

St. James

April 21, 1840

Dear Madam - I am grieved to think how totally wanting, not only in good feeling, but even in common courtesy, you must all this time have thought me, in leaving the letter with which you honoured me, on the subject of the late Mrs Maclean, so very long unanswered. But the fact is that, I was, immediately on the receipt of it, hurried away to London by a domestic event of very deep interest both to Mrs Moore and myself, - the sending off our younger son to India, - and not having taken your address with me, I was unable even to explain by a personal visit, which I should have had much pleasure in paying, the reason of my long silence. I can now only say that I shall feel much gratified by joining, to the extent of my humble means and influence, in the very praise-worthy effort you are making in behalf of the mother of poor L. E. L. - an effort which I can well understand ~~must~~^{will} be rendered doubtless difficult to you by the delicacy with which it must be managed & guarded.

I have the honour to be, Dear Madam, yours &c
Thomas Moore