

November 1810 William Napier to his daughter Mary in Bocking

London, Nov. 13, 1810

My dear daughter Mary

Being much restored from my Indisposition, am able this morning to say I received your favour, soliciting mine. I beg your acceptance of the enclosed £5 note, which we will call the Christmas Quarterage. Oh Mary, Mary! When will you learn to save money? Perhaps you'll say, "I have learned it, but cannot now from my small income." Well my dear, it is well to have a father to go to in our wants, and find as our necessities are, so are our wants supplied.

My best wishes to your brother and sister Reeve. I have not been out for a week back, and been under the hands of two Physicians.

Your affectionate Father

Wm. Napier

This affectionate little note was addressed to Mary Napier in Bocking, Essex, where she was staying with her newly married sister Sarah Reeve. She clearly knew her father was a bit of a soft touch! His gift of £5 as a 'quarterage' presumably meant he gave her an allowance of £20 a year.

William Napier was then about 53 years old and Mary was 19. Her sisters and brother were all older than her. Much later, her son William described her as "the youngest, and favourite, Miss Napier" and certainly she seems to have had a particularly close relationship with her father.

Transcribed by Helen Wolvey, 4 x great granddaughter of William Napier, in 2017.