



Glastonbury 135 – Letter to: The Viscountess Bridport, Cricket St. Thomas, Chard

Wootton, October 19<sup>th</sup> 1829

My dear Madam,

The last sentence in your Ladyship's very acceptable letter confirms our hopes that you would speedily recover from your cold, as you there speak of taking advantage of the fineness of the Morn<sup>s</sup> to walk out – From your not having received my last epistle before your Ladyship's went to the post I conclude that Mr. Dickinson was full for the day – The Bath Hospital having been all the summer under repair, a large number of sick are consequently waiting for admissions, it must therefore be a very considerable time I imagine before a new patient could be admitted but if your Ladyship will have the goodness to forward to me the name, age & malady of the person & her parish which perhaps Mr. Wills had better do, because the description of the case is required from a surgeon, I will endeavour to get her name set down for admission in due

course. My former letter I believe informed you of our intention to leave Wootton for Bath on Monday & on the following day I have mentioned to **Sir Edward Scott** my intention of visiting him for the purpose of meeting a Mr. Weddall there to settle if possible Mrs. J. Mackenzie's Mortgage. I shall also fall in with **Sir James Wyatville** [*english architect and garden designer 1766 – 1840, originally called James Wyatt – remodelled Chatsworth House and Windsor Castle*] who is to be at Barr that day to plan a new house for my brother-in-law. [*this must be the **Sir Edward Dolman Scott Bt** who married Catherine Juliana Bateman in 1815, Alexander Hood's wife's sister*]

Captain Henderson says the old man's friend has done wonders in relieving his rheumatism but he had not tried the ring and quicksilver – a small vial bottle with the latter ingredient is to be worn on the left side and a steel ring on the opposite hand, to effect a cure of that painful complaint a – double application is not mentioned – I imagine the bottle of quicksilver must be worn in the gentleman's waistcoat jacket, and in a Lady's stays as the long pocket wont avail – I hear this morning that Green's mother has just been told by her surgeon that she has that dreadful disease the bloody fungus [*Medullary sarcoma; soft cancer*] appearing in different parts of her body, it is the same complaint of which the **Archdeacon** [*George*] **Trevellyan** [*of Taunton*] died [*in 1827*], & is always fatal, this I hope will not prevent the sons going to your Ladyship on Monday.

Lady Hood [*Amelia Ann, nee Bateman, 1790 – 1883*] is much gratified by your kind mention of her & her children and hopes you will not think of replying to her letter, with our united affectionate regards to you, I remain my dear madame,

Your grateful & affectionate friend & servant

Alexander Hood  
[1793 – 1851]

Letter addressed to Viscountess Bridport. She was Mary Sophia Bray [1746 – 18 Feb 1831 d.o. Thomas and Elizabeth (nee Sadleir) Bray and became Lord Alexander Hood's second wife on 26 Jun 1788. She died at Cricket St. Thomas. Her title was Viscountess Bridport [from its creation on 16 Jun 1800] - whereas her husband's successor, his great-nephew Samuel Hood [1788 – 1868] below, only inherited the baronetcy, not the viscountcy and *his* wife was entitled Lady Hood only. The viscountcy was revived in 1868 for Samuel's son.

The letter writer, Sir Alexander was the son of Sir Alexander Hood (1758 - 1798), son of Admiral Samuel Hood [1715 – 1805] of Dorset and grandson of Alexander Hood [1675 - 1756]

This last Alexander Hood's brother was Samuel Hood [1689 – 1777] vicar of Butleigh amongst whose sons were Alexander [1726 – 1814] Admiral Lord Bridport and Samuel [1724 – 1816] Admiral Lord Hood. The son of the latter was Henry Lord Hood [1753 – 1836] whose second son Samuel [1788 - 1868] inherited the baronetcy from Alexander, his grandfather's brother, to become the 2nd Lord Bridport of Cricket St. Thomas and who built the mansion there in 1820. He married Charlotte Mary Nelson, Duchess of Bronté on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul 1810 – she was the d.o. Rev. William Nelson, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Nelson of Trafalgar and Merton, elder brother of Horatio Nelson.