerable time to read as I do not think he/ makes it out very quick but it was written remarkably/ distinct. the letter contain[e]d some banknotes from Mr/ Fuller which made him answer it so soon – [I] Hope you did/

70 page iii

not get too cold coming from the Dance[.] I understand it was/ the wednesday before as you mention[e]d it in your former/ letter & said next wed[nesda]y but as that I see was written on/ tuesday [I] suppose you would have said tomorrow/ as I apprehend it has not been two dances: [I] hope you / managed right & left – Mr R[umsey?] call[e]d to see us last night[;]/ he has been in London & attended the House of Commons/ I think thursday from 4 till 10 with very little trouble[.]/ the house quite full but not unpleasantly crowded [&] he/ was vastly delighted, heard a great many of the Members/ speak & thought the opposition had rather the advantage/ as to speakers – [he] went to see Lady G Cavendish whom he/ had attended in the Country for an accident from a Burn,/ she had fallen on her arm on the upright bars of a Forest stove/ in attempting to alter the situation of a very large log of/ Wood – [he] met her surgeon & Sir Walter [T or F] who were extremely/ polite to him, [& I] think he breakfasted with the surgeon/ [Olivers?] or some such name who seem[e]d to live in a v... [ery?]/ high stile [style] [&] S[i]r W likewise invited him to his house, ... [her?]/ Ladyship did not go to town for further assistance but was oblig[e]d/ to attend as Lord G had some business to transact which could not/ be done without her attendance: she means to be in the Country/ again as soon as possible – I should have said Mr R[umsey] came to/ see Parker who has again got the rheumatism but not in/ her face, [she] has it in her neck & shoulder that she cannot turn/ in Bed – it is a disorder rather going about now[.] attended/ with intermitting fever; & some children one or two have the ague,/ & many the [W]hooping Cough – Cook is very poorly at times/ & then better again[;] she must I believe/ leave us before/ the hot weather comes in . – pray have you seen or heard/ anything of Mr Maitland['s] family – Mr Graham was here/ last tuesday sevennight[.] he had been in London just before/ & said a few days before that Mr M had a slight return of his/ former complaint & just time to dismount from his horse, I am/ very sorry - /

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Your father had a letter from Mr G last week, saying/ he had settled with the person at Bedford for about [15 pounds?]/ more than it might be exactly worth which you know .. [is?]/ nothing: it seems a most suitable thing for him -/ not settle then till midsummer; [he?] is now at Pott... / having finished his affairs there – pray inform ... [me how?]/ my brother was when in London – as you did not p..... [ut on the?]/ clean flannel waistcoat when sent, pray have it air[e]d [.] / [I] hope / is better – [I] beg you will not ride your Uncle['s] horses if skittish[.] /

To/ Mr John Fuller/ April 20th 1806/

I have some primroses in my window gather[e]d a few days ago / smelling very sweet, the little chestnut tree at the corner & the gum [tree?]/ begin[nin]g to unfold their leaves as likewise are John Stratton & B[enjamin?]/ the end of the Stonewalk[,] you appear rather sickly having / the east w[in]d, which has blown so much of late: I have pick[e]d a bit /-briar; I wish you could see a little of the spring here but think [to?]/ day none has been seen scarcely – [I] hope you will take care of yourself/ in this change of weather – your father desires his love & intends/ being soon in town – you have never sent me an account of my/ share in the Lottery - /

Your ever affec[tiona]te Mother, M. F – April 20/

Letter 71 [DIARY: 21 – 26 April, from his mother] page i

[26 April]/

My dear John/

Saturday/

I have nothing very particular/ to say: but as I never see you[,] if I did not often/ write it would seem as if you were intirely separated/ from us – [I] was very glad to hear you have escaped cold/ [& I] hope you will continue so to do, I was very unwell/ yesterday with a pain in my head[,] indeed it began the/ afternoon before & kept me much awake in the night[.]/ [I] believe it proceeded from cold, having walk'd in a good deal/ of wind on wednesday: but [I] am much better to day – the/ weather I think is getting still colder than before those/ few hot days (or indeed those two) you notice – for/ three years past I have particularly remark'd very dull/ Aprils; they are ploughing in the field in front of Benj[ami]n[']s / sheep & lambs are there which a little takes off from the/ gloom; nothing seems forwarder than when I last wrote/ excepting the branches of the pear tree which come round/ the side of the house being in bloom[;] old Thos has not quite finish[e]d digging the shrubbery – political Affairs/ are likewise gloomy as the season & I am fearful a few/ weeks are not likely to improve them as they are the/ latter – I am glad you dined at Dr Walker[']s; you was/ there more retired & could recollect what you had been hearing/ & perhaps converse a little upon it, which at some other/ places you have been to(& which I wish you did not get to on/

71 page ii

that day) it is not very likely you could do either[.]/ I hope you attend public service morn[in]g or even[in]g if you prefer it & after which/ you cannot do at the present hours of dining in some/ families – I am sorry poor Mrs Walker gets no better[.]/ your Uncle Saml wrote about a fortnight since that/ Mrs W late of Enfield was not expected to live from day/ to day[& I] thought it must be the Doctor's lady[.] [I] believe your/ Aunt ask[e]d him in her letter last week & he gave no/ answer I think, it was an odd jumble – I wrote if he/ is gone to see Stratton which he seem[e]d to have some/ intention of doing; I rather hope he is not [,]as Stratton/ may take cold sleeping at an Inn this weather – being/ not used to such changes as your Uncle is – I have/ this morn[in]g rec[eive]d a letter from Mrs Maitland, what/ she says concern[in]g you, [I] will give in her own words/ "I wish your Son would renew his acquaintance/ with us, tell him he need not be asham'd or afraid - / but if he is so – beg his Father to shew

him the way/ here – who has more reason – tho' he also may be assu/-red of a friendly reception" – she mentions Mr M/ having returns of the giddiness & that Friends &/ Doctors say he should get as free from business as possible/

I don[']t know when your father goes to London[,] he drove/ the gig back to Hayleys last friday for some mistake/ in the springs to be rectified – [I] believe he writes to Mr/ Gibson – we had not heard of Mr Travers failing till/ you mentioned it: now [I] have seen their Names as/ bankrupts – [I] suppose it was quite an unexpected affair[.]/

71 page iii

Benj[ami]n has still a cold hanging about him & your Father/ is not quite well, I don[']t [know] when your Aunt goes, but/ she I suppose informs Saml/ [that] the horse has not yet/ been in the carriage but [I] believe he is now very able - / you did not send your flannel waistcoat last week/ [& I] think you are wearing it too long; remember my/ hint about having it air'd - /

Mr R[umsey] may be a little puff'd up, when the applica/-tion he had put to the burn on Lady G['s] arm was/ resorted to as agreeing the best after others had ... [been?]/ used in preference; this I forgot to tell you - / the best ministerial Orators were neither / or silent: he heard many speak of each [party?]/

I hope my dearest Love you will be preserv[e]d from/ illness this changing Season & that I shall see you/ some time – pray do not begin to sit up to read/ at night; long sleep is yet necessary for you[.]/ pray let me know if your Uncle has been in/ town & how he was & write more intelligibly[.]/ with respects to Mr G & love to your Uncle/

I remain/ Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller/
[I] have long wish[e]d for some butter[e]d/ biscuits : the last sent were the wrong sort - /

I enclose the Lottery Ticket/ [& I] forgot to say Mr E Maitland has a Son - /

71 page iv

April 26th/ To/ Mr: J Fuller/

Letter 72 [DIARY: 27 April – 28 May, from Grandmother Stratton] page i

[28 May]/

Shirehampton May 28. 1806/

I shall go from hence next week and you will hear/ of my next place of Destination/

How many times my dear John/ have I wished for you since my Arrival in/ this place, the transient enjoyment you/ had of Clifton and Kings Weston could not give/ you an adequate idea of its beauties – the Walks/ and Rides so enriched with foliage, Woods and/ Water make the richest Scenery imagination/ can picture to itself. Mrs Jardine[']s situation/ is beautiful upon the decline of One hill &/ sheltered by another – from her drawing room/ Window she commands, that View of the Severn/ you saw from the point beyond Lord Clifford[']s/ Park – her own Grounds are well laid out,/ abounding with luxuriant Shrubs of every kind;/ the Arbutas grows to large trees, and every/

72 page ii

other grows with such luxuriance you would/ think it the natural Climate of each – the/ Park adjoins the premises of my friend – it is/ a most cheerful One and abounds with fine/ Trees hills and Dales enriched by views of the/ Severn – I have taken several long Walks and/ assure you [I] have borne it so well that I flatter/ myself I have put the Gout to flight. last/ Saturday myself and a female Party walked to/ the Passage House which is eight miles from/ Mrs Jardine[']s, we set out at Nine a Clock and/ walked very leisurely by the side of the Severn[,]/ the whole way upon a lovely green Bank/ which is raised high and forms the finest/ green Terrace I ever saw of such a length. we/ were hungry and soon gratified by the entrance/ of the largest round of cold Boiled Beef that ever was/ presented to my Eye – it weighed more than sixty/ pounds, we could not get thro[ugh] the whole of it but I assure/ you we played our parts well and finished also two Pots/

72 page iii

of as good Ale as the Country afforded – when we/ had satisfied our hunger and thirst we rambled/ about the delightful Shore[,] saw the Boats go and/ return but had not the courage to get into one. we drank/ our tea then walked home with as great glee/ as if we had only walked a Mile; and a night[']s/ rest recruited me so much that I believe I could/ have done the same thing the very next day - / what will you say to my Cowardice when I [heard?]/ that I have received a letter with an invitation/ to Piersfield and durst not venture across the/ Water 'tho the Welch Mountains were looking/ in such high beauty as to be very tempting even/ to my Cowardice[?]/ I have it in contemplation/ but not at present – pray tell your Uncle Sam that/ I am again disappointed of my Jaunt to the Lakes[;]/ a young Lady of the family with whom I was to have/ travelled has been very ill with a complaint w[hi]ch/ it is feared will terminate in a Consumption/

72 page iv

..... [I hope?] not but her health will not allow of so/ [long?] a Journey – your Aunt talks of going to/ ... [the?] Sea Side this Summer [&] I trust she will/ ... [not?] be disappointed like the last, she has been/ so kind as to ask me to meet her – I hope you/ will be of the party or I shall be wo[e]fully disappointed[.]/ Have you seen the Hobhouses, the Benyon[s]/ ; since last you favored me with a line[?] - / [Did?] you get a sight of Lord Mellville at Westminster[?]/ [If you?] did not I shall be very sorry as you may not/ [again?] have such an opportunity – I hope Lord Petty/ in favor with the People – what a comp[limen]t Robson/ [paid?] him - [Fox?] and the Chancellor I hope are well – you/

[the following was inserted at the top of page i -]

know these are my three great political favorites[.]/ a Gentleman told me the other day that I was/ become a [Unitarian?] – my dear John present my

kind/ remembrances to your Uncle[,] Mr G and to the Ches[h]amites/ when
you write and / believe me ever yours/ M Stratton/

Mr John Fuller/ Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ 9 London/

May 28th. 1806/

[franked -] BRISTOL/ May 28/1806/ /B/ May 29/ 1806/

Letter 73 [from his mother] page i

My dearest John/

May 30 1806/

It is a long time since I have/ written to you & now [I] hope you will not
expect a/ long letter[,] being rather disinclin'd to write but/ as I never see
you[,] did I not sometimes converse/ with you on paper[,] it would seem to
me as tho'/ you were not – Sadly was I vex[e]d when your/ father went on the
monday that you did not come/ down with your aunt: when I wrote, (I think it
was/ last wednesday fortnight) [I] felt myself much inclin[e]d/ to beg you to
come down with them[,] thinking perhaps/ they would stay for you till
Saturday but as there was/ no particular way for your return [I] thought I/
would not mention it but still had some secret/ hope of seeing you tho' a very
faint one – but when/ I found your father went so soon & in so comfort/-able
a manner[,] it fretted me much indeed/ that you had not come, when you
might so easily/ have breath[e]d two or three days & nights of fresh air./ I am
afraid you will not be well all the Summer/ in London[&] think you might very
well go to/ Highbury in this Season of the year & Mr Jennings/

73 page ii

said you would be always welcome - /

Your Uncle Saml will tell you all about Stratton/ & the news of Chesham;
but there was a marriage/ this morn[ing] after he left the town, Mr Plaistowe/
to the young woman who had lived with him some/ time; daughter to a John
Kingston who lived near Mr/ F.... – Mr & Mrs Porter have just now sent some/
bride cake with com[plimen]ts – these weddings bring to my/ mind poor Mrs
Zincke (perhaps your Uncle may/ have forgotten to mention it) her death was
heard/ of the wednesday your father was in London, poor Mrs/ Bailey & the
family were pleasing themselves with/ the expectation of hearing every day
of the health/ of Mrs Z & the birth of a little one when their hopes were/ at
once blasted by the death of Mother & Child - / poor Mr Zincke was so
overcome that he had left/ his situation for a time & gone about twelve/ miles
distant [&] is much distress[e]d that he could not/ fulfil his promise to her
request of being/ sent to England to be interr'd with her Friends./ [I] suppose
there is very great difficulty attending/ it & required more interest than Mr Z
had – [I] think I have heard the sailors have insur/-mountable objections to
having a corpse on board[.] / I am very grieved for them all - /

Ah! what has youth to stay the hand of death/

Ah! what has beauty frailer flower still/

73 page iii

Both flee before the Almighty Maker[']s breath/
Both bow obedient to his sovereign will./

Four lines that rush[e]d into my mind when walking/ alone in the shrubbery at Barkd [Berkhamsted?] just after the death/ of two young persons[,] servants there[,] one just the age/ of yourself[,] the other about a year older – the one/ Letitia Cowell whom I believe you do not recollect [&]/ the other William Johnson who was handsome as well/ as young & whom I believe you do recollect - /

I lament that Stratton has not been here the last/ fortnight which I think he might as well have been/ as he could have returned when Mr & Mrs F[uller?] set out on/ their journey & have come again afterwards[.]/ I wrote to him the friday/ Benj[ami]n was in London &/ said I expected he would write very soon & come soon: but [as I]/ happen'd to write to Benj[ami]n that same day I did not/ much expect to have a letter then but thought he wou[ld]/ have come directly as sowing time was over which/ I think must be nearly a fortnight – now I am/ fearful he will have so little time to stay, because/ of Haytime – but hope he will come the very day/ after Mr F gets home; Saml said they had talk[e]d of being/ here about wednesday, [I] was sorry to hear he was too/ late for the Coach, but it must have been before its time[.]/ [I] hope he has not got cold as I suppose he must have push'd/ old Betty on the 2 or 3 last miles & then he would be hot to/ get into the Coach – it must have been very cold when/ he set out & to day is still colder & very gloomy, my pen/ & paper are so bad [I] am oblig[e]d to mark many letters twice/ & am fearful you can't read what I have written - /

73 page iv

I am sorry you had a dull day at Clapham & am/ surpriz[e]d Mrs Maitland did not ask you to go to Mr. Th.... / as I have heard his grounds are delightful – [I] hope you have/ not felt any cold from changing the flannel waistcoat; / to have gone the week before & very vex[e]d I was it did not .. [as?]/ the weather was then warmer but [I] believe you had / it a day or two before this change, it was to have had / buttons, but it was forgot till too late & I did not like to [wait?]/ till another week[,] fearing the weather would alter - /

May 30th 1806/ Mr J Fuller/ Great St Helens/

last summer Mr Clarke said Leghorn hats might be purchased/ lined with green for 14s & Benj[ami]n[']s common hat being so small/ [I] should like him to have one [&] he seems inclin[e]d to a black [one?]/ but for the country & the height of summer I think leghorn/ lined with green is more suitable, pray which do you [think?]/ Mr Clarke is always so busy I do not much like to employ [him,]/ perhaps in the week you would be so kind to seek after one[,] you/ can inquire which are most warm – perhaps they may now be/ cheaper than last year – may every blessing attend my dear son - /

M F/

[the following was inserted at the top of page i -]

Your Father is tolerable but his spirits are low[.]/ pray do not ride the ugly starting horse that is going to/ town – if you are writing to Benj[am]n don[']t trouble yourself/ to write to me – the measure: the outside of a beavor/ hat[.]/

Letter 74 [DIARY: 1 May – 23 June, from his mother] page i

[22 June]/

Ah my dear John, I heard what was written in/ shorthand & am sadly concern[e]d you had not three/ more days in the country at least – I did not/ perceive any thing written the first time I read/ your letter neither did your Father till looking/ over your letter again[.] I shewed it to him when he read/ out what I have mention[e]d which I believe you/ kindly put in shorthand that I might not know/ it – when your father mentioned your going on/ the friday[.] had there been nothing to have call[e]d/ you[.] how I wish Mr G had said – but I hope/ you will now be able the sooner to come again[:]/ this thought a little comforts me – I was fearful/ you would be quite overcome with the heat, but/ you did well in going so slow & [I] hope you have/ not rec[eive]d any injury – I was awoke from/ between 4 & five [&] we breakfasted rather earlier than/ common, soon after breakfast I went into the/ Hayfield thinking I could not possibly bear the mid/-day sun: Mrs Miller would have me rest myself/ by sitting down in her house but I was very dull/ & had a sad headach[e]; [I] could neither read or work/ the whole day & directly on lying down on my/

74 page ii

bed had an attack of nervous fever which kept/ me wakeful a long time, but at last fell asleep &/ felt a little refresh[e]d; but very poorly & dare not go/ out the whole day – [I] was better towards afternoon/ & still better to day & have been to the Meeting this/ morn[in]g – the great change in the weather tho'/ pleasant[,] affects me; we had a very little rain yesterday/ even[in]g – you are merry about the two coachmen/ but the one was immediately discharge[e]d on being/ inform[e]d of the circumstance & said he would with/ with pleasure come again whenever he was re-/-quired which we thought would be this week for/ your Uncle[']s letter is dated the 17th & says he shall/ be in town thursday or friday se'nnight but his/ servant does not so understand it & says he is not/to be in town till the week after – therefore [I] sup/-pose he meant to say fortnight but a letter your/ aunt rec[eive]d the day you left us seems to intimate/ his being in town this week that she is rather at/ a loss how to act about keeping William – your/ father intends talking more to him tomorrow/

Your Aunt was not much inclin[e]d to ride yesterday/ & I could not bear a breath of air to draw to me/ & Will[ia]m said he should rather prefer going out with/ the horses first to know their manner & meant/ to take them an 18 or 20 miles drive – but your/ father knowing Mr Miller was at a loss how to/ get home Burrows & Warner & that Mrs M/

74 page iii

... [&?] the rest would like a ride[,] went up to propose/ their going as far as the hill into Wicombe when Mrs/ M beg[ge]d as a favor [that] they might take the carriage/ quite to W[ycombe] as she had a visit or two she much/ wished to pay – so they went at 3 & return[e]d half past/ 8 – all except Betsy within side; & Thos on the box to/ open gates[,] not above two I suppose, as they did/ not go through the Park – Henry is recovering/ as fast as can be expected – when your coat is/ a little repair[e]d [I] shall send it as it may be use/ful to change in case of being wet & Jordan has/ brush[e]d it so well it looks quite another thing/

I slept in my summer room the friday night there.....[fore?]/ did not quite so much miss you going to bed[.]/

adieu my dearest John[,] may you be preserv[e]d/ in health & safety;
[I] am thankful you reach[e]d/ London safely - /

Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller/

June 22d/

74 page iv

June 22. 1806/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 75 [DIARY: 24 – 29 June, from his mother] page i

Saturday/ [30 June]/

My dear John/

I thought Benj[ami]n would have/ written to you, but now suppose he will not as his/ Uncle Saml is come, he is now taking a ride with/ your Father in the gig & Benj[ami]n is gone with them on/ horseback, it came home last monday [&] your father/ try'd it a little & on tuesday he & B went in it to Amer/-sham to shew some little alteration again required[.]/ on wednesday he went up the hill alone (with B on/ horseback) & ask'd at Mr Miller[']s if any one would go/ with him for a short ride[;] Mrs M presently equipp[e]d/ herself in her great coat ([I] was sorry she did not likewise/ with her tippet) & accompanied him – thursday we/ had fix[e]d to go to Mr Stevenson[']s when the rain came/ & prevented: we should I believe have gone on wednesday/ but I was so uncommonly shook riding to Barkd [Berkhamsted?]/ on the tuesday even[in]g that I had rather a sleepless/ night & headach[e] in the morning [&] neither was your father very/ well so [we] determin'd to put it off – I question now if we/ shall go this summer – I was much surpriz[e]d/ at seeing your Uncle at breakfast this morn[in]g - /

[I] hope you receiv[e]d the parcel safe by last wednesday[']s/ coach & that it contain[e]d everything left here that/ you wanted – my dear John when I remark[e]d/

75 page ii

how melancholy you was walking & standing about/ the shrubbery I little thought you was composing/ those pretty Lines enclos'd in your letter[;] they/ express[e]d just what I should have felt at your age/ on leaving the country & my home tho' I could not/ have written the lines – one of them conveys the/ idea of your being older than you are; to you/ Life must still be new - & I hope it will not be/ long before you enjoy your Native Scenes again[.]/ I admire

Chesham latiniz'd[,] it sounds quite suited/ to verse – I have read the lines often & shall again &/ again[.]/

I did not send my letter thinking to make it/ one to day; but the day is so unfavorable to writing: .. [at?]/ least to me, that I must close it as it is except ... [for?]/ mention[in]g your shirts &c[.] Jordan had not the least/ apprehension of your being in want, but [I] think/ when she found so many sent down she might/ have imagin[e]d you wanted some – she says you/ have now 5 at London – but if you was more/ regular in sending those that were dirty[,] washing at the regular/ time would be sufficient – except any particular/ circumstance made it necessary to require/ more frequent change, & then if you let her know/ she can wash & send you any thing – [I] have sent the/ flannel waistcoat which [I] think you had better put on/ as the one you have in wear being rather the thinnest/ it can be wash[e]d in readiness against the warmer weather/

75 page iii

& I think you have worn it near a month – the one/ now sent was not I believe worn much longer than a/ week, therefore [I] did not have it wash[e]d, it was hanging/ over the chairback by the window all the time you were/ here. hoping this will find you well – I remain/

Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M. F - /

June 30th 1806/

I am sorry my Ticket is a blank – but hope you will/ inquire again: are you sure that was my number/ as you have others to inquire for I hear[?] – but however/ they are all blanks but one - /

[I] am concern[e]d to see by yesterday[']s paper that Mr Fox/ has been ill again; but tho' getting better, [I] am fearful it will not be for long/

75 page iv

June 30th 1806/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 76 [DIARY: 2 – 5 July, from Benjamin] page i

Chesham, July 5. 1806/

Dear John/

I should have written to you sooner but/ I could not find time as Samuel was here last week when/ I intended writing. We have had a letter from Stratton who/ is very well [&] he says that Mr. Fuller has had some hay soaked/ but he says nothing about [Bee?] or Mr Griffiths/

Sexton has not been untill to day ever since/ you went away and I was in hopes that [he?] would not have/ come again but he is to my great sorrow for I think he/ has left all his latin behind him in the hay field where I/ find he has been/

I have been shooting the sparrows in the garden with your gun/ as there are a great number of them & they do a deal of mischief[.]/ I shot three single birds one after another which I think a/ great thing as I never fired a gun before/

76 page ii

Henry's house goes on but slowly as there is only Pain/ at work at it
now[;] all the outside ornaments are up/ and when the glass is put in I think it
will look quite/ grand/

Patermeus [My father] caught some boys this morning up in firtrees/ by
the side of the road and one of Henry's boys who was one/ of them was so
frightened that he has not been at home all/ day for fear of being flog'd/

Harriet is very well[,] she rode out in [the] gig the other day with/
patermeus and I attended on horseback/

pray tell my uncle that I have received the saddle/ [&] I think it/ seems
to fit very well[;] I will send up the old saddle by/ thursday[']s waggon/

Yours/ B Fuller/

My Mother desires me to tell you to send all your/ dirty clothes down & not
leave any behind in your drawers/

76 page iii [blank]

76 page iv

July 5th 1806/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 77 [DIARY: 6 -24 July, from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

[24 July]/

My dear friend,/

I am happy to address a letter to you/ from this place – but before I
inform you about the/ Journey, I shall tell you what a bustle I was in the/
remainder of Monday after we parted. I proceeded to/ Chapel St: & found
my brother at dinner preparatory/ to his journey, so after taking a Snap
[snack?] & bidding him adieu/ I posted to [Fladongs?] Hotel & back again
– then proceeded to/ the house where I was to dine, & afterwards
accompanied/ my friend to a house at Millbank to see a Sailing Match[.]/
We were not in time to see the boats start, but saw the/ winner come in – the
sight did not repay me for my/ labor – at night I had to pack up so that I did
not get to/ roost till after the Watchman had announced tuesday/ Morning.
at four oClock he called me up & at a quarter/ past five I set out for Clapham
where I breakfasted,/ At a quarter before seven My Ni[er]ces & I set off/ for
this place – they appeared in better spirits than/ usual at leaving their home.
We were nearly an hour/ at Benson, eating our dinner, & arrived here ten/
Minutes before Eight, which I thought very good/ travelling, as we had one
pair of horses which had/ been 28 Miles before they started with us for
[11?] Miles/

77 page ii

My companions began to think it a long Journey & were/ not sorry
when they found themselves in Fairford; all/ formality was left behind, for they
were quite at home/ with all their Uncles & Aunts & run directly into the/
Garden to feed the Deer. It gives us great pleasure to see/ them so happy –
Yesterday We could not get into the/ Garden on account of the Rain – We

dined at Mrs Morgan's/ where many enquiries were made after you – We paid/ our respects to the Kitchen Garden this morning, which/ is the only walk we shall have to day, as it is turned/ to Rain again – Judging by the Road, it appears there has/ been more rain about London than at a distance from/ it. I saw some Wheat cut, which I thought early./ We are not so forward here, the farmers want dry/ & warm Weather – My father & Mrs Barker were/ from home when we arrived, they return tomorrow,/ the Colonel comes the second Week in Aug[us]t & one of/ my Sisters returns at that time from a Visit into/ Oxfordshire – I saw my Landlord of Chapel St:/ at Abingdon he was attending the Assizes – one of/ the Judges is so unwell that he could not / attend, which makes harder work for his fellow/ laborer – the calendar at Abingdon is very light, & I/ believe the same at Oxford. I suppose I shall/

77 page iii

return with my Charge to Clapham on the 12th. Aug[us]t/ or thereabouts. I hope not to be kept long in town,/ but shall of course see you if you are there./ I shall take up my abode in Charlotte Street - / This letter is going by a private conveyance to town,/ so that you will not receive it so soon as if it was/ sent by Post. Remember when you write any News/ is acceptable at a place that does not furnish any./ This is the reason, why this letter is not longer./ I have not any Commissions for you at present[.]/

Give my Comp[limen]ts to Mr: Stratton & Mr Gibson/ & believe me Your sincere friend/

Charles Raymond Barker/
Fairford Park/ 24th July 1806/

77 page iv

John Fuller Esq/ Great St: Helens/ Bishopsgate St./ 9 - / 24th July 1806/
[franked -] 2 o'Clock/ 28. JY/ 1806 A... [N?]/
Two – Penny/ Post/ [46?] Strand/

Letter 78 [from Stratton] page i

[25 July 1806]/

Dear John/

I have taken your advice & not deferred/ writing to you till harvest which I suppose will begin/ next week, we have lately had very violent thunderstorms/ particularly yesterday, we were riding about & were caught/ in two showers but luckily happened to be near shelter/ both times, at one place we staid nearly an hour./

Mr Fuller bought a new nag last Abingdon fair which/ promises to be a very strong horse with bone & action suf-/ficient for foxhunting, he likes him very much for a nag/ but has not yet tried him in a chaise./

On Wednesday we made an excursion to Newbury but/ unluckily before we had got a mile it began raining very hard/ so that we were forced to stop nearly 2 hours at Bleu=berry & afterwards had a moistish sort of a day, we had/ scarcely any rain in the evening[:] it rained a little as we/

78 page ii

were coming by Keates=gore but nothing of any consequence[.]/ Mr R Fuller has left Aston[;] he occasioned us a deal/ of laughter by his absence & one evening by smoking/ a pipe which he did in a very ridiculous manner./

I am very sorry to hear that Mr Fox is so ill[.] I have not/ seen any account of his health in the last 2 papers./

I was surprized to hear that Bailey had absconded as my/ mother in her last letter informed me that he had just/ entered into some quarrel to defend [Horkins?]/

I quite forgot to bring the Epigram you mention from/ Chesham, but I suppose it may as well be there as here/

I have not been to Wallingford Market since I came/ from Chesham[.] I think I shall go to day if it does not/ rain[.] I suppose the road will be nearly as dirty as in winter/

At present Aston is entirely free from visitors after/ harvest[.] Mrs Langton & the Miss Langtons are coming[.] very fine Ladies I believe & towards winter Mrs & Miss/ Sarah Fuller[.] all that will be a ... [bore?]/

Remember me to my Aunt & to Harriet [&] tell her I/ am very sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing her when/

78 page iii

at Chesham./

By the Bye what did Benjamin do about his saddle[?]/ I suppose my uncle was rather in a pet about it./

This Letter is like all mine[.] a strange jumble of every/ thing. when you write to Chesham tell my father/ that Mr John .. [Heate?] is very ill [&] not likely I believe to/ recover./

I believe I have now said every thing/

Aston Farm July 25th, 1806/

Yours/ S Fuller/

78 page iv

July 25th 1806/ To/ Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/ London/
[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/

Letter 79 [from Grandmother Stratton] page i

[26 July 1806]/

My dear John/

I am quite unhappy that/ I have not received one line from any of you/ this month [&] I am fearful something is the/ matter with some One[;] do pray write me a/ line to say whether or not you are ill or Well/

what is become of Miss Stratton[?] she talked/ of going to the Sea[.] perhaps she has changed/ her mind, I only wish to know that I may arrange/ my engagements, for if she does not go to any place/ I mean to visit your Uncle John taking Endfield/ in my way – a Neighbor of mine a Lady[.] is going/ to Endfield to visit some Relations and we/ could take a Chaise together – or at any Rate/ I could come whenever it suits my convenience/ for I do not like to be a Year or two without/ seeing the greatest part of you

and Mr John S- / I must visit in spite of the Rats or the/ megrims of Madame – you have heard that/

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I spent three weeks with Mrs Deane very/ pleasantly and they wished very much to see/ you and when you have liberty to come into/ the West I hope you will visit your Relations [.] / I assure you that your little Cousin will/ be a prize to some One in future[,] she is/ a sweet little Creature – if your Aunt/ should come to Weymouth as I believe/ she intended[,] I hope she will go round or/ rather upon her return[,] visit Mrs Deane/ who will be highly gratified I [thought?]/ this week I mean the last[,] that I should/ have gone to Mr Hobhouse's but circumstances/ have prevented – and I think I am to go next/ Thursday with two of the Parrys who are/ giggling with rapture that I am to go with/ them, my dear John I do feel so happy and/ my heart so light with freedom that I shall/ enjoy my visit to Cottles very much – but pray/ do you write to me for without I am assured/ of your welfare and that of the family it/

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will be quite a damper to my spirits[.] / will you have the goodness to apply to/ John Hoskins, whom you know has the/ knowledge of most[,] thinks if he knows where/ Parsons Sims tincture for the Tooth Ach[e]/ is sold and get me a dozen Bottles and/ pack them up and send them to me[;] if he/ does not will you enquire of the Cheshamites/ and tell John H to get them – I h..... [ave been?]/ tormented with pain in my teeth ... / five years since [&] it was of great service .. to?]/ me. in the hopes that you will write .. [to?]/ me I subscribe myself your Aff[e]ct[ionate] friend/

M Stratton/

Sunday July 26. 1806./

pray tell your Aunt that Mrs ... [Buscton?]/ of Weymouth is a Bride./

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Mr John Fuller/ Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/9/

July 26th 1806/

[franked -] BATH/ .. 1806/

Letter 80 [DIARY 30 July, from his mother] page i

Friday [1 Aug.]/

My dear John/

It is some time since I/ have written to you; but you are never out/ of my mind – having had two or three visits/ from Chesham so lately you have consequently/ heard every thing passing here – perhaps Sam/ who is in London with William has before this/ call'd at [Great] St Helens[;] he intended to have done so last/ wednesday morn[in]g but was oblig[e]d to attend the/ Surgeon at too late or too early an hour to get/ there before your Aunt would have left it - / Your father rec[eive]d a letter yesterday morn[in]g/ contain[in]g a rather more favorable account &/ & we likewise heard of him again yesterday/ from Mr Hawkes who left London in the/ morn[in]g; an account still

favorable, but [I] am fearful/ he will never again be able to do any business,/ but to be tolerably free from pain will be a great/ thing: oh poor Man what he did suffer sunday &/ monday nights & likewise in the days – Mr Sutherly/ took off the bandage before he went away on tuesday/ morn[in]g & that night Sam wrote was a good one./

80 page ii

perhaps being nothing particular to lead him to/ St Helens he may not go, therefore [I] thought I/ would give you this little information about William - / they lodge in Piccadilly – we expect them home/ tomorrow - /

If you have heard from Stratton pray inform/ me – you talk[e]d of writing in your last letter to/ me: perhaps Benj[ami]n will take a ride to Aston/ in a week or two – I rec[eive]d a letter from my brother/ yesterday inviting us to Barkd [Berkhamsted?] I should like/ to go monday or tuesday but don[']t know at present/ how it will be – your father talks of beginning/ Harvest on monday[;] I did not think it would/ have been till that day se'nnight - /

you can imagine how strange the house must/ appear with only six persons in it – the maids/ were so very dull; having been so fully employ[e]d/ waiting on[,] thinking of & talking of William/ that his going off so suddenly seem[e]d quite dis-/mal – [I] believe they were glad when Parker/ return'd to enliven them with what she had seen &/ heard in London – Jordan had fix'd to go to visit/ her friends at Alton yesterday & I would not/ have her put it off as it is three years since she/ was there: so we have Nancy Bennet till/ Sam returns. she had a sad day but I believe/ she was to go in a cart with the Clares - /

the wind is to day so violent that I am fearful/ I cannot venture out, there were likewise showers/

80 page iii

in the morn[in]g & now a violent one this afternoon./

Saturday/

I said in the beginning of my letter you are/ seldom out of my thoughts & when I read any/ thing suitable to your situation I particularly/ think of you: this caused me to transcribe/ what I have enclosed & I sincerely hope you/ will receive good from it - /

Your ever anxious &/ affec[tiona]te Mother/ M: Fuller - /

William return[e]d safe last night [&] had a good/ night[']s rest & is upon the whole rather better. - / [I] shall not go to Barkd till the middle of the/ week; I should rather have left it open, either/ then or beginning of next week but your Aunt/ wishes it to be this week[;]/ all my writing about William is useless as you/ have seen Sam – your father has to day written/ to Stratton, he desires/ his love/

Chesham. August 3d 1806/

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Mr J Fuller/ Aug 3d 1806/

Letter 81 [from Aunt Deborah] page i

[1 Aug.]/

Dear John/

I was quite surprised on taking/ up Burns Illustrated to perceive on the outside cover/ that the price was fifteen shillings[;] I understand it / was half a guinea only[,] you should have told me/ with the freedom of a friend that I was mistaken/ in the sum when I gave you the half guinea[.]/ I consider myself as your debtor till I have/ opportunity of repaying – I have determined/ not to have them bound with the other volumes/ therefore have not sent them[;] will you have the/ goodness to send them to be bound like the/ pattern I saw with the alteration I mentioned that/ the person will recollect [& I] should also like to have/ Registers put in them - /

As to the map I totally forgot to mention it/ to you the morning I left town[;] if there is one/ more correct than Bowles [I] should prefer it but/ not one on a small scale[.] I think you mentioned/ Cary's[,] it is to be put in a case [&] if it is Bowles/ [I] should like it the size of your father[']s divided in four/ sheets/

81 page ii

if you procure it any time before Clark comes/ again next week it will be time enough/

I had a letter from Mrs S yesterday [,] she says/ she is much obliged by your sending the tincture/ but she calls you an idle fellow for not writing[.]/ She is gone to Mr Hobhouse's where she is to stay/ a fortnight and will come to Chesham August the/ 19th unless I wish it sooner – she desires I/ would let her know she is quite in good health[;]/ she tells me hope the tincture has been/ beneficial to her/

Your father & mother are as well as usual[.]/ [I] believe we shall go to Berkhamsted the middle/ of this week [&] I shall spend a day with them/ and return to Hatfield[,] my sister at present/ proposes [to] stay at B --- a few days[.]/

William returned safe last night [&] he finds himself/ at present more free from pain than he/ was before he went to London the last time[.]/

[I] do not find that Benjamin is going to visit Stratton/ just yet as I mentioned to you when in town/

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[I] find by your Uncle Sam[']s letter that the/ affair of the Lead Mine is not completely/ settled/

Your affectionate Aunt/ D Stratton/

Sunday/ Comp[limen]ts to Mr Gibson/

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Mr J Fuller/ Augt. 1d. 1806/

Letter 82 [DIARY 2 -12 Aug. from Aunt Deborah] page i

August 13th/

Dear John/

I received your letter by Clark/ [&] am quite ashamed when I think of the trouble/ I have given concerning the Map[;] my brother/ Samuel has been so good as to send down/ Cary[']s Atlas[.] Mr F has been examining the/ Counties of Surr[e]y & Sussex and is persuaded/ he has discovered that it is not correct[.] my/ objection to all that you have mentioned/ is the bulkiness of them[;] what I wish is/ a travelling Map of the Roads done up/ in a Case in the manner of Bowles as/ that size can most conveniently be put into/ the Pocket of a Carriage – [I] think I have/ seen a Map of England of Cary[']s about/ 15 shillings or a guinea not near so large/ as Bowles[.] but was told much more correct/ but I have forgot whether the roads were/ marked on it[.] possibly the names of/ places only were noted down[.] in which case/ it would not answer my purpose[.] your/

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father has most kindly offered me Bowles/ who has before accompanied me on two or three/ excursions – if you have entered into any/ kind of treaty with the Map Seller respecting/ Cary[']s price[.] three guineas [I] should like you/ to make the purchase for me otherwise/ [I] shall omit it for the present occasion/

I have not yet heard from Mrs S [so] that I am/ still uncertain whether she comes here on/ Saturday or tuesday next [&] if she arrives on/ saturday [I] suppose we shall not set off before/ wednesday[.] If your Mother & Mr F can be/ prevailed on to go [on] our excursion[.] in that case/ I shall with the greatest pleasure defer till/ the time that suits them arrives – Stratton[']s/ birth day was not forgotten[.] I drank his health/ as usual [&] your father eat [ate?] gooseberries/ expressing his best wishes for his health ... [&c.]/

Henry & Sam will have a most unfavorable/ journey to day towards Berkhamsted [as] there/ have been violent showers since their departure[.]

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accompanied with thunder[.] [I] hope to morrow/ will be more favorable, or my Sister will/ either not come or be terrified on account/ of the horses though I hear they behave/ very well on such occasions – the men/ have been obliged to give up reaping[;]/ they attempted it again while we were at/ dinner but since that there has been/ more violent showers but [I] have not yet/ seen them return – Jordan officiates as / footman to morrow [when?] Mr F & I dine at/ the harvest hour on a fillet of veal,/ which also will afford I have no doubt/ a most acceptable repast to the harvest men/ in the kitchen – William I am happy to tell /you daily mends and has great hopes he/ shall very shortly pass better nights/

Will you tell your Uncle I am sorry he had/ not the horses the morning he left us as he must/ have found it very hot riding any distance on/ horseback – [I] have received my Watch [&] find it/ at twenty minutes faster than the clocks here[.] this is so sad a scribble [that I] do not know whether/ you will make it out./

Your affectionate Aunt/ D Stratton/

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Aug 13th 1806/
Mr. J Fuller/ No 9 Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/

Letter 83 [DIARY: 14 – 17 Aug, from his father] page i

[17 Aug. 1806]

Dear John/

It happens very unfortunately that Mr Gibson/ is prevented from making the Enquiries requested in my Letter as/ prima facie the situation appears calculated to suit Young Sexton ex=^{actly} – I don[']t know what you can do in it, except taking some pre=^{paratory} steps that may facilitate the Business to[Mr G?] on his return./ lest you should not be in possession of the Advertisement I will again/ transcribe it.

“Wanted a very steady Youth (one from the Country/ will be preferred) of respectable Friends to make himself useful in a/ Druggist[']s Shop. NB. it is not necessary that he should be acquainted/ with the Business - ... [For?] a reference apply to Mr Robinson Hatter/ 482 Strand”[.]

now I wish you to go to Robinson & enquire/ where this Druggist lives, & then go & look at the shop - & see the party/ if you can, desiring to know whether the place is filled up, & saying/ that a Gentleman, who thinks he could recommend a suitable Lad, is/ out of Town, but will return in a day or two (which I suppose is/ the case), & enter further into the Business, supposing it is not - / You may say the Lad is about 15 or 16 Years of Age, has a Wide/ knowledge of Latin, can write a tolerably good Hand, & is acquainted/ with the first principles, & the useful Rules of Arithmetic – that/ his father is a dissenting Minister of respectable Character, & the lad/

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has had a strict Education, is well disposed, & ready to do all he can/ to give satisfaction – But you can determine you [knew an nothing?] - / till Enquiry has been made (which I do not see you can make,) into/ the Character of the Druggist. If you could do all this in the Course/ of tomorrow [in?] time enough to write me of your proceedings by the post/ it would be all the better. – If Mr Gibson means to make a long stay/ at North End you need not make any Enquiries as I shall desire/ Mr Sexton to write himself - /

Your Mother returned on Thursday Evening [&] she/ seems upon the whole well enough pleased with her Excursion, but/ has a very bad cold, which prevents her writing – I fancy she caught/ it from the very sudden & great Change of the Weather – at present it is/ only in her head, but it makes her very uncomfortable - /

Benj[amin] had a Letter this day from Stratton who/ is well – I shall send you [Stones?] Euclid by Clarke – this comes/ by the post that you may have[it] an hour or two sooner - /

We shall not finish Harvest [for] some time, we/ were much hindered by the Showers last week which were very/ heavy – I shall carry the greatest part of my wheat tomorrow,/ if it continues fine – I have still about 5 Acres to cut – William/ mends – as yet he has not been able to do anything, & it will be

some/ time before he will be able to do much, if he ever will – Respects/ to
your Uncle & Mr Gibson – all write in affectionate Remem=
brances/
with/ Your Father/ J. Fuller/

Chesham Aug. 17. 1806/

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Supposing you have done as above, upon Mr Gibson[']s return/ You
may report progress, & b[e]g him to proceed, if he thinks proper - / Mr Stratton
is not expected till Wednesday./

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Augt. 17th 1806/
Mr J. Fuller/ Stratton & Gibsons/ London/
[franked -] CHESHAM/ 49/

Letter 84 page i [from his mother] page i

Wednesday/ [21 Aug. 1806]/

My dear John/ [Diary: 17 – 21 Aug]

I did not receive your letter/ before that of to day, till between 11 & 12
on the day/ I was setting out for Barkd [Berkhamsted?] & was then in too
much/ bustle to mention your request to your Father &/ since my return have
never thought of it at a proper/ time & indeed now I cannot speak many
sentences/ together loud enough to be heard – [I] think I never had/ so bad
a cold, at least not since I was young when I/ used to have them as bad as
any one could: [I] believe/ I was rather imprudent in the great change of
weather/ there was on the tuesday afternoon & the wednesday/ at Barkd
there was a violent thunder storm on the/ former which cool'd the air
wonderfully & the next/ morn[in]g was wet & cold: I perceived a cold
commencing/ that even[in]g & coming home the next day much incre/-ased
it & very bad it has been ever since: [I] am sure/ I cannot at present go to the
Seaside; what I should like/ would be, to go when they are settled & stay a
fortnight/ or three weeks, but then I have no comfortable convey/-ance. I
don[']t know how it will be at present – the coach/ went for Mrs S this
morn[in]g & she is expected here every/ minute as it is now 2 o'clock: but
perhaps the thunder this/

84 page ii

morn[in]g might deter her from setting out in the stage[;]/ she might wait till it
was over & then go in a chaise/ to Wicombe where the coach was to meet
her; in that/ case perhaps she may not be here before dinner time/

there was thunder heard about us almost the whole of/ yesterday
after[noon] & in the even[in]g from about 9 till 12/ it was very violent at times
& likewise the flashes of/ light'ning – I was afraid to go to sleep[,] it was so
tremen/-dous in our Summer Room but at last I dropp'd off in/ the midst of it. I
don[']t know when I have slept so well/ as at Barkd excepting one night when
I was suddenly/ awaken[e]d by a very strong smell of burning[.] I call[e]d to/

Molly who slept in the small room going out of mine/ with one of my brother[']s servants who waked before Molly/ & told me it was lighting the copper for washing that/ caused the smell, the copper being underneath their/ room, but not hearing the washerwomen come I could/ not rest till they went down to examine, when they/ found the women at their breakfast & all safe; but the/ smell was so very strong I could not but fear something/ was wrong in the chimney[,] the smoke beat down very/ much into their room & from that to mine as the door/ used to be left open, but after an hour or two I got/ to sleep & was very well the next morn[in]g –

They enquir[e]d/ after you, but did not say any thing about your going/ down & as Mrs S expects to be confined some time near/ the middle of next month perhaps it may be as well/not to go; I don[']t know if my brother particularly/ ask'd you when he was last in London – Mrs S seem[e]d/

84 page iii

very well; but rather low when I came away. I have/ wish[e]d since I had made up my mind to have stay[e]d/ a month there, instead of thinking at all of this Sea/ excursion – there I had no trouble of dress & wander[e]d/ out 2 or 3 times in the day & the air was delightful[;]/ it draws very much about the house & they sit with/ windows open more than I am used to excepting when/ my brother is there, tho' I made free to draw all down/ but one when I went into the parlour tho' I often sat/ in my bedroom because I did not like to do this seeing/ Mrs S suffer'd with the heat[;] this was the only thing/ that was uncomfortable for I did not much mind/ the noise of the children & they much amused me/ tho' John indeed is grown very unruly: – William talks/ a great deal & was so pleas'd when I walk[e]d out with him[.]/ Tho[ma]s is a fine Boy but too grave, Charlotte & Mary seem[e]d/ very happy I was there. The Shrubbery walk is/ quite spoil'd by the Furze but there are some of the/ walks still open, tho' I never saw a place so alter[e]d/ for the worse, that frightful furze is every where./

Benj[ami]n is so taken up with the harvest [I] am afraid he/ will not write, I read to him what you said & to day/ is so very show'ry he cannot go into the fields: he went/ out just after noon at the gardener[']s request to shoot/ or rather frighten the birds who will not leave us any/ cherries, but the very heavy showers must have sent/ him in – I this morn[in]g mention[e]d to your father/ what you desired me [;] he tells me I must pay for it/ but I believe will not be against your taking a few more/ lessons - & as it is your wish to take more I agree with/ you in thinking it better before the very dark nights come/ but think while the even[in]gs are rather sultry as they are/

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at present you will find it unpleasant exercise & am fearful/ run the risk of getting cold: you are left much .. [to?]/ yourself, pray my dearest John be careful both .. [of?]/ your health & Morals – I long to see you, whenever/ you come down, towards even[in]g yesterday I almost ... [intire?]/ly lost my voice[,] what never happen'd to me in my ... [life?]/ before , I cough much in the night which makes me /

Mr J: Fuller/ 9 Great St Helens/ Bishopsgate Street/ London/
Augt 21st 1806/
[franked -] CHESHAM/ /

fatigued in the morn[in]g, but hope in a few days I ... [shall be?]/ better –
Your father is fretting at the showers / wheat barley & oats down, the Men
are just return'd/ from the fields, idleness doing less harm than work /
W[illia]m goes a little into the harvest field[,] he walks with a/ stick, the day
before yesterday he took a fork for a short time[:]/ [I] have just now heard he
was quite bad again yesterday morn[in]g/ but is better again to day – with
love to your Uncle I remain/

Your tender anxious & affec[tiona]te Mother/ M:F./

August 21st 1806/

[postscript written at the top of page i -]

I forgot to say Mrs S came yesterday about 5 oclock [:]/ she was oblig[e]d to
have a chaise from Oxford to Wycombe/ being no place in the Coach - /
[she?]is very well - /

Letter 85 [Diary: 22 Aug – 13 Sept., from his mother] page i

My dear John/

Saturday [13 Sept. 1806]/

I intended beginning to write/ to you yesterday; but after walking out a
little before/ Nooning I pruned six of my Trees & stirred the mould/ & I don[']t
know but you have by your frolic of painting/ my garden pot injured the little
orange tree: I perceive[e]d/ it the day after you went & suppose'd it must be
your/ doing - & when I had done this was much disin-/clined to write; so
indeed am I to day & Mr R F/ has been here & prevented my beginning so
soon/ as I should otherwise have done[,] he came in about /12 [&] now it is 2
& he is but just gone & returns again/ to dinner –

We were much pleased by your writing/ in your Uncle[']s letter about
Mr Fox as our expecta/-tion was to hear by the paper of to day of his death/
but the account is still favorable of which I am/ glad, but fearful lest it should
not last; your father/ was looking after his Age to day & found it only 57 but/ I
am fearful he has a constitution 10 years older - /

Your Uncle Saml has got a good day for his journey[,] the morn[in]g
indeed was delightful as was likewise/ yesterday, but the weather is very cold
– there was/ some distant thunder the day you mention a storm/

85 page ii

in London, & it was an intire day of rain - the next/ day Benj[ami]n took the
long intended ride with Tho[ma]s Shrimpton[:]/ there was a violent & long
shower & tho' they went no farther/ than South heath they were not at home
till the 2d/ bell being oblig'd to take shelter so long & get wet beside[:]/
Brickwell came to tea but there was so violent a/ shower again they were
confined to the house part/ of the time – I understand your Uncle does not/
mean to be at Worthing till Monday or tuesday[:]/ in that time perhaps he

may find a lodging for/ them; or before that they may have found one for/ themselves at Worthing, as people are continually/ going as well as coming!/ when you write inform/ me how Saml was to perform his journey. - / you will likewise tell me how you are, if you/ have taken all the doses of rhubarb & whether/ they have removed the sickness you complain'd/ of & if your head has lost that fulness - /

It is after dinner on sunday therefore [I] cannot/ add more to this letter, than just to say if you/ should write to any of the party at Worthing/ Henry's wife & children are very well excepting/ one of his[,] Tom I think the second[,] has the rheumatism in/ his knee; his wife's Mother is with her - /

I have been to the Meeting in the Lion chaise: as/ I cannot write any more[I] shall send your Aunt[']s/

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letter – Jordan could not find any dye/ for the silk stockings[:] Molly has found some/ since but too late for them to be done - / Benj[ami]n has put on his watch string today[,] he/ intended writing a Note; but forgot it - /

Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M F./

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Septr 14th 1806/ To/ Mr J Fuller/

Letter 86 [from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

[Sat. 13 Sept.]

My dear friend,/

Your letter of the 6th: Inst:/ I was happy to receive, as it removed/ a doubt in my mind, whether you/ were still in the land of the Living - / for I thought you took your time/ in writing. I thank you for paying/ the Money to Messrs [WS?] & Co. on my/ Acct: I have enclosed a letter for my/ brother at Petersb[ur]g – which I shall/ be obliged to Mr. Cole to forward by the/ first fleet for that place. - /

I hope your next Letter will inform/ me that the bills are arrived from St./ Petersb[ur]g for the winding up of my/ Indigo concern. When they are due,/ And what my share will be. - /

I am very sorry that the careless-/ness of the Fairford people should/ have exposed you or rather Messrs. S & G/ to any impertinence - immediately/ on my return to Fairford, I desired/ the Gamekeeper to pay the Carriage/

86 page ii

of the basket – I did not think it/ necessary to enquire if he had done so - / I have written to Fairford since I had/ your letter, & have repeated the Order/ to have the affair settled there - / So I hope you will not be troubled/ any more - /

Has my Subscription been paid/ into Down & Co.[']s for the City Assembly?/ I shall have great pleasure in assisting/ you to become a Member of that/ very respectable society -./

I shall expect an account [of] how you/ passed your time at Streatham,/ particularly if you shot out/ anything new, but I imagine you/ went on in the old Jog trot Way - /

How could Mrs & Miss Stratton/ think of going to Worthing? I thought/ you could have told them how full/ it was; not a person has been taken/ in there for these six Weeks past, that/ had not previously written to have a/ house secured for them - /

My friend Cocks & his family go/

86 page iii

there this Month – My friend Paul/ was married (I believe) last Tuesday [&]/ he talked of going there with his/ Lady for part of the Honeymoon./ If you take a trip to the Sea, I wish/ you much pleasure; I shall envy/ you every dip you take in the Sea - / My Nieces from Clapham are/ gone to Brighton till the end of Octr:/

The cause was settled in the C[our]t of/ Chanc[er]y the day after I left town - / and I believe without any further/ abuse from his Lordship or the Sol[icito]r Gen[era]l:/

You ask me what success my friends/ have had in Shooting. I think I/ may answer tolerable. The first/ day My brother & Man killed 8 brace/ but left one – My sister & I walked with/ him till we had had enough of it/ which was in a couple of hours - the/ 2d day I was follow[ing] on horseback for/ seven hours - & very tired I was. they/ then killed 6 brace, & lost one - / Since then my brother[']s Ardour/ has cooled – but his dogs are/

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very indifferent, & the birds very shy./ They are very plentiful, but there/ is still so much standing Barley, that/ the birds take refuge there – A sporting/ Parson near Fairford & his brother in law,/ contrived to kill 28 brace the first day. - / My brother at Fairford killed 6 brace - / I have been here a fortnight Yesterday -/ The Weather has been upon the whole/ tolerably pleasant – but so few of the/ Neighbors are at home, that I have dined/ out but once. Mr. Hastings is in Scotland,/ I heard his praises sung last Thursday - / The other Nabob, Mr Cockerell, is at his/ place & dines here to day. He is improving/ his place very much – the Stables are/ done, & are magnifique. The house is/ altering & adding to – The entrance will/ be where the Billiard Room was - / Everything is in such confusion that there/ is no fun going forward there – I have/ had several very pleasant Rides, one,/ yesterday with my brother, which he/ says is above thirty five Miles, we/ were out nearly 8 hours - & went over/ some beautiful Country; no less/

86 page v

than four Counties, Oxford, Warwick Worcester & Gloster; We were close/ by Ebrington, a place of Lord Fortescue's; & a farm house, in the/ middle of a beautiful Wood, belonging to Lord Harrowby. We had/ also a distant view of Ragley Castle, Lord Hertford[']s, where there has/ lately been so much rejoicing – I am sorry I have never seen/ Warwick Castle, as I hear it is so much

talked of – I believe it/ is about twenty miles from hence – The Fox hounds meet/ on Monday about seven Miles from hence, my brother means/ to go – but I shall not, as he says there is no chance of/ sport: - The Papers received this Morn[in]g give rather a/ more favorable account of Mr. Fox – I was prepared/ to hear of his death from the last report. A few days/ ago I had nearly forgotten that in talking with my/ host & hostess, I was addressing Foxites. I recollected/ just in time to keep back part of my abuse./ The Negotiation seems going on, tho' it is the opinion here,/ with little chance of producing Peace – Should Mr Fox/ go to earth shortly, I suppose it will cause Lord/ ... [Lau?] derdale to leave France directly - /

I am not much acquainted with Ben Smith/ (as I have often heard him stiled). When I have/ been in his company, he has appeared shy & silent; certain=ly unlike either his father, or “ such a Tutor as he has had.”/ His Manners I do not think very good; in that respect he/ takes after his father – but no doubt he has his good/ qualities – Have you had any Chess since we attacked/ each other? It agitates my brother & Sister here, so much/ that they will not play with me – but I hope to play/ before I visit Town again – I suppose at the expiration/ of another fortnight I shall return to Fairford – so write/ when & where you like. Have either Mr. S or Mr G made/ any excursion since I saw them? I am disposed to try my/ luck in the ensuing Lottery – a sixteenth, I perceive is £1 6 - / I shall therefore commission you to buy one. If you like/ to go halves – you are at liberty to do so. Let me know, & also/ the number. – [I] Will discharge the Acct: the first opportuni-=ty. What am I indebted to Mr. Cole?/

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I shall be obliged to Mr. Cole to order at the Flax Shop, Mr Robins'/ Old Bethlehem, 12 lb of Flax at 2/- per lb & 12 lb at 1/3 or 1/4/ per lb. to be sent by Hawes & Dawes' Cheltenham Waggon, directed to/ D. Raymond Barker Esq. Banksfee House, to be left at the/ Unicorn Inn, Stow, Glostershire. The Acct. need not be paid/ as a larger parcel will be wanted. The Flax at 1/3 or 1/4 is/ for Servants['] Sheeting – Perhaps Mr R. may be able to tell/ whether that is fine enough./

I have sent you a funny sort of Letter, but I began upon a half/ sheet of Paper fearing I might make my enclosures too heavy for/ my frank. Kingscote Races are tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday/ next, they are too far from hence, for us to think of going, unless/ we staid there all night. I believe I have sent you nearly/ all the nonsense I can make up – so adieu, & with/ Comp[limen]ts to Mr. S & Mr. G. believe me/

Yr. sincere friend/ Chas. Raymond Barker/

Saturday 13th:/

Morton Marsh September fourteen/ 1806/

Mr: Fuller Esq/ at Messrs Stratton & Gibsons/ London/

[franked -] MORTON in MARSH/ RR/ FREE/ SEP 13/ 1806/

Sept 14/

Letter 87 [DIARY 16 – 19 Sept, from his mother] page i

Saturday [20 Sept. 1806]/

My dear John/

I have again left beginning/ to write till half after 1 o'clock; therefore monday will/ not bring you a long letter: I have been very busy/ all the morn[ing]s of this week (your father assisting my/ pruning & putting fresh mould to all the flowering/ Shrubs that graced the Stone Walk, Sam or the gardener/ bringing in 2 or 3 at a time & placing them on the/ table in the parlour; they make now a pretty ap-/pearance under the hall window, where they are/ waiting till the greenhouse is fit to receive them/ which is now being a little repair[e]d – but the midday sun/ of yesterday was too powerful for them/ making some of them droop sadly – I thought we/ were going to have a second summer, to day/ is more cloudy but very warm./

I wanted Benj[amin] to write a line to you & mention[e]d/ many little things for him to say, but his only/ answer is "he hates writing" – he seems dull & to/ want some amusement; [I] believe he is now looking / over the people at [Stonecast?] up the lane – I wish/ he & you & Stratton could go to Worthing for a time/ but that I suppose is almost impossible. pray/

87 page ii

tell me if you have written to Stratton since he/ left us; no one here has – when I closed my/ letter last Sunday [I] intended mentioning my fear/ that Mr Fox was not living[,] from the account the/ day before; but in my haste, for the moment I/ forgot it – Benj[amin] was up the hill on monday/ even[ing] & told us young Brickwell heard his father/ say Mr Fox was dead; which the melancholy/ Newspaper of tuesday confirm'd: it is a critical/ time to lose such a man & must cast a great gloom/ over every thing & I am fearful none will be/ found well to supply his place - /

I hope my dear you are to day at home or if/ you have your Uncle[']s horse [I] think you might/ have gone to his Lodging & spent the day in re/-tirement; I don[']t know how you spent it at Mr F/ nor at Hampstead whether you went after the/ morn[ing] service or whether the family go to/ any place of worship – [I] hope you read the pa/-per I wrote out for you & consider[e]d it & approv'd/ it – I am sure it speaks what is proper - /

Your father is gone to preach at Uxbridge[.]/ Yesterday even[ing] a letter came from Mr B/ saying his eldest daughter was very ill with a/ putrid sore throat, that 2 or 3 of the boys had fallen with/ it since (I think bed time on friday night) & that he/

87 page iii

was again oblig[e]d to send away the others; it was/ but last monday se'nnight your father & Benj[amin]/ were riding to Chalfont & overtook a number/ of boys going to school again after the scarlet fever./ I am quite concern[e]d for Mr & Mrs Beazley - /

[I] wish you would try to get Mr Fawcett[']s sermon/ for me[,] you remember the title; it was pub-/lish[e]d in [17?]90, there may chance to be some strag/-glers left[,] I forget if Johnson was the publisher./

Benj[amin][']s love & desires you will send his ga[i]ters the/ first opportunity. I must just tell you that/ John Bailey was at Church the sunday/ after you went having leave of absence for ... / days, [&] has appear[e]d with the regiment again/ since, & is now at Chesham with another leave/ of

absence & [I] suppose he will be intirely clear of/ his bargain without appearing again./ J B has been arrested at Amersham/ but the party took up with the 10 shillings/

Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M F - /

Chesham Sept 20th 1806/ respects to Mr Gibson/

87 page iv

Sept. 20th. 1806/ Mr J Fuller/ Great St Helens/

Letter 88 [DIARY: 21 – 27 Sept., from Stratton] page i

Friday evening/ [27 Sept. 1806]/

Dear John/

I am left quite alone so I will fill up the/ time by writing to you. Aston has been quite gay since/ I came back from Chesham[.] Mr & Mrs Langton have been/ here for this week past & to day they are gone accom/panied by Mr & Mrs F to see Blenheim & Oxford[;]/ they will return tomorrow & go from hence on Monday[.]/ the Ladies appear to be very dashing. Mr Langton you/ know. we expect Mr R Graham next week [&] I suppose/ he will take Chesham in his way here. Mr Blackall/ & Miss B have likewise been here./

I have not been coursing yet but I just saw the/ end of one & the death of the hare. Mr F by desire of/ Mr John Bushnell is going to put an advertisement/ in the paper warning people of the manor[;] it is to be signed/ by several of the tenants. a number of shabby people/

88 page ii

come about & shoot all the birds & a good many/ hares, which is a great crime, to shoot a hare./

I saw 3 people shooting this morning but I imagine/ they were gentlemen as they were all on horseback. I/ was not near enough to see whether I knew them./

my horse looks as rough as a bear & will do till next spring/ when I think I shall sell him & try again[;] you know/ if I can sell him for about 28 Guineas I can buy a/ pretty good young horse for that of rather a different/ description. how does my uncle continue to like his carriage/ horse[?] has he got a new nag yet[?] I do not know of any/ one to suit him./

I have not heard from C[hesham] since I was there[;]/ perhaps you may be writing at this time. if our/ letters should cross each other I shall not answer yours/ just at present[.] it is rather an uncommon thing for/

88 page iii

me to write first. I have scarcely looked into a book since/ I saw you, but now soon I hope to have opportunity/ to read a little. I suppose my Father & Benjamin/ will come to Aston soon just when the rainy season/ commences[;] they have been coming ever since about Last/ May./

There have been papers sent round for every person to be set/ down between the ages of 18 & 45 so I suppose we m... [ust?]/ all turn out to be drilled[.] I shall not much like that;/

I have been to dine at Mr Jas. Fuller[']s to day saturday & now I am/
going to pay the man as the company are not yet/ returned from Oxford. I
have nothing more to say[.]/ remember me to my uncle & to all at Chesham/
Yours/ Stratton Fuller/

Aston Farm Sept 27th, 1806/

88 page iv

[deleted -] To/ Mr J. Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/London/

Post Office/ Worthing/ Sussex/ Miss Stratton/

Sept 27. 1806/

[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/ 1806/ SEP 29/

Letter 89 [from Charles Raymond Barker] page i

[1st Oct, 1806]/

My dear friend,/

I thank you for your long Letter of/ the 22 Ult[im]o: received in due
course, for by this you will/ perceive I have not left Banksfee; let the time be/
what it will that I propose for a visit here, I am sure/ never to keep to it, & I
suppose my visit meant for/ a Month will be extended to six Weeks, that is to
the/ 13th: Inst: on which day my host & Hostess talk of going/ to Fairford for a
few days – Probably you may now/ .. [be?] enjoying yourself on the shores of
the Briny Ocean[.]/ .. [It?] is charming Weather for those places, & I hope
you/ will derive strength sufficient to enable you to/ encounter the fatigues of
a Ballroom next Winter./ If you do not take a dip in the Sea, I shall suppose/
your uncle has infected you with his ideas on Bathing./

I am much obliged to you for executing my several/ commissions, &
shall consider myself much more so,/ should the No: 12.286 prove a capital
prize. When you/ write, I will thank you to tell me the fate of it. - / Not
knowing where you may be, I shall enclose this/ to Mr. Cole, & in this, or his
Letter will be 26/- which/ I believe is what I am indebted to you, or is it more?/

89 page ii

I have had several good rides since I last addressed you,/ part of the
Country you ought to remember; from Bourton on the/ Hill to Broadway.
What a view you have from the Top of/ Broadway hill. There is a Beacon just
erected there, by Lord/ Coventry. We were there last Thursday & rode thro'
his/ Lordship[']s grounds, which do not pay for close inspection - /

The Cotswold Cavalry (of which my Brother is Lieutt.) are/ out for three
days – I saw them perform their Manouvres/ yesterday with the Infantry, who
have a very nice band/[&] to day they meet about six Miles from home, My
Sister/ & I are going to meet a party there. We were yesterday/ at Daylesford
House, the Seat of that Worthy Man Mr./ Hastings, who returned last Week
from Scotland, but so/ unwell that I did not see him. Go where I will I am/ sure
to hear his praises sung – the other day We dined/ at Lady Northwick[']s,
where we met Lord Beauchamp[']s/ family – & Lady B– seemed delighted to
talk of him./ His Lordship you may recollect is just raised to the/ Peerage, his
name is Tyson & was Member for Worcestershire[.]/ his son succeeds him, but
was opposed by my Schoolfellow/ Littleton. So Mr Fox is at length released

from all his cares./ What a Mortality there has been within a year among the/
public Characters, I shall expect to hear you were in the/ procession
attending his Remains to the Grave, I imagine/ Many will attend – Your
Neighbors tho' not yr. friends,/ the Grenvilles seem getting all the power they
can/ with their hands – I believe T. G – is the best – but what/ sort of a first
L[or]d of the Admiralty do you think he will/

89 page iii

make? & how will Lord H. acquit himself in Mr Fox's/ place? What an
acquisition to this Country is Buenos Ayres / I understand it will not be given
up again in any acct/ which I think perfectly right – Has Messrs: S & G made/
any Consignments there? I am surprised Lord L----- e/ should remain at Paris
– I do not think there is any/ chance of Peace - & if Prussia would but join the
other/ powers against France & be hearty with the cause, I/ think we might
lower Buonaparte's crest a little./

I suppose you have seen an account of the/ Worcester Music Meeting
– Some of my brother[']s/ Neighbours were there – I understand it was
crowded [&]/ [every?] thing went off comme il faut – Mrs Billington/
Attraction, I thought she would not perform .. [in?]/ public gain – I believe you
have heard me/ talk of the Annual Stow Ball - it is fixed for the/ 29th Inst: [&] it
will be a very good one. I wish to be at it - / but whether I shall or not I cannot
now tell - /

Have you honored either of the Winter theatres with/ your presence?
or this New Olympic theatre? What/ do you hear of it? I have written you a
fine scrawl/ but I have no penknife & am in a hurry, so excuse it[.]/ I have
enclosed you two, One Pound Notes & payable in London/ from which pay
Mr. Cole 14/-. Believe me/

Your sincere friend/ Chas. Raymond Barker/

Banksfee House/ Octr. 1st: 1806/

89 page iv

October 1st 1806/

John Fuller Esqr/ to be left at the/ Post Office/ Bri[gh]ton/ Sussex/

Letter 90 [DIARY: 11 Oct., from Aunt Deborah] page i

Uxbridge Octbr 10/

Dear John I hope you arrived/ safe and well in town[:]; we reached/ this place
about 7 after repeatedly/ losing our way from [Kingston?] hither/ which
undoubtedly is rather intricate/ but Henry was so fully persuaded he/ was in
the right road that he did/ not think it necessary to make enquiry/ and we got
into the Exeter road/ instead of the Bath road - /

I totally forgot when you left me/ that the Lottery was on the point of/
Drawing or I should have then sent/ a commission to my brother Samuel/ as
he may probably not be in the/ way[:]; I now write to you to beg you/ would
purchase for me two Eighths/

90 page ii

before Monday morning[;] if you have/ not the necessary cash and Sam not in/ town [I] suppose you could find a friend/ that would advance it - /

You have written I presume to my/ Sister[;] we regretted the loss of your/ company at Kingston which was the/ first place we stopped at after we/ parted from you[,] be assured you/ contributed additional pleasure to the/ party – your affectionate Aunt/

D Stratton/

love to Sam/ [I] shall write to him/ by Clark/

Mrs S desires her love [&] she begs/ you would purchase for her a sixteenth [&]/ if it comes up a prize she desires/ you would buy another[;] [I] will send/ the money by Clark/

90 page iii

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| 2.11.6 | £6 -- |
| <u>2.11.6</u> | <u>5.3</u> |
| 5. 3 - | ---.17 |

90 page iv

October 10. 1806/
Mr J Fuller/ No 9 Great St Helens/ London/
[franked –]..... OCT 11/ 1806/ UXBRIDGE .. /

Letter 91 [DIARY: 13 – 22 Oct., from Stratton] page i

22 Oct./

Dear John/

I am much obliged to you for your account/ of the Worthing expedition [& I] am sorry to hear that you/ was so much affected by your voyage much in the same/ manner as I was by smocking[;] indeed I was not quite/ right for 3 or 4 days afterward. I should think that they/ were nearly benighted if they did not get to Uxbridge/ till 7 o Clock./

I suppose that Benjamin has given you an account/ of his journey[,] we took a ride on horseback on Monday/ morning [&] he was mounted on Mr. Fuller's nag. Farmer/ Smith entertained the company in the evening with his/

91 page ii

conversation, but I think that my father talked of/ going to London so perhaps he has given you an ac=/count of the Aston journey.

I have never been coursing yet[,] there are no hares scarcely/ in the field but a vast many in Unnal wood./

There is nothing very particular respecting elections here=/abouts[,] an opposition is expected at Wallingford & at Abingdon./ Mr Knap a Grocer intends putting up in opposition to/ Mr Metcalf the present member. The grocer put up last/ election but was thrown out. there will be a strong contest/ for Hampshire but I do not at present recollect the/ names of the parties. I see by the paper that Mr Cavendish/ intends to resign & his Brother

to put up for Aylesbury./ perhaps the Chesham people may now erase the inscription/ upon the Market place./

91 page iii

you are right in supposing that I shall not come to London/ before Christmas & most likely it will be a good while after/ Christmas. I have not as yet been to Dorchester to see the/ Rawdykes but I think I shall go soon, then at Christmas/ I can give you an account of them./

we have nearly done throwing the seed into the earth[:] we/ have been waiting some time for the rain which fell, [here?]/ on Tuesday & Wednesday & now Aston may .. [be?]/ seen in perfection. I have nothing more to say[,] remember/ me to my uncle & to all at C[hesham] when you write/

Your affectionate Bro./ S Fuller/

Aston Farm Oct. 24th 1806/

91 page iv

October 24th 1806/

To/ Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/ London/
[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/ ... / OCT 25/ 1806/

Letter 92 [DIARY: Oct 26 – Nov. 1st] [from his mother] page i

Novbr 1st 1806/

My dearest John/

I am very sorry you missed/ so uncommonly fine a day as last monday for a/ walk into the country; as the dismal days of which/ we shall now have many will give sufficient oppor/-tunity for Study[:]; you should never fix before you see/ how the day is likely to turn out. I am sorry you was/ disappointed in hearing Mr Rumsey[']s friend[.] I do not/ know that he reckoned him what is esteemed a great/ preacher but a very serious good man, he may perhaps/ be what some call a little of a fanatic in his expressions/ but [I] should not think his doctrine inconsistent – I/ should be very glad if now & then you employed your/ even[in]gs in so good a way. I did not know charity sermons/ were ever preached in an even[in]g - /

Mrs Stratton went to Barkd [Berkhamsted?] on tuesday[,], it was a disa-/ -greeable morn[in]g of small rain but not enough to make/ Henry put on his great coat - & the afternoon was fine [&]/ the next day or the one after I think was likewise tolerable – but I am/ almost afraid Mrs S will get cold from the very damp/ & foggy weather since: the day before she went we paid/ three & meant to pay four visits but Mrs Kingston on whom/

92 page ii

we first call[e]d was not at home – the day was most/ relaxing to me & made my head & face burn so very/ much as quite to distress me: that unusual warmth/ at this time of the year I can never bear - /

I am very glad to hear Stratton is well but not in the/ least inclined to see Aston in its perfection which tho' I/ should scarcely think it had arrived to

so early in the/ season – [I] hope to be able to write to him soon – Benj[ami]n/
promised to write before christmas, he has got a sore/ upon his Leg from
beating off the skin some time/ back which however had healed – but pulling
on his/ boot last monday to take a ride[,] the dry skin was/ rubbed off and it
has since been a larger Sore, so that/ he must not walk out but very little
which has/ made him dull, tho' it has I hope answered the/ purpose as it
appears getting much better. the poney/ it is feared is broken-winded[;] it
has had a cold a long time/ & I think no care taken of it –

Mr & Mrs R Fuller came/ here on thursday even[in]g from Amersham, I
must tell/ you the round they had taken ; on tuesday at half past/ 8 o'clock
they set off from Boxmoor[,] she on a little poney/ Mr F walking by her side[,]
their first stage was to Cheyneys/ where they stopped about an hour; from
thence to Chal-/font where they dined & I believe drank tea; for they/ went
by moonlight to Amersham reached it about half/ past six – [I] believe they
got here about an hour sooner in/ the dreadful fog of friday morn[in]g & they
made calls in/ the town intending to return for the poney & then set out and
dine[d] with/ Mrs Brown on their way home – but hearing she was ex/

92 page iii

-pecting her confinement every day, they returned to/ take dinner at our
nooning & about 2 o'clock sallied/ forth for home in the midst of the thick fog
which/ continued here till they must have gone above 2 thirds/ of their way – I
shall be much surprised if the/ intent of the journey is not defeated which was
to have/ the ears syringed by Mr R after which operation/ I believe there is
great danger from getting cold - but/ I scarcely think at her age the deafness
will ever be re/-moved –

rather an uncommon thing for Chesham/ happened the other night,
Mr Simpson[']s house was/ broke[n] open not I hope by the most desperate
sort of house/ breakers for I think they only ate up his pies & took off/ a joint of
meat & a few shillings out of the boys['] boxes/ in the school-room – [I] believe
the family were not disturbed/ by it: but have not heard every particular[;]
your/ father on talking a little concern[in]g it last night with Mr / Heelas was
much amused by his saying “ in short / some in the town say it was Jack B
--- in short Sir/ there is nothing so ridiculous that some persons won[']t /say” –
J B was just come again to Chesham for a few/ days & was with the family
that even[in]g – he is/ at Maidstone with the regiment, whether there is/
a substitute yet procured I have not very lately heard[.] /

poor Mrs Heelas is so broke[n] down with trouble on account/ of the
distressing state of her poor little grandchild, that it has/ brought on an illness
that [it] is feared will terminate in her death: the/ great anxiety has been
whether to consent to have the diseas[e]d/ Leg taken off which Mr R has
pressed for a long time/ but which the family fear would be useless pain as
they think/ the child cannot live – Mr R hopes the contrary & says he/ would
not suffer more than he now does every morn[in]g &/ night being moved;
nay, that he would not suffer so much/

92 page iv

& were the limb off would have strength of constitution to/ throw off the remainder of the dreadful disorder: whatever it is - / I am so concern[e]d for them [I] am afraid I have troubled you/ much with it.

We were glad you sent the other newspaper/ but greatly concern[e]d at the sad intelligence it contained and [afraid?]/ the prussians will be conquered before the russians can get to their ... [aid?]/

last thursday Sam was call[e]d on for his vote by Mr Nugent at / & Mr G Cavendish at night, second son to L[or]d G--- he gave a vote for/ each saying as he had two he thought it but fair that each should [have?]/ one - [I] suppose it is of no consequence now; as in the last / [I] apprehend they call'd themselves of the same party - Mr G He..... / came with Mr N[.], Mr G Suttbery & Mr Pope with Mr C--- /

Novr. 1st. 1806/ Mr J Fuller/ 9 Great St Helens/

my dear you have disappointed us sadly by your [trunk?]/ not coming last night particularly as we suppose the [news?]/-paper was in it: your father blames himself for not reminding/ you that the coach now sets out earlier, & you for not yourself recollecting/ it: as we think this can be the only reason why it did not come[;]/ if the coach was set off when the trunk was taken they should have/ inform[e]d the person who took it: it is really quite vexing - tho' I recol/lect we could not then have had it sooner than tuesday but might have/ had the paper./

Your affec[tiona]te Mother M F /

Letter 93 [DIARY: 2 - 6 Nov., from Charles Raymond Barker] page i
[6 Nov. 1806]/

My dear friend/

I wrote to you last about the 3d Octr./ and had hoped you would not have suffered my letter to/ remain so long unanswered, but I suppose you have/ been actively employed in canvassing for many of your/ friends. I would not now interrupt you, but for the/ enclosed letter for Petersburg, which I shall be obliged to/ you to take charge of, & forward by any conveyance that/ those Gent[leme]n who are in correspondence with Russia/ may deem the safest, Mr. Cole will pay expences & charge/ to my Acct: but should there be no intercourse at present/ with Russia, on account of the situation of Prussia - / then the letter may lay in your hands till there is - /

What a change has lately taken place in regard to/ Prussia - I believe most people wished the head of that/ country to suffer a little for his close attachment to/ the Gallic Emperor, but when one reads his Manifesto/ & the address to his Army, ones anger is softened into/ pity, & one feels for the misfortunes the country are/ likely to suffer - After such disasters, the idea of/ Invasion will be revived again I suppose, & then you & I/

93 page ii

must no longer think of remaining lookers on./

I left Banksfee rather abruptly, for my Aunt Morgan/ received a letter from my friends the Messrs: Morgans to say/ they were coming to Fairford, so I

returned on the 6th: Octr: &/ spent three weeks very agreeably with them at Mrs: M's./

The Weather was delightful for out door amusements & we/ scoured the country round, on foot, about ten miles of a/ Morning – once we went thirteen, which I think pretty well./ Of an Evening we enjoyed a quiet rubber at Whist, & afterwards/ our pillows – I am now looking forward to returning to the/ gay Metropolis – the Country being wet & not affording/ many amusements. I believe I shall escort the Ladies/ to Ormond Street, the first Week in December, & there/ abide for some time. Have you any News to communicate/ respecting my lottery adventure? if you have, I hope it/ is good. Let me also know more about my Indigo concern./ I hoped it would have been settled during the month./ When are there any sums due to me?

What lies the general Election has occasioned./ A rare topic for conversation – for this County – I fear/ there will be some sport, as I hear that Sir George Paul/ & a Mr. Peach, mean to oppose the late Members, for/ the City, the old Members are returned; for Cirencester/

93 page iii

Sir Robt: Preston is turned out, & a Mr. Cripps chosen with/ Mr. Hicks Beach. I see Mr. Hobhouse is returned for/ Hindon, a Wiltshire Boro': I suppose no great distance/ from Cottles – I must make my letter shorter than/ I intended as I have been out a riding & am late - / but as you are a letter in my debt, it does not so/ much concern me, let Coopers letter be sent to the/ Post. Excuse haste – Comp[limen]ts to Messrs. S & G - /

believe me yr. sincere friend/ Chas: Raymond Barker./
Fairford Park/ Novr: 6th. 1806/

93 page iv

Novr. 6. 1806/

John Fuller Esq./ 9 Great St Helens./ Bishopsgate St./

Letter 94 pages [DIARY: 7 – 9 Nov., from his father] pages i - iii
[3 pages of shorthand]

9 Nov. 1806/

94 page iv

Mr J. Fuller/

94 pages v – viii [translation of shorthand]

94 page v

I do not at all approve of your management as to the trunk. I/ certainly meant that you should have one made on purpose to/ the requisite size and model. But I have done my best to remedy/ what I think an evil keeping the new trunk for myself and giving/ you one of mine in its' stead [that?] I think will answer your purpose/ much better. You will receive the key with this note. I have had/ another made here for our use. I shall desire your

uncle to pay you/ £2.10 --- the money you have expended for trunk and umbrellas./

as to the fencing I have no other objection than the old one of expence &/ I shall [answer?] as well as I can. Entreating you .. [to?]/ think of and practice Economy/

94 page vi

in the manner of your conducting this and every other business. I do not think/ you sufficiently attentive on this Head. Remember that it is one thing to spend/ money generously and gentlemanly and another to be profuse. In the former/ to the full extent of my ability I have no disinclination to support you;/ the latter would very much [fail me?] as eventually likely to [hurt?] you much/ more. I admit I have no great reason to complain nor do I complain much[.]/ What I say is rather by way of advice and caution than complaint. Want-/ing change and amusement as you do the fencing will as a temporary expedi-/ent be very desirable. I do not however wish you .. [to?] think of becoming/ an adept in the science ... [that?] I suppose is not attainable without much/ and long practice, but to acquire a general knowledge which I suppose may/ be done with no very great number of Lessons. You do not specify what/

94 page vii

the expence will be. As to the time you must of course men-/tion it to your uncle and Mr Gibson; As both your/ mother and myself much prefer the day to the evening[.]/ I suppose you must provide yourself with a mask for/ safety's sake. Fencing you know is a dangerous but/ I think it a healthful exercise, - very useful for/ opening the chest and giving strength and suppleness to/ the Limbs. - as to politics take care you do not/ get too warm and become [partizan?] I always have/ looked and still do look on the Grenvilles with an/ anxious suspicious eye, but am willing to hope the/ best. An anecdote that I have heard within these few/ days ... [&?] I think I can depend on it gives me some plea-/sure, and could I do away all ideas of the falseness/ .. of?] courtiers I should add. Hawkesbury & Canning/ waited on L[or]d G stating that his M[ajest?]y was willing to change/ his ministers with the exception of himself & L[or]d Spencer/ to the exclusion of all the friends of Mr Fox. His L[or]dship's/ answer was that his M[ajest?]y had an undoubted right to change/ and choose his ministers as he pleased but that if any change/ were made in the present it must be total. I have read with great/ pleasure Whitehead's Letter to Sir Francis. I am sorry that Sir/ Fr has commenced [visionary?], I always admired in Mr Fox/

94 page viii

his attachment to practicability. I am for reforming ame-/liorating improving not for overturning. I am sorry S[i]r F/ has rendered the election impossible. - For Mellish I have/ no predilection and If I vote at all I believe it will be for/ Mr Byng only. I begin to think the tide will turn in West-/minster. I must say I am no friend to Mr Paul[']s pre-/tensions. I consider him as a perfect [nonus?] homo. I/ don[']t mean in the sense without

[descent?] tho' I think/ descent from great & worthy ancestors is of considerable im-/po[r]tance as a pledge and security for good conduct/ fortis creantur a fertibus & [bonis?] But of his talents of his principles of/ his disposition of his designs & objects what do we know?/ I own I am inclined to look upon him rather as a dema-/-gogue than a patriot, in the John Wilkes rather than/ the Charles Fox style. I may be deceived nor shall I be/ sorry if he gets into parliament to be[so?], wishing him to/ turn out an useful character. But before I approve, I/ must have experience of this. I am sorry for Mr South[']s/ failure of success. To what is it attributable[?] I can scarce/ persuade myself that your opinion as to the design of the Grenvilles is..... [favor=-/able?][:] there [has] been no opportunity on his part[.] Is he likely/ to get in elsewhere or will he attempt it[?]/

Letter 95 [DIARY: 10 – 21 Nov., from his father] page i

[21 Nov.]/

Dear John/

I received Mr Gibson[']s Letter this morning [&]/ I intended to answer it by Clarke on Monday, but considering/ that I cannot [hear?] the Event of Saturday[']s (tomorrow[']s) Poll at Bunt=-/ford in the ordinary course till Tuesday Morning, I write to/ You now, desiring you to inform Mr G, that I shall be very hap=/py to see him, & I shall expect him at the time proposed, &/ further desiring you to [know?] accurate Information concerning/ the State of the Poll, when it closes tomorrow & send me a Line by/ the post – I have not yet been to Brentford & don[']t know that/ I shall go – the State of the Poll at the time above mentioned will/ be something of a Guide for me – We are all here much as/ usual & write in remembrances to all. - /

Your affect[ionate] Father/ J Fuller/

Novr. 21. 06/

If you or Your uncle have heard from Mrs S --- we shall be/ glad of communication - /

95 pages ii & iii [blank]

95 page iv

Nov. 21st. 1806/

Mr. J Fuller/ Messrs. Stratton & Gibson/ London/
[franked -] CHESHAM/ 35/ F/ NOV 22/ 1806/

Letter 96 [DIARY: 22 – 25 Nov., from Stratton] page i

[25 Nov. 1806]

Dear John/

I am much obliged to you for your letter. I do/ not recollect that the lines in mine were a very great distance apart./

Chute & Mildmay who were on the independent/ interest in Hampshire have resigned the contest, being a great way/ behind on the poll. I see by the newspaper that Sir F Burdett/ is very low indeed, I suppose my Father will not go this time/ as there appears to be no probability of his success, you know/ I suppose that Mr Graham was brought in a great hurry/ from Oxford to vote. when he went from here he carried my hat/ with him to Maidenhead

[&] he did not find it out till he got/ to Wallingford so he bought a new one at Maidenhead &/ sent mine back./

96 page ii

I made but a very little progress in Algebra & that I/ have forgotten. The Evolution of the cube root I found/ very tedious especially when there are many figures in the/ power. I suppose it can be done in a very short way by/ Algebra./

I am very sorry to hear that Mrs Stratton is so p[oorly[:] it is/ very unlucky that she should be taken ill at B ---- /

Last Monday we went to Woodcott fair which is/ held upon an extensive common in Oxfordshire[,] it was/ a remarkable fine day for the time of year[.] we dined at a/ farmer[']s house not far off & returned home about 7 o'Clock[:]/ it was a light evening or it would have been very unpleas-/ant crossing over the water in the dark./

I have no news to tell you[,] we go on in the old way - / I have not been coursing once this year[:] Mr Baker of/ Moulsoford had 2 grand days some time ago. They had a deal/ of sport & I believe there were a great many gentlemen there/

96 page iii

Mr Slade told me yesterday that he had caught a hare/ which weighed 8 ½ lbs & measured 3 feet & 3 inches in length [&] he/ said he never saw such a large one before in his life./

I have nothing more to say[.] [I] hope we shall all meet/ at Christmas which now is not at a great distance[.] / Remember me to my uncle./

Yours/ S Fuller/

Aston farm Nov 25th. 1806/

96 page iv

Novr. 21.1806/

To/ Mr J Fuller/ N 9 Gt St Helens/ London/
[franked -] WALLINGFORD/ 49/ N 22/ 1806/

Letter 97 [DIARY: 22 – 23 Nov., from his mother] page i

[23 Nov. 1806]/

My dearest John/

I refused taking a ride this/ morning because I wished to write you a long letter/ but the day being so very fine [I] could not withstand/ the temptation of a walk on the Stones, but that walk/ being longer than it should have been has unfit[t]ed me/ for writing as I am tired listless & sleepy: an hour's walk/ is too much for me[,] indeed I do not very often go above/ half that time – I was happy to hear by your/ letter that you continue quite well; but almost/ trembled (tho' the danger was past) when I read you had/ been on the top of a House so near the Hustings; as I/ apprehend the Top was not free from ... [crowd?] & you/ might have been thrown down & dashed to pieces - / [I] was afraid you would go - & am thankful you came/ safe

away – at Brentford there was not so much/ confusion or I should have thought it very dangerous/ going on horseback. [I] suppose you went home with/ Mr G --- as your Uncle said in his letter you both/ came to Wanste[a]d on Sunday: I hope you did not miss/ going to Meeting[:] you [have] been often of late with your/

97 page ii

Uncle Saml to Wanste[a]d on the Saturday. I am glad of/ it for tho' it may be rather dull, yet you have the/ Country air, you have pleasant retirement the next/ day and the opportunity of hearing a Minister you/ like[.] I beg you to go as long as the weather is in the least/ tolerable – [I] hope you are going this delightful day/

Your father rec[eive]d a letter from my brother this morn[in]g/ in answer to the one sent (Mr Anthony of Beaconsfield/ begg'd he would inform him of a house to be sold there)/ wherein he mentions Mrs Stratton came down stairs/ on tuesday for the first time & hopes she will not/ be thrown back again by so doing: all the rest of the/ family are well – I was quite concern[e]d to hear/ of the illness of Thomas particularly as he had been/ so anxious to get to Bath[:] [I] hope by this time he is/ much recover'd, but should be persuaded not to set/ out too soon on his journey for fear of a relapse: [I] hope/ it was not an infectious fever – John Hodgkin I sup/-pose is return'd to his place [& I] wish he may be able/ to remain in it – I should have had him come down/ to Chesham before Thos left you[,] thinking it might have/ recover'd his strength but I was only jeered at: tho' / still I think it would have been of great use to him. – / Benj[ami]n rec[eive]d a letter from Stratton last tuesday[:] he was/ very well, was going to Woodcote Fair last monday/ [&] I was delighted the day was so fine for him – he was/ likewise going to Ilsley Fair[.] on wednesday it rained/ with us from noon till night & I believe most part of the night/

97 page iii

but the place is not above 4 miles from Aston therefore/ [he] would get there before the rain & I hope would not stand/ about long in the Fair if it was so wet as with us – he/ mention[e]d having a letter from you the day before/ he wrote - /

The morn[in]g being so wet has kept me at home & I/ should have employ[e]d part of it in adding to this letter/ had I not written to Mrs Stratton which I thought/ it was right I should – therefore [I] must leave yours/ unfinished for I had many more things to say/

& can only add that I am/ Your affec[tiona]te Mother/ M: F. - /

Your Aunt rec[eive]d a letter/ from Mrs S this morn[in]g/ she has suffer[e]d much/ with a violent rheumatism/ in her face - /
Chesham Novbr 23 1806/

[I] have not heard whether your Uncle has voted for/ S[i]r Francis - /

if the flannel waistcoat you have/ in London is not clean you will send it/ with the other things: if they do not come/ by Clarke now – they must come by/ the latter end of the week - /

97 page iv

Novr. 23rd. 1806/
To/ Mr J Fuller/ Great St Helens/

Letter 98 pages i - ii [2 pages of shorthand, sender not known]

98 page iii [blank]

98 page iv

Mr J. Fuller/ Gt St Helens/

Letter 99 [DIARY: 24 Nov – 6 Dec., from his mother] page i

Decbr 6th: 1806/

My dear John/

I intended to have began a letter/ to you yesterday: but was attack'd by my old complaint/ the sad nervous dazzling, I likewise had it on tuesday/ which prevented my going on with a letter I had began/ that day to Stratton but finish[e]d it on wednesday and/ [I] suppose he would receive it yesterday at Wallingford – /

I was very poorly while Mr Gibson was here & have been/ more so since; this warm damp undoes me [&] I have been/ feverish at night & faint in the day; last night I rested/ better but live in fear of the dazzling & being as I was 4/ years ago as my spirits sink very much – [I] am glad/ it is so near Christmas as I long to see you & Stratton/ but should I be so poorly as at present shall not have/ much enjoyment of your company: [I] shall be glad when/ the shortest day is past as then we seem to look forward/ every week to a brighter scene. pray tell Mrs S I am obli-/-ged to her for her letter [&] we are all very glad she recovers/ so fast and hope it will continue & shall expect her at/ Xmas; [I] am likewise pleas'd to hear Thos is so well as by this/ time to be I suppose at Bath – poor J Hodgkin too – I hope/ the running about has not prevented his Leg which you/

99 page ii

said was nearly healed from being quite so, but perhaps/ this is too much to expect so soon being oblig[e]d to move/ so often [& I] hope you all consider him as much as possible/ in regard to going up & down. (I go from one thing to/ another but I must write of them as they pass through/ my mind otherwise I forget) You did not send down/ the thicker flannel waistcoat which you should have/ done if it is not clean – Benj[amin] was pleas'd with the watch/-string but has not worn it yet; he is very well; but seems/ much relax'd this weather – poor Mr Heelas has lost his/ Mother[;] it is 3 weeks next monday & she is not yet buried [,] it is said she desired/ not to [be] interr[e]d till that time, which has caus[e]d great wonder in the town. he has attended Benj[ami]n since/ the first week but never mention'd anything concern[ing]/ it – during her illness he told your father she would be a very/ great loss as she was quite the stay of the family - /

Mr Lowndes has been ill for this week or two with a short/ness of breath:
Mr Suttthery has been to London to see him/ [&] on his return said he was very
poorly and he did not like his looks[.]/ Mr W Lowndes has lost his last infant:
there was a talk/ some time back that he might perhaps return to Chesham/
in the course of the winter. - /

Should I get better I have nothing to go out in – do you/ think Craig
could be spared to go as far as Mrs Thomas's[?]/ ([I] believe it is Fleet Street)
who keeps Pellisse's ready-made, one/ of the Georgian cloth if it is not too
expensive I should like; Abbots in/ Bond Street was the first shop where that
cloth was manu/-factured but [I] suppose it is now sold the same at other/
places – [I] have heard it is dyed a light grey or bloom colour/ which [I] think I
should prefer to the brown – [I] had once thought/

99 page iii

a mantle & spencer but believe a pellisse would be more/ proper for me - /
I should be glad to have some of those butter[e]d biscuits if/ John is well
enough to go after them; but do not let him take/ them to the Stage as I
would not have him go an inch of/ ground for me farther than is needful –
Clarke perhaps/ may bring some fish or your things: (should he bring fish/ your
trunk will do as well next week) in that case I do not/ like to trouble him with
the biscuits – all join in love to/ Mrs S--- she did not tell me anything of the
Baby whether/ it was a fine child: I am pleas'd with Charlotte[']s little
present[.]/ [I] suppose William sometimes went to amuse her in an/ afternoon
as he is at an entertaining age; she only mention[e]d/ the three elder ones –
with love to Saml & respects to Mr/ Gibson - /

I remain/ Your ever affec[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller - /

last monday night & the whole/ of tuesday was uncommonly/ boisterous with
us - / till John is quite recover[e]d [I] think you should get a porter/ to take your
trunk - /

[in different handwriting -] Pantaloon/

99 page iv

Decr. 6. 1806/ To/ Mr: J Fuller/

Letter 100 [from his mother] page i

Decbr 13th/

My dearest John/

After a most tremendous night/ of wind & rain the morning was so very
dark that I/ thought Monday must fail of bringing you a line/ from me; (which
is not often the case) but as the/ darkness is a little subsiding now between 11
and 12/ I sit down to write for the last time I hope before I/ see you: my letters
tho' trifling I am willing to/ think give you some small degree of pleasure:
which as/ they are often written with difficulty did I not so/ flatter myself I
should sometimes grudge the trouble – As you/ have a good deal of writing I
do not always expect a/ long letter from you particularly when you are/
reduced to ask for a thought time after time, you/ however at last with

assistance made out an enter/-taining letter: tho' in some parts a melancholy one[.]/

what you wrote concern[in]g the Prince was very/ much so & intirely News as we had not heard any/ thing concern[in]g him since his return excepting/ one sentence in the Newspaper that seem'd to con/

100 page ii

-tradict some report which had gone abroad of/ his having been ill – [I] have not read or heard a word/ mention'd of him since. You say London has me/-lancholy faces, which indeed is not to be wondered at[.]/ [I] suppose the garments are in general of the same hue [& I]/ think there never was a mourning had it been made/ public that I should have enter'd into with so much/ interest as for the poor Duke of Brunswick[,] his/ melancholy fate, his near connection with our King,/ and his being Father to the princess of Wales for whom I am much concern[e]d will I/ apprehend make numbers willing to shew their/ concern by their dress.

To go from great things to/ small (as I have just seen it in your letter the sentence/ before you mention public affairs & shall forget it/ if I do not now write it) Mr Heelas's Nephew still/ continues much in the same state except that his/ appetite fails (which it did once before & then return[e]d)/ Mr Rumsey said after the Funeral he should/ again mention taking off the Leg: the funeral/ was not delayed till the monday[,] the Body becoming/ too offensive[,] but was interr[e]d last saturday[.] Mr S/ rather scrupled having it brought in to the Church/ but on Mr H – asking Mr R['s] opinion who said/ there was no danger it was admitted./

I have been getting better ever since I wrote to you/ last; but was thrown back by getting cold walking only just about/ the house last wednesday which brought the feverishness/

100 page iii

again, but having kept within feel tolerably; indeed/ I am better to day than for some time back – [I] hope/ Mrs S-- continues to recover [&] am glad she was well/ enough to go so far as the Forest with so little fatigue[.]/ [I] hope she has not troubled herself to go after a Pelisse/ for me as Craig might very well do it which I/ desired your father to say in his letter: as nothing/ is so bad for invalids as shopping in cold weather./

My Ticket which some time ago I desired you to inquire/ after[,] you said was not a great prize but did not say/ was a blank tho' I suppose it was as it was possible there/ might be some mistake in sending the number, I will/ enclose the ticket that it may be inquired properly - /

I wish you to purchase Mr Wellbeloved['s] prayerbook for B[enjami]n/ the same I gave to you & bring it with you - /

You will ask J Hodgkin if any of Bishop['s] family/ who was a dyer in Bishopsgate Street continue/ the business – the biscuits are very good & I am glad/ to hear J H['s] Leg is not the worse for exercise – You/ will remember your trunk - /

with hope of seeing you soon/

I remain Your Affec[tiona]te Mother/ Mary Fuller/

Mr Lowndes is much better/

100 page iv

Decr. 13th. 1806/ Mr J Fuller/

REFERENCES

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- 2 Yesterday's Town Chesham by Clive Birch and John Armistead

