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6. Portland Place
London
Nov. 28th 1827

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Sir

I have at Mr. Colbrooke's request undertaken the melancholy task of informing you of an event which he feels himself quite unable to enlarge upon at present, & for which I am sure you will lament as cordially as any of his friends, having known the object of his grief more intimately perhaps than any of them did. I allude to the sudden death of his son John on the 31st of Oct^r by an apoplectic fit, which as he was in good health we can only attribute to the over-turn of the Diligence in which he was travelling on the 27th: the circumstance was rendered still more painful by its having taken place in a Hotel at Paris without a single friend or even acquaintance to perform the last sad offices for him. He was anxious to improve himself in French & by way of relaxation from his Law studies his Father had consented to gratify his wish of passing three months in a Pension near Paris, for which place he was on the point of setting out, when the people of the Hotel found him in his travelling dress stretched lifeless on a Sofa. — You can imagine the loneliness this blow has cast over his poor father's present & future life. — He had been for the last 18 months & was likely to remain his constant companion — one too of whom he had conceived the fondest hopes, destined alas! to be all-crushed in the bud.

I will not apologise for intruding on your time while I indulge myself in dwelling on the treasure that has been snatched away from us: the affection of a cousin to whom he was dear as a brother must plead my excuse for that, & for the liberty which I & my sisters took about three

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