

Sophie Estabro September 5 1890

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Matthew Wright

Dear Cousin

I have some time since received your gratifying letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, and note very particularly all the details of family history, with which your attention has kindly supplied me; you thought correctly when you said that I would doubtless be interested in learning something of the changes, which have taken place, during the numerous years of my absence, in my native home. Changes certainly have taken place, changes too, of a moral and political, as well as of a social character. A fondness for change appears to be one of the strongest characteristics of the human soul, and deeper than the vanities of power, or the glittering pomp of glory, there is a changeableness, in hidden character, throughout our world of being. Death with his cold hand congeals our blood, and makes a difference in the social circle. Temptation hath a music for all ears, and crime will prevail, and mad ambition trumpeting the deeds of famous men excites to change in the

political world - you live in a Country where reform  
is advancing with great strides, my desire is that  
her footsteps may not have been misdirected. Inno-  
vations are dangerous, and I am exceedingly happy  
in finding my lot cast in a Country, where almost  
religion & respect is paid to ancient usages, all  
men cannot be equal - here there must be preceden-  
of power &c, and though at the founding of the last  
great trumps, the elevated brow of King will lose  
the impress of regalia, and the Slave will wear his  
immortality as free beside the Crystal water, yet  
in the temper of the invisible godlike, and undying  
intellect there are distinctions which Hell & Heaven will  
be in heaven, the seal of human being is a grad "a  
thing), there must be and are gradations on earth,  
and our blessed father teaches us there will also  
be the same in heaven, this is a mystery of being,  
it is only the next step of human pride, which  
leads man to pursue the path of the wild wind  
for greater mysteries, a proper sense of what is  
here observed is in my opinion the greatest source  
of that contentment which is the best pedestal  
of human happiness, but this is too gentle an element

for man's aspiring spirit, he cannot in general drink  
of so pure living water with a calm heart, but  
he must need descend to a damantine rock for still  
more secret springs. hence he can never arrive at  
the blessed condition of the inhabitants of in John  
Morie, Whafria.

In a month or so I shall despatch a  
small box of specimens for which the Country round  
to a distance of 30 leagues has been searched, I am  
not much of a Naturalist but these few specimens  
will serve to convince you the interest I take to meet  
your wishes, and you are undoubtedly aware that  
few regions of Country afford any very great  
variety of mineralogical objects, the Province  
Cabchet, Empire I must be examined, and this  
must be my apology for sending you a set  
of specimens bearing so great a family resemblance,  
I observe that you are common with our countrymen  
in general (at least a somewhat undue strength to  
the African Character when you speak of Negroes  
being able in their power to pick up the speci-  
mens it requires for such purposes also like  
ly that if the men be employed, I thank you kindly  
for your offer of service in way of sending me any  
articles or giving me any information I may want

and shall not hesitate to call upon you for I measure  
 your willingness to oblige by my anxiety to serve you,  
 and to the task. Trace our genealogical tree no  
 higher than to my grand father, and I shall be much  
 pleased to receive a statement from you both on  
 the Paternal as well as Maternal branch of my



Mrs. M. G. H. G.  
 Mrs. Church Place  
 Dublin  
 Ireland  
 Medora

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Ancestor as far as you can extend it with all  
 corresponding information on the matter  
 Please me ever and always  
 70 St. Andrew  
 Santiago de los Caballeros