

**Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
National Library of Ireland**

Collection List No. 91

CONOLLY – NAPIER PAPERS

(MSS 34,922, 40,242)

(Accession No. 5348)

Correspondence of Lady Louisa Conolly, Lady Sarah Napier and Emily Bunbury (née
Napier, 1783-1832)

Compiled by Peter Kenny, Assistant Keeper, 2004

Introduction

The papers were purchased by the National Library of Ireland in 1998 (Accession 5348) at an auction conducted by Mealy's of Castlecomer on 1-2 December 1998 (lot no. 470). They formed part of the collection of B.Y. McPeake, who purchased them from the Bunbury family.

The collection mostly consists of family correspondence of the children of the 2nd Duke of Richmond and, in particular of his daughters Lady Louisa Conolly, Lady Sarah Napier and his grand-daughter, Emily Napier (later Bunbury). Brief biographical notices for the principal correspondents are given in the body of the Collection List.

Historically, the most interesting documents relate to the family's attitudes to the participation of Lord Edward Fitzgerald in the 1798 Rebellion. He was son of Emily, Duchess of Leinster, and grandson of the 2nd Duke of Richmond. As well as contemporary references to Lord Edward in the correspondence, the account of Lady Louisa's visit to him as he was dying in prison MS 34,922 (19), written in 1832 by Emily Bunbury, is of particular note.

- MS 40,242 (1)** Lady Sarah Napier [(1745-1826), daughter of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond, and previously married (1762-1776) to Sir Thomas Charles Bunbury; married George Napier (1751-1804) in 1781; died 1826] to her brother-in-law Thomas Conolly [(1738-1803), of Castletown House, county Kildare, son of Thomas Conolly, M.P. for Ballyshannon; married Lady Louisa Lennox in 1758]. 1783 [Feb.] Saturday 23 [i.e. 22]. *2 sheets*.
The current debate in the Commons; resignations of Duke of Grafton and Lord Camden; includes references to her brother, the Duke of Richmond; attacks on Lord Howe; conversation of Mr Conway with the King re Lord Hertford's resignation as Lord Chamberlain.
- MS 40,242 (2)** Thomas Conolly to his wife's brother-in-law George Napier. Castletown: 1784 Jan. 16. *1 sheet*.
'... and if some permanent administration is not soon fixed in Britain, anarchy will immediately ensue here, and the mob, and the Bishop of Derry command. ... The only comfort we have is that English government seems to be as well inclined to support despotism, as our mob is to endure [?] anarchy. ...'
- MS 40,242 (3)** Thomas Conolly to his sister-in-law Lady Sarah Napier. Dublin: 1784 Oct. 16. *1 sheet*.
His high regard for her husband, George Napier. '... You will be glad to hear that the paroxysm of the popular frenzy in this country [Ireland] is at an end ... we shall quit politicks and the firelock and return to industry and the plough. ...'
- MS 40,242 (4)** Lady Louisa Conolly [(1743-1821), daughter of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond; in 1758 she married Thomas Conolly] to her sister Lady Sarah Napier. London: 1790 May 2. *1 sheet*.
Family news; the Duke of Richmond's political regrets; meeting with Charles Fox and discussion about the Prince of Wales, Ireland and gardening; 'I took care to distinguish to Charles the real friends in Ireland, and those that are not so. The Prince I find is so vastly interested about Ireland that the fear of omitting any civility to an Irishman makes him often countenance those that don't deserve it from him, from not knowing who they are. ... I believe you were overjoy'd as I was at the accounts of dear Edward, being safe at New Orleans ...'
- MS 40,242 (5)** Lady Louisa Conolly to Lady Sarah Napier. London: 1790 May 15. *1 sheet*.
Family news; success of Lady Napier's daughter Emmy at a childrens's ball at Spencer House.
- MS 40,242 (6)** Lady Louisa Conolly to Lady Sarah Napier. London: 1790 May 25. *1 sheet*.
Family news and meetings. Joy at Lord Edward Fitzgerald's return: 'He is grown such a Philosopher ... the scenes he has been in, have really made him one ... I am pleased to find that he has a good opinion of human nature in its primitive state, their faults he accounts for naturally, and do not arise from bad principles, and very light in the scale against their good qualities ... The poor fellow I fear must go off again soon for the certainty of the War I believe is now without doubt ...' Prospect of his promotion. Implications of current Irish politics for Thomas Conolly. Her state of health. House repairs.
- MS 40,242 (7)** Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. Castletown: 1795 June

15. 2 *sheets*.

'...I fear that the poor Prince of Wales deserves the censures he meets with, ... but everything seems to conspire to the ruin of these poor Kingdoms. ...'. Mrs FitzHerbert's character. Family finance and prospect of increase in Irish land values. News of friends. Difficulties involved in meeting Lord and Lady Camden at Castletown: '... Mr Pitt's conduct respecting this Kingdom is the only bar to our acquaintance with them in their present situation' '... Your Recruits have got their jackets and caps, and parade very constantly before the hall door three times a day, with Serjeant White ...'.

MS 40,242 (8)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. Castletown: 1795 June

16. 2 *sheets*.

'... Mr Jephson ... brought word that the French expedition had failed by the discovery of the conspiracy; that the wretched emigrants who had gone to France were all seized and put into prison, poor creatures one pities them, and yet, what can the Convention do if they mean to go on with the Republican Government ...' Family finance: 'out of the income you would have, after paying off £130,000 debt probably would allow you to do with ease to yourself. I am certain that £8000 a year to spend, is as much as you can ever wish for at Castletown....' Arrangements for sale of lands. Difficulties caused by proposed road. '... Your account of my brother's observations upon the Irish I fear is too true, with respect to the Irish Parliament and I grant he is right, but I hope it is not so, out of the Houses of Parliament for if the whole country was like the Parliament it would be truly despicable ... As to an Union with England, such as the present Cabinet would make with us, I hope never to see. We have had too much experience of Mr Pitt's duplicity ever to trust him. And yet I fear the thing is intended. I am certain that the Idea of such a thing is in this country now, ...'

MS 40,242 (9)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. Dublin: 1795 June 27. 1 *sheet*.

Serious problems re family finance owing to arrangements made by Conolly's mother, Anne, with regard to his sisters, the Countess of Rosse, the Viscountess Howe, the Countess of Buckingham and Anne Byng.

MS 40,242 (10)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. 1795 July 10-11. 1 *sheet*. Family finance, continued.

MS 40,242 (11)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. Castletown: Sunday night [dated in pencil: 1795 July 20; recte 19]. 1 *sheet*.

'... But the Defenders to the amount of about 150 came to Mr Napier's last night about 2 o'clock knocking at the door, and desiring to be let in. [?] Moore ran up stairs to alarm Mrs Frost, and to see that the children were safe. He looked out of the window, upon which they fired at him, did not heed him but swore at him if he did not open the door and give them the arms that they would punish him. He said there was no use in opening the door as Mr Napier had taken the arms with him. They then broke open the Lodge, and took the gun the man had. The women came through the garden to the Town, where they got no assistance, though they say the people were all up. They came here and six of our servants went off with guns, but the daylight appearing, they had dispersed. The Duke of Leinster came this morning and says he shall send for troops. In the meantime I have got all the arms ready and loaded, and am putting the House into a state of defence. But in order to hurt no innocent person Crash[aw?] and I went to every house in the Big Lane and in the Town of Celbridge and told them that I should defend myself and had no fears on my own account, but great many on theirs, as I feared their being taken out of their beds and sworn and carried off with these people, who would only sacrifice them; and I asked them if they knew of any one poor person that had been benefitted by the riots? They all said no, and I must say appeared to agree to what I said, and every one of them promised me to turn out against them

upon being called upon. I have all their names down and of course shall be more likely to find out our s[tr]ength, if any thing happens. The housekeepers seemed vastly pleased at this sort of association that I have set on foot and I think it can't do any harm and may do good. I am certain that not being afraid is the best security and having this morning most earnestly said my prayers to be directed for the best, I feel quite stout, and rather wonder at myself for it, as in general I am not very courageous, but doing right always calms one. If I could save any of our poor labourers or neighbours from getting into the scrape, how happy I should be. ...'

MS 40,242 (12) Lady Louisa Conolly to Lady Sarah Napier. [Castletown]: 1795 July 20. *1 sheet*.

Another account of the attack by the Defenders.

MS 34,922 (22) From Frances, Lady Camden [(d. 1829) wife to the then Lord Lieutenant, John Jeffreys, 2nd Earl Camden], to [Lady Louisa Conolly]. Phoenix Park: [1795 Watermark: 1794] June 6. *1 sheet*. Hopes that political differences will not prevent them meeting.

MS 34,922 (23) From Lady Louisa Conolly to [Frances, Lady Camden]. Castletown: 1795 June 7. *1 sheet*.

Thanks her for her letter and looks forward to meeting her 'at some of our friends houses. ... the steady duty I consider myself bound to with respect to Mr Conolly's politics does not in the least diminish the personal respect and regard I entertain for His Excellency and Your Ladyship ...'

MS 34,922 (24) From Lady Louisa Conolly to Frances, Countess of Londonderry. Castletown: [1795 June?] "Sunday evening".

Her distress that she is unable to meet Lord and Lady Camden at the Bishop of Waterford's residence because she finds herself unable to receive them at Castletown.

MS 40,242 (13) Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. London: 1796 [recte 1797] Jan. 7. *1 sheet*.

'... I begin to be impatient to leave London in order to get back to Ireland, for although I hope that Lord Bridport will be fortunate enough to catch the French fleet, I cannot feel easy at what I heard yesterday. At Lloyd's Coffee House it is known that no less than 4 invasions were planned. The two first were to be made on Ireland, at Galway and Belfast. The other two were in readiness and were to be so near at hand that upon the first moment of success in Ireland, the other two were to be on England, at Hull and somewhere in the South of England, but I do not know exactly where. We have thank God happily escaped the Irish attempt, but until we have some account of this French fleet it is impossible to be easy. ... how happily for Ireland has it ended in the best possible manner, viz: the good will of the people, of which I am not a little proud, having always thought that when it came to be, between French and Irish, to fight against Irish, the country would not divide itself. I even think that Belfast would turn out fewer traitors than is envisaged. ...' Her immediate plans. Unhappiness of her mother-in-law. Visit from Charles Fox: 'very desponding about politics – delighted about the escape that Ireland has had'.

MS 40,242 (14) Thomas Conolly to the Duke of Leinster [William Robert, 2nd Duke of Leinster (1749-1804)]. Castletown: Sunday 1797 May 8. *1 sheet*.

Refers to copies of a printed paper, probably a petition, which he refuses to sign as it will 'only add fuel to the fire, by making the poor people (going nightly about in a cruel manner, frightening and plundering the peaceable inhabitants)

suppose they have supporters or abettors in the higher orders of the community. His Majesty not having complied with the petitions of his English subjects legally convened by their Sheriffs, though not in open or smothered rebellion, will scarce listen to his Irish ones in the contrary predicament. I wished for the landed interest of this and other counties in Ireland to be called, to take their own peculiar situation into consideration, but not in Ireland to pray for the dismissal of English ministers who do not belong to this country and by naming them make the cause of the landed interest sorely aggrieved appear a Party Cause which with instances like these, weaken a better one. ...'

- MS 34,922 (2)** Lady Louisa Conolly to Lord Clare [John Fitzgibbon, Earl of Clare (1749-1802), Lord Chancellor of Ireland]. Castletown: 1798 Mar. 2. *1 sheet*.
Enquires about allegations made by Lord Clare in the debate on Lord Moira's motion in the Irish House of Lords concerning the loyalty of Lady Conolly's servants during recent disturbances.
- MS 34,922 (1)** Lord Clare to Lady Louisa Conolly. Dublin: 1798 Mar. 3. *1 sheet*.
Inaccuracies in the published accounts of his contribution to the debate.
- MS 34,922 (3)** The Dowager Duchess of Leinster [Emily, (1731-1814), daughter of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond, wife (1747-1773) of James, 1st Duke of Leinster, and wife (1774-1814) of William Ogilvie] to her sister Lady Louisa Conolly; also, internally addressed to her sister Lady Sarah Napier. [1798] Mar. 22. *1 sheet*.
'... Thank God I have nothing to fear for my beloved Eddy [Lord Edward Fitzgerald]. I am not the least nervous'. Recovery from a fever by Lady Sarah's husband. Is glad that Lord Edward's wife is near them: 'I dread her health being sadly affected by his absence and uncomfortable situation. ... I enclose a letter to her as those directed to her might perhaps be stopt at the Port and not delivered to her! ...'
- MS 34,922 (4)** Account of the Rebellion in counties Kildare and Meath written by Lady Louisa Conolly. *1 sheet*. [1798 May].
Covers the period from 24-26 May. Endorsed: 'Attempt to keep a journal of the Rebellion too full of misery to continue it'. Events at Naas, Prosperous, Kilcullen Bridge and Clane, Dunboyne, Tara. 'On Saturday morning the 26th about 3 o'clock a party of 200 broke through Mr Conolly's gate at Celbridge, marched across the lawn and joined three other parties coming different roads to the town of Leixlip, which they attacked, lost 21 killed and were dispersed by a part of the Inverness Fencibles, a small part of the Derry Militia and the Leixlip Yeomen.'
- MS 34,922 (6)** From Thomas Conolly to Lady Louisa Conolly. 'Half past two o'clock, Saturday May 26' [1798]. *1 sheet*.
'All well here, and our Grand Army returned having killed about fifty unfortunate people scarcely armed or deserving the name of soldiers. General Needham came and took the command in the Barracks about nine o'clock with two fresh regiments. I think it useless to harass the soldiers so much, and I hope a few days reflection will bring the poor deluded men to their senses and a proclamation of pardon set all again to rights. I will endeavour to obtain it. ...'
- MS 34,922 (7a)** From Thomas Conolly to Lady Louisa Conolly. Sallins: at six o'clock Monday morning. *Fragment of single sheet*.
Surrender of Kildare insurgents to General Dundas: 'I send the boy to tell you the joyful news of peace with the rebels.'

MS 34,922 (8)

From the Duke of Richmond [Charles Lennox, 3rd Duke of Richmond (1735-1806)] to his sister Lady Louisa Conolly. Whitehall: 1798 June 7. *1 sheet.*

'The contents of your melancholy letter to Mr Ogilvie [announcing the death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald] has as you imagine touched us all who are here to the greatest degree. A more precious good hearted soul I believe never existed than poor Edward possessed. His faults were errors of imagination but I am sure no man acted more from principle (mistaken as it was) than he did. I am glad that you and Henry saw him before he died. ... His poor mother set off last night ... for Ireland in hopes that her presence might do some good in retarding his trial till the heat and prejudice of the moment were a little subsided.' Changes in travel arrangements whereby the Duchess of Leinster's journey be terminated. Her fortitude. '... The King appeared also very feeling to me yesterday when I had an audience to state to him the grounds on which I had with Mr Pitt's permission written to Lord Camden to beg a delay in the trial'. Arrangements for Lord Edwards widow and her great distress. Reaction of other members of the family.

MS 34,922 (5)

From Lady Louisa Conolly to Lord Camden, the Lord Lieutenant. Castletown: 1798 June 8. *1 sheet.*

On arrangements for the funeral of Lord Edward Fitzgerald. '... I cannot forbear from assuring Your Excellency that so earnest was my wish to preclude any possibility of a riot, on that melancholy occasion that I claim not the smallest merit in having ordered such a private funeral for my beloved nephew, as accorded very ill with my feelings towards him. But thinking no sacrifice too great for the attainment of that important end, I had desired that three persons only should attend – two of the Duke of Leinster's oldest servants and Mr Leeson the Agent. By the neglect before alluded to Mr Leeson was deprived of his attendance at the ceremony in the Church. However, a complaint against Mr Cook upon that score, which only regards my feelings, I consider as entirely beneath my notice, but I think it right that Your Excellency should know, that after my kind friend the Chancellor (with whom I conversed) had approved of my plan, and Lord Castlereagh too, when I sent to apprise of it, the effect was the same as if no orders had been given. ...'

MS 34,922 (7)

From Thomas Conolly to Lady Louisa Conolly. Sallins: at six o'clock Monday morning [1798 June 11]. *Fragment of single sheet.* Surrender of insurgents to General Dundas.

From Lady Louisa Conolly to Lady Sarah Napier. [Castletown]: ½ past seven. *Fragment of single sheet.*

Enclosing the previous item. 'Pray preserve me the enclosed valuable bit of paper, which I shall put by, as one of the most welcome letters I ever received from my beloved husband. I am in such joy, I hardly know what I write....'

MS 34,922 (9)

From Lady Louisa Conolly to the Duke of Richmond. 1798 June 18. *[18] pp.*

'... you are the support of accumulated distress'. The family's grief. Adverse effect of the Rebellion on the income of the Duke of Leinster and the murder of his agent. On Lord Edward Fitzgerald: 'The total carelessness of his own life and his firm adherence to those whom he considered as under his protection, made him sacrifice himself in the manner he did. ... no entreaties of the tenderest kind would have kept him out of this scrape. That he originally flattered himself with the vain hope that a redress of grievances might be effected without bloodshed, I am convinced of how far he may have seen the impossibility of such a measure lately ...' Her regrets that Lord Edward's qualities were not matched by those he supported: 'Therefore do not consider myself as uncharitably separating him from the mass of them, and the less so, when I recollect ['consider' scored out]

that it was by them that he was betrayed. ...' Is grateful that the trial was prevented by Lord Edward's death. 'The prejudice against her [Pamela, Lord Edward's widow], on account of her family connexions was very natural and strong as I confess to have felt myself to so shameful a degree as to take myself to task about it, when first she married. ... The fact was so, in Ireland, that the most illiberal prejudices prevailed against her.' Lord Edward's plans to seek French support added to this. Lady Louisa insists that Lady Pamela opposed such plans. 'Your countenancing her will be of the greatest service, and I shall be very much mistaken if she should prove unworthy of it.'

'I am necessarily engaged with the business of this sad Rebellion – Wexford is the worst, the county of Kildare next, in which we live, and we are surrounded by different posts of the insurgents. The Grand Camp is about 9 miles from us at a place called Timahoo upon the borders of the Bog of Allen. At Prosperous a place about the same distance there is another settlement of them. Kilcock, six miles from here, was taken possession of last night, so that we may be annoyed from any one of these places. Poor Casletown is turned into a garrison: we have 18 soldiers sleeping in our drawing rooms, and the house put into such a state of defence at night, with the help of the servants, as they tell me would stand a good siege, and a sentinel constantly on the roof of the house to watch the approach of the enemy.' She and her husband intend to defend themselves, whatever the cost. Recounts her attitude to the Rebellion and the actions she has taken locally to reduce adherence to it. 'We are plunged into a most dreadful Civil War, and it is the business of every body to endeavour to extricate the country from it, as soon as possible. We mean, my dearest Brother, to do our best, for which reason we stay here.' Her concern when a body of 200 insurgents passed across the lawn in front of the house: 'In passing through our gates they took the keys with them and locked us in, leaving word that they would not hurt me nor anybody in the house.' Her husband at the time was at Sallins marching with his regiment to Kilcullen Bridge. He had expected that a peace would be agreed with General Dundas. Some arms were surrendered at the Curragh, but it is thought that the leaders had moved to Wexford. The intervention of General Duff caused many of those who had surrendered to believe themselves betrayed and so the attempted peace failed. News from the North is good and little difficulty is expected in the South. 'To us – I am obliged to say us now, for although Mr Conolly has ever opposed the faults of Government, he will stand by any existing government rather than none'. Arrival of Lord Cornwallis is expected.

'This business is too deep for such a political head as mine to judge of, but I still think that it does not proceed from a religious cause; such numbers of the greatest and best Catholics are so unhappy about it behave so well and take such pains to discountenance any thing of the kind. At Wexford there has so far back as 36 years to my knowledge existed a violent Protestant and Catholic party – consequently those engines were set to work for the purpose of rebellion. In other places, that of electioneering parties; and so every means has been seized that could answer their design. The free quarters, whipping of people and the burning of houses have just been stopped, which rejoices me, for although in some places ... the object did answer for discovering the pikes and arms, yet upon the whole it was a dangerous measure, in regard to the licentiousness that it produced amongst the soldiers, the fury and madness that it drove the insurgents to, and the luke warmth that it threw upon the well disposed persons, who found themselves equally aggrieved by the free quarters as the rebels were'. News of the present morning's skirmish at Kilcock – 'It is dreadful to be brought to that point, that the destruction of so many people must be considered as gain.' Wonders whether things might be better if matters were left to God rather than to the 'presumption of Man'. In a P.S Lady Conolly praises the Duke's letter to Lord Camden.

MS 34,922 (10)

From Lord Cornwallis [Charles, 1st Marquess and 2nd Earl Cornwallis (1738-1805); Lord Lieutenant] to Thomas Conolly. Dublin Castle: 1798 July 4. *1 sheet*.

Assures Conolly that he hopes that non-military measures will induce insurgents

to surrender and alludes to his willingness to ensure that the proclamations issued by the generals are regarded as valid. Refers to Lord Castlereagh's assurances to Conolly. Endorsed: 'About a mistake in a proclamation. Copy of Lord Cornwallis's answer to Mr Conolly, who wrote to him word of the doubts that were entertained of the vaildity of the proclamation for want of the Lord lieutenant's name and signatures of the Privy Councillors to it.'

MS 34,922 (11)

From the Duke of Richmond to Lady Louisa Conolly. Goodwood: 1798 July 26. [10] pp.

Need to rely on Divine providence in times of difficulty. 'I have no doubt but that your conduct and character as well as that of Conolly have in this wrek of wretchedness done much good and saved much bloodshed.' Lord Edward Fitzgerald's weakness of character 'which at the same time that it is amiable in its manners and affections is liable to draw into great errors and equally does mischief with what proceeds from bad principles. He had no steadiness to resist where he chould be perduaded that friendship intervned and those consequences which prudence should have persuaded him to dread became the greater incentives if any personal danger to himself was attached to them. It was these sentiments that led him to join [?] oppositon after he had allowed me to tell the King and Mr Pitt that he had determined not to be any more concerned in it and that he would not take his seat in the House wherein he had been chosen contrary to his express request and while he was in America and that he meant for the future to stick wholly to his profession. But the idea of abandoning his friends and party got the better of the other alternative of breaking his word, ... at bottom we knew his intentions, however misled they might have been, to be good. I will not say that in one sense I regret his loss because I am convinced that had he lived, he had got so entangled with the people he was connected with and his head was so turned by them that he would have soon elapsed into similar errors and sooner or later have brought misery and disgage to his family, which indeed his death alone has I fear now prevented.' His mother has been spared the suffering of his trial and probable execution. Present states of mind of Duchess of Leinster and Lady Pamela who plans to reeturn to Hamburg. Health of family members and their activities. Advises that Lady Louisa and Thomas Conolly should stay at Castletown and suggests that they might visit England when things are quieter in Ireland.

Copy of that part of the former item expressing Duke's views on Divine providence. 3 sheets.

MS 34,922 (12)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Lord Cornwallis. Castletown: 1798 Aug. 12. 1 sheet.

Refers to letter from Duke of Leinster in which he states that he has been given permission by Lord Castlereagh, at Lord Cornwallis's command, 'to apply in favour of the widow and children of his late brother Lord Edward Fitzgerald against the Bill of Attainder'. Lady Conolly wishes to thank the Lord Lieutenant in person: 'I have not the courage to name Castletown, the house at present being little better than a garrison and an hospital ...'

MS 34,922 (13)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Thomas Conolly. Castletown: 1798 Aug. 15 and 16. 1 sheet.

Visit by Lord Cornwallis to Lady Louisa Conolly and Lady Sarah Napier. '... I find that Lord Castlereagh is a great favourite with him and General Hewett quite an old friend. I had a little talk with him about poor Edward in which I find that the necessity of example has been urged to him, so that I do not know how it will go. But I can never think that upon any occasion where it has pleased God to close the scene by death that Man is called upon to do more, and I must ever consider it as a refinement of severity to call over in judgment a man's actions who cannot defend himself. The business is put off till Friday. I wrote to Mr G.

Ponsonby yesterday and sent him my Brother's opinion, which is so mild and fair that if the council employed in the case approve of his mode of proceeding, I can hardly think that the justice of it won't strike everybody. ... How he [Lord Cornwallis] does hate being Lord Lieutenant! I do not wonder at him. He has made a bargain with us not to call him Excellency. What a good man he must be to undertake so horrid a situation for the sake of doing right.' Family finance. Anticipates visit to Dublin by the Duke of Leinster.

MS 34,922 (14)

Lord Charlemont [James Caulfeild, 1st Earl of Charlemont (1728-1799) to Lady Louisa Conolly. Dublin: 1798 Aug. 24. *1 sheet*. His difficulties in deciding with regard to the Bill of Attainder against Lord Edward Fitzgerald; with much regret he feels he must favourit. 'If it shall be thought proper to lay a petition before the Lords, I am still ready and willing to present it, as I must assuredly am to do every thing within the limits of my powers. We have been surprised by the intelligence that the French have landed at Killala. They are however only three frigates with seven hundred men, a few cannon, and some small arms.

MS 34,922 (15)

Lady Louisa Conolly to Lord Charlemont. Castletown: 1798 Aug. 28. *1 sheet*.

She appreciates the necessity that has compelled him to favour the Bill of Attainder, particularly in view of the disclosures in the Report of the Secret Committee. 'I must submit in humility and sorrow, although my unshaken opinion remains that those very accomplices who have secured themselves behind his departed shade, have more to answer for than himself, and prove (what I always dreaded would happen) that his name and character, being necessary to their banner, they would put him foremost, as the best covering for themselves.' She opposes the Attainder because his death 'exonerated the severest justice from any further steps against him'. She thanks Lord Charlemont for offering to present the petition to the House of Lords, but feels she cannot impose on his sincere friendship to such an extent.

MS 34,922 (16)

Lord Cornwallis to Thomas Conolly. Phoenix Park: 1798 Nov. 27. *1 sheet*.

Announcing the appointment of George Napier, Conolly's brother-in-law, to the post of Comptroller of Army Accounts in Ireland.

MS 34,922 (17)

The Dowager Duchess of Leinster to Lady Louisa Conolly. [1798] Sept. 9. *1 sheet*.

Hopes that Lady Louisa will visit England. Her great sorrow at the death of her son is alleviated by the care of her family.

MS 34,922 (18)

Lady Louisa Conolly to the Duke of Richmond. Castletown: 1798 Sept. 10. *1 sheet*.

Her intention of writing to advise him of the passing of the Bill of Attainder against the was hindered by concern about the French invasion, 'particularly these last 4 or 5 days, when wh have been in hourly expectation of hearing from Lord Cornwallis.' Surrender of the French at Johnstown, county Longford: 'The French after many forced marches and going through parts of the country almost impassable, in which they must have had the assistance of cars and horses from the inhabitants, they made one of 37 miles without halting, crossed the Shannon at Ballintra, and at Johnstown General Lake's advanced [sic] guard overtook their rear. The French formed and made a great resistance, and I understand fought two hours, and even after their General Humbert was taken continued the fight for sometime, although deserted by the rebels, which latter had been severely attacked by our forces, were completely routed and I believe got no quarter. It is said that the slaughter of the rebels is very considerable, but that is not yet

ascertained any more than our losses. The Armagh Regiment, Lord Roden's Cavalry and some frank[?] companies of the Militia Corps were the immediate forces that General Lake had to the attack, and they being all Irish, I trust will prove to the rebels that the country is much more strongly divided against them than they think, and which is most certainly the case in consequence of Lord Cornwallis's conciliatory measures ... for now, there can be but one voice against those who have joined the French – poor wretches! ... and when one thinks of them, it is a great allay to our spirits upon this happy event ...'

MS 34,922 (20) From Lady Pamela Fitzgerald [widow of Lord Edward Fitzgerald] to Lady Mary Fitzgerald. Hamburg: 1799 Jan. 20. Mostly in French. *1 sheet.*

Thanking her for her letter. Her great loss; her children deprived of their inheritance. The beauty of her daughter Pamela [the future Lady Campbell]. The valued friendship of Henriette Matthiesson. '... Je crois que j'ai été formée par la nature pour souffrir! ...'. Asks to be remembered to her aunts Lady Louisa and Lady Sara, and to Lady Moira whose care she will always remember and from whom she would like a letter.

MS 40,242 (16) From Lady Louisa Conolly to Lady Sarah Napier. "Wednesday morning" [1799 May 8?]

The murder of the French ministers at Seltz, Alsace. Compares its consequences to the renewal of the '98 Rebellion in Kildare. Social activities: visit from the Londonderrys. News of Lady Sarah's children.

MS 40,242 (15) From Lady Pamela Fitzgerald to Colonel [George William Richard] Harcourt, M.P. Hamburg: 1799 Dec. 20. In French. *1 sheet.*

Her sorry situation. Enquires whether he remains the same for her and whether she still has 'cette bonne place dans votre coeur'. Her attachment to him. She can apply herself to nothing and can see nothing other than the Colonel.

MS 34,922 (21) From [?] to an unidentified member of the family of the Marquess of Lansdowne at Bowood. Brighthelmstone [i.e. Brighton]: 'Monday night'. With 'Sept. 1801' at top left of first leaf.

Refers to Marc-Auguste and Charles Pictet of the *Bibliothèque britannique* published in Geneva, Count Rumford and the Duke of Bedford. The departure of Lady Louisa Conolly to Goodwood. Her great moral qualities. The character of Lord Edward Fitzgerald and the final visit to him by Lady Louisa.

MS 34,922 (25) Lord Cornwallis to Lady Louisa Conolly. Amiens: 1802 Jan. 6. *1 sheet.*

Regrets that the plenipotentiaries negotiating the treaty of Amiens cannot make provision in detail with respect to sequestrations as 'it will be our business only to bring forward some general article in favor of claimants, which may probably be referred to the investigation of Commissioners. Your Ladyship may in the meantime be assured that I will put the case of Mrs. Connor into the best hands.' He is pleased to learn that the work of Colonel Napier is satisfactory to the Irish government, and that, 'with respect to the management of the country, moderation will continue to be the order of the day.'

MS 40,242 (17) The Dowager Duchess of Leinster to her niece Emily Napier (later Bunbury). [Wimbledon]: [1802: from postmark] Nov. 29. *2 sheets.*

Greetings to her sisters in Ireland. Family news. Social activities. Lady Buckingham's good opinion of Emily Napier. The Duchess never discusses Mr Conolly's treatment of his sisters. Has not heard from Lady Pamela Fitzgerald and hopes that her visit to her children is only put off.

- MS 40,242 (18)** The Duke of Richmond to Lady Sarah Napier. Goodwood: 1803 July 16. *3 sheets*.
 Hopes to recommend a military post in the 'Blues' for her son William Francis Patrick (later Sir William Napier). His regard for her son Charles (later Sir Charles Napier). Refers to two other recommendations he has made and hopes that William will turn out as well. Is concerned that young men of little means might be prone to extravagance while serving with the Regiment. The Duke has much to say on Lady Sarah's 'natural disposition of seeing things in the extreme'. Discourages manifestations of religious fervour as exemplified by the Methodists and discusses the perception by the aged of the true state of things. Refers to the death of Thomas Conolly and the means whereby his widow might be best assisted. 'I have wrote until I am tired'. Poor health of his brother George. The Duke's current home improvements on behalf of his nephew and successor, Charles Lennox and observations on the character of the latter's sons.
- MS 40,242 (19)** Lady Louisa Conolly to Lady Sarah Napier. Castletown: 1803 July 26. *1 sheet*.
 Her sympathy for Lady Kilwarden and Mrs Brown after the assassinations in Dublin; she asks Lady Sarah to call to the Barracks to enquire whether Mrs Brown might accept accommodation at Castletown until she is able to return to Britain.
- MS 40,242 (20)** Lady Louisa Conolly to the Duke of Richmond. Castletown: 1803 Aug. 1. *2 sheets*.
 Arrangements for the sale of estate in Bedfordshire whereby she authorises the Duke of Bedford to manage the matter. 'We are going as soon as possible to sell here also. The high interest of money in this country makes me very anxious to sell as my income would be much encreased by it, besides getting rid of a great deal of trouble. ... Our business has been a little interrupted lately by this most vexatious disturbance again among the lower order, for I don't find that any of the Heads have been discovered. We have been obliged to have recourse again to the soldiers and have a sergeant and 12 men to garrison this house, which luckily is so good and strong for the purpose, that there is no risk in staying here, and it affords a degree of security to the neighbourhood by their taking shelter here when they are frightened. The three cruel murders in Dublin of Lord Kilwarden, his nephew and Colonel Brown of the 21st, on the first outset of the disturbances breaking out in Thomas Street, are incomprehensible, as no motive whatever can be traced for it. ...' Regrets the poor condition of health of her brother George and is concerned about the eyesight of her sister Sarah.
- MS 40,242 (21)** Lord Holland [Henry Richard Vassall Fox, 3rd Baron Holland (1773-1840)] to Emily Napier. [Undated: 1803?]. *1 sheet*.
 Is willing to do anything to advance the career of her brothers, but feels it would be 'certainly improper and probably useless for me to ask any favor of the Prince Regent.
- MS 40,242 (22)** Dowager Duchess of Leinster to her niece Emily Napier. [1805] Apr. 3. *1 sheet*.
 Refers to death of her brother George. Other family news, mostly concerning health.
- MS 40,242 (23)** Lord Bentink [William Cavendish Bentink [(1774-1839), 2nd son of the 3rd Duke of Portland] to Charles James Napier [1782-1853), later 1st Bart., son of Lady Sarah Napier and George Napier.]. 1810 Feb. 15, and,

Brigadier General Clinton [Sir Henry Clinton (1771-1829)] to the same. 1810 Feb. 15. Copies. *1 sheet*.

In support of memorial presented by Napier to the Commander-in-Chief. Particularly commends his service during the Peninsular War.

MS 40,242 (24)

George Thomas Napier [(1784-1855) later 1st Bart., son of Lady Sarah Napier and George Napier] to his sister Emily Napier. St. Pedro, near Almeida. 1810 April 2. *2 sheets*.

An account of progress of Peninsular War. His regrets about his ill-treatment of his servant and his worries about his fits of temper

MS 40,242 (25)

Henry Edward Napier [(1789-1853) son of Lady Sarah Napier and George Napier] to his sister Emily Napier. 'Diomedes', Madras Roads: 1810 Apr. 15. *1 sheet*.

His joy on receipt of letters. Unhappy with his naval service in East Indies and wishes to return home. Family news as conveyed in the letters.

MS 40,242 (26)

Lady Pamela Fitzgerald to the Dowager Duchess of Leinster. Paris: 1813 Mar. 4. In French. *1 sheet*.

Concerning her children.

MS 40,242 (27)

Emily Napier to Anna Louisa Staples [daughter of Sir James Stewart (d. 1827), of Ramelton, widow of Captain William Connelly Staples, R.N. (d.1798); in 1817 she married Emily's brother Richard Napier (1787-1868), and died 30 Mar. 1867].

(1) The Hague: 1814 Apr. 10. *2 sheets*.

Account of her visit, including the trade fair, where she finds much to interest her. Regrets that the duty will make the bargains as expensive as in England 'but the prints I think I can manage to smuggle.' Describes in great detail the appearance of the women of North Holland. Now that the Castlereaghs have left she and Lady Louisa Conolly are staying with the Clancartys. A dispute involving Lucien Bonaparte while they waited Harwich to embark.

(2) The Hague: 1814 May 20. *2 sheets*.

Their friendship. Emily is glad to be away from London on account of a failed romance. Kindness of the Clancartys and the presence of 'four Englishmen who are quite agreeable enough to flirt with'. An excursion to Delft. Departure to Paris of Lord Clancarty and the Prince of Orange, 'who has suddenly determined to go to look after his own concerns at the signing of the Peace; they talk of being abroad above two days and I hope it will not be longer as he has taken one of the pleasanest people here with him. Mr Temple, Lord Palmerston's brother, who is his Secretary and one of those gay people that acts the part of three or four ...' Emily's view of the character of the Duke of Cambridge and other high nobles at the Hague. Lady Louisa Conolly does not wish to return to England for two or three years. Emily wishes to withdraw from society and plans to remain at Castletown.

(3) The Hague: 1814 June 2. *3 sheets*.

Excursion to Harlaam, Amsterdam ('it is an immense, ill-built, dirty town'), Utrecht ('an ugly town'), Leyden ('a beautiful town'). Lady Louisa expects to leave soon. Emily does not wish to go to London.

(4) The Hague: 1814 June 6. *3 sheets*.

Account of the Austrian ministers description of the relationship between the Archduchess Marie Louise and Napoleon. Emily and Lord Clancarty, who has

returned from Paris, are sceptical about the description. Expects to learn more about Napoleon as Colonel [Sir Neil] Campbell, British Commissioner on Elba, is 'an intimate acquaintance of all my brothers'. Lady Louisa would now welcome Napoleon to Castletown and might adopt the King of Rome and bring him up to be a clergyman. Lord Clancarty's stay in Paris; he regrets that works of art in the Louvre are not to be repatriated and notes that 'Louis is conducting himself with great moderation and good sense, and thinks it will all do very well; at the same time a civil war is by no means impossible'. Family news and social activities. The four Secretaries of the Mission.

(5) The Hague: 1814 June 14. *2 sheets.*

So annoyed with the high regard of her brothers Charles and William for Napoleon that she fears she might become 'a regular Tory' and go so far as to oppose catholic emancipation. Asks Anna's view of the 'giving up the abolition of the slave trade and the blockade of Norway'. Is pleased with the Articles of Peace and unhappy with the new French constitution. Is not sure how best to decide about her immediate future. Promotion of her brother Henry.

(6) The Hague: 1814 June 22, 24. *2 sheets.*

Departure of her brother Charles occasions further thoughts on attachment. Reflects on his character. Wonders about her own character. Anticipates the arrival of the Russian Emperor. Social activities. Her meeting with Mr [Thomas] Gordon, who has visited the Court of Persia and travelled through the Caucasus, and whose 'airs' annoy her. Arrangements for a distressed friend of Anna's.

(7) The Hague: 1814 July 2. *4 sheets.*

Arrival of the Russian Emperor, Alexander I and Emily's attendance at the associated ball at which she danced with him: 'his manner is so very unassuming and gentle that it put me at ease in a moment'. Other activities occasioned by his visit.

(8) The Hague: 1814 July 14. *3 sheets.*

The Clancartys are expected to accompany the Prince of Orange to Brussels. He has been advised that it would be politic to spend some time there with his new and unwilling subjects. The Hereditary Prince has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the army there and it is hoped his engaging manners will mitigate any prejudice against his family. But there is no certainty about these arrangements, and it is likely that the Clancartys will remain at The Hague, in which case Emily and her aunt will leave the following week. Social activities. Her opinion of Madame de Maintenon. Her opposition to restoring the French slave trade. Her puzzlement at Napoleon's current activities.

(9) The Hague: 1814 July 19. *2 sheets.*

Anna's relationship with her father. The character of Emily's brother Charles. Plans to journey to Calais via Brussels. Social activities.

(11) Brussels: 1814 Aug. 2. *2 sheets.*

The journey to Brussels. Illness of Lady Louisa.

(12) Calais: 1814 Aug. 14. *3 sheets.*

Due to sail in the sloop 'The Bermuda', which was sent over by Admiral Sir Thomas Foley. Account of the journey from Brussels; paintings. Description of Brussels which 'is so full of English [people] that it has all the worry of London on a smaller scale and is for idling, visiting and fidgetting just like a water drinking place ...' Finds that she enjoys travelling and the attendant attentions she enjoyed. Her general valuation of the men she had encountered. 'I do not think that any body who has not been abroad can have an idea of how very much

English people depend upon each other for society or how very intimate they grow'.

- MS 40,242 (28)** Lady Louisa Conolly to her sister [Lady Sarah Napier] Castletown, near Celbridge: 1815 July 5. *1 sheet*.
Concern about misfortune in family of Earl of Granard. Her satisfaction with the battle of Waterloo abated by the thought of 'the load of sorrows that has fallen on so many unhappy families, although she hopes the victory will lead to peace. 'But the French people are so odd , that there is no conjecturing what they will do.' The loss of William Ponsonby. Family news.
- MS 40,242 (29)** From George Napier to his sister Emily Napier. Barton: 1830 July 5. *1 sheet*.
Plans to visit Emily in France. Family news. Current politics and Court news.
- MS 40,242 (30)** Sir Henry Edward Bunbury [(1778-1860) married Emily Napier on 22 Sept 1830] to Emily Napier. Barton: 1830 [postmark] Aug. 19. *1 sheet*.
Plans to visit Emily in France. His recent election to Parliament. Financial arrangements connected with their coming marriage.
- MS 34,922 (19)** Account by Emily Bunbury (née Napier) of the efforts made by her aunt, Lady Louisa Conolly, to obtain permission from Lord Camden, the Lord Lieutenant, and from Lord Clare, the Lord Chancellor, to visit Lord Edward Fitzgerald on his deathbed, of Lady Louisa's visit to Lord Edward and the arrangements made to assist her afterwards. Signed and dated: Emily Bunbury, August 1832. *[6] pp*.
Emily Napier accompanied Lady Louisa and Lord Henry Fitzgerald to the Vice-Regal Lodge and to Lord Clare's home. Lord Clare accompanied Lady Louisa and Lord Henry to the prison while Emily was sent to Leinster House. 'The next day we returned home, and during our journey she [Lady Louisa] related to me all the particulars of her sad interview exactly as they appear in her letter to Mr Ogilvie written before she left Dublin, adding that nothing could exceed Lord Clare's kindness, that he had allowed nobody to remain in the room but himself, had walked away from the bed on which the poor sufferer lay so as not to hear anything that passed between them, and indeed had shown her the tenderness of a brother rather than a friend, and with all his apparent strength of manner had cried like a woman when he saw him dying. As I was the sole witness of this melancholy transaction, I think it is not generally known how entirely it was owing to Lord Clare's better feelings that this last interview between my poor cousin and his aunt and brother was permitted. I have felt that it is but justice to his memory to record it.'
- MS 40,242 (31)** Georgette Ducrest to the Duchesse de Polignac. Toulouse: 1836 Oct. 4. In French. *1 sheet*.
MS programme of concert given by Ducrest dated 1836 Sept. 17. In French. *1 sheet*.
Seeks support for a concert she hopes to give at Montauban. She had been 'garde malade' to Lady [Pamela] Fitzgerald and was with her when she died.
- MS 40,242 (32)** Emily Bunbury (née Napier) to her brother George. 1838 Jan. 30. *1 sheet*.
Thanking him for his account of the character, death and funeral of their aunt, Lady Louisa Conolly.

MS 40,242 (33)

Brief descriptions of some of the material in the collection, made by a former owner. *11 sheets.*

**Transferred to
Dept. of Prints and
Drawings**

Engraved portraits of (1) Lord Edward Fitzgerald and (2) Lady Louisa Conolly. *2 items.* Ca. 1840.

(1) Based on painting by H.J. Hamilton; (2) Based on painting by Allan Ramsay. Both published by Walker & Cockerell.