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Sir Walter Scott and Sir Ralph Sadler: a Chapter in Literary History, Part II

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Sir Walter Scott and Sir Ralph Sadler: a Chapter in Literary History.

PART 2

A much more interesting, and greatly more voluminous correspondence was opened in June 1808 when Scott received a typically loose scrawl from William Hayley. As two hitherto uncollected letters from Scott to Hayley are printed below, I have also transcribed the Hayley-Scott letters from the Walpole Letterbooks, as they provide the best commentary on them. Hayley (1745–1820), a truly minor poet and would-be dramatist, is best known as a patron of Blake. He wrote frequent and effusive letters to every literary figure of his acquaintance, and spared no epistolary effort in attempting to please the great or to place his friends.

Letter II

W. Hayley to Scott, 1 June 1808.

June 1 1808
Felpham near / Chichester

Dear Sir / I have read, with great Pleasure, your two recent Publications of different Kinds (Marmion & the Life of Dryden) & I should perhaps be tempted to tell you in what parts they delighted me most, were I not eager to proceed to the chief Subject of this

1 National Library of Scotland. Walpole Letterbooks, MS 3877 ff 75,76. Four pages, including address leaf, quarto: address, in the autograph of, and franked by, Huskisson

Walter Scott Esq
Edinburgh

docketed by Scott : Mr. Hayley / Felpham near / Chichester
William Huskisson (1770–1830) statesman, was immortalized by his contriving to be the first railway passenger fatality. He had been befriended in his youth by Hayley, and eventually bought Eastham, Hayley's former home. In 1808 Huskisson was Secretary to the Treasury, and as a Member of Parliament had the power of franking letters.

*Both Marmion and Scott's edition of Dryden were published in the spring of 1808. Sadler was announced in Marmion, first edition (Edinburgh, 1808), p. xiii, Note XV to Canto V. "The very curious State Papers of this able negociator, are shortly to be published by Mr. Clifford, with some Notes, by the "Author of MARMION." This wording was used in the subsequent editions, being changed in the eleventh of 1811 to;—"The very curious State Papers "... have been lately published ..."

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Letter.—It is to ask, if it may be agreeable to you to receive a little Information, that it happens to be in my Power to send you, on a Topic, which may possibly engage your thoughts at present.

A Note to your admirable Marmion has told me, that you think of adding some Remarks to an intended Publication of Sir Ralph Sadleir’s state papers—

Now it happens, that the lineal Descendant, & true Representative, of this celebrated Knight is a most worthy Gentleman of 86, who has honour’d me with an unclouded Friendship of 50 years, for He first receiv’d me with singular Kindness as his Guest at Southampton (where He still resides) when I was a Boy of 13—Tho’ He has been more a Man of Business, than an Idler of Parnassus, He has however, thro’ Life, indulg’d himself in writing occasional Verses, both sportive & serious, with graceful Felicity.

—Some years ago He compos’d a little Poem of thirty Lines on a Visit to the Monument of his illustrious Ancestor Sir Ralph, whose Title (tho’ it fairly belongs to Him) He has never assump’d & the immense Possessions of that opulent Knight, instead of descending to Him, have been convey’d to other Families by the widow of an improvident Sir Edwin.—My Friend however has been too prosperous a Man to feel the Want of that rich Inheritance, & endow’d with too much sprightly Wisdom ever to vex Himself for the Loss of it.—I think his verses on the Monument of Sir Ralph may please you, especially if they can reach you in Time to find a place in your projected Notes to the Book of Mr Clifford.

It will add much to the pleasure I have already receiv’d from them, if they afford me an opportunity of obliging, & of shewing you how sincerely

I am, my dear Sir,
Your Friend & Admiring,
W Hayley

My old Friend will indulge me in the Privilege of sending you his Pedigree, if you wish to see it—

I once wrote to interest you in favour of a highly promising

9 Richard Vernon Sadleir, 1722–1810, was a magistrate of Southampton. The Gentleman’s Magazine, Vol. LXXX. (London, 1810), 389 records his death on 2 April 1810. On p. 490 of the same volume details are given of his life and character: “His genius was active and versatile: as an epistolary writer, “few excelled him; and he had the faculty of expressing his thoughts with “almost equal facility, either on light or serious subjects, in elegant and classical “verse.”

In 1777 Hayley had hailed Sadleir in an Ode commencing:-

Business be gone! Thou vulture Care
No more the quivering sinews tear
Of Sadleir’s mortal frame! —

Sadleir’s ineffable verses on the Monument of Sir Ralph Sadler in Standon Church were printed by Scott as Sadler, II, p. 620, Appendix IV. In Sadler, II, 602-617, Appendix III, “Genealogy of the Descendants of Sir Ralph Sadler,” there is acknowledgement to R. V. Sadleir for the use of the genealogy drawn up for Sir Edwin Sadler, who died in 1706. See Letter 5.
juvenile Poet, Romney Robinson of Ireland, but as many, many, Months elps'd without bringing me any reply, I am persuaded the Letter I wrote in his Behalf never reach'd you—My best wishes ever attend you

Letter III
Scott to Hayley, 7 June 1808.

Dear Sir / Before answering your favour of the 1st June allow me to exculpate myself from the charge which I should feel a heavy one of letting one of your letters lie neglected. I suppose Mr. Robinson made his visit to Scotland while I happen'd to be south of the Tweed as I am sure I would not willingly have neglected any friend of yours and I think had I only been at my little farm I should have heard of his having brought a letter for me and of course studied to show a bard under your patronage any attention that lay in my power. But poet or letter I certainly neither saw nor heard of which will I am sure exculpate me in your candid construction from every shade of intentional neglect.

I will esteem myself highly favoured by the communication you promise me respecting Sir Ralph Sadler more valuable as coming from the descendant of that great Statesman. Perhaps your venerable friend may be able to clear up some obscurity in Sir Ralph's own descent which my endeavours have not yet been able to remove. —Sir Ralph's father was Henry Sadler who seems (from a letter of his own) to have been Bailiff or Surveyor or to have held some such situation in the family of a Nobleman residing at Cilney near Great Hadham. He expresses himself to his Son as

The previous letters from Hayley to Scott do not discuss Romney Robinson, and the missing one is probably that mentioned in a letter from William Miller to Scott, London, 5 November 1805, "I yesterday sent You a Letter from Mr Hayley which you of course receive'd —." [NLS MS. 3875 f. 109]. Another letter from Hayley, concerning Dryden, 19 November 1803, seems to have been forgotten by both sender and recipient. [NLS MS. 3875 f. 120].

Thomas Romney Robinson, 1792-1882, gained fame as a mathematical physicist, but he had in December 1803 produced an Elegy on the Death of George Romney, Esq., of which Hayley thought so well that he included it in his Life of Romney. [See Morchard Bishop, Blake's Hayley (London, 1951), p. 300].

*The Hyde Collection, Four Oaks Farm, Somerville, New Jersey. 4 pp, including address page, large quarto, address, in Scott's autograph,

William Hayley Esq
Felpham
Near Chichester
docketed, not of course by Hayley: from Sir Walter Scott 1808.

*The "Little farm"; is Ashstiel near Selkirk, Scott's country home from 1804 to 1812.

*See Slavin, op. cit., p. 11. and the account given earlier. Scott uses almost the same wording in his biographical memoir, Sadler, I, ii.
tired of serving without wages & begs he will get him through Cromwells interest "the Office in the Tower." Who was this Nobleman whom he calls his good Lord & Master? Great Hadham is I believe in Essex but where is Cilney? I can find the name in no Villare* which I have consulted Sir Ralph is said to have been born to a fair inheritance near Hackney but though his fathers situation as a noblemans Steward was by no means inconstant with his being of gentle birth and possessed of property, I think it excludes the idea of his being opulent—Did he ever obtain the office in the Tower?

As for Sir Ralph's property I have a copy of the Inquisition post-mortem from which it seems to have been immense. As he left four sons I conclude your friend represents the second, the descendants of the eldest merged in heirs female after the time of Sir Ralph's grandson, by which means the Lordship of Standon &c passed to Lord Aston. I should be very happy to see Mr. Sadler of Southampton's pedigree. There exists in Ireland another family also descended from Sir Ralph from whom I have received some curious communications. As I am now advancing to the conclusion of my task it will add particularly to the kindness of any further communication on this subject should be done as soon as is consistent with Mr. Sadlier's convenience.

I am truly flattered that you find the Life of Dryden and Marmion so worthy of your attention and am with a most sincere sense of your kindness Dear Sir

Your much obliged
humble Servant
Walter Scott

7 June 1808
Edinburgh

Letter IV

W. Hayley to Scott, 11 June 1808.

Felpham June 11 1808

Dear Sir / I am this Moment favor'd with your obliging Letter & I lose not an instant in dispatching this hasty Biller to my excellent Friend of Southampton requesting Him to add his pedigree (& any Information He may think proper—) to the Copy of his

* See Part I, n. 35.


* This is Thomas Sadler of Sea Park, Ireland. See Letter XI.

* National Library of Scotland. Walpole Letterbooks. MS 3877 ff 83,84. Four pages, including address page, octavo. address: To / Walter Scott Esq / Edinburgh docketed by Scott; Mr. Hayley / June 1808.
interesting Verses which I have just transcribed for you to save Him that Occupation as no Man has less Leisure the few can be so well entitled to honorable Repose—I have also desir’d my Friend to save Time by forwarding the paequet immediately to my very kind Franke Mr Huskisson whose Covers are not limited in Weight so whatever the size of the pedigree may be I trust it will reach you speedily & safely

With every Kind wish to you & to your various Pursuits to conducive to the Honour of our Country
I am ever my dear Sir
Yr Sincere Friend & Servt
W Hayley

I shall be anxious to know that the paequet reaches you in safety & will beg you to direct it to me under Cover to
William Huskisson Esqr M.P.
Downing Street
Westminster

Letter V

W. Hayley to Scott, 17 June 1808.

Felpham June 17 1808

Dear Sir, / It gives me real Concern to find, that the Plan by which I hop’d the Pedigree, you wish’d to see, might be convey’d to you with great Ceiling, has prov’d impracticable.

A Letter from my good old Friend tells me (what He has probably told you in forwarding my Transcript of his Verses) that it is impossible to convert his Pedigree into a Pacquet for the Post—The Attemp, He says, Would tear a pleasing Picture to pieces—He adds, that a Friend of yours, Capt Cruden, who mar’ried one of his Nieces, will probably return soon from Ireland, & assist Him in preparing for you such a sketch of the Pedigree, or such Information, as you may desire—But as the Return of a distant Traveller, & the Life of a Veteran of 86, are peculiarly precarious, & as I well know the natural Impatience of an Author advancing towards the Close of an important Work, I am most willing, my dear Sir, to act for you in the place of yr Friend Capt

3 See footnote 3. The verses are no longer preserved with Hayley’s letter; presumably they were sent to the printer.

33 National Library of Scotland. Walpole Letterbooks. MS 3877 ff 91, 92, four pages, including address page, quarto, address, in the autograph of, and franked by, W. Huskisson.

Walter Scott Esq
Edinburgh

docketed by Scott; Mr. Hayley / 17 June 1808

34 William Cruden was Captain of the Tower Hill Militia. There is a letter from him in the Walpole Letterbooks [NLS MS. 3876 f. 157], written at Aberdeen, 9 January 1808, introducing himself. Cruden’s wife was the grand-niece of Richard Vernon Sadleir, and Cruden informed Scott about Sadleir and his interest in the publication. Hayley, then, was not the first to mention the old gentleman of Southampton.
Cruden, whom I have not the pleasure ofKnowing, if you will instruct me, how I may best gratify your immediate wish for
particular Information—I ought however to apprize you, that altho' I am younger than our excellent Friend of Southampton by 23 years, I justly reckon myself an old Man, repeating with old Lusignan

"Mes Maux m'ont affaibli plus encor que mes ans" 15

The Loss of an only Son in his 20th year, who, in Talents, Virtues, & affections, was every thing, that a paternal Heart cd wish Him to be, has so encreas'd my early disposition to Retire, that I literally lead the Life of a Hermit;" & there is hardly any thing, that would induce me to travel 30 Miles from this little marine Cell, except the pressing Solicitation of the very dear old Friend, who is precluded from the use of a Carriage by the dread of producing a Fit of that excruciating Malady the Stone.—
A Wish to pass a few more social Hours with Him had made me think of an Excursion to Southampton in the Autumn:—but in the Letter, I have just receiv'd, He tells me, "He daily feels such an Increase of Decay that He dares not indulge the Hope of seeing me again, if my Visit is deferred till Autumn."—In short there is so much endearing, & attractive, Kindness in all He says on the Subject, that I have just assur'd Him, whenever he particularly wishes to see me, He has only to say "Come!" as I shall then make all Occupation give place, & endeavour to obey his Command.

Advanc'd as He is in Life, this excellent Man has such strong vital powers both of Body & Mind, that I still cherish a lively Hope of passing a few cheerful Hours with Him, as we are both naturally cheerful, & particularly so when together—Both have long contemplated Death as "Kind Nature's signal of Retreat," & both are equally firm & happy in the Persuasion, that Friendship extends beyond the Grave—

But not to be too serious, let me hasten to add, what I chiefly mean to suggest to you by this History, that I may probably revisit Southampton before Capt Cruden—

Let me therefore speedily Know, what I can do for you, if that should prove the Case, & be assur'd, that to the utmost of my little Power you have a sincere & willing Servant & Friend
in your affectationate
Hermit
My own Heart had absolv'd you, before your Kind defence of

15 Hayley seems to be quoting from Li Livres de Lusignan, a French poem, circa 1500, by La Coudrette. As the earliest English edition is 1854, it would be interesting to know where Hayley read the poem.

16 The reference is to Hayley's natural son, Thomas Alphonso Hayley, 1780–1800, a youth of some artistic promise. Hayley delighted in coy names for himself, and often signed his letters "Hermit."

17 The quote is part of line 364 of Samuel Johnson's The Vanity of Human Wishes.
SIR WALTER SCOTT AND SIR RALPH SADLER

... yourself arriv'd—Romney Robinson did not visit your Country—My Application to you in his Favour was merely contain'd in a Letter, that should have travell'd safely in a Frank, but by some inscrutable Mischance fail'd to do so—adieu!

I presume you possess all that is said of yr Subject, Sir Ralph, in the History of Dorsetshire, & in Mr Lodge's Illustrations of British History—\(^8\)

\(^{10}\) Letter VI

Scott to Hayley, 29 June 1808.

My dear Sir / Accept of my best thanks for the trouble you have taken on account of my projected Sir Ralph. The lines of his venerable descendant shall certainly with his kind permission grace the Memoir of his life. They are I think very spirited and pretty. I am not particularly anxious about the pedigree of his descendants my chief business being with the doughty Knight himself. But as I shall have occasion to mention the pedigree of the Cliffords who succeeded to the eldest sons estate through the Aston family, & that of Thomas Sadler of Seapark near Swords in Ireland who represents another son I should be glad to know & think your worthy friend might be pleased to see it stated \textit{generally} in What manner he descends from the Soldier & Statesman in question. I would likewise be glad to be informed if Mr. Sadler happens traditionally or otherwise [to know] any more of Henry Sadler Sir Ralphs father than that he was a gentleman of small fortune near Hackney. I find he was Steward or bailiff or Comptroller to a certain nobleman who lived near Alney somewhere as I believe in Essex. Does Mr. Sadleir know who this nobleman was & whether Henry Sadler obtained a certain office in the Tower which he solicited through his sons favour with Lord Cromwells. Also whether any thing however trifling & minute is handed down concerning Sir Ralph's person & habits independent of what is to be found in the topographical works in which he is mentioned. He was I observe a keen hawker & hunter even at a very advanced period of life & had a \textit{jobation} \(^9\) from Queen Elizabeth for his humanity in permitting our poor Mary to accompany him in his recreations. In short I embrace you[.] kind offer of enquiring whether there are any of those tags rags

\(^8\) Edmund Lodge, \\textit{Illustrations of British History, Biography and Manners in the reigns of Henry VIII} . . . . , 3 vols. (London, 1791); John Hutchins, \\textit{The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset} . . . . , 2 vols. (London, 1774).

\(^9\) Pierpont Morgan Library, MS. V9A MA 432, 4 pp., including address page, large quarto, address:
W. Hayley Esq
Care of Mr. Hutchison

\(^{10}\) \textit{Jobation} is a colloquial word for a rebuke or a reproof. Sadler was one of Mary, Queen of Scots' Guardians at Wingfield, 1580–81, and was in trouble for treating her humanely.
and remnants of information concerning his habits preserved in his family which like other relieves have from their having belonged to a distinguished character a consequence not naturally their own.

I sincerely hope you will be able to make out your pilgrimage without interruption from the terrible malady you mention especially as I fear I may miss Capt. Cruden on his return from England since I shall likely go to my farm in Selkirkshire about the middle of next month.

Sir Ralph being now nearly out of my hands I have resumed my labours upon Dean Swift whom I intend shall succeed Dryden as I think a great deal may yet be done for the Dean of St. Patricks. I have also a half finished work of great importance lying by me viz. a new Edition of Somers' Tracts 22 Believe me my

Dear Sir  
Your obliged humble  
Servant  
1808  
Walter Scott  

Letter VII 22

W. Hayley to Scott, 15 July 1808.

[Felpham] July 15 1808

Imagine to yourself what you would feel, my dear Scott, if you beheld your excellent Printer Ballantyne (after you had cheerfully revis'd with Him one of your Proof Sheets) most un-expectedly hurried out of Life by a Fit of Apoplexy—while you tried in vain with his medical Friends to restore a friendly Voice, & an excellent Understanding, gone for ever—23

By forming these images in yr powerful Fancy you will perfectly perceive that Kind of heart-felt Anguish & Trouble which have prevented my replying to your last Letter so rapidly, as you might naturally expect from the Zealous desire, which I expressed, (& truly felt,) to promote your wishes with all possible expedien—

I have just lost my worthy Friend Seagrave my Printer of Chichester (a Man of Singular Intelligence & Liberality) about

22 The Somers Tracts, in thirteen volumes, were not finished till late in 1812.

23 National Library of Scotland. Walpole Letterbooks. MS 3877 ff 100, 101. Four pages, one page blank, quarto, address leaf missing.

Docketed by Scott: Mr. Hayley / 15 July 1808.

23 Hayley was writing about the death of his printer, Joseph Seagrave of Chichester in July 1808. Hayley had determined that his Life of Cowper, 1803, should be printed locally by Seagrave’s firm, perhaps for convenience of proof-reading. Seagrave and Hayley became friends and Bishop, op. cit., quotes, p. 270, a testimonial for Seagrave by Hayley, dated 1805. Seagrave was one of the two sureties for Blake in his trial for high treason in the autumn of 1803. In late 1807 Hayley and Seagrave had together visited Sadleir at Southampton.
the age of 40, by a Fate most severely astonishing for Temperance was one of his many Virtues.

This afflicting Event (with some other Painful Incidents) has precluded me from reaching my beloved Veteran of Southampton the worthy Representative of yr Sir Ralph, but I have receiv'd a very Kind packet from Him, which enables me to transmit to you such papers, as, I trust, will afford you the Light that you particularly wish for—I hasten to dispatch them to you with the Aid of my Kind Trunk in Downing Street & you will have the Goodness to restore them to me by the same channel, when they have sufficiently answer'd your purpose—you will find they assign a Splendid, tho a foreign Origin to the Family of Sir Ralph—a Lady of a playful Fancy, tho turn'd of 50 made me smile in Spite of my recent affliction, while she assisted me yesterday in revising these scraps of old Family Papers.—As we were discussing the various modes of Spelling the Name, she exclaim'd, "do you not discover its Etymology? the antique original Mode of writing it was assuredly Sadier"—This was innocent pleasantry, for it proceeded from an amiable Woman, who justly venerates our faithful Veteran for his Truth and Beneficence in all the Concerns of Life—

I wish you could have the pleasure of a personal Intimacy with Him—but alas! He also has been so shaken by Fits of Illness recently, that I must live in some apprehension of losing Him, as I have lost my good Seagrave.—God bless and preserve to you, my younger Friend, all who are most intimately, & deservedly dear to you!

believe me ever
yr sincere & affectionate

W Hayley

Letter VIII

Hayley to Scott, 8 August 1808.

[Felpham] August 8 1808

My dear Sir / I hasten to impart to you Intelligence just arriv'd from our venerable Friend of Southampton, who will live, I trust, to enjoy the Book you are preparing, & the Honour of seeing his own Verses forming a part of it—He tells me that in the Gentleman's Magazine for May 1782 "there is a tolerable Account (so far as it goes) of the Sadler Family written by one who calls himself of the Line"—He adds "I would observe that the only

8a William Huskisson. See n. 1 to this section.

8b The "Lady of a playful fancy" was perhaps Harriet Poole, 1747?-1827, who Hayley called "Paulina." She lived in the neighbourhood at Lavant, and it was Hayley's custom to ride over twice weekly to visit her to discuss items of literary interest. She was certainly "turn'd of 50" long before 1808.

8c National Library of Scotland. Walpole Letterbooks. MS 3877 f. 114. Two pages, one blank, quarto, no address or docketing.

8d See n. 3 to this section. The reference is to Gentleman's Magazine, LII (May 1782), 225-227.
one of the Family, who was Steward to a Duke of Bedford, was of a much later date, George Sadleir who died in 1742"—

Perhaps these Hints may not arrive in Time, or they may be hardly worth ye Notice, but, I trust, at all Events, you will receive them Kindly, as Marks, however trifling, of our Zeal in ye Service—excuse a very hasty billet & believe me

Ever sincerely yrs

W Hayley

Scott replied to Hayley’s two letters on 14 August 1808, and his answer was printed in Letters, XII, 396–97. He amused Hayley with details from the historical notes, and thanked him “—for the very obliging manner in which you have been pleased to employ your interest with your venerable freind in Southampton”— [Letters XII, 396].

Sadler was published in November 1809 and copies were duly sent to Scott’s eager friends. Richard Vernon Sadleir lived long enough to admire his verses in print, and to send Scott a fulsome reply.

Letter IX

R. V. Sadleir to Scott, 20 January 1810.

Sir / May I hope that you have not yet condemn’d my seeming Neglect of expressing the Pleasure I felt on reading, with Intervals from Illness & by Transitory Speed, your excellent & elegant Publication of the Papers, Letters & Memoir of my Ancestor Sir Ralph Sadleir?! I have indeed, attempted a regular Perusal, but that must be defer’d until my Eyes & Hands are more at Comm[a]nd, after a Suffering of Seventeen Years bodily Complaints, added to the Solicited Attention of great & important Difficulties of Friends, who overvalue my Ability for uniting Knots which I dare not cut!

I have, however, felt a Pride—(I hope a pardonable one) on reading the welcome & kind Compliment which you bestow to the Honour of my Name! Praise from Men of your Endowments will encourage Young Poetizers to dance with the Muses, but excites those of great old Age to cease from Subjects less than that which enlivens & rejoices over your Approbation! Accept therefore, My earnest Thanks and the Offers of such Services as may be in my Power—

A few Weeks ago Lord Aston honour’d me with a Letter requesting if "Edward Aston (Brother of the first Lord Aston) who married Ann, Daughter of Leigh Sadleir Esq of Temple Dinley, had Issue & if so, what Issue?"

I answer, the Names in my Register, stand without without the name or names affixed to the whole of every long Schedule, except that alone; ameer Solus cum Solis—

2 pp, quarto, no address.

**Letters, II, 266, to Constable, end of October 1809, asks that a copy of Sadler be "sent to Mr Vernon Sadler of Southampton."
SIR WALTER SCOTT AND SIR RALPH SADLER

For the Civility of his Lordship's Letter, I will beg that if you see him, you will take the Trouble of presenting my Respects—and permit me to add the additional Favor towards Mr Clifford—Believe my, good Sir, your humble and obliged Servant R. Vernon Sadleir

PS I know not of the Errata in general, but there is one viz Robert instead of Richard meant for me—I noted it by Ink 60. hempton [sic] 20th Janry 1810—Walter Scott Esq

A letter sent to Scott after the publication of Sadler concludes this section.

Letter X

W. Hayley to Scott.

May 23 1810

Dear Bard of the North / Your Readers & Admirers of the South are still more enchanted with your Lady of the Lake, than with her two highly honorable Predecessors—I have just had the delight of reading your recent Volume to two Ladies worthy to feel & appreciate all its superlative Merit—when I arriv'd at the End of your Second Canto, in the second Reading, I could no longer restrain my eagerness to tell you what infinite delight you have afforded Us—it burst forth in a rythmical Shape, & as these hasty Verses are truly the offspring of the Heart, I am confident you will Kindly pardon all their Imperfections, & give me full Credit for the cordial wish, they express—

Sonnet

Scotch, whose Landscapes, lovely, & sublime,
In youth's gay Morn I view'd with warm Delight,
When every brilliant Scene is doubly bright;
Truth oft has hail'd Thee as a favorite Clime,

80 National Library of Scotland. Walpole Letterbooks. MS 3879 ff 113, 114. Four pages, including address page. quarto, address in the autograph of Lord Egremont, with his signature as frank.

1810

London May Twenty fifth
Walter Scott Esq
Edinburgh
Egremont

George O’Brien Wyndham, third Earl of Egremont, 1751–1837, lived at Petworth, Sussex. He was a patron of fine art and a friend of Hayley.

81 Scott's poem, The Lady of the Lake, was published in early May 1810. Its predecessors were The Lay of the Last Minstrel and Marmion. The two ladies may have been Mary and Harriet Welford. Hayley had married Mary Welford in March 1809.
Where Bravery, & Beauty, in their Prime,
Endear'd thy Progeny to Virtue's Sight:
Genius, now raising Thee to Honour's Height,
Seals thy Felicity with Walter's Rhyme.
Tho' other Countries, where the Laurel grows,
Have, to their Shame, their noblest Bards deepest,
Crown Thou they Prince of Poets with the Rose
Of grateful Justice!—In thy Walter's Breast
Pour the proud Joy, a Nation's Love bestows,
And as He makes Thee glorious, make Him blest!
In losing our venerable Patriarch of Southampton I have had the
Satisfaction of reflecting, that He liv'd long enough to express
much pleasure in seeing his Verses honour'd with a place in the
Work, where you have done Justice to the Merits of his illustrious
Ancestor. — 28

Adieu! Thou happy Eulogist of the brave & the fair!—We
rejoice, in contemplating your Portrait, to see you are still so
young— May you long continue to bestow Delight & Honour
upon others! & to enjoy them yourself in the highest degree!
Believe me ever
Your very sincere Adviser & Friend
W. Hayley

(To be continued)

University of Stirling

28 Richard Vernon Sadleir died on 2 April 1810. See n. 3 of this section.
29 The Quarto edition of The Lady of the Lake (Edinburgh, 1810), has an
carved frontispiece of Saxon's portrait of Scott. As this portrait was painted
in 1805, it is not surprising that Hayley considered Scott as looking remarkably
youthful.