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Edited by John Pullen and Trevor Hughes Parry
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1 Correspondence relating to Malthus' early years

The seventeen letters in this chapter come from three periods in Malthus' pre-university life.

The first three letters are from Richard Graves to Malthus' father, Daniel Malthus, when Malthus was a pupil at a school conducted by Graves at Claverton, near Bath. The letters indicate that Malthus was with Graves for at least three academic years from 1778–9 to 1780–1, between the ages of twelve and fifteen years. They advise Daniel Malthus of his son's academic progress – as well as his love of fighting for fighting's sake – and discuss Graves' literary endeavours and the landscaping interests shared by Graves and Daniel Malthus.

The next two letters were written when Malthus was a student at the Dissenting Academy, at Warrington in the north-west of England. The Academy had been founded in 1757 to cater for the education of the sons of Protestant Nonconformists, i.e. those belonging to Protestant churches other than the Church of England.

At that time, only members of the Church of England were permitted to take degrees at the two English universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Dissenters were thus barred not only from the two universities, but also from the professions which required a university degree. Dissenters were obliged to set up their own schools, and to teach subjects (such as Enfield's lectures on commerce, referred to in letters no. 4 and 5 below) which would prepare the boys for careers in industry and commerce.

As Patricia James has remarked, why Daniel Malthus sent his son to the Dissenting Academy remains a mystery. There is no evidence to suggest that either father or son was a Nonconformist. Malthus was later ordained as a clergyman of the Church of England.

The letters show that Malthus attended the Academy for at least the academic year 1782–3. They deal with his lectures and studies, and refer to the closing down of the Academy, which occurred in 1783.

The remaining twelve letters in this chapter were written in the academic year 1783–4 when Malthus was a student at Bramcote, near Nottingham, at the home of Gilbert Wakefield, who had been a tutor at the Dissenting Academy.

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There are seven letters from Malthus to his father, four letters from his father to him, and one letter from Malthus to his mother. They refer to Malthus' studies and leisure activities at Bramcote; they discuss the current state of British politics and London theatre; and conclude with arrangements for Malthus to enrol at Cambridge University.

1. RICHARD GRAVES[1] TO DANIEL MALTHUS[2]

Claverton, 30 July [1]779

Dear Sir,

30 July 1779 As I observ'd the Bristol Post-mark on y^r Letter, I had some faint hopes, that in the whirl of Surry,* Claverton might rise to your view with some of its former attractions – But probably the Consolation of some friend languishing in the last stage of a Consumption – or some more important business might carry you to the hot-wells – You did not however forget my business as I have yours – I ought immediatly* to have acknowledg'd the Receipt of your Draft for fifteen guineas, as at length I now do – in full for all demands till mid-summer last –

I have got Mr Moreau to come over to Master Bob & another young ...[3] twice a week – who seems to understand the method of teaching French, better than any one I have hitherto employ'd and as he sets them pretty long tasks, their leisure hours will be pretty well taken up –

You may not be satisfied with my little friend's application, but I never saw a boy shew* a quicker sense of the beauties of an author or at least of any humorous & unexpected Strokes – They are reading the Hecyra of Terence,[4] &

[1] Revd Richard Graves (1715–1810), poet and novelist, became in 1749 rector of Claverton (near Bath) where he conducted a school (*DNB*). Malthus was sent by his father to reside at Claverton as one of Graves' pupils during at least the three years 1778–9 to 1780–1. Graves was described by William Otter as 'a gentleman of considerable learning and humour' (Malthus 1968, p. xxiii). As these letters show, Graves was a friend of Malthus' father who visited him at Claverton, assisted him with his publications, and joined in landscape-gardening ventures. However, James Bonar's view of the situation was more critical. He said Malthus was sent to Graves 'to be taught Latin and good behaviour' (Bonar 1924, p. 404). He did not regard Graves as a 'commanding intellect', and believed that Malthus' father acted wisely in transferring Malthus to the Dissenting Academy at Warrington (Bonar 1941, Ch. 2, pp. 1–2).

[2] Addressed: 'Daniel Malthus Esqr / Cookham, near / Maidenhead / Berks'. Postmark on the back: 'BATH'.

[3] Word difficult to decipher; possibly 'Gent'. '& another young ...' is ins.

[4] 'of Terence' is ins.

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I was willing to see whether any one in the Class was stricken with that characteristic stroke of humour, wch Dr Hand[5] lays so great a stress upon – 30 July 1779

"Tum tu igitur nihil adduxisti hac plus una sententia"[6]

and tho' there were two boys of 15 years old, Bob was the only one that discover'd a smile of approbation – as he did at Phidippos's* reproach in ye same scene – "Quia paululam vobis accepit pecuniae sublati animi sunt"[7]– Tho' it is not clear, I think, whether Phidippus intended a sneer upon their disappointment, or envied their fancied good luck –

I forget whether I told you that my nephew & my daughter & I made a visit to Hagley & the Leasowes these holidays – and that we were entertain'd by Mr Horne, the present possessor, in a style very different from that which my late friend Mr Shenstone[8] or any Poet, antient* or modern, could have entertain'd us – Mr Horne has built a very elegant house & really, by the force of a superior fortune, greatly improv'd the place. He has enlarg'd & completed the Lake, wch Mr Shenstone could never accomplish, & has rather augmented than diminishd* most of the beauties – He only wants another summer to repair or replace the little pasteboard edifice – which my late friend could not afford to build with any degree of splendor* –

Hagley Park looks rather forlorn – but they are now trying to improve the water – &c – The most beautiful or at least the most agreeable Scene to me, was a pavilion form'd by some lofty Oaks, under w^ch^ (since I was there) the late Lord has put up an Urn, with an elegant, tho' rather stiff, inscription to Mr Shenstone –

The present Lord is now repairing & beautifying the inside of ye house –

[5] Ferdinand Gotthelf Hand (1786–1851). His most famous work was *Tursellinus, seu de particulis Latinis commentarii*, 1829–45, an edition of the treatise of Horatius Tursellinus (Orazio Torsellino) (1549–1599) on the Latin particles (AT; *EB*, 14th edn, 1929, Vol. XI).

[6] Terence, *Hecyra*, III. v. 462. Graves was apparently quoting from memory. The original reads: 'Tum tu igitur nil attulisti plus una hac sententia?' ('So you therefore brought back nothing more than this one opinion?': AT.)

[7] Terence, *Hecyra*, III. v. 506–7. Terence's original reads 'paullum', not 'paululam'. ('Because a little sum of money has come to you, you are of cheerful mind': AT.)

[8] William Shenstone (1714–1763) and Richard Graves became friends while students at Oxford University. Of Shenstone's poetry it has been said: 'Most of his verse is artificial and unreal, and has rightly been forgotten, but what remains is of permanent interest.' His achievements as a landscape-gardener appear to have been more significant – he holds 'an important place in the history of landscape-gardening'. In 1745 he took possession of the property 'Leasowes' and made the beautifying of its grounds his life's work. But his limited income did not permit the realisation of all his landscaping plans. Dr Johnson – who had been at Pembroke College, Oxford, with Graves and Shenstone – thought that Shenstone might have written better poetry if he had spent less time and money on his garden (Johnson, *Lives of the Poets*, 1781; cited by Bonar 1941, Ch. 2, p. 2). Graves was one of the executors of Shenstone's will. He composed a poetic inscription for the urn erected in Shenstone's memory in the church at Halesowen (Worcestershire), and wrote *Recollections of Some Particulars in the Life of the Late William Shenstone, Esq. ...*, 1788 (*DNB*).

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30 July 1779 The only addition to the Library is a most pompous Sett* of Voltaire's Works in Quarto. Mr Horne seems to have made the same tour thro' the little cantons of Swisse,* which you did – He entertain'd us with a droll anecdote of his treatment by their excellencies, the magistrates of Zug & Lucerne [9]–

My nephew has made me a present of the two N°: of Watts's views of Gent' Seats[10] – in which Ranston, in my opinion, next to Picton Castle, makes the best figure. I fancy the Painter caught a view of my friend Sydenham and Miss Ryves:[11] between the two Groupes* of trees – at least his figures are very gentile* – My best Compl^t is due to your good and amiable family. I am Sir y^r oblig'd h.s.

Ric^d Graves

2. RICHARD GRAVES TO DANIEL MALTHUS[12]

Claverton, 10 Aug.[1780?][13]

Dear Sir

10 Aug. 1780 Being ignorant of ...[14] Lodging I have taken the liberty to direct a great Coat to you, which they left behind them –

Some fatality certainly attends my projected visit to Clifton hill – I have, in my own imagination, fix'd several days for that purpose; & have as often been disappointed –

[9] The second volume of this *Kanto Gakuen Collection of Malthus Manuscripts* contains a letter from Daniel Malthus to his father written from Marseilles while on a tour of France. It is possible that his tour extended to the cantons of Switzerland. Malthus later made a similar tour of France and Switzerland. Details can be found in the diary of Harriet Eckersall (his future wife) and in Malthus' letters to Giuseppe Acerbi. See Hashimoto 1990 and Masè-Dari 1929.

[10] William Watts, *The Seats of the Nobility and Gentry. In a Collection of the Most Interesting and Picturesque Views Engraved by W. W. ... with Descriptions of each View*, London, 1779–86. Plate VIII shows 'Ranston, in Dorsetshire, the Seat of Thomas Ryves Esqr'. The description accompanying Plate VIII states that Ranston (near Blandford) had been in the possession of the Ryves family for nearly two centuries, and that Thomas Ryves had made 'great Alterations and Improvements'. On Thomas Ryves see the following footnote. Plate II shows 'Picton Castle in Pembrokeshire, the Seat of Lord Milford'.

[11] Presumably Sydenham Malthus and Marianna Georgina Ryves. Sydenham Malthus (1754–1821) was Malthus' elder and only brother. Bonar (1941, Ch. 2, p. 1) states that Sydenham had also been a pupil of Graves at Claverton Rectory. Marianna Ryves (born 25 August 1766) was a first cousin of Malthus (and of Sydenham Malthus). She was the daughter of Thomas Ryves (1720–1788), FRS, and Anna Maria Ryves (née Graham) who was the younger sister of Malthus' mother, and would have been only fourteen years old at the time of this letter. In 1783 she married W. L. Symes (1766–1795), and in 1799 married Sydenham Malthus (James 1979). See the letter from Marianna Malthus to Malthus (Ch. 3, letter no. 47 below), and the biography of her brother, Admiral George Frederick Ryves (1758–1826) in Vol. II below.

[12] Addressed: 'To / Daniel Malthus Esq / on Clifton-hill / near / Bristol'. No postmark.

[13] Internal evidence suggests 1780. See Ch. 1, n. 22 below.

[14] Two words difficult to decipher; probably the names of friends of Daniel Malthus.

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Don Roberto, who tho' most peaceably inclin'd & who seems rather to give up even his just rights, than to dispute with any man, yet (paradox as it may Seem) loves fighting for fighting's sake – & delights in brusing* – He has but barely recover'd his Eye-sight & yet I have much ado to keep him from trying again the Chance of War – And yet he & his antagonist are the best friends in the world – Learn together – assist each other & I believe, love each other better than any two boys in the school – 10 Aug. 1780

I am as bad a prophet as I am a Poet; I foretold immortality to your Spring in the Conagre[15] – But alas! not only your ornamental rockwork is destroy'd – but the Spring itself almost dried up.

'Its ruins ruin'd & its place no more':[16]

I was in hopes however to see some kind of Taste revive amongst us when last week, I saw the Water dashing from your Spout in the Wall. But upon surveying the Laurel Grove, I found they had indeed turn'd it into the same Channel; but had carefully clear'd the Trench from all the *dirty moss*, *weeds* & *perforated* Stones with[17] which Miss Malthus's had so foolishly adorn'd it – "At est bonus at melior vis – non alius quisquam et tibi amicus –"

I wish you would carry a Fountain-pen,[18] instead of a pencil, in your pocket, as I should have a chance of more Sketches like what you left at Claverton – when you were there last – which I shall trace over again, that it may not be rub'd out –

The Monthly Reviewers have let me off very gently – but have given me the same hint wch you did – & if[19] my last publication [shou]ld[20] go thro' another Edition, I shall insist upon your using your Pencil as you did before so much to my advantage – Tho' I shall reserve a liberty of retaining any whimsical thing for which I may have a partiality –

Two or three which I intended to omit (as Hymen & Pomona for instance &c[21]) have been retail'd in two or three news-papers & magazines – as if it had

[15] The meaning of 'Conagre' is not obvious. As the letter indicates that Graves and the Malthuses had been engaged in a landscaping project, 'Conagre' might possibly be an allusion to 'conacre' or 'corn-acre' – 'In Irish land-system: The letting by a tenant for the season, of small portions of land ploughed and prepared for a crop' (*OED*).

[16] Cf. Alexander Pope, referring to ancient Rome: 'Their ruins perished, and their place no more!' (*Moral Essays*, Epistle VII, 'To Mr. Addison Occasioned by His Dialogues on Medals', *Works*, 1881, Vol. III, p. 204, line 22). Pope's words reflect Caesar's comment on the city of Troy in Lucan, *Pharsalia, or the Civil Wars*, IX. 969: 'Etiam periere ruinae' ('Even the ruins are destroyed': AT). The Malthus Library has the *Works* (and other separate publications) of Pope; and Lucan's *De bello civili*.

[17] 'with' is ins. The source of the Latin quotation is not immediately evident and its sense is not clear. A possible reading is: 'Although he is a good fellow, you would prefer a better one, and a friend to you, not someone at another time' (AT).

[18] Although the first practical version of the modern fountain pen is often thought to have been produced by Waterman in 1884 (*EB*, 15th edn, 1992, Vol. IX, p. 253), there are references to working fountain pens from the eighteenth century, as recorded in the Supplement (1975) to the *OED*.

[19] 'it' is del. [20] Word partially obscured by seal. [21] '&c' is ins.

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10 Aug. 1780 some excellence – So various are the Tastes of Mankind[22] –

I beg my Compl[ts] to y[r] family & Miss Dalton,[23] whom I consider as part of it – From Sir, yr affect humb ser,

Ric[d] Graves

3. RICHARD GRAVES TO DANIEL MALTHUS[24]

Claverton, 20 Oct. 1780

Dear Sir,

20 Oct. 1780 Tho' we are all greatly rejoiced at Mast Malthus's continuing another year with us; yet, I assure you Sir, I shoud* be unwilling to keep him here, if I thought he would not make a greater progress in classical Learning, in his present situation & in the method which he seems now to pursue, with alacrity, than by being remov'd even to a much more capable instructor –

He begins to write tolerable Latin, I think; tho' now & then, thro' inattention, he may be guilty of a solecism. He has finish'd Horace, but is going over an Ode or two in a day, by himself; and has read five Satyrs in Juvenal – with apparent Taste & I never saw a boy of his age enter more instantaneously into

[22] A misquotation of 'Such and so various are the tastes of men', Mark Akenside (1721–1770), *The Pleasures of Imagination. A Poem in Three Books*, 1744, Book 3, line 567. Graves' reference to 'Hymen & Pomona' indicates that his 'last publication' was the second edition of his collection of poems entitled *Euphrosyne: or, Amusements on the Road to Life. By the Author of the Spiritual Quixote*, 1780, J. Dodsley, London. (The first edition was published in 1776, and a third in 1783.) This suggests that the (unstated) year of this letter was 1780. The Malthus Library has the first edition of *Euphrosyne*; and the *Poetical Works*, 1781, of Akenside.

'Hymen & Pomona' was a semi-humorous, semi-didactic warning to young people of the dangers of hasty marriages. It compared marriage to the fruits of an orchard. (Hymen was the god of marriage, and Pomona the goddess of orchards.) 'For marriage is an orchard fair, / And various fruits produces, / Of sour and sweet, of joy and care, / Like Autumn's various juices.' Young girls were said to have the characteristics of particular fruits: 'Others, like pears, look sweet, and smile, / On every pretty fellow; / Too early ripe, they please awhile; / But soon they grow too mellow.' And the advice to those contemplating marriage was: 'Look round you well before you wed, / With caution make your choice; / By no fond whim or passion led, / Attend to Reason's voice.' The first edition of *Euphrosyne* was reviewed in the *Monthly Review*, Vol. 55, 1776, p. 71; and the second in Vol. 63, 1780, p. 147. The 'hint' given to Graves by the latter review (and by Daniel Malthus) was probably that the collection contains too many 'trifling performances', although they also contain 'a vein of good-humoured levity and cheerfulness, that will prevent the most captious critic from being much offended by them'.

[23] Jane Dalton (1742–1817) was an orphaned cousin and ward of Daniel Malthus. (He was related to the Dalton family on his mother's side.) 'She became romantically attached to him, and was his constant companion, more than his daughters. She had been handsome until the smallpox spoiled her complexion, was very clever, had an excellent memory, and read much, so that she could converse well on every subject' (Bray 1857). In his will Daniel Malthus left her 'A white Cedar Box ... to be delivered to her unopened.' See James 1979.

[24] Addressed: 'Daniel Malthus Esq[r] / Cookham – near / Maidenhead / Berks'. No postmark.

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the humour of the 5th Satyr which describes so feelingly the efforts & mortifications which a Parasite meets with at a great man's Table. He also reads alternately Virgil's Georgicks* – which with Warton's translation he seems to understand perfectly well – 20 Oct. 1780

He has finish'd Tully's* de Senectute – and is just beginning the Iugurthine War of Salust* in the afternoon[25] –

As for reading English, by way of amusement, he has almost exhausted my Library – I think as he is tolerably well acquainted with the Roman history (for his years) he might read Goldsmith's or any other not too prolix, nor too *concise* an English History – Goldsmith's Roman & Greek Histories, I think excellent in their kind; I mean for a superficial knowledge of them – & I shall borrow, if not buy [26] his English History –

You must have had great pleasure in *re*viewing the Scenes with your Son & Daughter, wch, I suppose you have often seen yrself before.

I beg my best respects to Mrs Malthus – & the rest of yr amiable family – from Sir Yr ever-oblig'd humb Ser

Ricd Graves.

Mr Taylor has advertis'd his two Prints with ruins of Grecian architecture wch seem exquisitely finish'd. As they will not be sold in the Shops & no more taken off than what are subscrib'd for they will be valuable[27] as curiosities, as well as really beautiful –

[25] Joseph Warton, *The Eclogues and Georgics*, in *The Works of Virgil in English Verse*, 1763. Cicero (Marcus Tullius Cicero), *Cato Major de Senectute* ('Cato Major: or, a Treatise on Old Age'). Sallust (Gaius Sallustius Crispus), *Bellum Iugurthinum*. The Malthus Library has *Opera omnia* of Cicero in eight volumes.

[26] 'Gold' is del. Oliver Goldsmith (1728–1774), the poet, wrote *An History of England, in a Series of Letters from a Nobleman to his Son*, 2 vols., 1764; *The Roman History, from the Foundation of the City of Rome, to the Destruction of the Western Empire*, 2 vols., 1769; and *The Grecian History, from the Earliest State to the Death of Alexander the Great*, 2 vols., 1774. The Malthus Library has poetical and dramatic works by Goldsmith, but not his historical works.

[27] 'valuable as' is ins.

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4. MALTHUS TO DANIEL MALTHUS[28]

April 26 – [1783][29]

Dear Sir,

26 April 1783 I did not receive your letter till the 24th, & the post goes out from hence but three days in the week, so that I am afraid you may not[30] receive this letter while you are at Matlock. The Students seem to drop off rather fast. One went to day,* & two more are to go next thursday. The lectures though are still continued with tolerable alacrity. We are now in the eleventh book of Euclid. I suppose we shall have finish'd the 12th before the end of next month, about which time, Dr Enfield[31] will have ended his philosophical lectures: he then I beleive* intends to give a few on commerce, till the end of the sessions. In the classics, we read alternately Longinus, & Lucretius.[32] Longinus really "is himself the great sublime he draws".[33] There are many very beautiful passages in Lucretius, though at the

[28] Addressed: 'Dan: Malthus Esqr / To be lef* at the post office / Matlock, / *Derbyshire*.' Postmark: 'WARRINGTON'. On the back, 'from Warrington Academy' in a different hand.

[29] The year is not stated, but the evidence suggests 1783. Letter no. 4 (of 26 April) and letter no. 5 (of 17 June) are apparently written in the same year. They both refer to the study of Longinus on the sublime, and both appear to have been written to Daniel Malthus when he was on a tour via Matlock to the Lake District. Letter no. 5 refers to the closing down of the Dissenting Academy; this occurred in 1783. Wakefield settled in Bramcote in the autumn of 1783, with a single pupil (see James 1979, p. 21); and Malthus arrived at Wakefield's house in Bramcote in late 1783 (see letter no. 6 below). This letter of 26 April was incorrectly dated '1782' by Bonar 1924 (p. 406, reported in James 1979, p. 21). In Bonar 1941 (Ch. 4, p. 7) it was incorrectly dated '1784'.

[30] 'may not' is ins.

[31] William Enfield, LL D (1741–1797) was tutor in *belles-lettres* and rector of the Dissenting Academy at Warrington from 1770 to its dissolution in 1783. He has been described as 'an amiable and estimable man, an influential writer and persuasive preacher'. He was the author of *The History of Philosophy ... Drawn up from Brucker's Historia Critica Philosophiae*, 1791. Many of his sermons were published, and the Malthus Library (Dalton Hill) contained a copy of Enfield's *Sermons on Practical Subjects. To which are Prefixed, Memoirs of the Author, by J. Aikin*, 3 vols., London, 1798. His other publications include works on natural philosophy and elocution (*DNB*). His many contributions to the *Monthly Review* included reviews of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, and of *A Letter from Governor Pownall to Adam Smith*. See Nangle 1934, pp. 15–16.

[32] The Malthus Library has Longinus, *De sublimitate commentarius*, and three editions of Lucretius, *De rerum natura libri VI*, including an 1813 edition by Gilbert Wakefield.

[33] Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, line 680: 'Thee, bold Longinus! all the Nine inspire, / And bless their Critic with a Poet's fire. / An ardent Judge, who, zealous in his trust, / with warmth gives sentence, yet is always just: / Whose own example strengthens all his laws; / And is himself that great sublime he draws' (*The Works of Alexander Pope*, ed. Joseph Warton, Vol. I, London, 1822, p. 308).

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same time many (from the nature of his subject) dark & confus'd. Mr Wakefield[34] has a very good taste, we therfore* only read those parts, where he in a manner rises out of his subject. I read another composition in the hall to day.* The best that we have, come from those of the students, who either cannot, or do not chuse* to make them themselves. They therefore steal them entire from some book, or often from a newspaper: however I chuse* rather to make them myself, though they may not be[35] so good; for the Tutors generally know that they are not of their own making, though they do not chuse* always to detect them. I am not an Algebraist, though Mr Wakefield gives lectures on Algebra.[36] When he first began, I ask'd Dr Enfield if I was to attend; he said, not: only those who went through mathematics last year. We have had beautiful weather lately. The trees are almost all in leaf. I am making a little collection of plants. I shall be glad to see Syd[37] if he calls. He is going to the lakes I suppose. 26 April 1783

Your dutiful & affectionate Son
Rob Malthus

5. MALTHUS TO DANIEL MALTHUS[38]

June 17th [1783][39]

Dear Sir

I have just receiv'd your letter, & am sorry that the weather is so unfavourable as not to permit you, to enjoy as you could wish, the beautiful 17 June 1783

[34] Gilbert Wakefield (1756–1801) obtained a scholarship at Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1772, graduated in 1776, and was a fellow of Jesus College from 1776 until his marriage in 1779. He held the position of classical tutor at the Warrington Dissenting Academy from 1779 to 1783, and later published extensively on classical studies. After the dissolution of the Academy in 1783, he moved to Bramcote, near Nottingham, with the idea of taking private pupils. Malthus was his only pupil in 1783–4. As Wakefield stated in his *Memoirs* (1804): 'The *Warrington-academy*, being now dissolved, I ... removed with my family, and fixt* myself in the *autumn* of 1783, at *Bramcote*, a most pleasant village within *four* miles of *Nottingham*, on the *Derby* road. My wish was to have procured a few pupils for my maintenance; and, in prosecution of this purpose, I wrote to all my friends, real or pretended ... All my applications were answered only by a single pupil, who had been a student under me at *Warrington*' (pp. 234–6). Wakefield's political opinions became extremely radical. He was found guilty of treason and jailed, after declaring that 'the poor and the labouring classes would lose nothing by a French invasion' (*DNB*).

[35] 'not be' is repeated.

[36] At Jesus College, Cambridge, Wakefield 'found Algebra "odious beyond conception", but learned enough of it to graduate B.A. as second wrangler in 1776' (*DNB*).

[37] Sydenham Malthus; see Ch. 1, n. 11 above.

[38] Addressed: 'Danl Malthus Esq' / Kendal / Westmoreland' and annotated: 'To be left at the post office till call'd for.' Postmark: 'WARRINGTON'. On the back, 'from Warrington just before it was dissolved' in a different hand.

[39] The year '1782' is written in a different hand below 'June 17th', but, as explained in Ch. 1, n. 29 above, the year would appear to be 1783.

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Excerpt
More information

17 June 1783 spot[40] in which you are at present. I hope the cloud on Soracte[41] may not delay you long after the 26th, as it may perhaps be rather inconvenient to Dr Enfield that I should remain here after all the rest are gone, for as he would not send commons into the hall for one person he must necessarily have me in his house[42] which might hinder him perhaps from going out. We finish'd yesterday Longinus's sublime treatise, or treatise on the sublime; and tomorrow we shall finish the 12th book of Euclid. I have just been looking over that tremendous proposition (the last but one)[43] the length of which almost discourages one from attempting it. I hope however I shall not quit the field without being master of it. Dr Enfield is now giving lectures on commerce, as the course of philosophical lectures is finish'd. We are reduced to four in the buildings all of whom I beleive* will be gone before the thurday,* as there is to be no Trustee meeting, on account of the dissolution of the Academy. I receiv'd a letter from Harriet[44] yesterday. She says that in your last letter to Cookham,[45] you did not let them know how they might direct to you. She therefore desired me to tell you the first opportunity, least you should be uneasy at not hearing from them, that they are all pretty well; & that Mr Ryves has written to Mr Patten, & that the half year for Mrs Ryves[46] will be paid into his hands the 17th of this month – my mother will write again to let him know that ten of it was advanced by you.

Give my best respects to Miss Scawen, ...[47] Miss Dalton.

Beleive* me
your dutiful,
and affectionate Son,
Robt Malthus

[40] 'spot' is ins.

[41] Soracte is a mountain about twenty-six miles north of Rome. The 'cloud on Soracte' was possibly a reference to Virgil's *Aeneid*, VII. 696. The Malthus Library (Dalton Hill) had Virgil's *Opera*.

[42] *DNB* states that Enfield 'received pupils at his house'. 'Commons' are 'provisions provided for a community or company in common' (*OED*).

[43] Euclid, Book XII, Proposition 17: 'Given two spheres about the same centre, to inscribe in the greater sphere a polyhedral solid which does not touch the lesser sphere at its surface' (tr. Heath, 1956). The Malthus Library has two copies of Euclid's *Elements*.

[44] Probably Malthus' eldest sister, Henrietta (1757–1785). Daniel Malthus' will referred to 'my daughter Harriot'* (James 1979, p. 76).

[45] At this period Malthus' parents lived at Ferry House, Cookham, on the River Thames, in Berkshire. See James 1979, p. 23.

[46] On Mrs Anna Maria Ryves (née Graham) and her daughter Marianna Georgina Ryves, see Ch. 1, n. 11 above.

[47] Word covered by seal; probably '&'. On Jane Dalton, see Ch. 1, n. 23 above. On Louisa Scawen, see Bray 1857, pp. 20–1; they 'were born in the same year and the same month and became intimate friends. In natural abilities and their cultivation they were nearly equal, but their characters were remarkably different.'

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