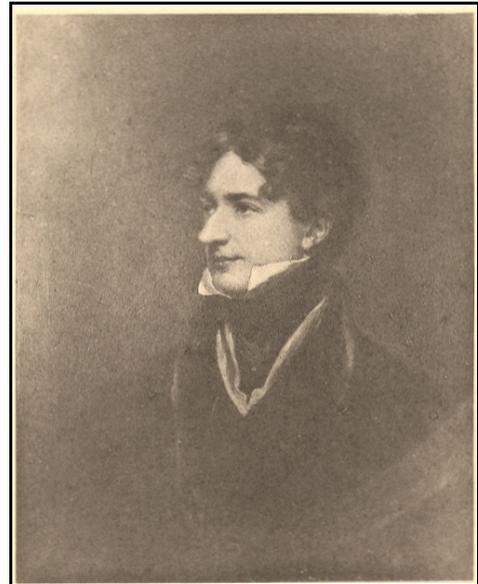


LONDON, 1st September 1815

MY DEAR SISTER – I have hitherto deferred replying to your last kind letter, more from busy bustling in the early part of the day and fatigue in the afternoon than from any other cause, but I have also wished to give you a distinct view of our proceedings, past, present, and to come, and each succeeding day has promised me a fairer opportunity of effecting my intention. I have found more to do than I expected, and have had many a fruitless walk on more errands than one, but on none more than engaging a female domestic.. My first attempts were very unpromising, but one morning an advertisement struck us, which upon following up led to the engagement of a young person, English born, but who had been brought up with her family at Brussels. When Brussels became unpleasant to British, and after the family had been reduced by pressure of the times, they withdrew to Frankfort and passed several years there. What their profession or business was I have not learnt. About a year and a half ago the family came to London in distress. Three of the children are in the employ of Bullock the upholsterer, who speaks highly of them; another is a language master here; a younger sister works sometimes with a dressmaker, sometimes at home; the subject of this memoir has been during this said year and a half travelling with a Russian or Polish lady through Germany, Italy, and France. She speaks German very well, and by her own account French also, but there I have not yet heard her. The morning after we had engaged her three very respectable offers came, and one rather unhinged us, but the affair ended by our retaining Wilhelmina Whitaker. My wife is rather fussed with the Christian name, and means to call her Whitaker. Wages £20, and in case of dismissal, not for any fault of consequence, we are to deliver her in England unless she can get an equally good place on the spot. She came to us yesterday, and we think we shall be satisfied with her.

All our business is now concluded except a remnant of packing, and we are to set off to-morrow morning at, eight o'clock; a quarter of an hour earlier Miss Curren sets off for Gloucestershire, and Betty for Yorkshire. You have heard of the addition to our party – Zachary had happened to mention that they felt the want of some one in the warehouse who could speak French and German, and I thought it would be a nice opportunity for Skinner, and made the proposal, which Zachary soon agreed to. In consequence of his being of our party my wife thinks he might notice the not wearing the rings,² and therefore we have only sent one, which we leave to you to retain or send to Mrs. William as you think best. It went by mail to-day directed to you. We, are all in a bustle and the Bellman going round – you will excuse an abrupt conclusion, with all our best loves, and wait further accounts from Brussels. – Adieu, your affectionate



SKINNER ZACHARY LANGTON, BORN
JANUARY 3, 1797, DIED FEBRUARY 14, 1884, AT
BARROW HOUSE, KESWICK.,

THOS. LANGTON

¹ Comprising pages 15 - 18

² The feeling, of obligation to wear the large mourning rings in vogue at that time must have been oppressive.