**STR/1A/117 Letter from [Miss Conry], to [Grace Catherine Mahon]**

Kensington

Mardi

My dearest Grace[[1]](#footnote-1)

I cannot really tell you how sorry I was to hear of your illness, you must indeed have suffered much pain. I know from experience the misery of anything the matter with the throat. I do hope this note will find you very much better. The fine air of the sea will do you more good than anything else. I wish I could be with you. I think it perfectly natural you should like reading novels now, for it is impossible, when one feels ill to give one’s attention to very serious reading

how [??] Mr Pakenham [?must] be [?not] what a comfort and happiness for you to have [?them] with you every day.

I am [?] to see you again [and] you must let me hear you play on the guitar, are you not glad you took my advice about it?

I have a lovely little song “[?] il Jospiran” which I will try and get arranged for the guitar for you – thanks for the “[?Fablian] programme”

I am going on the 13th to Arborfield[[2]](#footnote-2) on a visit to my brother. I shall return within the 15 or 16th. I should be so sorry to miss seeing you=. My brother & I are going to a gay ball on the night of the 13 to be given in our neighbourhood – too gay for me! I don’t feel very well or lively, I can’t shake it of.

Let me know when you shall arrive in London. I must see you. Has Major Mahon come back to you? I am afraid he found your part of the country much disturbed. Did you find Mrs [Perry] at home? & how was she looking?

In three weeks time we return to Arborfield. I shall be glad. You will be surprised to hear that I am reading a new novel called ‘The Confessions of a Pretty Woman’ by Miss Pardoe! I will tell you how I like it in my next. I must end this [?] epistle for my eyes ache. Let me have a line immediately pray as I am anxious to know how you are dear Grace. With kind regards to Major and Mrs Mahon

Believe me always your affectionate Friend

[?signature is unclear][[3]](#footnote-3)

Includes envelope addressed to Miss Mahon, Salt Hill Hotel, Blackrock, Dublin. The placename ‘Kingstown’ is added and then crossed out and the letter is then redirected to 40 Harcourt Street. Envelope bearing a postmark dated 9 April 1846

1. Grace Catherine Mahon, daughter of Major Denis Mahon of Strokestown Park [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Arborfield - Arborfield Hall near Reading, Berkshire was home to Sir John Conroy between 1842 and 1855 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This signature is not clear – I have suggested that based on context that the letter may possibly be from a Miss Conry – as there are other references to a Miss Conry in the archive. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)