

we were not present, from our being at that occasion
without instance at the present time. It gives us a
Verbal interview with each other, we sincerely trust that
we shall be able to enjoy each others company before
the same year. I shall be back as usual, which as we
know is quite uncertain, I must not say. I sincerely
trust Mr. Madmont desires to be kindly to your wishing
you well with all his heart, I hope also to inform
you that Mr. Tadfield husband and family intend
coming out at Spring, but to what part I cannot at
present inform you, where they will come to see
Brother
or not depends on what they have not made up their
minds. I will also endeavour to be more
of respect to dear little Phyllis, I hope you will in
the future ~~you will~~ endeavour to write more
legible, and write as often as possible as it will
be the greatest pleasure we can at present expect.
I will send you a newspaper at
times, I must now draw to a close by wishing
you health Wealth and happiness and beg
to remain your Affectionate

Brother & Sister
G. F. J. Baxter

W. J. Madmont
January 30th 1853

Dear Brother & Sister

It is with the greatest pleasure imaginable
I take this most favourable opportunity of answering
your very kind and welcome letter, bearing date of Nov^r
1st. Tendering your health and welfare in every respect as
dear as our own, I am sorry to inform you that my cough
is still a sore affliction to me, but in other respects
we are enjoying very favourable ^{state of} health, our great distance
and long absence from each other makes us more
anxious to gain all the information we can from
each other. It will be a great comfort to hear
from you at the present season. I will send you all
the information you possibly can. With regard to the
affairs of this country: it is our intention of giving
you a few short details of it. I am sorry to inform
you that it have been in a very dilapidated state for
for the last three or four months from excessive
Rain, many parts have been completely inundated
and damage to very great amount has occurred in
in consequence, and in many instances fatal
results has occurred, Bridges and Aqueducts
have been completely washed away, Roads in
many parts have been quite impassable as also

having drawn from the numerous ships of the Navy, and was quite horrid to relate the numerous ship wrecks attended with the loss of life around the different parts of our Channel. Poor New Forement being so great on the occasion, thousands that came lay assembled in November last and made another attempt of carrying out conservative measures but they very soon got pushed out of office. I make no doubt very much against their desires, they have now got in what we call a Peelite Ministry, and I believe they are likely to carry a good and lasting Government, they may as well try to turn water up a hill, as to attempt the abolition of Free Trade, which is a system likely to work well in the course of time for all classes of Society, for instance the Farmer's produce is as follows, Pig from 7 to 10 shillings per score, Mutton from seven pence to eight per pound, Beef from nine to ten shillings per score, Butter thirteen pence per pound, Bread is still Moderate 8½ and 6 the four pound loaf, good Cheese three to three pence per hundred. I must not forget to inform you of the Death of the Duke of Wellington, his Funeral was carried out with very great Pomp, attended with very great expense to the Country, the procession lasted four Miles in length, the Car he was taken in to St Pauls to be deposited cost me a sum than eleven thousand pounds, he was kept in State for nearly

two Months, then he was placed in Chelsea Hospital for public inspection for our days, I am sorry to say several fatal accidents happened during the time. The crowd being so great on the occasion, thousands that came lay distances to see him were disappointed, Sophia Maidment was married on the 25th Inst to young Green and not before it was time, for in a very few weeks she do as the Wedding, Mrs Goddard have been very seriously ill but is now recovering, but it seem a general thing at the present time sickness seem to be very prevalent everywhere, I suppose it is in consequence of the weather. I have sent you some letters for they never take the trouble to answer it, so that I cannot give you any particular information respecting him, Old Butcher Bullen and all the family are gone to Australia, he have a son that have been there a few years, and accumulated a very large fortune. Robert Burton desire to be kindly remembered to you, but sorry he cannot congratulate you on any improvement from his long illness, he is quite a cripple, which was idly now over and am sincerely trust you have and all enjoyed your visit with the good Old English fare which is duly appreciated to the season I am assure you that

Shepton Mallet
January 30th 1853

Dear Brother & Sister

It is with the greatest pleasure imaginable I take this most favourable opportunity of answering your very kind and welcome letter, bearing date of Nov^r 1st Tendering your health and welfare in every respect as dear as our own, I am sorry to inform you that my cough is still a sore affliction to me, but in other respects we are enjoying very favourable ^{state of} health, our great distance and long absence from each other makes us more anxious to gain all the information we can from each other it will be a great consolation to us to hear from you at all convenient Seasons, and give us all the information you possibly can, With regard to the affairs of this Country, it is our intention of giving you a few short details of it, I am sorry to inform you that it have been in a very dilapidated state for for the last three or four months from excessive Rain, many parts have been completely Inundated and damage to very great amount has occurred in in consequence, and in many instances fatal results has occurred, Bridges and Aqueducts have been completely washed away, Roads in many parts have been quite impassible as also Railway Trains being stopped from the furiousness of the Rain, and it is quite horrifying to relate the numerous Ship wrecks attended with very great loss of life around the different ^{parts} of our Channel. Our New Parliament assembled in November last and made another attempt of carrying out conservative measures but they very soon

get pushed out of office, I make no doubt very much against their desires, They have now got in what we call a Peelite Ministry and I believe they are likely to carry a good and lasting Government, they may as well try to turn water up a Hill, as to attempt the abolition of Free Trade, which is a system likely to work well in the course of time for all classes of Society, for instance the Farmer has no room for complaint, under his present selling prices, which are as follows, Pigs from 9 to 10 shillings per Score, Mutton from seven pence to eight per pound Beef from Nine to Ten shillings per score, Butter Thirteen pence per pound, Bread is still Moderate 6^d and 6d the four pound loaf, good Cheese Three ^{Ten} pound ~~te-three-guineas~~ per hundred, I must not forget to inform you of the Death of the Duke of Wellington, his Funeral was carried out with very great Pomp, attended with very great expense to the Country, the procession lasted four Miles in length, the Car he was taken in to St. Pauls to be deposited Cost no less a sum than eleven Thousand pounds, he was kept in state for nearly two Months, then he was placed in Chelsea Hospital for public inspection for four days, I am sorry to say several fatal accidents happend during the time, the crowd being so great on the occasion, Thousands that came long distances to see him were disappointed, Sophia Maidment was Married on the 25th Inst to young Green and not before it was time, for in a very few Weeks she do expect to be Mother, so you see a quiet cat can catch a Mouse, she never even asked her own Sister Mrs. Hoddinott to the Wedding, Mrs. Hoddinott have been very seriously Ill but is now recovering, but it seem a general thing at the present time sickness seem to be very ~~prevalant~~ everywhere, I suppose it is in consequence

of so much Rain, I have sent to Charles (Hale?) several times but they seem to take but little notice of my letters for they never take the trouble to answer it, so that I cannot give you any particular information respecting him, Old Butcher Cullen and all the Family are gone to Australia, he have a Son that have been there a few years, and accumulated a very large Fortune, Robert Burton desire to be kindly remembered to you, but sorry he cannot congratulate you on any improvement from his long indisposition, he is quite a cripple, Christmas is now over and we sincerely trust you have one and all enjoyed yourselves with the good Old English Fare which is duly appropriated to the season. I can assure you that you were not absent from our thoughts on that occasion although distance at the present time deprives us of a Verbal interview with each other, we sincerely trust that we shall be able to enjoy each others company, before the hand of Death shall be laid on us, which as we know is quite uncertain, I must not forget to remember Farmer Maidment desire to be kindly to you wishing you well with all his heart, I bege also to inform you that Mrs. Padfield Husband and Family intend coming out at Spring. but to what part I cannot at present inform you, where they will come to his Brother or not I cannot say as they have not made up their minds yet, I have also enclosed a small Card as a token of respect, to dear little Phillis, I hope you will in

the future you-will- endeavor to write more legible, and write as often as possible as it will be the greatest pleasure we can at present expect I shall send you a newspaper^{at} all convenient times, I must now draw to a close by wishing you health Wealth and happiness and beg to remain your Affectionate

Brother & Sister

G. & L. Butler