

## September 1812 William Napier to his daughter Mary

Halstead, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 1812

My dear Mary

Sarah and Grandfather mean to go to London on Monday, Mr Reeve on Tuesday or Wednesday, and bring you down with them to go to Ipswich on the week following. It gives me much pleasure to find that your good company is so much desired by all your friends here, as well as in Town; with your present Employer (Uncle Harvey) it stands high indeed. Young William is a fine funny fellow, far exceeds my expectations, and I am sure he will divert you much – seems full of life & good tempered. Mrs Harvey I believe intends going on Wednesday. She as well as her Husband, is lavish in praise, which to me is very gratifying, especially as I am not insensible of your merits; may they increase, and you be kept from every temptation and snare. Miss Dixon received a letter this morning. The weather is remarkably fine and in Mrs Herd's garden peaches, nectarines and plums of all sorts are as common as Tops and Bottoms are at Charlotte Street.

Your affectionate father

Wm. Napier

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London Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> 1812

My dear Mary

Hearing there is a box going to you, I cannot let it pass without a line. I hear of your jaunting in the Country, which is a good set off for your confinements and I suppose you like the fruit of Mrs Herd's garden as well as the Tops and Bottoms at Charlotte Street. As you are going to Ipswich, will you endeavour to see my friend Mr Cowell, Corn Merchant and Maltster, & give him these letters etc.

Your affectionate father

Wm. Napier

*William Napier appears to have taken a holiday in Essex and Suffolk, to visit friends and family, but is about to return to his home in London. His daughter Mary seems to have been left behind in London to look after her young cousins, the children of her Uncle and Aunt Harvey of Charlotte Street, who had accompanied her father. Now aged 20, Mary was in great demand to help look after young*

*relatives because she had a way with children, and also as a nurse when her sisters were sick or pregnant. William was her sister Sarah's little son, now aged 18 months.*

*Mrs Heard of Halstead was an old friend of William Napier's. Her garden produced all sorts of exotic fruits, unlike the veg patch at Charlotte Street which produced only everyday 'tops and bottoms' of vegetables.*

*Now Mary was to have a holiday herself and go to Ipswich with her sister Sarah and her husband Joseph Reeve. This was to prove an important occasion, because also invited on the 'jaunt' was Joseph's young friend William Lincolne, who would be her future husband.*

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