

**6 Nov 1847 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Wentworth Blackett Beaumont**

My dear Wenty,

It is a saying of Voltaire's, that all History teaches only one lesson, that 'the Strong always oppress the weak.' However, there are others the <same Paris honour> of Injustice the Humiliation of Pride &c

There is a better foundation for an Englishman's Education than History, which is to learn how to apply to all subjects strong common sense & liberal feeling. History often invokes much Prejudice. I believe, after all, that the best Basis of a Gentleman's Education is a knowledge of the Classics, Greek Roman. It is a curious Truth that before the Christian era there was more noble-ness in the Ideas of men than there has been since. I account for it in this way – that Christianity came to instruct Mankind, when the Heart failed to do its work properly.

If the Christians had more <.....lety> & did more justice <to> the authors of the Books in which they receive their Best Education than in calling them Heathens, they wd be mreo entitled to respect as will be more worthy of their own name.

However we'll talk these matters over & I will content myself now with saying that you will have a higher tone of mind during the Rem[ainde]r of yr Life if you combine Classics & Maths while you are at College, than if you make the latter yr principal study.

Let Maths teach you to reason & the Classics teach you to feel.

Thanks for your Birthday letter, which I know was only delayed by yr having a headfull of business. Edw[ard] talked with me yesterday for more than <10> hours & I am not the worse for it today. Jane & two of the Girls come to us for a day next week so we are improveing. All our Love to you

Yr affect[ionate] Father

TWBeaumont

B.P. <Sat.y>

[on cover:] W.B.Beaumont / St. John's College / Cambridge

[postmarked:] Wakefield No 6 1847 C, Cambridge No 7 1847 B

**9 Mar 1848 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Wentworth Blackett Beaumont**

[Note: Undated, but the report of an affray at Bywell was carried in The Times of Monday 6th March – actually the court report of the trial of poachers caught in Bearl woods by gamekeeper Robert Surtees. Thursday was therefore 9th March]

Newark Thursday night

My dear Wenty,

Don't you expect too much from the young Republic in supposing it possible that they shd wish to place their affairs in steady & tried hands? We know all their

steady & tried hands, & I shd be sorry to see Theirs trusted by them. O Barrot they will have nothing to say to for he desired to substitute the Dk of Orleans & the young <Cte> de Paris!

Now the most that we can hope for is the continuance of the present men in power with the addition of some one or two of their own sort in order to keep these mens Heads straight. Lamartine is very good to lay the Hounds on the scent, But I doubt very much if he can ride to them. He is neither a Man of fierce Passions or a Man of Genius. When I went to Paris at the last Revolution I was at a soiree of his & I saw him entirely satisfied & his English wife too with the Proof sheets of some Poetry, that he was publishing. She asked me if the negligence of Printers was not extremely provoking I replied 'Yes but there's no help to it.' So the poor woman had to go on correcting. I give these Fellows about three years of their 'last of Despotisms' after which, I expect, they will get so heartily tired of it, that they will quietly yield some Solitary tyrant.

It will be ten days yet before I am fit to move. At that time, or rather later, for you must give us time to reach Alconbury Hill, if you can ride over & meet us there, I hope to be able to walk with you. I trust indeed that this Detention here allow me an immense deal of good, or I shall have lost so much time. These Eruptions, which are so annoying & prevent me from putting on any clothing, are carrying of a vast quantity of inward impurity. The muscles I can feel are acquiring much cleanness. I can move them with much greater facility than I have been able to do for many years.

Did you see in the Times I think of Tuesday or Wednesday, the account of the Affray at Bywell, where Surtees distinguished himself by his coolness as well as courage? They want such a Fellow as him now in France.

I hope you will consider this letter as a fresh proof of my Amendment & with all our Loves, Believe me my dear Wenty,

Your very affect[iona]te Father

TWBeaumont

#### **24 Mar 1848 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Wentworth Blackett Beaumont**

[Note: undated, but the 1848 unrest referred to in Berlin and Vienna flared up in the middle of March, with large demonstrations in both cities on the 13th, and violence in Berlin on the 18th/19th. Friday 24th March is used here.]

My dear Wenty,

I am delighted with your plan & very readily give my approbation to it. I hope you will visit the Hebrides, Fingals cave & I remember well crossing Ben Lomond on foot & sleeping that night at a small Inn near the Trossachs. Your Uncle William had a tall Highlander for a Bedfellow & much distressed he was with his companion. Bird & I shared the same bed. But the Fleas annoyed me more than my companion. We had a

fine View & a beautiful day. We crossed the lake in the morning from an Inn on the opposite side, where we had been passing a week. We saw Ben Nevis but had the usual fate of Travellers in being prevented from ascending it by rain, so we contented ourselves with visiting the Fall of Fyers.

You see that the Revol[utionary] movement has spread rapidly to Berlin & Vienna. What has passed at the latter place will not satisfy the Propagand spirit of the French. But they will first, I think, have the good sense to put their own House a little in order, which has been a good deal disturbed lately.

It gave me pleasure to hear that you had been nervous at starting. Nothing is worse than that cold apathy, which speaks as if it were taking a glass of milk. This mischief of Public speaking at College is that it hardens the feelings & accustoms them too much to a too complaisant audience. But a little of it will do you good. Fox said to a Friend, who was making his First speech in the House 'I was glad when I saw your knees shake.'

I am still improving without being able to fix the day of our departure, which I hope will not be deferred beyond next week. Don't be uneasy about a Revolution in this country. There is not the least danger of any serious movement either here or in Ireland.

Your sisters return from Lonton today, where they have been staying since Wednesday. Your mama unites with me in love.

Ever your affect[ionat]e father  
TWBeaumont

Newark Friday

### **16 May 1848 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Wentworth Blackett Beaumont**

[Note: Undated, but the reference to the arrest of Mitchell for felony places this in May 1848. John Mitchel founded the United Irishman newspaper that year and was arrested, tried and convicted in May under the Treason Felony Act of April that year. A date of mid-May is assumed here, and Tuesday 16th is used.]

Pece's – Tuesday

My dear Wenty,

I have written to Atkinson as you requested & assured him that you have my active consent to leave St.Johns for Trin Coll. Let me know when you have seen <Tatham> how he takes it.

We are waiting to see your Brothers <as/at> their <...t> before we leave for Elmhurst & Buxton. I drive out twice every day & my Health is, I think, improving. The heat of the Buxton water is 83.

All our loves  
Your very affect[iona]te Father

TWBeaumont

<I we> trust <be> got out yesterday for the first time.

Lamartine's popularity is on the wane & the Democratic Party is gaining strength, as I said it would. I think the Ministers have done a very foolish thing in sending the Queen to Ireland in the Autumn & a very wise one in arresting Mitchell for Felony. That is the way with the Whigs.

TWB

**3 Aug 1848 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Wentworth Blackett Beaumont**

[Note: undated but must also relate to WBB's visit to Allenheads in August 1848 for the grouse shooting season and was presumably written from Bath beforehand, and long enough before August 11th to have allowed TWB to have travelled back to Bretton in the meantime. 3rd of August was a Thursday and is used here.]

Business

My dear Wenty,

Yr Mama has reminded me that I promised you a Programme. I have sent you a sketch of it <D Sk> but I hereby give it to you in detail.

There are 3 principal Residences of the Mining Agents viz Allenheads, Newhouse in Weardale Co of Durham and Coalcleugh in Northumberland. There isn't anything in particular to interest you at Coalcleugh & if Sop[wit]h considers that a Visit to a Smelting mill is likely to be more instructive & more novel I recommend you to attend to his Suggestion.

I have desired him to have a Poney ready to take you to Weardale. This is a new country & ought to be visited. Somewhere near the top of the Hill which separates the Counties of Northumb[erland] & Durham is I believe a Throw or Dyke (Dyke meaning a Wall underground in this case) which deranges all the Strata & causes them to dip differently on the different sides of the Ridge of Hills. This is a phenomenon imperfectly accounted for by Geologists. You will hear Sopwith's Opinion of it & mark the place & observe the Facts & <Pariation>. You will probably ride to Newhouse in the morning & return in the evening to Allenheads, as the Hse at Newhouse is hardly large enough I think at present to accommodate more than S's family, who have removed thither that your party may be received at the 'Heads'. Take note of any Interesting Obs[ervatio]ns in yr pocket book. When you have crossed the boundary into the Durham side, you will see on the Right hand the Moors now let rather than lent to the Olivers which I have assigned to you after you come of age, whenever you desire to have your own Party & supposing me to be Hale & strong & having with me at Allenheads some Elderly men, than may be suited to your Taste. The Olivers Head

Quarters is a Public House at the foot of the Hill. Good driving. A pleasant Ride to you  
& Believe me my dear Wenty

Ever yr affect[ionat]e Father

T W Beaumont

Bath Thursday

**11 Aug 1848 Thomas Wentworth Beaumont to Wentworth Blackett Beaumont**

[Note: Chesterfield (1694-1773) was a statesman, diplomat, writer and wit. The book referred to was almost certainly his 'Letters to His Son on the Art of Becoming a Man of the World and a Gentleman' (1774) and the quote TWB attributed to Lonsdale is actually said to have been by Samuel Johnson. O'Brien was William Smith O'Brien MP (1803-64), an Irish nationalist and leader of the Young Ireland movement. He was convicted of sedition in 1848 and deported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Charles Albert (1798-1849) was the King of Sardinia who fought for Italian independence against the Austrians in 1848 but was abandoned by his ally Pope Pius IX.]

Augt 11 Br Pk

My dear Wenty,

Altho' I do not think it likely that you will be corrupted by Ld Chesterfield I will tell you the opinion of Lonsdale – Bp of Lichfield & contemporary of mine at Eton <a per> him, that his Book contained the morals of a W[hore] & the manner of a Dancing master. This is a more even statement than his Lordship deserves, but his Recommendations are far too worldly to do any good.

I hope that you have finer weather in North[umberlan]d than you found in Scotland. However you have a comfortable House at Sopwiths & if you have agreeable companions you will not be as much to be pitied as O'Brien who instead of moor-shooting is now enjoying a melancholy Prospect as the Reward of his Folly & his Vanity.

What a Reverse Chas Albert has experienced. If the whole proves to be a Trop <tu Ni> Pope I shall not be sorry for it as I think it time for the Roman Religion to be shorn of its influence & then there may be a fair Hope of Ireland enjoying some Quiet.

I hope that you find the Venison in good order

Ever sincerely yours

TW Beaumont

[on cover:] W.B.Beaumont Esq, Allenheads, Gateshead

[postmarks:] Wakefield Au 11 1848 C, Gateshead Au 12 1848 B, Haydon Bridge Au