

Copy Letter from Leonard Horner to his Mother

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Late 19th Century

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considered quite a model of what a Hospital
should be. We returned to the Priory to
dinner & found Mrs Darwin arrived. It was
a very pleasant evening with the ladies,
& next morning I mounted my horse at 4
o'clock to return home, which I reached at 4 o'clock
after a rather weary ride of 16 miles, the tedium
of which was only alleviated by the prospect of
returning to my two darlings, & our kind
friends at Ladywood.

* (note by Lady Pennington)

His wife & child, my father was 26 my
mother nearly 24. Their little girl 2 years
old. She was afterwards Lady Lyell.



From Leonard Horner to his Mother^{etc}
Ladywood w Pennington
Nov^r 2nd 1810

"Since you heard from us I have had an
extremely pleasant trip into Derbyshire for
a few days, from which I returned yesterday.
Miss Harriet Darwin our amiable hostess very
agreeable sister who you know has been on a visit
here for some time, set out on her return home
last Monday. She had her own horse & was to be
attended as far as Lichfield by Mr Gallon's servant,
but as she & I had become very intimate & pleasing
to each other, I could not resist the temptation of
offering my services in the place of the servant.
These were kindly accepted & accompanied by a
request to accompany her home to the Priory near
Derby, to which I agreed. Accordingly we set out
together on horseback last Monday morning,
and after a pleasant ride arrived at Lichfield at
her Brother's house, who has lately settled there as a
Physician. Here we met Mrs Darwin who had come



to visit her son in his new house and to leave her dear home. We remained at Rickfield the remainder of the day, & it was settled that Miss Darwin & I should proceed next morning to the Priory, & that Mrs Darwin was to go the following day in her carriage alone, as she had come, she being in many respects like my dear Mother in thinking much about her son's comfort; had a great many things to examine about his house as it was her first visit. She arrived with her carriage loaded with fowls & Pigeon pies &c. just as you have so often kindly done in Bernand St. Miss Darwin & I therefore set out next morning, paid a visit to her sister who lives about 5 miles from Rickfield a Mrs Gishorne (her husband is brother to the man who has written a very Methodistical book on the duties of women) & got to Mount or Brent for some time for its sake. From thence I carried my fair & very agreeable companion to see the Starving woman at Tuthrey, & the ruins of Tuthrey Castle where Mary Q. of Scots was confined.

We next pursued our journey to Derby & stayed an hour there, & reached the Priory

about 4 o'clock in the evening. It is an extremely pretty place in a wooded valley about 6 miles to the N. E. of Derby: About 3 miles from any great road.

I met with a most hospitable reception from Miss Emma Darwin, an elegant & lovely creature. Her hospitality was very welcome for it was a very cold evening & we had rode 34 miles & tasted nothing since breakfast. After walking about the Priory grounds next morning the 2 young ladies & I set out on horseback to Derby, where they were anxious to show me as many signs as my time would permit. The most pleasing sight I had was the new Infirmary, opened last June. A very large subscription of £25,000 was collected in the County & they have erected a most elegant building, & in its interior there is all that can contribute to the comfort of the Patients. By the assistance of a Mr Strutt, a very able & worthy Philosopher, who lives in Derby, the principles of Science have been so ingeniously applied in fitting up the different parts of the building, that a system of Economy has been introduced which could not, in any other way, have been carried into effect. It is



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A Letter of Mr. Leonard Horner
about his visit to
Ladyswood & the Priory.
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