

The Chatterton Content
in
Herbert Croft’s Book
“LOVE AND MADNESS”
From pages 124 - 272,
Shown in 23 separate sections of pages.

Section 17 of 23 - pages 210 - 211

Part of Letter L1 in *Love and Madness*

Containing Chatterton’s :

‘XX’

Note :

Croft identifies each of the letters between James Hackman and Martha Ray with Roman numerals. He also uses Roman numerals to identify Chatterton’s letter, which does add a little confusion.

Letter LI, in *Love and Madness*, incorporates some of Chatterton’s letters. It is a long letter, which stretches from page 140 to page 272. I have also included any additional page that has mention of Chatterton’s life or works.

I have split Croft’s Letter L1 (plus a few extra pages) into sets of pages containing key Chatterton items.

At the bottom of each set of pages is a link to take you to the next set of pages containing Chatterton content in sequence. As an option you can go back to the [Control Page for Letter L1 and select Chatterton content from there.](#)

Control Panel ↓ :

Chatterton contents : Letter LI : xxx pages : pp. .

● **Background to Herbert Croft’s role in the Chatterton story**

Love and Madness, by Herbert Croft, is a fictional story based on a true event.

The fictional part consists of a sequence of imaginary chatty, romantic letters between James Hackman, a soldier who became a clergyman & Martha Ray, who was the mistress of the earl of Sandwich.

The real event culminates with the death of Martha, who was shot by Hackman (her supposed lover) as she was leaving Covent Garden in 1779. Justice could be swift in those days, as twelve days later Hackman was executed by hanging.

Herbert Croft, the author of *Love and Madness*, owned the house in Shoreditch that Chatterton lodged in. This connection seems to have heightened his interest in the Chatterton story, which he must have seen as a surefire way of increasing interest in his book. All he needed to do was find some way of integrating the two stories. So, off to Bristol he went and he met with Catcott (the first port of call for anyone interested in Chatterton). Catcott introduced him to Chatterton’s mother, Sarah, and her daughter, Mary, who showed him Chatterton’s correspondence. Croft asked if he could take the letters for a few hours and then promptly left town taking the letters with him. The next Sarah and Mary heard about the letters was when they discovered they had been woven into and published for all to read in Croft’s sensational book, which went into a number of editions, seven at the last time of counting.

Herbert Croft page on TCMP website : [View online](#)

Details of Chatterton content in the above on TCMP website : [View online](#)

Panel 1 : Page 140 : Croft has no doubts that Chatterton wrote the whole. Pages 140, 141, 142

Pages 210 - 211 part of

Letter L1 in *Love and Madness* above

(Chatterton Letter VIII)

Containing Chatterton’s :

‘XX’

Control Panel ↓ :

Letter LI, in Herbert Croft’s book, *Love and Madness*, incorporates some of Chatterton’s letters. Letter L1 is long, it stretches from page 140 to page 272. The letter contains a sequence of imaginary letters between James Hackman, a soldier who became a clergyman, & Martha Ray, who was the mistress of the earl of Sandwich. She was shot and killed by Hackman (her lover) as she was leaving Covent Garden in 1779.

I have split letter L1 into sets of pages containing key Chatterton items. At the bottom of each set of pages is a link to take you to the next set of pages containing Chatterton content. As an option you can go back to the [Control Page for Letter L1 and select Chatterton content from there](#).

- Chatterton’s xxxxxxxx : [View Panel 1](#)

Control Panel :

Love and Madness Letter LI : (Chatterton Letter VIII)

- Pages 210-211 : [Scroll to View Panel 1](#)
Chatterton’s Letter to his sister, Mary, July 20th, 1770
Starts bottom of page 210 ‘**I am now about an Oratorio**’

(See the Control Page for this letter : [View](#))

Panel 1 : Pages 210-211 : Letter LI : (Chatterton - Letter VIII)

my wants; and stretch to the utmost to serve you. Remember me to Miss Sandford, Miss Rumsey, Miss Singer, &c. &c. &c.

As to the songs, I have waited this week for them, and have not had time to copy one perfectly: when the season's over, you will have 'em all in print. I had pieces last month in the following Magazines:

Gospel Magazine,
Town and Country, viz.

Maria Friendless.
False Step.
Hunter of Oddities.
To Miss Bush, &c.

Court and City. London. Political Register, &c. &c.

The Christian Magazine, as they are not to be had perfect, are not worth buying—I remain,

Yours,

T. Chatterton.

July 11, 1770.

LETTER VIII.

I am now about an Oratorio, which, when finished, will purchase you a gown. You may be certain of seeing me before the 1st of January, 1771.—The clearance is immaterial.—My mother may expect more patterns.—Almost all the next Town and Country Magazine is mine. I have an universal acquaintance:—my company is courted every where; and, could I humble myself to go into a compter, could

could have had twenty places before now :—but I must be among the great; state matters suit me better than commercial. The ladies are not out of my acquaintance. I have a deal of business now, and must therefore bid you adieu. You will have a longer letter from me soon—and more to the purpose.*

Yours,

T. C.

20th July, 1770.

During the period in which these letters were written, Chatterton produced many of the things printed in the volume of his *Miscellanies*. One passage I will be at the trouble of copying, because it shows the acuteness of his mental fight, which could plainly distinguish each varying ray of excellence, and see blots even in the sun from which his genius sprung, and which it worshipped.

“ But,

* The publick may be *assured* of the authenticity of these letters, and of *every thing* which is related of this boy. All the originals of his letters here printed, except the original of this *last*, are in the possession of his mother, or sister, who, I believe, are still living in Bristol, and keep little day-schools. The original of this (they received no more, he died on the 24th of the next month), his mother suffered to be retained as a curiosity.

The Editor.