

To Mrs Thomas Longmore, Sr., from John Longmore, Mayor of Worcester

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c.1875

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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L. 17/1
London Road

Worcester

Sept^r 18th 1866

My Dear Maria;

I will now give you my impressions of Charles after having him with me for a week. He is much better than he was, & indeed much better than I ever expected to see him, but he is by no means restored to a healthy mind.

He has no will or opinion of his own, but implicitly submits to that of the person he is

with. He cannot bear to be in the house, but immediately a meal is over, desires to get out of doors: he walks here 10 to 12 miles every day: of course I cannot do that: a walk of 4 or 5 miles a day, is enough for me. He swallows his dinner as though famished, & eats too much, but I check that by not always noticing his empty plate, & he never asks for more. I allow him — I told him it was for his health. — one tumbler full of beer, and

one glass of port wine: directly
the beer is presented to him, he
drinks it all; the same with
his coffee & tea; he sups & sups
till the cup is emptied. I
said, "Charles, you are the very
opposite to me, & to what Dr.
Abernethy recommended. You
drink all off before you eat, &
I eat before I drink." I observed
one day that "when people were
in a fine air, it obviated the
necessity of smoking almost."
Since then he has left off
smoking, & says he feels better
for it. He takes but little notice

of, or interest in anything that is pointed out to him, but often notices "the beautiful blue sky." On Friday I walked with him to Norton, 5 miles there & back, to see his Aunt's grave, a beautiful walk across the fields. On Monday we walked to our new Cemetery, & returning called at Mr. Cotes's, & talked to her; he was out: they were going next day to Weston-Super-Mare. Charles says he feels much better since he came here, & I think he is somewhat improved. I am of opinion that he requires to be somewhere, where he would be under

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L 17/1

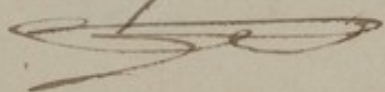
kind & attentive controul, and where there was a lady who would pay him some attention I shall take him to Malvern one day if this dreadful weather will permit me. I wrote to Burlington to ask what had been done relative to the Tenant at No 1. He has replied that he has paid £5, & promised to pay the other £3 shortly, but there is another quarter due next Saturday week - Wednesday the 19th. I was interrupted yesterday. Charles went yesterday of his own accord

& got his moustache, & his beard as low as his chin shaved off; he looks all the better for it. It seemed like thoughtfulness, & acting for himself, & so far was a good sign. To day I had our Church-wardens accounts to audit, but I told him if it were fine, I would give that up & go to Malvern with him, but it bid fair to be the same bad weather so I declined going, but he had so set his heart upon going that he begged me to let him go, so

I had some sandwiches cut, & told him to get one glass of ale there. I took him to the station giving him explicit directions about returning. I expect him back at 6, and will keep this open till his return to add a word.

Only time to say that Charles is safe back & enjoyed his trip. He sends love to all

Sincerely Yours

J. Longmore


John Longmore (Mayor of Worcester),
writing to Charles Longmore (Sir T.
Longmore's brother), a D^r but
in capacity since service in
China.

L. 17/2
London Road
Worcester
July 9th 1875.

My Dear Maria

I write a line to
say that I think Mrs. Hodges
room not central enough, as
I shall have to go to the grand
Banquet in my Robes, & gold
chain - the last belongs to the
Corporation, & cost 300 guineas -
Besides Mr. Stratford talks of
going to London at the same
time, & we should go to the
same place. The Banquet is on
Thursday the 29th. I have since

Yours Affectionately, J. Langmore.

received another invitation
for a Ball, with my Lady, at the
Guildhall on the Friday the 30th
and also to a Reception at
the Mansion House on Saturday
the 31st. Mr. Southall as Town-
-Clerk has received similar
invitations. Two last I shall
decline: the Ball is out of the
question, & the Lady Mayoress'
Reception would be a genteel
crowd. I shall endeavor to
come to London on Tuesday
the 20th so as to have a few days
to go to see some of the London

sights. On Monday last I presided at the opening of the annual meeting of the Society of Arts, & the Exhibition of Painting, & had to make a speech on the occasion.

On Tuesday was the Town Council meeting from 11 till 3, & did not get through $\frac{1}{2}$ the business, and was adjourned till Tuesday next. On Wednesday afternoon I went with Mr. Stratford & Mr. Noake to Knightwick; we all walked through the wood to the Gamekeeper's cottage, & a little distance beyond, getting

a beautiful view of the distant hills & intervening country. He descended by a different route, but still through the woods, & then had tea at the Inn with ham & eggs. It was an enjoyable trip for us all. Yesterday & to day are the Races here; to day it is very wet.

Monday the 29th. The "Jubilee Singers" are to exhibit here, & I am to take the chair on the occasion: they are the same I believe that you once heard at Surry Chapel. I have returned the paper to Thomas, the dinner of the Surgeons. With love to Emma, & kind regards —

£ 17/3
London Road
Worcester
Evening - Octob^r 5. 1875.

My Dear Maria;

Yours rec^d this morning.
The Account seems all right.
I think I would not divide
the Rest & Residue, till there
would be at least £50 on deposit
after the division. The 12 Shares
to the credit of this account are
now worth £100 less than they
were last year. I am very glad
your cold is much better. I fear
you are not careful enough,
for you seem to be frequently
taking cold. Thank God, I am
able to get about as usual, and
get through much mental work.

Last week - Monday, a long morning on the Bench; Tuesday presiding at a meeting for the "Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts." Wednesday to Malvern to attend a meeting for laying the first stone of a new Congregational Chapel by Mr. T. Rowley Hill M.P. at 3. P.M. - This admitted of my walking up to St. Ann's Well, & the adjoining Terrace where I ate my Sandwiches and drank some Sherry. Heard a capital address, a portion of which you would see in the last Chronicle. Friday the Bench - Saturday, Presiding at a meeting to promote the formation of a Railway from Leominster to Bromyard.

Yesterday from 10 till 4 p.m.
presiding at the annual
Registration of Voters for Mu-
nicipal purposes. This morning
from 11 till 2, the Town Council.
To-morrow at the Guildhall,
to arrange for the Hospital
Sunday collection. Thursday,
if fine, I hope to go to Knightwick
for a few hours, the last time
this season. But, with all this,
my chest is at times very painful,
attended with much flatulence.
In another month I shall be
released from my duties as Mayor,
and I have great reason to be
thankful, & I trust I am, to the
Almighty for the health & strength
given me throughout my office.

The enclosed Lectures were
learned, eloquent & interesting.
Thomas heard part of them.
Equally so was another course by
Dr. Barry, "On early Church history."
I have been to the Cathedral
chiefly since he has been preaching
there. From the enclosed scrap
about Louis Smith, you will see
1.st that he must have got wonderfully
on in the world, to be enabled to
purchase & keep up a regular
racing stud, & 2.^{dly} that he has been
prudent enough to get rid of it.
The Play Bill was a Quix upon the
Dean & Canons, issued during their
Festival. I did not attend it.
With love to Emma, & kind regards
to Mrs Davey & Miss Day,
I am, Yours Affectionately
J. Longmore

London Road ^{L 17/4}

Worcester

Evening - Octob^r 20th 1875

My Dear Maria;

I think I would not make any division from Rest & Residue till X'mas. If you retain £50 on deposit, there would be but a small sum for each if divided. The Bal^t. due to me £3-12-4 is right. I wrote to Mrs Thompson the other day, as you will see by the enclosed; my Note was returned to me by the Post Office: she is dead. I hoped to have saved you the trouble of going there, but now I must

ask you to go there, & ask the
present occupier, either to
pay the rent, less $1\frac{1}{2}$ ^s Income tax,
or else to give you the address
of the present Landlord of
the House: if unoccupied, ask
at Mr Riddell's, next door,
he may know perhaps.

Your account of Benjamin and
Charles is on the whole satis-
factory. Mr Hobart is a very
wonderful man, but I have a
neighbor, Mrs Hartsorne, still
more so, 96, & goes to the Cathedral
every Sunday morning, often
walking. On Monday fortnight
I shall be 81, & have my faculties
bright & clear. I often ejaculate

the two first verses of the 103 Psalm.
On Monday I was on the Bench
till 4 p.m. Tuesday & yesterday
I never left the house; it-poured
with rain those 2 days; there
will be disastrous floods I fear.
To-morrow is our Quarter Sessions.
I must be at the Guildhall in
my Robes to meet the Recorder ^{before} 10.
Friday the Bench, Petty Sessions.
On the 9th of Nov. I am stripped
of my "brief authority," & become
again a private citizen, & shall
sing "O Jubilata Deo."

Thomas tells me, that he & Rosalie
dined with the Countess of Hard-
wicke last Friday, & met our
Dean; he commenced life in the
army, & was in the same Regiment
as Rosalie's father, & knew him of

course. As you are so "tied & bound
with the chain" of family affairs,
I believe I shall have Mr. Wiseman
to spend the winter with me:
I shall have an intelligent,
and I hope a cheerful companion,
and she will be saving her board
and lodging, now an object to her.

Miss Marshall's new Novel is
published, under more favorable
auspices than the last, & I hope
will prove profitable to her.

I saw there was a great meeting
of Congregationalists at Turry
Chapel; you did not mention it.

My love to Emma, & kind regards
to the ladies. Was sorry to learn of
the illness of Mrs. Davey.

Yours Affectionately, J. Longmore

2. 17/5
London Road
Worcester
Nov. 9th 1875

My Dear Maria

Many thanks for your
kind & good wishes, & for the
nice book, with the handsome
book marker; the lines on
which are excellent. The
reading the book will be
an interesting occupation
to Mrs Wiseman & myself
for some of the evenings
of winter. I expect Mrs W.
to-morrow by the 6 p.m. train.
On Saturday a Deputation
waited upon me, consisting

of Mr. J. R. Hill, M.P. & two
other gentlemen, on behalf
of a large number of the
Town Council, to request I
would continue my services
as Mayor for another year.
Of course I declined decidedly,
at the same time thanking
them for the high compliment
they paid me, which was very
gratifying to me as it gave
evidence that my conduct
in the past year had given
satisfaction. Mr. Alderman ^{Woodward}
will be chosen Mayor to day;
he has been Mayor once,
and has consented to serve.

I believe I have sold the
Peckham houses; ~~there~~ remains
only the question to be decided
of who shall receive the X'mas
rents. I shall thus get rid of
Burlton, & all the vexations
and trouble that I have so
long had with them. I have
received the Ground-rent for
the Cottage at Peckham you
called at. You unfortunately
have the same annoyance with
Taylor. It would give you some
additional trouble, but still I
would give him to understand
that in future, when money was

required to be laid out, I
should choose to see the place
with him before it was begun.
I think this might be some
check upon him. I shall now
regain my own name again.
For the last 12 months I have
been Mr. Mayor. It has cost me
about £325. Mr. Noake has
been elected a Town Councillor.
A very fit man I think.

I send a paper with this; it
contains 2 letters of mine; one
a short one signed J.L. which
would not be pleasing to Miss
Marshall. Love to Emma, & kind
regards to the ladies.

Yours Affectionately, J. Longmore

L. 17/6
London Road
Worcester
Nov^r. 30th - 1875.

My Dear Maria;

I don't know how you bear this wintry weather, but it nips me up terribly, still thank God, my health continues fairly good. I am very thankful that the Mayoralty is at an end, for now I can take things of a public nature easy. For the first time this morning I had a fire to get up by, for I found the getting out of bed & dressing, a painful operation. Our new Mayor's first act has been strongly

animadverted upon. He had such a bitter feeling against the Dean & Chapter that he would not ask the Corporation to accompany him there in state, as had been usual, but instead asked them to go with him to his parish church. ~~instead~~. A deputation of the Council waited upon him to beg he would alter his resolution, but he declined, and not one Alderman accompanied him. I went with him, but told him that it was only out of respect to him & his Office, & because it was my parish church, as well as his that I went, as I thought it was

just the opportunity that should have been embraced to end the feud between the ecclesiastical authorities & the citizens.

Mrs. Wiseman has been here about a fortnight: in her first week we went to Malvern, & got up to St. Ann's Well; it was a fine clear day for November, & not too cold. I am sorry to find she has imbibed the thoughtless, extravagant ways of her late husband, & I fear it will be some time before she brings down her ideas to her pecuniary position. She has a very loud constitutional cough, which is a great nuisance to her

and to me. She desires her kind
regards to you. On Wednesday
last we had Mr & Mrs Stratford,
Mr & Mrs Leonard, & Mr & Mrs Noake
to spend the evening with us.
We are reading one of Walter
Scott's novels in the evenings.
With this I send yesterday's "Telegraph".
The account of the doings of the
Prince of Wales will amuse you.
I should think Fanny, (who feels
the cold so much) is greatly pinched
up by this weather: it looks now
as if we were going to have a great
fall of snow. Love to Emma, & kind
regards to the ladies, from
Yours Affectionately
J. Longmore