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## Section 1

### A. Letters of George Boole

#### I Letters to/ from Maryann

##### i. from George Boole to his sister Maryann (1847-1857)

BP/1/1

12 Apr 1847

From Boole in Lincoln to Maryann who is holidaying with the Parry's. He advises her on where to sight-see and hopes the trip will improve her health and urges her to spend as much time in the fresh air as she can. Mentions a local schoolteacher who is renting his schoolhouse in the evenings to a temperance society. Boole feels this is a good idea, but he expects objections from the landlord. He tells her not to worry about him and their mother as Mrs. Elston is housekeeping for them, although he adds she cannot be said to replace Maryann. He includes some light-hearted verse beginning 'Maryann and Mary Jane I have heard your friends complain, that your cheeks are not so red, that their [roses] health are fled.'

7pp

BP/1/2

[1848]

Incomplete letter from Boole to Maryann discussing repairs which need to be done to their house and a dispute over a pump with the local water factory in Lincoln. He also gives instructions for a number of donations to be made to charities in Lincoln [arising out of the settling of his late father's affairs], and instructions for Mr. May, the stonemason, as to the format of his father's tombstone.

3pp

BP/1/3

2 May 1849

From Boole in Lincoln to Maryann in which he deliberates over his future career. He applied for a professorship in Ireland but in the meantime was offered the headmastership of a Grammar School in Lincoln. He has received strong hints that he has been selected for the professorship but he is unsure which position to choose. The headmastership would be more financially profitable but he feels 'the Irish professorship will on the whole if I get it be the best for me'. He binds her to secrecy about his deliberations.

4pp

BP/1/4

21 June 1849

From Boole in Lincoln to Maryann wishing her a happy birthday. He also requests her to let their mother know on what date she expects to return to Lincoln. He adds he will be soon travelling to London and he hopes to find lodgings near Bloomsbury.

3pp

BP/1/5

5 July 1849

From Boole on holiday on the Isle of Wight to Maryann excitedly telling her how he is enjoying his holiday and describing the pleasure he feels when walking in the beautiful scenery. He has heard from Mr. Collins that her health is better and hopes she is happy and well looked after at Alticton and comments favourably on the scenery in that area. He adds though that he would enjoy some company on his holiday, he finds it a drawback to be there by himself. 'Monday the 16th is our examination E.B.'

has been added at the end of the letter.

4pp

BP/1/6

25 October 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann informing of his safe arrival there and his impressions of Cork and Ireland. He seems pleased with his new home 'The situation and the prospects around are all that could be desired'. Of the city he says it is 'rather fine', but 'like every other large hive of men it has of course its wretched [ ] abodes of misery'. However, the effects of the Famine were visible: of the countryside he saw on his train journey from Dublin to Cork 'it is impossible to speak in terms too sad'. He saw 'scarcely a human being by the way or a herd of cattle in the fields'. He describes an encounter at Limerick Junction with some male peasants who had a unique air of 'defiant idleness' about them and comments that a man he met there told him he was paying 9s.6d in every pound to the poor rates.

2pp

BP/1/7

29 October 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann, telling her about social conditions in Cork. Of the area around the college he comments that he sees little of the misery and poverty so abundant in the city. He describes an encounter with a crowd of beggars in a street who 'far exceeded in horror anything not only that I had ever before witnessed but that I had even read of'. He feels private efforts are not enough to alleviate the situation. He then describes a recent trip he took with Raymond De Vericour professor of Modern Languages at [Q.C.C.] to Queenstown [Cobh], which reminded him of Lake Geneva and the Scotch lakes. He sends good wishes home to his friends and neighbours.

4pp

BP/1/8

3 Nov 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann sending her advice on the financial running of her school (when to send bills). He also mentions the Q.C.C. inauguration ceremonies are scheduled for the following week, while the scholarship exams are due to finish that day. His ceremonial robes are faced with scarlet which he finds somewhat offensive 'To so sound a Protestant as I am this is a rather uncongenial colour'. He closes by requesting her to tell all his Lincoln friends he will write soon.

2pp

BP/1/9

9 Nov 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing financial matters relating to her school and giving more of his impressions of Cork. His teaching duties have been set at two hours a day for two classes 12.30 to 2.45 with a 1,4 of an hour break, and he hopes his fees will cover his personal expenses and leave his salary clear, but this will depend on the number of students who are accepted. He expects 200 to have entered by the end of the college's second year. He has been well received in Cork and believes his family could live there contentedly. Food is quite cheap, salmon being 4d. a pound; and fowl also very reasonable. His landlady is very conscientious but he remarks that his mother would be surprised at the juxtaposition of food she serves, turkey with beef, roast goose with roast bacon and cheese with butter.

4pp

BP/1/10

16 Nov 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann giving her general news. He approves of Mr. Collins scheme [for her school] and compliments her on her version of Filcara which he felt was a fine composition but makes a few suggestions for alternative wording. He mentions he wrote three sonnets lately. With regard to Q.C.C. he received £28.10s.0d. from the bursar for fees, the next instalment of which will be due in January. He is lecturing from 1 - 3 every day except Saturday and declares 'I like my classes and only regret that they are small'. He is sorry to hear his mother is unwell but wants her to know he followed her advice to use a hot water bottle and no longer has damp sheets.

4pp

BP/1/11

25 Nov 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly discussing her school and her dispute with Mr. Swift, stating he is more than surprised at Swift's behaviour. He comments on her circular advertising her school, and suggests a lady should not praise herself, but rather let her work be her advertisement. He advises her not to have her fees too high for fear of excluding respectable tradesmen 'and they will be your best suppliers not the aristocracy'. Raymond De Vericour has been ill but is recovering and Boole comments 'he is an unbounded favourite in Cork especially with the ladies whom he has won over by his lectures, his graceful manner and fine person'.

7pp

BP/1/12

26 Nov 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann containing more advice about her advertisement circular for her school. He believes a ladies' school should be run by ladies and feels Maryann is competent to teach arithmetic and geography and, so, need not state Mr. Collins will be on hand to assist her in those subjects as that would be an admission of ignorance. He believes she will distinguish herself as a woman teaching those subjects. He encloses a cheque for 10 guineas.

3pp

BP/1/13

3 Dec 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly replying to statements in a letter from Maryann. He is sorry to hear their mother is unwell and states she is not to be worried about the future 'she has no real cause of anxiety there'. He advises her on when to break up her school at Christmas, that if Mr. Swift wishes to break up at the 14th then acquiesce as it would give him an earlier opportunity of meeting the children's parents. He also instructs her to re-order the Education Times for six months for him. College is still going well, although his classes are still small. The wet weather has forced him to buy another pair of strong shoes, rain coat and a dressing gown. The damp climate has caused his walking stick to twist like a corkscrew, but a hot water bottle keeps his bed dry.

4pp

BP/1/14

7 Dec 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann, a letter full of general news. He offers his sympathy on the illness of Mr. Merryweather, compliments her on her

circular and states the money she makes from her school will be hers to do as she likes with and adds he will always be willing to support her financially. He sends his regards to all his Lincoln friends and inquires after his mother's health. The college has now taken in about 40 students, but he is not sure of the exact number. He went for a seven mile walk the day before and had planned to walk that day but the incessant rain has flooded all the roads and fields. However, he remarks the floods can abate in less than a day. Adds he visited the Cork Union [now St. Finbarrs Hospital] which contained 4,700 inmates. Mentions he is not looking forward to the long voyage home.

6pp

BP/1/15

11 Dec 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining his travel plans for his trip home. He hopes to arrive with a friend at 3 p.m., but will be later if he has to go via Holyhead rather than Liverpool. He is glad she sorted out her school problems but would like to have seen the pupils before they left. He is bringing his professional robes for their mother to see, but implores her to tell no one as 'I don't want to be teased by people'. He remarks he doesn't like their scarlet colour. He went to hear 'the Creation' last night which was very well performed. Sends good wishes to all his Lincoln friends.

3pp

BP/1/16

12/13 Dec 1849

From Boole in Cork to Maryann. He hopes she received his cheque, and advises her when sending bills to pupils to make sure she does not overcharge. He himself is getting on well, 'I get on in the most satisfactory manner with my classes' apart from having a bad cold. Twenty more students from Newfoundland are expected in January. His landlord, Mr. O'Brien, lent him a pianoforte which he says is an example of the kindness he receives everywhere 'I really do not think that there is anything like it to be found in England except in case instances'. He mentions the anniversary of their father's death and comments on how much better off they are than many. He adds that the Roman Catholic churches in Cork have a low standard of music although he had heard some charming music in Cork. Mentions he plans to 'beg or buy' a drawing of a child by Miss F.C. recommended by William Brooke.

8pp

BP/1/17

10 Jan 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann requesting her to look for some books he left behind him on his last visit to Lincoln. As she is moving house he wishes Mr. Collins to organise payments of all accounts due to Boole with the provision 'But wish him above all things to act justly and liberally' in the matter.

4pp

BP/1/18

(See Also BP/1/135)

18 Jan 1850

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing the handling of her bills in Lincoln. He also gives some news of Q.C.C. eighty-nine students are now in attendance, with sixty studying under Boole. He

received £104.3s.4d. stipend for the term ending 5th January and is due another £25. He instructs her to draw £25 from his account in Lincoln for her upkeep. He mentions his new colleague, Mr. Shaw, whom he likes and concludes 'My situation is on the whole pleasanter than it was last term'. He also advises her to give up her school work if it is affecting her health.

4pp

BP/1/19

25 Jan 1850

Prom Boole in Cork to Maryann referring to Matthew Taylor's efforts to find a suitable position. He adds the number of students at college has reached ninety, and again he wishes Maryann was in Cork with him.

4pp

BP/1/20

30 Jan 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann in which he scolds her for not writing to him. He relates what he has been doing and mentions the people he has met including a Quaker gentleman who owns a telescope. He is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with his lodgings 'I do not feel that I am working so steadily as I ought to do. I am beginning to doubt whether living in lodgings is so favourable to the progress of one's studies as I had hoped to find it'. He does add that he does some work each day. He hopes her school is prospering.

4pp

BP/1/21

1 Feb 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann consoling her about the small number of pupils attending her school. He adds even if the school does not succeed she at least tried. He wonders if she could visit Cork. His social life is busier than ever and having his family around him would make things perfect. He adds also that he is working quite hard. He instructs her to have the outside of the house Mr. Dickson is renting painted and discusses Lincoln news she sent to him. He also instructs her to withdraw £25 from the bank to support herself.

6pp

BP/1/22

18 Feb 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann, writing to let her know he has not forgotten her. He instructs her to tell Mr. Collins and Mr. Swift that it is the tenant who owes the property tax, and that Mr. Swift owes rent. A Mr. Dyson has applied to him for a testimonial which he feels he cannot give 'on account of his weakness and frivolity of character'.

4pp

BP/1/23

19 Feb 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly concerning his interest in Matthew Lilley. He asks Maryann to inquire if Lilley is unemployed and if so to ask Mr. Dickson if he could give Lilley instruction for three hours per week. He hopes that might improve Lilley's character. He again complains that she is very slow to answer his letters. He has heard from his brothers Charles and William and remarks that Charles' letter was all about his wife Eliza, but was 'quite a pattern letter for an affectionate



husband'. However, he adds he is very glad to hear they are happy.

4pp

BP/1/24

26 Feb 1850

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing her dispute with Mr. Swift and his own lifestyle in Cork. He feels Mr. Swift's letter to Maryann 'was 'the production of a very coarse mind and you have answered it exactly as you ought'. He feels they will have a lot more trouble from Swift. Mentions he has resigned himself to the fact that it will rain throughout the Autumn terms and be dry occasionally during the other terms. He has been invited out to tea three times in succession and feel this is a good omen. He prefers joining a family at tea rather than at dinner. Due to his social obligations he has resolved to get up earlier in the morning to get more work done. The Queen's Colleges have begun to acquire a good reputation for teaching in Ireland and the Methodists have decided to give it their support although the Catholics remain divided. Mentions some domestic arrangements concerning the employment of [Charles ] and also that he would like to aid the Atkinson family of Lincoln financially. He inquires if he left some underclothes in Lincoln as he is missing some. Also he feels no addition is necessary to their father's tombstone.

8pp

BP/1/25

8 Mar 1850

Prom Boole in Cork to Maryann expressing his concern over their mother's illness, and also his wish to help the Atkinson family set up a toyshop. Also mentions his approval of the Mutual Improvement Society.

4pp

BP/1/26

16 Mar 1850

Prom Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining why he has moved to new lodgings in Strawberry Hill. At his old lodgings at Castle White he spent too much time in conversation and not enough in work. This new accommodation is very pleasant and run by three middle aged sisters 'apparently very intelligent and respectable'. He has decided to dine out only once a week and then only as a reward for hard work. His lecturing at college has been complimented but he stresses he is only telling her that to give her and their mother pleasure, not to boast. He has been told many times that his lectures are amongst the most popular with the students. He closes by commenting on news from Lincoln that Maryann wrote about and again instructs her to offer financial help to the Atkinsons.

8pp

BP/1/27

28 Mar 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is suffering from toothache and influenza, but is being well looked after by his landladies. He complains that she has not written to him in over a fortnight and hopes she is not ill either. His friends, the Jennings, sent him jam and vinegar which he was instructed to rub into his skin. As a result his swollen face improved now resembling 'a good natured farmer - looking fierce in which all mankind would be disposed to place the most implicit confidence'.

6pp

BP/1/28

30 Mar 1850

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing her school and the flooding of Cork. He instructs her also to take no rent from Mr. Newton for the use of the rooms. He advises her against buying recommendations, he would rather that she should prove her worth by work. In Cork a strong South Easterly wind has caused tidal flooding to occur in the city resulting in distress and hardship especially for the unfortunate poor who live in cellars, many of whom were seen by his friend Mr. Jennings who had to use a boat to travel the streets.

4pp

BP/1/29

4 Apr 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann telling her of his plans to spend a week in Ballycotton (the steamer to Aghada will cost him 1s.3d.). He mentions 'the melancholy loss of the Cork [repeal] on the [Goodcoins] it has excited much distress and sorrow here'. He instructs her to call on Mr. Swift for his half of the month's rent and cautions her to 'keep quite clear of the hospital business' as he believes the matron was at fault. He 'jokingly' instructs her to tell Brooke and Dickson that he is 'courageous' and 'bold' and that as 'audaces fortuna jurat', he has secured good lodgings for 15 shillings per week, and is not charged over the long vacation. He mentions there is to be a public dinner for Sir Robert Kane the next week but he will miss it as he had a prior engagement with Major Ludlow Beamish, and is quite happy to miss it.

4pp

BP/1/30

14 Apr 1850

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann briefly telling her how he enjoyed his trip to Ballycotton (full details of which he promises to send in a later letter BP/1/31) and answering questions relating to due subscriptions and other financial matters she raised in her letter. He instructs her that if she receives the £3 he was owed by the late Mr. Bennett she is to give it to his widow. He refers to a notebook in which he keeps a detailed account of all money owed to him.

4pp

BP/1/31

23 Apr 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining how busy he is working on theorems (adding he believes she knows what a theorem is) and giving details of his recent trip to Ballycotton via Aghada and Cloyne in a diary format. At Cloyne he noticed a cluster of 12 ruined cottages all at one time the homes of brogue makers 'an extinguished branch of Irish history'. He spent his first night in Ballycotton with Rev. G. Kingston, the rest in rooms in Ballycotton which were fine although 'cleanliness was not the household virtue of those who had the letting of the house'. His maid Sarah 'a barefooted but apparently modest and intelligent maiden' bought provisions from Mrs. Riordan who also owned the cars in that area. On Sunday he went to church: 'a very good congregation and a rather eloquent and very pleasing sermon'. He received a visit there from Captain Bervy 'one of the men who closed the door of the farmhouse on the field of Waterloo' and a Captain Butler who had served under General Evans for the Queen of Spain. He also visited the houses of weavers and spinners who were organised into a business during the famine by Mr. Kingston and

some Quakers. Adds he is to teach astronomy at the college which he is delighted to do. Closes with a request for news of Lincoln.

6pp

BP/1/32

3 May 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann. He complains she does not write often enough. He suggests hiring a nurse for their mother to allow Maryann go on little trips: 'it would be a pity that you should be always confined at home'. College is going well 'Nothing can be more agreeable to me than my duties. They are exciting and I feel fully master of them and know that my labours are appreciated'. Mentions he sometimes invites students to breakfast with him as he likes to have young people around him. He requests her to send him a copy of his testimonials.

4pp

BP/1/33

18/19 May 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is very busy with examination papers, but plans to visit Monkstown with Dr. Ryall [vice President Q.C.C.] that afternoon. He asks her to tell William Brooke that the trees in Cork are still in full bloom due to a late spring. He also instructs her not to write to Lilley [Matthew], whom he describes as headstrong and indolent, unless he first writes to her. On the 19th he recounts details of his trip to Monkstown which he wishes she could see. He was especially impressed with the beauty of the hills 'I begin to think that I shall find my native country flat and tame after them'. He complains that he is receiving too many invitations to go out.

4pp

BP/1/34

29 May 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing his life in Cork. He contrasts the cold springs of Lincoln with the mild warm spring in Ireland; and remarks that Irish people seem more healthy than the English. He feels this is due to the purity of the air, and their consuming more vegetables. Of the people he declares 'I have nowhere met with people so kind, a few individuals excepted, as in this city'. He has made some valuable friendships including one with Dr. Ryall 'a truly good man'. Dr. Ryall has invited him to visit Killarney with him and the Everests but he refuses to go unless Maryann goes too. Mentions that he has got her some plates.

8pp

BP/1/35

11 June 1850

Boole in Glengariff to Maryann. He is touring with Dr. Ryall and Mr. Everest and describes their wanderings, the scenery, weather and plant life. He was especially impressed with Bantry Bay 'From Bantry we came across the bay this morning, nothing can well exceed the beauty of this part of the bay surrounded by mountains and studded with islands. It deserves all that has been said of it'.

4pp

BP/1/36

1 July 1850

Boole in London to Maryann giving her details of his visit there. He is staying with Mr. and Mrs. 'H', who have been exceptionally kind to him.

His return to Lincoln will be delayed as he is suffering from lumbago brought on by over-tight shoes. Mentions the exquisite marbles he saw in the British Museum and urges her to visit them; 'they and the hippopotamus which I have also seen are the great attractions in London just now'. He has finished his work at the College of Preceptors and is busy buying books. He visited Mr. and Mrs. De Morgan who urged him to publish his works soon. He had a letter from their brother Charles agreeing to Maryann and their mother coming to live with him. As for himself 'I feel more and more devoted to a life of science and my recent holiday will I hope only send me back to my old pursuits with greater ardour'. He closes by telling her to keep her spirits up: 'All I doubt not will be well and we shall see happy days again'.

8pp

BP/1/37

15 July 1850

Boole in Lincoln to Maryann reassuring her that their mother's health is improving and instructing her to continue her visit to Osburnby and Sleaford. He is worried that their mother might not have long to live and he wants to ensure one of her children is always with her. He also advised Maryann to give up her school work as it is adversely affecting her health.

4pp

BP/1/38

6 Aug 1850

Boole in Lincoln to Maryann saying he reached Lincoln and describing his trip. Encloses a letter [not in collection] referring to De Vericour which he wants returned. Mentions neighbours he has met in Lincoln.

3pp

BP/1/39

(See Also BP/1/40)

14 Aug 1850

Boole in Lincoln to Maryann discussing a letter he received from De Vericour. 'He as you may suppose much grieved and surprised at the charges against him'. He also received a letter from Sir Robert Kane discussing the controversy over De Vericour's recent publication An Historical Analysis of Christian Civilisation. He has decided to write to both men and try to mediate between them. He also mentions his mother's health which is stable. He instructs Maryann firmly to enjoy her holiday and banish all melancholy thoughts.

4pp

BP/1/40

(See Also BP/1/39)

25 Aug 1850

Boole in Lincoln to Maryann giving details of their mother's health and of his visit to (his sister-in-law) Elizabeth in Holton. Also mentions seeing newspaper accounts 'all important' referring to the controversy over the publication of Raymond De Vericour's book An Historical Analysis of Christian Civilization.

4pp

BP/1/41

15 Oct 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann letting her that know he has arrived safely and

giving details of his journey. The trip cost £4, and unusually he was only mildly ill on the crossing. He mentions the effects of religious differences on the college, and believes the number of students will drop. At the moment 50% of students are Catholic and 50% Protestant. He met one former student at Limerick Junction whose parish priest denounced the colleges from the altar and said he that was afraid to return.

3pp

BP/1/42

18 Oct 1850

Boole in Cork in Maryann giving general news. His fees are not to rise so his income will remain approximately £300. He is in good health and the weather has remained very good, as a result of which '... Cork is in a much better state than when I first visited it'. He is busy conducting college examinations but sends best wishes to all his friends in Lincoln.

5pp

BP/1/43

26 Oct 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann. The weather has been very good and he visited Passage by train for only six pence '... some things you see are cheap in Ireland'. . College is to recommence the next day, he has been given two hours lecturing daily and one on Saturday, but feels he may add some voluntary hours. Professor Nicholl [Prof. of Geology] and his wife accepted his invitation to dinner and he plans to have three snipes which Dr. Ryall sent to him cooked for them.

4pp

BP/1/44

3 Nov 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing college matters. Although more students enrolled this year, they did not join his classes which have shrunk. However he feels smaller classes tax a teacher less than large ones. He is to lecture 10 to 12 o'clock, three mornings a week and from 11 to 1 o'clock one day and 10 to 11 o'clock the remaining day. His own work is going well and gives him comfort. He comments on Kane's Presidential address which he and others felt dwelt too much on Catholic grievances 'to the almost total exclusion of another faith either in the college or out of it'. Socially, he visited Col. Chesney in Ballincollig with De Vericour, and has been invited to dinner with the Protestant bishop of Cork 'I shall be glad to go not because he is a bishop but because I feel sure that I shall like him'. He quotes a line of Latin which he instructs her to translate for herself, he hopes she is getting on well in her new house.

6pp

BP/1/45

9 Nov 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann which opens scathingly 'Is the curiosity of the female breast insatiable?' [Maryann had been making enquiries about Col. Chesney's third wife]. 'She [Mrs. Chesney] is clever good and beautiful ... now are you satisfied?'. He discusses his lecture rota which suits him to perfection, and his dinner with the bishops of whom he says 'so much modesty and unaffected goodness are not often seen'. They discussed the writings of Dr. Peter Browne a predecessor of the bishop. The Archdeacon (who like the Dean of Cork asked for his address) offered him the use of his pew in church which Boole declined 'as I am very jealous of any

invasion of my Christian liberty on the Sabbath'. He morosely remarks that he is writing gossip as no newsworthy events have occurred. His life revolves around lecturing and walking, and complains '... England must be more politically exciting'. He responds to questions asked in her letter and inquires about Lincoln opinion on 'the popish invasion'. He has stopped subscribing to The Leader, which he describes as 'a ruinous speculation'.

8pp

BP/1/46

(See Also BP/1/47 & BP/1/48)

18 Nov 1850

Boole in Cork to Mary discussing his life there and the vacancy for a Professor of Mathematics at Manchester. He remarks on how pleasant life can be in Cork and describes a trip he took to Passage, Monkstown and Ringaskiddy with Dr. Ryall. At Ringaskiddy a hospitable local woman cooked them potatoes for their dinner and he extols the beauty of that area. A 'manoeuvre' was anchored in the harbour which he boarded. Boole was awed by the size of the ship 'The space between decks was quite like a town'. He then turns to a discussion of the Manchester position citing the advantage of staying or leaving Cork. His salary at Cork will never rise above £350 p.a. and he feels Catholic and Protestant tension in England will affect the success of the college. He discusses Manchester as a future home and adds 'I should have no doubt of succeeding in Manchester. .. I have acquired the habit of working steadily and systematically without overworking myself and this of inestimable importance'. However, for him the basic question is where would he be most useful and be best equipped to pursue his studies. '.... upon which my ultimate position in this world should I live and my reputation afterwards will depend'. He also feels a sense of commitment to those who hired him. Anxiously, he inquires for her opinion.

12pp

BP/1/47

(See Also BP/1/46 & BP/1/48)

Nov 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann concerning the vacant Professorship at Manchester. He quotes an extract from a letter to R. Dowden from James Heywood M.P. Manchester, inquiring into Boole's educational background i.e. which university did he attend. He wishes to know as Boole's name had been mentioned for the professorship. The salary would be £350 p.a. and two-thirds of student fees. He requests Maryann's views on the matter.

2pp

BP/1/48

(See Also BP/1/46 & BP/1/47)

21 Nov 1850

From Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining his decision not to accept the Manchester professorship if it is offered 'For at present I have leisure for my own pursuits and no situation of the kind in the kingdom would give me more than my present one'. Adds a postscript telling her the college authorities cannot alter fees and he will give no more thought to that.

3pp

BP/1/49

2 Dec 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann giving varied news. He discusses Irish religious divisions stating that the Protestants here are less angered by 'The Papal Aggression' than they are in England. The Catholics are divided with the

violent faction becoming more violent. However, the Synod of Thurles gave much discussion time to its more moderate members. He has heard his teaching is well liked and approved of which gives him great pleasure, and mentions that four students ate with him at breakfast. Charles, his brother, wrote requesting money, which he wanted sent by cheque by Maryann using a false name in case the bank clerks should think he was needy. Boole states he wrote back agreeing to send the money but not that way. He tells her it usually takes over a week for a reply from her to reach him. Mentions he will not be able to afford the journey home at Christmas.

7pp

BP/1/50

5 Dec 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing family matters. Charles has asked him to send him £10.0s.0d. in a letter from Lincoln, but Boole would rather send the money by postal order from Cork, so that there would be less chance of loss. His brother William has also written and is in unfortunate circumstances. Boole bought a piano for 20 guineas (which he feels is a bargain) and requests Maryann to send over some sheet music.

4pp

BP/1/51

18 Dec 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is in a very depressed mood, life has become monotonous with only his work adding interest to the day. He enjoys playing the piano but 'it would be better with someone else to listen and to be listened to'. He is also very annoyed by [Cropers] dedicating his book to him without first asking for permission - 'I cannot help feeling that he has taken a great liberty' - and speaks in strong terms of [Cropers] 'pretensions to high morality'. He invites and urges Maryann to visit him as soon as their mother's health would allow. He feels the climate would do her good.

8pp

BP/1/52

31 Dec 1850

Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly discussing her proposed visit. He hopes their mother will not stop her as he feels she needs a holiday. He criticises their mother's habit of wishing to die when things don't go her way: 'Tell her that I think it very weak and very sinful'. He spent Christmas at Col. Chesney's and Dr. Bullen's, which he enjoyed. The weather is fine so he is walking a lot and mentions a walk of 19 miles he took along the Carrigaline River: 'I was glad to find that I could walk that far without much fatigue'. Ends with an inquiry as to who was elected President of the Lincoln Mechanics Institute.

6pp

BP/1/53

6 Jan 1851

From Boole in Cork to Maryann telling her that he received a promise of payment of a £2 debt from [Gordon]. He accepted it, but described the man's promissory note as a 'mere waste of paper'. His lecturing duties at college are to be reduced by two hours to nine altogether. He has been dining out a lot and intends to limit this as it interferes with study. Inquires how much money is left in the bank in Lincoln.

4pp

BP/1/54

8 Jan 1851

From Boole in Cork to Maryann, enclosing a cheque for £25. He tells her he sees little hope of Mr. Turner finding a position as a music teacher in Cork, as there are too many already in the city. He is looking forward to her visit in the spring.

4pp

BP/1/55

13 Jan 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann, dealing with family and financial matters. Their brother William got a school in Cheshire where the climate will suit his wife Eliza. Boole's income that year is to be £290; 'too little. I am afraid the prospects with us are not brightening'.

4pp

BP/1/56

23 Jan 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing financial and college affairs. He encloses her quarterly cheque of £25 and requests her to keep a good account of all she spends. He turns then to college affairs which he feels have been badly managed. He had pinned his hopes on reform by the new senate but 'That miserable Lord John was afraid of offending the Dublin doctors and lawyers and he has given us a batch of them to rule over us' .

4pp

BP/1/57

23 Jan 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing general news. He asks her to send him one ounce of Woodcock Chemists best broth powder. He compliments a piece of music 'Consider the lilies' which he found very enjoyable, and tells her he dined recently at Col. Chesney's. He urges her not to worry about his income 'it is a great comfort to me think that my income can be so well employed in making you and mother comfortable'. He mentions that a better appointment is in the air but gives no details. He is busy writing a paper for the Cambridge Journal, and has written nearly 900 pages of his work on logic. Sends regards to friends.

6pp

BP/1/58

(See Also BP/1/59)

6 Feb 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing family matters. He heard from William that his wife Eliza had died, and immediately decided to send William some money. However after thinking about William's selfishness in leaving Eliza to die with strangers he decided against sending the money, though if he is in difficulty he will send him money via Maryann but he will not write directly to him. Charles also requested money which Boole sent. He is anxious to know when Mr. Swift will pay his debt and mentions he cannot give Gordon the testimonial he requested.

4pp

BP/1/59

9 Feb 1851

From Boole in Cork to Maryann. He mentions his mother's health and discusses the death of his sister-in-law Eliza. William wrote to explain why he left his dying wife alone, but Boole feels the reasons (which he



will not mention) were not good enough. He mentions the steamer 'Atlantic' was driven into Cork harbour by bad weather and says she was a most impressive sight. He enquires if all his letters reach her, and tells her he has written some verses on the constellations which he intends to send to Ann Parry.

4pp

BP/1/60

Mar 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann complaining he sees so few people he has nothing to write about. He discusses his friendship with Mr. Nicoll [Prof of Geology] 'a man of sense and principle' whose wife is 'much given to laughing and makes other people indulge in the same wholesome exercise' and describes a trip with Mr. Nicoll to see ancient tide markings. Dissension is occurring in the college over discipline and also about the Professor of Celtic languages who resigned his chair, but now refuses to leave. Boole hopes mediation will bring accord. Is himself on good terms with both sides and hopes to remain that way. He sends best wishes to all friends and promises to send a cheque.

10pp

BP/1/61

17 Mar 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann, a general letter in which he commiserates on her ill health and that of their mother. He suggests on occasional pony ride would do them both good and promises to cover the cost. He describes an encounter with a crowd of whisky drinking revellers celebrating St. Patrick's day by reciting 'St. Patrick was a gentleman ....' which he writes out for her, he also encloses some shamrock. He is reading a lot of German which he enjoys. His classes are going very well and he will begin lecturing on physical astronomy next session with a public lecture on the subject.

10pp

BP/1/62

27 March 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is eager for any news from Lincoln 'and don't mind how gossiping it is for I don't'. He is very busy and expects to work throughout the Easter break. College affairs are quite peaceful. He presumes he is to be made Dean next year which will increase his workload. He has no messages for her but writes anyway to stop her being anxious about him. He asks her to call on Mrs. Nicolson in Lincoln to commiserate.

6pp

BP/1/63

Apr 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He remarks on their mother's health and thanks Maryann for her news from Lincoln. He mentions property tax being due on a house which he wants to lease. He has been practising on the piano and is improving and requests her to send over some sheet music. He mentions Miss Everest [his future wife] is visiting her uncle and remarks she plays the piano quite well. He plans to visit Monkstown soon for the sea air and inquires after neighbours.

7pp

BP/1/64

6 Apr 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann expressing his happiness at the improvement of her own and their mother's health. He refers to putting her under the care of Dr. Barter - a hydrotherapist in Blarney - if the need arises. He comments on the deterioration in her poetry and unfavourably on her choice of reading material - a biography of Byron which he says 'is not worth the study. There was scarcely any true greatness in his character'. Mentions a cheque is enclosed for £25 and closes with a promise to send her some shamrock.

6pp

BP/1/65

9 Apr 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He remarks on his mother's improved health and his own: 'I took a walk of eight miles today after my two hours lecture and three hours of serious writing. I did not feel fatigued'. He requests her to get an assessment of the house from Mr. Hill so that Boole will not be liable for rent. He sends best wishes to his neighbours.

4pp

BP/1/66

3 May 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining his move to Monkstown. He now commutes to Cork by steamer and train but is not sure if he will remain there until the end of the year. He had made himself ill from overwork and had also suffered an anxiety attack over who would care for Maryann if he died. States that it was a sickly season in general in Cork with the East wind drying up the land. Adds that Ireland is the quietest of the Queen's dominions.

8pp

BP/1/67

9 May 1851

Boole to Maryann discussing the influenza epidemic in Cork and the rise in emigration. Influenza and bilious complaints have affected many and typhus fever is also prevalent in the city, his own health though is good. He mentions how quiet Cork is due to the heavy exodus 'Emigration seems to be the chief business now'.

4pp

BP/1/68

9 June 1851

Boole in Cork to Maryann telling her his travel arrangements for his visit home during the holidays.

2pp

BP/1/69

11 June 1851

Boole in Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) to Maryann explaining he has been detained on his trip home by bad weather. He plans to cross via Bangor to view the [Crenan] Bridge.

2pp

BP/1/70

28 June 1851

Boole in London to Maryann telling her about his stay there. He visited the Great Exhibition with which he was most impressed. He was less

impressed by a recital of Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' which he felt was of a poor standard. The weather has been hot, reaching 90°(F) one day.

4pp

BP/1/71

15 Sept 1851

Boole in Lonesby to Maryann telling about his visit there, for part of which he was accompanied by William Brooke. He will be returning home soon to draw up examination papers.

3pp

BP/1/72

23 Jan 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann apologising for not visiting her in Blarney. He jokingly remarks that the next time he sees her she could have webbed feet and hands. He himself has a severe pain in his arm and is very tired from teaching. He mentions neither he nor anyone in college has heard from Sir Robert Kane. He promises to visit her soon and the others 'who appear to be happy in their delusion and their Blarney' .

5pp

BP/1/73

[1852]

Covering letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann [in Blarney] enclosing letters (not in collection), referring to his being granted an honorary degree from T.C.D .. He wishes her to keep the matter secret 'as I wish to avoid a round of questionings and congratulations'. He also encloses a lecture of his and promises to visit her the next day.

3pp

BP/1/74

25 Feb 1852

Boole in T. C. D. to Maryann in Blarney, telling her about his stay in Dublin. He received comfortable rooms at Trinity and went to hear John [Gregg] preach. He is to dine with Dr. Graves, and has been invited to a banquet with the new Chancellor at which the Lord Lieutenant will also be present. He is however, looking forward to returning to Cork.

4pp

BP/1/75

27 Feb 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann in Blarney. He urges her to derive all the benefit she can from hydrotherapy before her return to England. He discusses his recent trip to Dublin (See BP1/73-74 above) which he enjoyed and where he met many interesting people. To mark his new title of 'Doctor', Mrs. Ryall gave him a plate engraved with his name and title and a number of calling cards. He also mentions a meeting with Sir Robert Kane 'which will I trust lead to an amicable adjustment to some of our differences'.

4pp

BP/1/76

[Mar 1852]

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing her hydropathic cure at Blarney. He expresses his delight at her renewed health and jokingly remarks 'you will look for the daily excitements of the douche and the plunge and the wet sheet and the packing in ice just as the epicure does for his glass or the

smoker of opium for his pipe'. But he adds a cautionary note 'You are not to be infected with the watery notion that hydropathy is the sum total of human science and the wet sheet the only mantle of virtue and heroism' .

4pp

BP/1/77

12 May 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly discussing the Triennial Visitation brought on by Professor Alcock the result of which was 'Alcock carried his point but our cause which came on after was lost'. The inquiry was overall very amicable. He dined the day before with Sir Robert Kane, and that evening with the Bishop. There he was introduced to the Bishop's Chaplin, Mr. Fitzgerald, who informed him he had made Boole's work on logic (The Mathematical Analysis of Logic 1847) a subject of lecture at T.C.D.

4pp

BP/1/78

14 May 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing the Alcock dispute, which was settled after a visitation to Sir Robert Kane, the report of which Mrs. Jennings sent to Maryann. He is pleased the matter is settled, but during the investigation he 'kept in the background everything that I could that was damaging to the character of the President' . On the whole he felt the visitors were pleased with the way he brought the matter to them, and does not feel the college will suffer much adverse publicity. Inquires after old friends in Lincoln and mentions hearing of the death of Fanny Collins.

4pp

BP/1/79

25 May 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is unwell from a boil and an attack of diarrhoea for which he blames the climate, as he eats a very regular diet. He is grateful that he has not caught the fever prevalent in the city and feels his ailments will to some degree be a preservation against it. He has taken to travelling by steamer a couple of times a week to Cove [Cobh], an area he finds very beautiful. Mentions Sir William Hamilton of Edinburgh who sent him a copy of his book in which he refers to him 'in a complimentary way'. He hopes to spend a few days of his holiday in Bristol with Mr. Everest.

4pp

BP/1/80

30 May 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann, complaining that he replies quicker to her letters than she to his. The examinations are to begin soon and a lot of work lies before him. Cork is to hold an exhibition soon which everyone is looking forward to. At Q.C.C. things are quiet, but he feels peace will not last. As he is soon no longer a member of the College Council 'I have done with these matters or nearly so'. He makes enquiries about Lincoln and tells her his landlords's children (the Urkles) are to take tea with him that evening.

8pp

BP/1/81

9 June 1852

Boole to Maryann describing the visit of the Lord Lieutenant to Cork. The streets were lined with soldiers but 'no great enthusiasm was manifested by the people'. This he attributes partly to the heavy rain at the time.

The Lord Lieutenant is to return again for the opening of the Cork Exhibition at which all the Professors will be present in their ceremonial robes. He hopes some musical interludes during the ceremony 'will greatly relieve the dullness of the loyal and dutiful addresses.' The Lord Lieutenant is also scheduled to visit the college. He mentions he took a trip to Blarney the night before with Dr. Ryall.

4pp

BP/1/82

14 June 1852

Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining he was detained from leaving for Lincoln by college business but hopes to reach there soon. He was very impressed with the Cork Exhibition 'it is really far superior to anything I could have expected'. He mentions the college is to have a promenade on behalf of a local charity. He also mentions Col. and Mrs. Chesney have invited him to visit them in the North of Ireland.

4pp

BP/1/83

31 July 1852

Boole in Tintern to Maryann telling her about his visit there. His health is improving so he plans to extend his visit. He explored the River Wye with Mr. Everest, and intends that evening to visit a local ruined abbey once the moon rises. Mentions Charles (his brother) improved since his move to Sleaford. He hopes Henrietta and Amelia and their 'little mischievous interesting nephew really enjoy their visit'.

4pp

BP/1/84

15 Sept 1852

Boole on holiday in Mumbles to Maryann giving her details of his travels. Refers to leaving Wichnor (where he was visiting the Everests) for Chepstow, where he attended the horticultural show. He went to Mumbles with the intention of going swimming but he did not like the coastline and also the weather was unfavourable.

2pp

BP/1/85

29 Sept 1852

Boole in London to Maryann. He tells her he visited Dr. Morgan, who calculated his book will not cost over £100 to publish. As he is sure to receive that back from sales, he decided to visit a publisher while in London. He also hopes to meet Mr. Hainworth (Prof. of Mathematics in University College, London) before he leaves. Adds he met Mrs. [Hauzqushes] who is very happy in London and looks like she will do well. He tells her the cost of his journey was 24s.8d. for a 1st class train ticket.

4pp

BP/1/86

14 Oct 1852

Boole in Chester to Maryann telling of his visit there to Dr. Bury. He intends to leave shortly for Holyhead. Yesterday he saw the Queen pass through the streets 'She looked very well. It was a more imposing affair than the similar one at Lincoln'.

3pp

- BP/1/87  
7 Jan 1853  
Boole at Wichnor in Gloucestershire to Maryann informing her of his safe arrival at the Everests and his intention to visit Dr. Bury. He says of his hosts 'It is a very delightful family to visit'.  
2pp
- BP/1/88  
9 Jan 1853  
Boole in Dublin to Maryann informing her of his arrival there after a sea voyage on which he 'was as usual very sick'. Mentions the places he's been to see and the people he met (including Prof. Grams, Prof. of Maths at T.C.D.). He feels his health benefited greatly by his trip to England. Adds he met their brother William at Chester and that he was looking very well.  
3pp
- BP/1/89  
11 Jan 1853  
Boole in Cork to Maryann informing her of his safe arrival and that lectures have recommenced.  
1p
- BP/1/90  
2 Feb 1853  
Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing mainly his book [The Laws of Thought] which he is busy finishing. He hopes to send a large part of it soon to the press. Mentions he is worried about Dr. Ryall's health, adding that he is having his landlord's children to tea soon.  
4pp
- BP/1/91  
10 Feb 1853  
Boole in Cork to Maryann thanking her for the pork pies she sent to the Jennings and the Unkles. His book is due to go to press in one month's time and he hopes it will be published during the summer. He sends his regards to his neighbours in Lincoln and tells her he has invited William Brooke to Cork for the Spring.  
4pp
- BP/1/92  
20 Feb 1853  
Boole in Cork to Maryann. The weather is very cold and Cork Lough has frozen over. He is ill in bed with a cold and rheumatics but is enjoying the weather as it reminds him of England. Dr. Ryall is also unwell due to strain from dissensions in the college 'which under Sir RH I am fully persuaded never will cease'. He again states he is glad to be off the college council.  
4pp
- BP/1/93  
22 Feb 1853  
Boole in Cork to Maryann requesting her to look for and send him a paper of his entitled 'Numerically Definite Propositions' which he needs. He is in excellent health, 'I have never in my life felt better than I have lately done.'  
4pp

BP/1/94

6 Mar 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly discussing his dissatisfaction in Cork. Things have come to such a point that he feels the college will never develop and he declares 'I begin to think more seriously of getting out of it'. His friend Mr. Nicholl [Prof of Geology] got a chair in Aberdeen 'where I hope he will enjoy peace and freedom'. Boole is going to hold a tea party in his honour. Adds that his book will soon be in the press.

4pp

BP/1/95

10 Mar 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann enclosing a violet sent by Mrs. Donovan from her greenhouse. Mentions he is hosting a tea party that evening in honour of Prof. Nicholls. He adds he is very busy with examination papers.

2pp

BP/1/96

20 Mar 1853

Original plus copy letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann. He opens by telling her how much he dislikes letter writing: 'I find it more difficult and more fatiguing than Mathematics and I am quite sure that my hand becomes weary a great deal sooner with this species of labour than with any other'. He adds his hand often becomes stiff from writing but never while writing on any scientific subject. College affairs have now he believes reached a critical stage with the local press having become involved. He feels sure the government will have to intervene. Mentions he has been invited to dinner by the bishop to meet two judges. Discusses walks he has taken and Lincoln news Maryann sent.

2 items

BP/1/97

Apr 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing the worsening state of college affairs. College dissensions have now been laid before the government by Dr. Alcock. Dr. Ryall's health seems to be worsening under the strain. But there is one bright spot: 'Happily the teaching and discipline of the college were never better than they now are and this is a real consolation'. Adds he was glad to hear she enjoyed her visit to Collingham, and inquires after his Lincoln friends and his brother Charles.

8pp

BP/1/98

19 Apr 1853

Original and copy from Boole in Cork to Maryann in which he encloses money owed to Mr. Brooke and argues she should not have agreed to paper the house. He then takes a more despondent tone wondering if he did right to come to Cork and if he was not happier as a schoolteacher. His students though are all doing well and enjoy his lectures. He went recently to Blarney where he had a vapour bath and a cold plunge and tells her of his social outings (he even was dancing at one dinner party). He mentions Spenser Halls 'The Peak and the Plarnis' and asks her to try and get it proposed at the Mechanics Institute.

2 items

BP/1/99

4 May 1853

Original plus partial transcript from Boole in Cork to Maryann. He has been spending a lot of time with the Everests, who are visiting Dr. Ryall and has been giving Mary Everest [his future wife] maths lessons. She has 'an extraordinary quickness of apprehension and solidity of judgement such indeed as I have never seen surpassed'. Mentions he went to hear an oratorio called 'Daniel and the Creation' and was tremendously impressed, also that income tax is to be introduced. He feels it will be those on low salaries who will be most affected: 'Still I feel no disposition to complain and would not even wish the tax to be removed'. He gives details of his plans for the summer. He would like her to visit but he cannot afford the fare. He complains her letters are like 'registers of bad news' cataloguing death and illness of friends, also that college differences are still raging.

2pp

BP/1/100

19 May 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann letting her know of his plans for the summer holidays. In college things are still unsettled but he hopes a decision of a course of action will soon be reached. He has been invited to dinner by the bishops whom he regards as 'thoroughly kind and unaffected.' Sends regards to friends in Lincoln.

4pp

BP/1/101

31 May 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann letting her know he hopes to be in Lincoln by the 20th. He is very busy with examinations but will be going that evening to visit Father Matthews (Fr. Matthews Tower, Glanmire Road, Cork) with the Ryalls and the Jennings.

3pp

BP/1/102

5 June 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann detailing his travel arrangements for his journey home to Lincoln. Mentions the death of their Aunt Young and presumes Uncle Boole may soon follow her. He and Dr. Ryall went to see Kilcrea Abbey and Castle and he was impressed by both. Mentions he saw a good deal of Mrs. and Miss Everest on their visit to Cork 'and was much pleased'.

4pp

BP/1/103

9 June 1853

Boole at Howth to Maryann. He is staying with Dr. Graves in Howth, Co. Dublin and describes his visit to Dublin. He went to the Dublin Exhibition which he describes as worth seeing. He muses on the origin of the giant Howth was named after and tells her of a walk he took around the area, describing it as 'a wild and beautiful spot, the sea breaking on the rocks before the house'. Mentions he hopes to meet Dr. Bury in England, and briefly expresses regret over the death of Aunt [Every].

4pp

BP/1/104

19 Oct 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann letting her know he reached Cork safely after an



unusually pleasant journey and that he has been invited to dine with the bishop. He stopped over in Dublin, and received permission to make use of 'the Great Library there' whenever he wishes. Adds that his lodgings were beautifully redecorated while he was away.

4pp

BP/1/105

27 Oct 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining the note he left was for the waterworks company. Hemet F.C. Penrose, who had come to Ireland to select marbles for the sarcophagus of the Duke of Wellington. The two men got on very well and Boole invited him to stay with him for a few days which he did. He is very busy with exam papers, and adds he hopes she will succeed with her schemes of teaching, but he feels they might not work out so well.

4pp

BP/1/106

(See Also BP/1/154)

5 Nov 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing the flooding of Cork and college affairs. Although the flood waters have receded they left disease in their wake with cholera being reported in the harbour area. Temporary bridges were erected over the Lee to replace those damaged. He heard £60,000 of damage resulted from the flooding but feels this figure is exaggerated. At College his classes have grown large, but things are still overshadowed by the continuing differences between Sir Robert Kane and Dr. Ryall with the government refusing to intervene. He declares 'I have nothing happily to do with the affairs except to sympathise as far as I can with the right.' Mentions he is reading Gioberti's *Le Bello et Del Buons* which he finds very interesting, and inquires if she needs any more money.

8pp

BP/1/107

20 Nov 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann in a general letter he tells her he returns Mrs. Palethrope's paper signed and hopes she may draw benefit from it. He discusses his own, Maryann's and their mother's health and hopes their mother is not worrying needlessly about him as he is feeling much better than he usually does at that time of year in Cork.

4pp

BP/1/108

26 Nov 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann in which he compliments her on her circular and hopes she will be successful. He has been asked to give a testimonial to a Mr. [Dyson] but he is unsure as 'His abilities are very slender, his character weak and he has a great deal of conceit.' He inquires what Dyson's recent behaviour has been like. The letter then takes a more despondent tone. He has many invitations to go out 'But all this does not supply the place of a home and domestic comforts.' Adds he hopes his book will be completed soon.

6pp

BP/1/109

11 Dec 1853

Boole in Cork to Maryann telling her he has just recovered from a stomach upset which affected most of Cork. He gives news of his friends, and tells

her he has decided not to give [Dyson] a testimonial. His book is to be printed in a week and will go to London to be bound. Peace has arrived in college but he feels it is only temporary - 'You cannot change the characters of men' - and adds the President will soon resume his slack ways. His classes however, are going well. Urges her to continue with her school only if it does not affect her health. Sends his regards to friends.

8pp

BP/1/110

2 Jan 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann discussing family concerns, and inquiring if Maryann will continue with her school seeing as she has only one pupil. He is glad to hear their brother William visits her 'It must make his [times] and your less dull.' He describes a recent trip to West Cork where he suffered a great deal from rheumatism, and his plans to go to Ballycotton for a few days with Dr. Ryall.

4pp

BP/1/111

3 Jan 1854

Original and typed copy from Boole to Maryann in a rather subdued tone. He writes to assure her he is over the melancholy mood evidenced in his last letter. He has been reviewing his life and regrets and feels he lives too much for intellectual pursuits, but those pursuits are he feels a type of vocation and states 'I cannot be happy without them and ought not to try'. He resolves to use his talents for the good of mankind as he feels 'on the whole I have not been living to so good purpose as I ought to have been.' He encloses a cheque for £25.

2 items

BP/1/112

29 Jan 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann, he is very worried about her health and urges her to give up schoolwork. As his income will be £320 that year he assures her he can spare extra money. Mentions his book is due out that day, and also he wishes to settle Mr. Bussill's bill for attending her. He then discusses college affairs which are peaceful if not settled and declares about Sir Robert Kane 'My opinion is such that I do not think that I shall ever call upon him again or hold with him anything but the merest official intercourse.' He then gives some general news and states he is getting on well with his class.

8pp

BP/1/113

29 Jan 1854 - 30 May 1854

Typed copies of letters from Boole to Maryann BP/1/112, and BP/1/121.

1p

BP/1/114

10 Feb 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann, he opens with a criticism of her handwriting. She sent him some Italian verse none of which he could make out due to her handwriting and adds 'In writing a foreign language it is very necessary to be careful of one's penmanship'. Professor Nicholls has told him a Professorship of Maths is soon to fall vacant at St. Andrews, but he is not going to apply as 'I do not however think that the advantages are

sufficiently great to justify a breaking up of my present associations'. He also has some qualms about the 'severe church of Scotland.' He mentions Miss Palethorp's circular which he feels she would be better sending for some reasons of delicacy to the archbishop herself. He has instructed his publishers to send Maryann six copies of The Laws of Thought and tells her who he wants to receive them. Closes with an assurance he does not want her to use any of the revenue from her school for the upkeep of the house.

6pp

BP/1/115

16 Feb 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann. A general letter opening with his commiserations [for not getting an appointment] and sends his regards to Miss Davis. He has not been sleeping well, mentions he had to give away a large number of copies of his book to friends. He dined recently with the bishop who told him he hoped Boole would soon get a better appointment. Boole adds though that he would be sad to leave Cork. Mentions 'GE who has run away to Paris'. Also mentions he encloses a letter from Cambridge (not in collection).

4pp

BP/1/116

4 Mar 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann enclosing letters to show Dickson and explaining why he moved back to his old lodgings in Strawberry Hill. Discusses also the dismissal of Benjamin Alcock (Prof. of Anatomy and Physiology Q.C.C.) whom he describes as 'a foolish man' but adds 'I believe that he has been in the right in the main and that all kinds of dishonesty have been practised against him.' Because of Alcock's treatment he has resolved to have no informal contact with the President, although that may be against his best interests.

4pp

BP/1/117

20 Mar 1854

Original plus typed copy letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann, telling her he is settled comfortably in his new lodgings, and describing a trip to the Old Head of Kinsale with Dr. and Miss Ryall, Mr. and Mrs. Harkness, T. Jennings and Mr. Read. He promises to send her a copy of the review of his book in the Southern reporter. He discusses a young Lincoln man, G. Saunders, who he invites to Cork, as being prey for temptation as 'Lincoln is one of the worst places in the world for a youth of easy character. It abounds with temptations'. Closes by advising her not to teach on Saturdays as it has now become the custom not to. Sends regards to friends.

2 items

BP/1/118

2 Apr 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann. In a general letter he mentions the different reviews of his book, his plan to go to Ballycotton for a few days and also his intention to move from Grenville Place. The weather is glorious in Cork, and the building of the Cork Athenaeum almost complete. He says 'There is no doubt that in time Cork will be a very fine city'. He mentions the vacancy in Melbourne for a Professor of Maths and outlines the details of the position which carries a stipend of £1,000 p.a. He asks for her opinion on the matter.

8pp

BP/1/119

14 Apr 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is suffering from lack of sleep and low spirits, but is otherwise in good health. He was delighted to hear his brother Charles became a father and hopes the child will bring him 'the peace and comfort to which he has been so long a stranger'. He mentions a review of his book in the Westminster Review 'which is well written but contains misapprehensions. It will be some time before its real nature is understood'. He also mentions his concern for the financial welfare of 'Uncle Boole and Jane' and inquires if they need money: 'Remember it will be nothing to you or me a few years hence whether we have £5 more or less, but it would be a sad reflection that he or poor Jane had not enough.' He also speaks of ensuring Robert and Jane are provided for in the will.

9pp

BP/1/120

Apr 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann, hoping that she is in good health and that her teaching is going well. Adds he wishes his Lincoln neighbours could be with him to enjoy the beautiful spring in Cork. He describes a trip to Killarney with Mr. Nicoll, one of the highlights of which was the sight of two eagles flying nearby. He also tells her of how uncomfortable he was at the Unkles and recounts an argument in which he called the Unkles 'unjust people' and received 'a torrent of abuse.' They also overcharged him. Mentions he occasionally has tea with a Mrs. Hill who works for London Booksellers: 'she is a very clever and a very excellent person'. He has not however such a high opinion of her daughter.

12pp

BP/1/121

18 May 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann mainly concerning their health and his new lodgings. He feels Maryann needs a holiday by the sea to regain her health and adds he is recovering from a heavy cold. He is delighted with his new lodgings which are comfortable and pleasant. Mentions he has not been studying much lately but has been taking care of himself. Adds he much prefers staying in than going out.

3pp

BP/1/122

(See Also BP/1/138)

30 May 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann concerning the Melbourne Professorship. He is undecided whether or not to apply and refers to becoming attached to Cork. He has been thinking about his future and concludes 'I feel that I have been living by myself quite long enough and that I have no prospect of a provision for age'. However he promises to make no decision without taking into account her happiness, especially after all she has done for their mother.

3pp

BP/1/123

6 June 1854

Boole in Cork to Maryann, discussing the Melbourne Professorship. He promises to make no decision without consulting her, but does seem very keen on the post: 'I do not like the thought of leaving so much that is dear behind me ... I have no ambition.' His aims are 'to be useful in the world - to have a home of my own - and to be able to do somewhat better

for you that I have done. It is possible that I may accomplish all these things here'. He has been in better spirits since his return to Miss Knowle's lodgings in Strawberry Hill, but mentions he believes his friend Francis Alberi (Registrar Q.C.C.) is dying of fever.

4pp

BP/1/124

29 Feb - 5 Mar [1856]

Boole in Cork to Maryann in the format of a poem teasing her about a ball she recently attended: 'I suppose like most others 'twas charmingly hot, with so many warm couples crammed into one spot, Pray who was your partner and who led the dance and who was most killing with an army of Glances'. On the reverse he turns to more serious topics including the sale of some books and inquires if she sent Lord Yarborough the volumes he requested of his own book. He discusses who to send free copies to, and expresses doubt about the books saleability: 'I do not and never did form any expectation of their selling so as to so more than cover the expenses and shall not therefore feel any disappointment if your account should be a bad one'. He inquires if his writing has improved.

3pp

BP/1/125

25 May 1857

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He discusses their health and tells her as exams are to begin soon he will not have much time for letter writing which he finds very soothing. He mentions the religious controversy raging about the Queen's Colleges and tells her Archbishop MacHale succeeded in getting the Pope to condemn the colleges, so he expects a number of catholic students to leave. He believes the majority of the people support the colleges but adds: 'But what can they do when their church commands. They must obey or quit her communion.' He is pleased though that the matter is coming to a head.

4pp

BP/1/126

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann enquiring chiefly about his friends Brooke, Dickson and Wilson. He requests her to tell Brooke that he would welcome any Lincoln newspapers and asks her to search for some books he thinks he has lost.

2pp

BP/1/127

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining that he will not return home at Christmas as the journey would take too long (in days) and he has only two weeks holidays. He adds he has written to all the boarders' parents on behalf of Mr. Swift and advises him to call on them as soon as possible.

2pp

BP/1/128

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete typewritten copy of a letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann, inquiring if any money is owed to Mr. Bissell for attending her while she was ill at Sleaford. He promises that if she does not get better he will send her to the hydropathy clinic in Blarney. At College affairs seem more peaceful if not settled and his classes are going very well.

1p

BP/1/129

[ n.d ]

Incomplete letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann explaining he will be very busy as he has to examine for prizes as well as lecture. He instructs her to thank Mr. Brooke for his letter and to say hello for him to Dickson. He also requests her to give their mother a birthday present from him, if that would not be too expensive for her, and to knit him a couple of pairs of winter stockings. Mentions he was upset to hear of the Bakingham dissension, also that he is reading more in Cork than at home. He is currently reading [Hills] Political Economy. He sends his best wishes for her school and wishes her to 'give a kiss for me to Miss Snow.'

4pp

BP/1/130

[ n.d. ]

Brief letter from Boole in Cork to Maryann enclosing a note (not in collection) from Sir John [Menschell] relating to his book and asks her to show it to Dickson. Mentions the weather is very good.

2pp

BP/1/131

[ n.d. ]

Boole in Cork to Maryann. He is happy to hear she is enjoying her visit to Osbrimby which must make a change from 'the loneliness of your home in Lincoln.' He is busy preparing his book for the press, but is to take tea with Dr. Ryall, who does not seem well, that evening. His classes are going well - 'the students in the college are doing better than they have ever done before', - but he is not happy with the condition of the medical faculty. Mentions Mrs. Ryall expects him to visit for tea twice a week and if he does not go cake is sent to him. Mentions death of a neighbour in Lincoln.

4pp

BP/1/132

[ n.d.]

Boole in Cork to Maryann, extolling the beauty of Spring in Cork and relating the story of a Q.C.C. student who had become estranged from his father while at Cambridge because of his extravagant habits and imprudent marriage. He had then entered Q.C.C. on a scholarship and taught private pupils to finance himself. He would read 12 hours a day in addition to lectures (against the advice of many). His father attended the Prize Giving Day to see his son get first in Greek, Latin, French and English Literature, after which they were immediately reconciled. Boole adds 'I never saw a happier fellow than the one who had so nobly redeemed his character and position'.

2pp

BP/1/133

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete letter from Boole to Maryann expressing his regret that he will miss Miss Davis' visit, and also that he did not get to see his old pupil before he leaves Lincoln to go to the West of Ireland where he is eager to meet the inhabitants.

2pp

BP/1/134

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete letter from Boole to Maryann sending messages and wishes to old friends. Mentions he had an argument with an Irish friend over British superiority in all matters of good sense, but his arguments were demolished by a reference to the report of the Lincoln Hospital Board which his friend had read. Mentions he met the two bishops of Cork, and remarks the Catholic one was very fat, the Protestant one thin. His (Boole's) face, swollen from toothache, is said to resemble Dr. Delaney (the Catholic Bishop) who is said to be a good natured bundle of negatives.

2pp

## **ii. Typescript extracts from letters by Boole to Maryann**

BP/1/135

1849-1850

Typescript copies and extracts from letters by Boole to Maryann and his mother (1) 7 Dec 1849 see BP/1I14 ; (2) 18 Jan 1850 see BP/1I118 ; (3) 21 Nov 1849, see BP/1I143; (4) 29 Nov 1849, See BP/1I144; (5) 26 Oct 1849, extract telling her he has found delightful lodgings close to the college with Mr. De Vercour and E. Larkin.

1p

BP/1/136

1853-1854

Typescript extracts from various letters of Boole. All refer to the division in the college between the President and the Vice President, and the dissention caused by Prof. Alcock (1) 4 May 1853 see BPI 11 100 ; (2) 15 May 1853, (3) 9 Mar 1854.

1p

BP/1/137

Jan - Apr 1854

Extract from letter of 6 June 1854 see BP1/1/123, and in Apr 1854 see BP1/1/119.

1p

## **iii Letter from Maryann to George Boole [1854]**

BP/1/138

(See Also BP/1/122)

[1854]

From Maryann in Lincoln to George discussing in an anxious tone the vacant professorship of Mathematics in Melbourne. She finds it difficult to give impartial advice as she feels his moving to Melbourne would be the worse for her, but states she does not want her considerations to influence him. She warns against his leaving his home and old habits, and the severance of family ties. She also reminds him to take into account the relative value of money in the two countries and wonders would he really be better off in Melbourne.

6pp

## II Letters from George Boole to his mother and brothers

### i. To his mother

BP/1/139

25 June 1849

Typed copy from Boole in London to his mother describing his stay there (he is working there as an examiner). He has been to many of the famous attractions including the Panorama of the Mississippi. His health is good but he gets nervous when walking crowded streets. He mentions a dinner he attended which was 'a dull piece of magnificence like most London dinners I suppose', and adds the noise of waiters constantly bringing and removing dishes was very disagreeable. Sends best wishes to neighbours.

1p

BP/1/140

23 Oct 1849

Original plus typescript copy from Boole in Dublin to his mother from where he is leaving for Cork in the morning. He describes his stay in Dublin where he met some 'very pleasant people' who all knew Cork and assured him he would be very happy there. He also met some of his future colleagues including Sir Robert Kane who 'is I think from all that I see of him a very kindhearted man.' Mentions that he was well received by the Fellows in Trinity College.

2 items

BP/1/141

30 Oct 1849

Boole in Cork to his mother discussing his new position. Examinations have begun and he expects a large number to apply for them. The students he has seen appear to be very intelligent. Their number is supposed to increase in the coming year, with Dr. Bullen hoping 200 - 300 will enrol. Boole though doubts that figure. His lectures begin on the 10th or 12th and he has been given a free hand 'to form my own school of Mathematics' by Dr. Ryall, the Vice-President. The official opening is to be on the 7th. He talks of a walk he took by the Lee which he felt was as beautiful as Derbyshire. He mentions his landlord Mr. O'Brien, as being 'a farmer on a rather large scale'.

4pp

BP/1/142

1 Nov 1849

Boole in Cork to his mother describing his new life. The exams finished but as a smaller number of students than expected entered there is to be another in January, he also describes his lecturing duties. He finds Cork very hospitable but mentions being at a dinner which started with truffles and champagne which he felt to be in bad taste considering the state of the country. He has decided to limit himself to accepting one invitation per week. He finds Cork very pleasant for walking, although the air is damp it is pure, his colleagues he finds very likeable especially the President and Vice-President but adds 'these of course are first impressions'. He expects his expenses to be few and mentions he is involved in a scheme to open a school masters club in the college.

4pp



BP/1/143  
(See Also BP/1/135)  
21 Nov 1849

Boole in Cork to his mother giving her general news. He is getting on well with his students who are quiet and attentive. The weather is very wet so he uses a hot water bottle to keep his sheets dry adding 'I have a dry bed and that is almost the only dry thing about me'. The roads also are all flooded but he has heard it is unusually wet. At his lodgings he is allowed have guests to dinner and Dr. Ryall and Mr. Logan are both coming. Mentions there are 15,000 Protestants in Cork and that so far he has liked all the preachers he has heard. He went on Sunday to Mr. Logan's chapel and then to his country home which reminded Boole very much of England.

4pp

BP/1/144  
(See Also BP/1/135)  
29 Nov 1849

Boole in Cork to his mother giving her news of his new life. He is getting on well with his classes and likes them more and more. He describes his lodgings which cost £6 per month and consist of a bedroom, a sitting room and a third little room. He takes his meals with Albani and De Vericour in Albani's large room. Of Albani he says he is a 'very amiable and clever man, a good logician and mathematician' and state they get on well. He also mentions Mr. Logan 'a most estimable man actively engaged in all the benevolent societies of the place .... but holding himself apart from those which are exclusive.' He sends his regards to their neighbours and mentions receiving a letter from Mr. Brooke which he enjoyed 'the gloomy prophecies excepted'.

4pp

BP/1/145  
Nov 1849

Boole in Cork to his mother giving news of Cork. He requests her to forward to Mr. Wilson the copy of the Southern Reporter sent to Maryann by De Vericour. It is raining constantly but is not cold; he has his sheet aired every day. He usually takes a walk before breakfast each morning when it is fine before the rain sets in for the rest of the day. He feels the dampness is affecting his health. He sends his best wishes to neighbours and requests Mr. Collins to post over some manuscripts work of Boole's.

4pp

BP/1/146  
9 Dec 1849

Boole in Cork to his mother mainly discussing the people he met in Cork, including Mr. Logan who invited him to stay at his country house which he did and remarks it reminded him greatly of England. Logan has three sons and three daughters 'amicable and sensible young people'. He invited one of the sons who is delicate to England for a change of air. He adds 'I have my short stay in the county established besides many pleasant acquaintanceships at least one valuable friendship'. Today the weather was fine 'an uncommon event' and he heard an eloquent and sensible sermon by Mr. [Millaren] and comments the churches in Cork are better attended than those in Lincoln. He states he shuns society as he has no wish to make acquaintanceships which are more easily begun than broken off. Mentions Edward Larken who is well but not working too hard, and adds he would like to find him a position in Lincoln.

7pp

BP/1/147

9 Jan 1850

Boole to his mother letting her know he arrived safely in Cork. A fellow traveller was the Archbishop of Dublin whom Boole found amusing and instructive. The college is expecting 25 new students, and he states all his friends are well. He requests her to preserve his letters as he wants to record his impressions of Ireland. Sends regards to neighbours.

4pp

BP/1/148

9 Feb 1850

Boole in Cork to his mother mainly discussing family matters. He mentions her move back to their house after leaving the Mechanics Institute rooms. He also refers to his family being free from the 'struggles and anxieties which they had in the past.' He mentions the slow progress of Maryann's school but comments 'even a little employment with something to hope for is better than sitting down to do nothing enjoying life as some people call it.' He inquires after other family members and requests Maryann to send him some sheet music.

6pp

BP/1/149

7 Mar 1850

Boole in Cork to his mother congratulating her on becoming a grandmother and hopes the baby (John George Boole) will be 'a blessing to all with whom it may hereafter to do in the world.' He has heard from Mr. Dickson how well she is looking and adds he longs to hear news from home. He inquires after the Atkinsons and suggests Maryann should raise some money for them. He speaks also of his life in Cork where he has met many 'estimable persons whose acquaintance is not readily found but who are worth a host of ordinary acquaintances'. However, he complains his evenings are full with socialising and he has little time for study. Mentions a trip he took to Leemount with Lady Kane and describes the plant life they saw. Sends regards to neighbours.

8pp

BP/1/150

20-25 Mar 1850

Boole in Cork to his mother. He is lonely and wishes her and Maryann were with him but resolves 'why wish for what cannot be'. He is, however, thankful for the friendships he has made in Cork. He describes his lodgings which are 'scrupulously clean' and his landladies who are very kind and attentive and very English in their ways. Even the air and water there are more pleasant than in his old lodgings. He has decided never again to give or accept dinner invitations but visit the teatable instead: 'this is by far the most rational ways for those who want to talk and not to eat.' On 25 March he describes an enjoyable walk he had and a less enjoyable visit to the house of a government official. The other guests were 'full of grumbling against England and our government a thing which I am not disposed to hear without making some effort to defend them.' He feels many Irish people have preposterous notions about the English government and people, 'that England delights to see Ireland miserable', but he puts a lot of the belief down to 'an exaggerated way of talking.' His social life in Cork is much more active than it was in Britain, but he

resolves not to let it interfere with his studies. Mentions he is thinking of going to London soon (the fare via Bristol first class is £2.5s.0d., and hopes Maryann will write as it is over a fortnight since he heard from her.

12pp

BP/1/151

7 Oct 1850

Boole in London to his mother, describing the warm reception he got from Mrs. Coolney. He has decided to visit Mr. Haczynshil, sends his regards to Maryann.

4pp

BP/1/152

27 Feb 1851

Boole in Cork to his mother. He is suffering from boils and lameness due to overtight shoes, but has escaped the influenza which is prevalent in Cork. He briefly mentions the death of Eliza [his sister-in-law]. His classes are keeping him very busy and require a lot of attention. He mentions a competition for a gold watch for the best conundrum organised by the 'wizard of the north'. Says he has not much to tell her as emigration is the only newsworthy item in Cork. Mentions he was very upset to hear of Miss Brooke's illness, and that he put five shillings into an account for the son of a friend who was named after him. He did the same for each of his friends other children.

10pp

BP/1/153

20 July 1852

Boole in Wichner to his mother telling her how much he is enjoying his visit with the Everests. He is teaching their son - 'a fine youth' - during the vacation. Mentions he expects to hear soon the result of his application for an examinership in the Queen's University.

4pp

BP/1/154

(See Also BP/1/106)

Nov 1853

Boole in Cork to his mother describing the terrible effects on the city of the Great Flood. He himself was trapped upstairs in his lodgings 'the lower rooms being filled with water and the flood rushing by like the sea'. A lot of damage was caused with one bridge being almost destroyed and four people killed. His own landlord Mr. Unkles suffered losses when the water flooded his warehouse ruining 50 tons of flour and Indian meal.

6pp

## **ii. To his Brothers**

### **(1) to Charles Boole**

BP/1/155

25 Nov 1849

Boole in Cork to his brother Charles describing his new life. He hopes Charles does not feel he has been neglecting him as he has had to write to so many others but he thinks often of him and William and wishes they both could be with him. He is occupied daily from 1 - 3 o'clock in lecturing

and examining 'in fact teaching' and then works himself for three or four hours on an introductory treatise on logic for his class. He is not totally happy with his new home 'I cannot say that I like Cork or its climate'. He describes the city as 'dirty', but acknowledges it has some pretty suburbs and wishes Charles could join him in the area for springtime. He also noticed the singing in the churches is of an unusually high standard. Mentions during the week he intends to inspect some schools for poor children run by the Christian Brothers, and describes a channel of the Lee flowing by Castle White which reminded him of a similar stream at home. He inquires after Lincoln neighbours, from whom he would be glad to hear but hopes to see them all at Christmas when he has 18 days off. Mentions he finds the President and Vice President of Q.C.C. 'models of gentleness and kindness', the Vice President Dr. Ryall is to dine at Castle White the next week. He jokingly compares the residents of Castle White with a religious community with himself as a lay brother.

7pp

BP/1/156

14 June 1853

Boole in Llangollen, Wales to Charles first describing his holiday and then congratulating him on becoming engaged and assuring him he will be present at the wedding: 'I need scarcely say that it will give me most sincere pleasure to be present at an occasion so intimately connected with your future happiness'. Adds he is looking forward to meeting his future sister-in-law. His book is developing well and the first sheet has been returned to him for correction.

3pp

## **(2) to William Boole**

BP/1/157

30 Nov 1849

Boole in Cork to William enclosing an [account] (not in collection). In reply to a letter from William he says he is very pleased with William's account of his situation and hopes he is now 'in that sphere of life for which you are best suited'. Adds he hopes to see himself and Eliza in London. In a postscript he asks him not to write 'Prof when addressing a letter to him but Professor or else nothing 'I mention this because it was noticed by a gentleman who was present when your letter was delivered and it is you know better to avoid singularity'.

3pp

## **III Letters from George Boole to Friends and Associates**

### **i. letters from George Boole to Francis Albani, Registrar, QCC**

BP/1/158

6 Aug 1850

Incomplete letter from Boole in Lincoln to Albani, missing out on home life 'I hope that you enjoy the delights of home there are none like them'. The complete letter as given in MacHale deals with the choice of subjects for the second year exams (algebra and spherical trigonometry).

1p

BP/1/159

2 Nov 1852

Photocopy of part of letter from Boole to Albani containing a request by Boole to transfer from the library to the Museum Committee (Complete letter p.103 MacHale).

1p

## ii. letters to and from George Boole to William Brooke

BP/1/160

[ n.d.]

Incomplete rambling letter with typescript copy from Brooke to Boole humorously lamenting Boole's move from Britain to Ireland 'Oh Boole, what has that Hibernican done, thus to steal my favourite son'. Then relapses in prose to describe a visit to Northampton to see old friends but never again to poetry 'but Elack, I can't keep it up - though our poor sister be in rags, God bless her, She and her ragged school, Shall line the shore and greet the young Professor and shout A Boole A Boole!'. An added paragraph in the typed copy states the poem is given to preserve Brooke's name as a dear friend of Boole's, and also in a fit of depression thinking he was dying Brooke destroyed all Boole's letters as he did not know into whose hands they would fall.

2 items

BP/1/161

1855

Typescript copies of letters from Boole to William Brooke. (a) 18 June 1855 Boole in Cork to Brooke discussing college affairs. He feels Dr. Ryall would have made a better president than Kane 'Had he been placed at the head of this college if would have flourished'. He is stinging in his criticism of Kane: 'when a President systematically neglects his duties, spends here one month in the year, yet holds powers which are essential to the well government of the college .... when the most reasonable and temperate efforts to bring about a better state of things exposes a man to the charge of faction and subjects them to the frown of power I do not see what but none can be expected'. He is debating with himself whether or not to make public the affairs of the college. He implores Brooke to visit him, not to see the country but 'to come over and cheer the lonely hours of captivity'. Adds humorously that Brooke might leave singing 'The Bells of Shandon', which he quotes. He does add that Cork 'is I firmly believe the best place in Ireland'. Mentions the local protestants are angry over the bishop inviting the Catholic Bishop to dinner when the lord lieutenant was also present. He closes with good wishes and adds 'The Indian Examinership has passed me by as I expected it would'. (b) Incomplete letter 3 Oct 1855 from Boole in Tenby, thanking Brooke for cashing a draft for 15s.0d. and promising to send him a balance of an account. His wife Mary urged him to write anything except poetry to Brooke having a theory that the poetry which is in a man ought to be for home consumption and ought not to evaporate in words. Here she says that 'professed poets are dull and prosaic people in common life. I am disposed to think that she is right'. He also describes a recent visit to Tintern and invites Brooke to Cork.

2pp

### iii. letters from George Boole to Dr. J Bury

BP/1/162

11 Feb 1850

Boole in Cork to Bury excitedly telling him how pleased he was to hear from him, eagerly inquiring how life is treating him and expressing his hope that Bury will some day have a practise large enough to support him and his family. He advises him against going to Germany but rather to stay home and build up his practise. He also describes his life in Cork to him; he likes his situation and feels his work there is of use. Out of the 98 students who attend the college 61 or 62 go to his lectures. He gets on well with all his colleagues and names Dr. Fleming as the most distinguished member of the science faculty adding 'he appears to me to be a very acute and clever man.' He mentions a paper he is writing for the 'Journal' and states his two previous essays were premature - 'I am still working on the same subject and with great success.' He hopes to see him in Chester on his next visit home.

8pp

BP/1/163

6 Mar 1850

Brief letter from Boole in Cork to Bury thanking him for sending over a copy of Mr. Green's paper.

2pp

BP/1/164

5 June 1850

Boole in Cork to Bury requesting him to ask Mr. Green if he has any duplicates of his father's papers and if so could he send him some. He will pay the expenses in way that would not hurt his feelings of delicacy'. He tells Bury he will be coming to visit him soon but warns 'make no preparation for me. You know my simple tastes and habits.' He promises to discuss logic when they meet, then sympathises on the death of one of Bury's children, and adds he is glad to hear Bury's medical practise is going well.

4pp

BP/1/165

9 June 1850

Boole in Cork to Dr. Bury, a brief letter telling him he will see him in one week's time after he visits Connemara with Dr. Ryall.

2pp

BP/1/166

26 Aug 1850

Boole in Lincoln to Bury enclosing some sheets of his work (not in collection). He also invites him and Mrs. Bury to visit him in Lincoln. He adds Tom is also invited but he will have to share Boole's bed as his house is small.

3pp

BP/1/167

19 Dec 1850

Boole in Cork to Bury enclosing a postal order for £12 and requesting him to acknowledge its receipt by a brief statement.

- 2pp
- BP/1/168  
[1850/1851]  
Boole to Bury thanking him for the trouble he took over a hamper and berating him for not taking a pork pie. Encloses a post office order for five shillings, and sends his regards to Bury's family.
- 2pp
- BP/1/169  
24 Mar 1851  
Original plus typed copy from Boole in Cork to Bury acknowledging receipt of papers by Mr. Green which Bury sent. He comments 'anything of Mr. Green's is valuable. Cambridge has had in my opinion no other mathematician of equal powers since Newton'. Mentions he is busy writing maths papers for the Cambridge Journal, although he would prefer to be working on logic. Enquires for news of Bury's circumstances and adds he is reading Hart and can understand [the German] quite well.
- 2 items
- BP/1/170  
9 June 1851  
Boole in Cork to Dr. Bury, writing to explain he will not be able to visit him on his outward journey from Ireland to England, but hopes to do so on the return trip. Sends his sympathy to Mrs. Bury who is ill.
- 2pp
- BP/1/171  
10 Oct 1851  
Boole in Lincoln to Bury informing him of the date of his and Maryann's visit to Chester. Also requests him to inquire about travel bookings from Chester to Cork for them.
- 2pp
- BP/1/172  
Oct 1851  
Boole in Lincoln to Bury explaining he will book his return journey to Cork from Manchester so Bury need not make any enquiries for him. Mentions he asked his brother William to meet him at Chester.
- 2pp
- BP/1/173  
6 Nov 1851  
Boole in Cork to Bury letting him know he and Maryann reached Cork safely, although they were both very ill on the crossing, and Maryann has not yet recovered.
- 2pp
- BP/1/174  
23 Mar 1852  
Boole in Cork to Bury, complaining good humouredly that Bury's letter to him was too short and 'I hope that you will soon make up for it by a letter of real gossip full of little things about yourself and your family'. He is writing every day on logic and probabilities which he greatly enjoys 'the subject loses nothing of its interest in my eyes'. He hopes to publish his work soon. Mentions Maryann is at Blarney.
- 4pp

- BP/1/175  
9 Oct 1852  
Brief note from Boole in Lincoln to Bury concerning the date and length of his proposed visit to Chester.  
1p
- BP/1/176  
4 Jan 1853  
Boole in Cork to Bury explaining he is unable to give Mr. Giles (a friend of Bury's) a testimonial as he feels he does not know him well enough to do so. Mentions he hopes to visit Bury in a few days time.  
4pp
- BP/1/177  
7 Jan 1853  
Boole in Wichner to Bury informing him of the probable time of his arrival in Chester the following evening.  
1p
- BP/1/178  
30 May 1853  
Boole in Cork to Bury making arrangements for his visit to Chester. He is looking forward to the visit which he feels will do them both good. He has planned first to visit Dr. Graves in Howth but he is determined to reach Lincoln by 20 June for his brother Charles' wedding. He muses humorously on how helpless women feel bachelors are. Mentions he is very busy with exam papers.  
3pp
- BP/1/179  
10 June 1853  
Boole in Howth to Bury informing him he intends to be in Chester the following day.  
1p
- BP/1/180  
[June 1853]  
Boole in Howth to Bury discussing his travel plans for a proposed trip to Wales. He was recommended by a lady artist definitely to visit Betiasy Coed.  
2pp
- BP/1/181  
11 July 1853  
Boole in Lincoln to Bury discussing mainly his book which he encloses the first chapter of (not in collection) and believes Bury will 'like the style in which it is got up'. He will be busy during his holiday working on his book but he would enjoy a short visit from the Bury's and mentions how much he enjoyed his visit to them 'It is always most pleasant to me to visit old Chester and old friends at the same time'.  
2pp
- BP/1/182  
29 July 1853  
Letter from Boole in Lincoln to Bury enclosing some sheets of his book (The Laws of Thought not in collection). He inquires if Bury could accompany Maryann on a visit to Mrs. Bury.



2pp

BP/1/183

4 Sept 1853

Boole in Lincoln to Bury writing to request him to acknowledge receipt of the three sheets of his book he sent, and inquiring if he and Mrs. Bury would like to come to Hull for a visit. Encloses three more chapters of his book (not in collection).

1p

BP/1/184

29 Sept 1853

Boole in Cork to Dr. Bury, enclosing nine sheets of his book (not in collection) and expressing his disappointment at the Burys being unable to visit Cork stating 'if I were even moderately well off expense should not stand in my way'.

1p

BP/1/185

13 Oct 1853

Boole in Lincoln to Bury informing him of his proposed time of arrival in Chester the following day.

1p

BP/1/186

14 Oct 1853

Boole in Lincoln to Bury discussing the time and date of his proposed visit to Chester.

1p

BP/1/187

24 Oct 1853

Boole in Cork to Bury thanking him for his comments on Boole's work. He adds that he is becoming less affected by the dampness of Cork.

3pp

BP/1/188

2 Apr 1854

Boole in Cork to Bury requesting acknowledgement of a postal delivery of his book, as he is worried not all he sent out were delivered.

2pp

BP/1/189

7 Apr 1854

Boole in Cork to Bury relating mainly to his book The Laws of Thought. He enclosed Dr. Ryall's review of the work (which he wishes returned) and mentions he agrees with Bury's condemnation of the review in the Athenaeum 'It was evidently written by one who did not understand the subject' Mentions he was glad to hear a number of copies were sold in Chester.

2pp

BP/1/190

9 June 1854

Boole in Cork to Bury explaining that because of a change in his travel plans he will be unable to visit him on his journey over to Lincoln, but hopes to meet him over the summer vacation.

1p

BP/1/191

20 June 1854

Boole in Lincoln to Bury. Maryann is unwell and is going to stay with William, he wonders if she travelled by way of Chester could she spend a few days with the Burys.

1p

BP/1/192

21 Aug 1854

Boole in Lincoln to Bury briefly informing him of the peaceful death of his (Boole's) mother. He gives her cause of death as being 'cardiac dropsy'.

2pp

BP/1/193

11 Oct 1854

Typed copy of a letter from Boole in Lincoln to Bury, confirming he is sending the money requested and instructing him in strong terms to be more stringent in collecting his debts: 'You will not be offended with me for saying that I think this is really a weakness and under your actual circumstances a reprehensible one on your part'. Adds 'no one whose good opinion is worth a stain would feel the slightest anger or disapprobation at one's telling him that necessity requires that he should be asked to discharge a just debt'.

1p

BP/1/194

18 Mar 1856

Boole in Cork to Bury thanking him for his letter 'with its enclosure which I threw into the fire'. He hopes Bury's practise will now prosper and urges him to visit. He asks for Bury's professional medical opinion on whether Mary, his wife, should wear a corset ('stays') while pregnant. She has been advised to do by female friends, but Boole feels this was for cosmetic purposes only and both he and she feel it could be harmful to the child.

3pp

BP/1/195

21 Sept 1856

Boole in Dublin to Bury letting him know he reached there safely while Mary 'an admirable sailor' went on to Cork. He did hear news of a serious accident on the C & H line the day after he travelled. Mentions he enjoyed his stay in Chester and invites Bury to Cork advising him to go by way of Liverpool as that costs 17s.6d. compared to 38s.0d. (1st class) from Chester. Adds Dublin is growing very quickly.

4pp

BP/1/196

2 Dec 1856

Boole in Cork to Bury. He has heard Mrs. Bury wants to refurbish a room for a lodger and he wishes to lend £10-£15 for that purpose 'But I must make it an express condition with you that the money shall really be devoted to this purpose'. He assures him that taking in lodgers would in no way lessen his social standing or diminish his chances of professional success. Adds he is writing steadily and promises to send Bury a fair copy

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| of his work's introduction.   | 4pp |
| BP/1/197<br>21 Jan 1860<br>Boole in Cork to Bury requesting that if he cannot come over himself would he send over some small pox vaccine for the children. His wife is especially keen to have the children vaccinated. Adds that he himself is getting a lot of pain in his right arm which makes it difficult for him to write.  | 3pp |
| BP/1/198<br>12 Sept 1860<br>Boole in Lincoln to Bury. He hopes to visit Chester and then go to the lakes, so he requests Bury to inquire if tickets for such a journey could be bought in Chester and the price, he asks him to send the reply c/o Charles Boole, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.   | 1p  |
| BP/1/199<br>21 Sept 1860<br>Boole in Cork to Bury, telling him of his safe arrival in Cork although he had to travel on a very old, small, steamer. He also thanks Mrs. Bury for forwarding 'The Ladies Companion' to his wife.   | 2pp |
| BP/1/200<br>9 Oct 1860<br>Boole in Dublin (where he is acting as examiner to Q.C.C.) to Bury telling him he would like him to visit but explaining his duties as examiner means he would only have three free days in Dublin. Adds the cost of a second class return fare is 26s.6d.  | 3pp |
| BP/1/201<br>15 Oct 1860<br>Boole in Cork to Bury acknowledging receipt of money from Bury which closes his debt adding he was happy to have been of help. <u>Also</u> refers to a mutual wish for them to see together 'the western mountains of Ireland and the Atlantic waves'.   | 1p  |
| BP/1/202<br>21 June 1861<br>Boole in Cork to Bury as he and Mary are thinking of visiting Bonn to see if the change of air would improve Mary's health. He inquires if Mrs. Bury (who has been to Bonn) would write and give her impressions of the city and send on any tips she might have on accommodation. He sends his best wishes and adds 'I often think of you' . | 3pp |
| BP/1/203<br>18 Sept 1861<br>Boole in Cork to Bury telling him of the improvement in Mary's health 'She is really growing flesh and begins almost to like the cod liver oil'. He urges Bury and his family to come visit when the Boole's are settled into   |     |

- their new house in Ballintemple.
- 2pp
- BP/1/204  
9 Dec 1861  
Boole in Cork to Bury inviting him and his family to visit. He'd appreciate it though if they could come as soon as possible as he has advertised for pupils to come to his house. Adds all his family are well except his wife who has toothache and neuralgic pains.
- 3pp
- BP/1/205  
17 Dec 1861  
Boole in Cork to Bury requesting him to reply to Boole's invitation to spend Christmas in Cork and adds 'never mind the private matter about which I also wrote'.
- 1p
- BP/1/206  
19 Dec 1861  
Boole in Cork to Bury telling him he reluctantly accepts Bury's reasons for not being able to visit, but wonders if his wife and son would like to come. Mentions also he is very glad to hear Bury's practise is growing. Refers to a letter he had from a German Professor saying the weather in Germany was excellent 'what a contrast to this wretched climate'. Also refers to a job advertisement Bury mentioned in his letter.
- 4pp
- BP/1/207  
7 May 1862  
Boole in Cork to Bury, sympathising on the illness of his son Charles. He urges Bury to send his wife and Charles to Cork for a few months promising 'They will have their own sittingroom and we will have a piano moved into it for Charles'. Mentions his wife is due in two months time.
- 2pp
- BP/1/208  
26 May 1862  
Boole in Cork to Bury discussing the proposed visit of Mrs. Bury and her son Charles. One paragraph however is in German he concludes 'we guessed from Mrs. Bury's letter what was the threatened danger to Charles, I hope it may be averted'.
- 2pp
- BP/1/209  
13 July 1862  
Original and typed extract from Boole in Cork to Bury expressing his delight Charles Bury is doing better. He mentions two papers he sent to the Royal Society are to be published. Of one discussing the theory of Probabilities (Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society 1867 Vol. 152) he says 'I think it will be considered as putting the theory of the subject contained in the 'Laws of Thought' in an established position'
- 2 items
- BP/1/210  
25 July 1862  
Boole in London to Bury informing him of the date of his proposed visit.

- 1p
- BP/1/211  
6 Aug 1862  
Boole in Cork to Bury informing him of the birth of his fourth daughter (Lucy Everest Boole) adding 'little Alice is as saucy as ever' and her vaccination 'is reserved for your friendship and skill'.
- 2pp
- BP/1/212  
11 Dec 1862  
Boole in Cork to Bury inquiring if he will be able to visit Cork in time for Christmas. Maryann has also been invited and is coming.
- 1p
- BP/1/213  
18 Aug 1863  
Boole in Cork to Bury thanking him for sending 'the vaccine lymph' for his daughter. He also enquires about excursion tickets to Yorkshire in preparation for a future visit. Mentions they moved house to be nearer to Cork.
- 2pp
- BP/1/214  
13 Oct 1863  
Boole in Cork to Bury discussing his recent visit to England and apologising for not visiting him. He invites him to Cork instead. He also refers to the death of his old friend Rev George Stephens Dickson of St. Swithin's, Lincoln.
- 4pp
- BP/1/215  
28 Mar 1864  
Boole in Cork to Bury sympathising on the death of Bury's uncle. He invites him to write or visit adding it was so long since they had contact 'one would suppose I had given you offense in some mysterious way'.
- 2pp
- BP/1/216  
[ n.d. ]  
Boole in Cork [to Bury] giving directions how to reach his house as he will be unable to meet him at the train. He instructs him to ask for a car to Blackrock and get] off near the Castle.
- 2pp

#### **iv. letters from George Boole to Miss Davis**

- BP/1/217  
2 Oct 1849  
Boole to Miss Davis original and typed copy responding to her request for advice. He advises her about [the Misses] to take no notice of them 'not even to think of them' and to avoid all appearance of resentment. He also counsels her that the esteem of factions or parties is not always worth gaining. Promises to visit if he goes to London.
- 2 items

BP/1/218

13 Aug 1849

Original plus typescript copy from Boole in Lincoln to Miss Davis informing her of his appointment to Q.C.C .. His friend De Vericour was appointed Professor of Modern languages. His family are pleased for him: 'my mother bears it very well and I am quite of the opinion that for her and Maryann the change from busy to quiet life will be a very beautiful one'. He hopes to be able to spend five months a year at home with them. Adds he is quite busy putting his affairs in order and has little time for letter writing. Closes by offering his esteem. Typed copy annotated by [Maryann].

2 items

BP/1/219

21 Aug 1854

Original plus typed copy from Boole in Lincoln to Miss Davis informing her of the death of his mother from dropsy after a month's illness.

2pp

#### **v. letter from George Boole to Sir William Hamilton**

BP/1/220

[1852]

Copy of a letter from Boole in Cork to Sir William Hamilton in which he refutes Hamilton's dismissal of Mathematics as not being a science. He thanks Hamilton cordially for sending him copies of his work which he enjoyed and admired, but he does find some fault with them: 'will you forgive me for adding that I do not think that upon all points you have manifested that freedom from prejudice which is essential to the formation of right judgement?' After arguing that all subjects can suffer from one-sidedness he proceeds to argue against Hamilton's view of maths: 'Now while I admit to be true that many minds have been absorbed to a very injurious extent in Mathematical pursuits, I cannot judging from the nature of the case and from individual experience believe that such is a necessary or a proper result'. He explains that in his case maths spurred on his interest in other subjects. He also brings Hamilton to task for being too severe on De Morgan. He closes in a conciliatory tone: 'I hope that it is not needful to offer any apology for the freedom of some of my observations, and merely to have thanked you for your very valuable work would not have conveyed my real feelings or convictions as to its great merit?'

7pp

#### **vi. letterbook from George Boole to Joseph Hill**

BP/1/221

1830-1852

All letters and extracts described here are taken from a letterbook of Boole's letters to Hill, and are given in the order they appear in the letterbook.

1 item

BP/1/221/1

26 Dec 1832

Extract from a letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill explaining he has left Doncaster to take up a superior position in Liverpool under a Mr. Marrat. Mentions he has been studying work on mechanics for the past year.

BP/1/221/2

23 Dec 1833

Extract from a letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill, telling him the city is excited by the opening of the Mechanics Institute and discussion on its organisation is widespread. It has 500 members but Boole feels it will return only two thirds of that number.

BP/1/221/3

(See Also BP/1/260)

22 Feb 1834

Extract from a letter by Boole to Hill. He feels this letter breaks their agreement to correspond on profound matters, and adds he hopes one day to be as profound and solemn as Hill. 'He has begun to study Italian and finds it quite easy, Greek was becoming very dry and dusty for him, but he wonders if he should not have mastered it before moving on to Italian. Mentions he completed the prize question in 'Ladies Diary' and promises if he wins to send Hill a diary.

BP/1/221/4

17 Jun 1834

Letter from Boole to Hill written in Latin.

BP/1/221/5

11 Feb 1837

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill apologising profusely for not writing. He is busy writing on composition and grammar for his school and inquires if Hill would have any copies of rules or regulations for punctuation. He is studying German, but is reading very little Latin and has given up all thoughts of learning Hebrew. Mentions his father constructed a very good telescope stand.

BP/1/221/6

30 May 1837

Copy letter from Boole to Hill apologising for not responding in equal length to Hill's letters. Mentions he chooses to write in English as he had not done so lately, and that his father is constructing a telescope. He discusses Hebrew which he feels is a very pure language and quotes Bible passages in Greek and English discussing their grammar and tenses.

BP/1/221/7

5 May 1840

Handwritten and typed copies of letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill dealing mainly with educational matters and explaining his move from Waddington to Lincoln. His expectations were not being realised in Waddington so he relinquished his lease at unfavourable terms but which 'I am able to make without putting myself under obligations and willing to make in order to get out of the business with honour and an unstained character'. He thanks him for sending an analysis of Galls system and would like his opinion of it. His own opinions on educational matters 'is as yet by no means made up, perhaps in all points never will be'. He advises Hill to extend his studies beyond the exact sciences and warns

maths can 'deaden the imagination and destroy the relish for elegant literature and indispose the mind for everything but the bare pursuit of abstract truth'. He hopes that in the future knowledge of mathematics could be obtained without any waste of exertion, and discusses at length the place of maths in education. Adds he would enjoy a more varied correspondence on some of the subjects raised in the letter.

BP/1/221/8

9 May 1840

Handwritten and typed copies of letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill discussing education and biography. He compliments and discusses Hill's 'ingenious and just' comments on the nature and operation of systems in education. He also discusses the purpose of a biography which he feels should primarily relate what the 'individual subject was, under what circumstances he was placed, by what events his life was characterised, and in what relation he stood to his associates and contemporaries'. He feels religious biographies are the worst constructed.

BP/1/221/9

27 May 1840

Handwritten and typed copies of letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill on the subject of biography. He argues against Hill's assertion that the mass of biographies record trivial events and outlines his own views on the content of biographies citing Boswell's Life of Johnson as being especially commendable. He feels his view is the correct one and hopes Hill will change his opinions.

BP/1/221/10

19 Jan 1841

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill telling him about the recently formed 'Lincolnshire Topographical Society'. Boole is to assist in the drawing up of the rules of the society and inquires if Hill could send him a copy of the laws and regulations of the Hull Philosophical Society. Adds he hopes Hill is continuing with his reading.

BP/1/221/11

22 Feb 1841

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill thanking him for sending the rules of the Hull Philosophical Society to him (See BP/1/221/10). The Lincoln Topographical Society is to begin with an address on electrotypes. He comments on the various literary schemes of reading Hill devised wryly, commenting that Hill will hardly carry them out himself, and the time he took to draw up his analysis could have been used to read the books. He again urges Hill to broaden his studies warning 'Every station of life has perhaps a tendency to produce its peculiar habits in the mind as well as its bias on the feelings'. Adds he hopes Hill will not be offended by his remarks. He is reading Neal's History of the Puritans. His school is going very well and he is pleased.

BP/1/221/12

29 Dec 1841

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill. He offers to send Hill a paper on Mythology he read before the Philosophical Society. He moves on to the subject of politics, which he admits to having little interest in due 'probably from the situation in which I am placed and the habits of life to which I have grown accustomed'. Mentions he is writing a paper on the subject of light which he may follow up with one on physical astronomy. He



is also analyzing Butler's Analogy and recommends it to Hill.

BP/1/221/13

17 Feb 1844 Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill inquiring as to what books Hill would recommend for religious instruction in Sunday schools. He names the books he is using

BP/1/221/14

13 July 1844

Boole in Hornsea to Hill, describing his holiday. He is enjoying Hornsea and remarks on the many pretty villages in the district and the picturesque coastline.

BP/1/221/15

16 July 1846

Handwritten and typed copies of a letter from Boole to Hill enclosing a tract by Pulford he accidentally took with him after his recent visit. He thanks Hill for inviting him and hopes 'our friendship may continue to increase and that it may be more and more founded on esteem, to the end of our lives'. He is reading Wardlaw and Sir James Mackintosh on Ethics, a subject which gives him more 'solid gratification than maths'. He prefers morals over maths as they appeal both to emotion and reason.

BP/1/221/16

2 Feb 1847

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill inquiring after him. His school is prospering but he has heard no news of the Irish Professorship and remarks no news comes from Ireland 'but the melancholy detail of starvation and wretchedness'.

BP/1/221/17

15 Feb 1847

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill. He still has heard no news of the Irish professorship but states he is so content with what he is doing that he might not accept it if offered. However he is worried that his health as he ages would prevent him being a good schoolmaster.

BP/1/221/18

14 July 1847

Copy letter from Boole to Hill inviting him to join himself Maryann and Mr. Lilly on an excursion through Yorkshire, after which he will take the steamer from Hull, but doubts he would have time to visit Hill there.

BP/1/221/19

15 July 1847

Copy letter from Boole in Burlington to Hill inviting him to visit there. He has rented lodgings with three bedrooms, one of which is to be at Hill's disposal.

BP/1/221/20

19 June 1848

Copy letter from Boole in Sainsboro to Hill inviting him to join him on a country excursion.

BP/1/221/21

13 Aug 1849

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill informing him of his appointment as Professor of Mathematics at QCC.

BP/1/221/22

30 July 1850

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill inquiring if they could meet when he visits Hull on his way to Hornsea with Maryann.

BP/1/221/23

11 Dec 1850

Copy letter from Boole in Cork expressing his pleasure at receiving a letter from Hill and explaining he is slow to reply to letters as writing for him is an extension of his daily duties. Remarks that while England may be disturbed Ireland is not as there are many moderate men Catholic and Protestant in Ireland who abhor violence, and because there is not as much dissension between Protestants in Ireland as there is in England.

BP/1/221/24

9 Feb 1852

Copy letter from Boole in Cork to Hill explaining he has not written as he was unwell and found writing troublesome. He commiserates on the death of Hill's aunt whom he held in high regard. Mentions Maryann is at Blarney and is deriving great benefit from the baths there.

BP/1/221/25

30 Nov 1840

Copy letter from Boole in Waddington to Hill, good humouredly complaining that Hill did not visit him on a recent trip to Lincoln, but promises to forgive him if he writes a long letter on a interesting subject (he suggests Gill's system and method of Sunday School teaching). He recommends Hill to study Joachim's Life of Erasmus which he gives a brief sketch of the content and arrangement of. He also mentions he sent a number of maths papers to Cambridge where they were well received. Refers to a new Baptist Chapel which is about to be opened in Waddington followed by a social tea evening and comments 'The religious world is growing very social and very fond of tea which are two good signs'. Then with a long rambling prologue laden with historical and mythological references he states he can at last reveal part of a mystery he has known for many years. 'For 70 mornings then at the hour of six, visit the second milestone on the eastern bank of the Humber and for 3 and 4 1/2 minutes direct your face to the eastern horizon. On the 71st visit at the\_ [expiration] of your watch you will perceive ... but I anticipate the mystery' but promises it is worth seeing.

BP/1/221/26

30 July 1847

Copy letter from Boole in London to Hill inquiring if he left a dressing case in Hill's house and requesting him to keep it until they meet next. He mentions Subthorpe and Seely being returned at the election.

BP/1/221/27

21 June 1849

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill, inquiring if Hill would like to accompany him on a trip to London for a few days, as he has an order for admission to the great works at the Grimsby Docks. He includes details of train times.

BP/1/221/28

2pp [ n.d. ]

Incomplete copy of a letter from Boole to Hill recommending an introductory discourse by Sir James Mackintosh on the Law of Nature and Nations, however he faults the work for being too elaborate in style. Mentions he regards [Wherwells] Elements of morality and Polity as 'a very partial and one side performance' arising from the author's high opinion of Church authority and discusses some of his ideas.

BP/1/221/29

14 June 1846

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill refusing his invitation to go to Wales. Rather he would prefer them to spend a fortnight by the sea 'provided that is far enough from the resorts of fashion and the noise of the great world'. He is in a need of a rest, but feels swimming would do him good, but he urges Hill to go to Wales if that's what he wants.

BP/1/221/30

10 Mar 1849

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Hill, enclosing a sermon on toleration which Mr. Larken preached before the University of Oxford (not in collection). Inquires if Hill has any thoughts on the University question.

BP/1/221/31

11 Mar 1847

Copy letter from Boole to Hill explaining he has to cancel their meeting as his assistant Mr. Marshall is ill and so he cannot leave.

BP/1/221/32

[ n.d. ]

Mathematical jottings of algebraic equations.

## **vii. letterbook from George Boole to Charles Kirk**

BP/1/222

1 item 1845-1849

All letters described here are taken from a letterbook of Boole's letters to Kirk, and are given in the order they appear in the letterbook.

BP/1/222/1

14 Oct 1845

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Charles Kirk St. John's College, Cambridge written in Latin.

BP/1/222/2

10 Aug 1846

Copy letter (with typed copy) from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk congratulating him on his 21st birthday. He regrets he won't see him on the day but adds 'I doubt not love will write with friendship and mirth with wisdom, to strew flowers beneath the dusty wheels of time'. He wants him to imagine him (Boole) sitting in an empty chair at the festivities enjoying himself 'and never once indulging in those philosophical but unsocial mutterings, which by a too severe judgment, have been charged upon me'.

BP/1/222/3

30 Apr 1847

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk mainly discussing university. First he inquires if his note of introduction to Chessman (whom he finds a 'very pleasant agreeable fellow') was of use. In a section marked confidential, he tells him he believes his father is dying and he is urging Boole to enter Cambridge, his sister and brothers second this. He has not yet decided to go or not, but if he did he would attend one of the smaller colleges and would not make mathematics his principal pursuit. He could afford to spend £80 - £100 per annum, asks Kirks opinion on the matter. He adds he feels he has a duty to society to use his talents, and is disillusioned with teaching as 'the amount of evil that grows up spontaneously among boys shut up together in a boarding school is almost greater than the good you can impart'.

BP/1/222/4

9 Aug 1847

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk enthusing about Cambridge. He declares if he had to choose a city (Lincoln excepted) to live in it would be Cambridge, so that he could breakfast with Kirk. He speaks excitedly about his visit there, describing in prosaic terms the joys of being a student at Cambridge. He also directs Charles to abandon his books for the day and enjoy his birthday. He mentions the Parrys and the additions to Lincoln Cathedral.

BP/1/222/5

15 Nov 1847

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk enquiring how he is getting on at Cambridge especially with Griffith. He urges him not to think too much about home, but to keep his mind on his duty and 'how you are fulfilling your father's interests'. His own father is growing weaker and has lost interest in people. He is teaching a class three times a week in his own home and has two private pupils so he is busy but happy. Adds he hopes they see each other over Christmas.

BP/1/222/6

23 Jan 1848

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk. He is doubtful whether or not he will see Kirk as planned as he is not now going to London; the College of Preceptors cannot afford to pay the expenses owed to him, and are treating them as advance subscriptions. He shows a marked change in attitude to Cambridge 'I detest from the bottom of my heart the cold pride of useless scholarship' but asks Kirk not to show anyone the letter as people will label him a grumbler against 'our glorious constitution in Church and State', but explains it's just that he prefers quiet and simplicity.

BP/1/222/7

21 Mar 1848

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk responding to an earlier letter of Kirk's. He is not feeling well but was pleased to hear Kirk is studying German - 'a noble language' - and key to a noble literature. He adds he hopes Kirk is still not disillusioned with maths as he was in his last letter. Mentions all in Lincoln are taking great interest in the events in France, Germany and Italy, and he presumes news of the revolts have penetrated even Cambridge 'where pale young men intent upon Greek accounts and double integrals lift up their heads and speculate upon the world whose existence they had almost forgotten'.

BP/1/222/8

24 Apr 1848

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk apologising for having to cancel his visit due to bad weather. He would have greatly enjoyed listening to Kirk read some of their old favourites.

BP/1/222/9

26 May 1848

Copy letter from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk discussing recollections of a very enjoyable visit to Sleaford. Mentions William Brooke is doing some research on inscriptions in St. Benedicts Church and quotes one to see if Kirk could shed some light on it. He has been on a trip to [Stringfield] manor house which he found very picturesque and beautiful. Requests him to forward some copies of a lecture on logic by Boole published in Cambridge when they are printed and instructs him to keep a copy for himself and one for a friend.

BP/1/222/10

24 Jan 1849

Copy letter (with typed copy) from Boole in Lincoln to Kirk discussing his book. He requests him to call on Macmillans and ask for an account of the book sales. He is himself pleased with the method of logic he laid out and has had favourable comments on it. The lack of widespread acknowledgement of the book does not bother him as he says 'I hope to accomplish something so much better' He finds logic fascinating but understands the wider public doesn't and states for him 'Oh the pursuit of truth is enough of itself'.

#### **viii. letters from George Boole to the Larken family**

BP/1/223

1845-1862

All letters described here are taken from a letterbook and are given in the order they appear in the letter book. All letters are to the Rev. E. Larken unless otherwise stated.

BP/1/223/1

23 Dec 1845

Boole in Lincoln to Rev. E. Larken discussing ways to improve the Lincoln Mechanics Institute. He drew up a number of propositions to put before the committee but tells Larken of them 'in order that you may be able to form a matured judgement upon them before you are called upon to consider them as a member of the Committee'. He hopes Larken will give him support and advise he also requests him to return the proposals as he wishes to show them to others (proposals not in collection).

BP/1/223/2

29 Sept 1846

Boole in Lincoln to Larken discussing matters relating to the Mechanics Institute and his application for a professorship at a college in Ireland (see BP/1/219 for typescript copy). He is busy writing letters in connection with his application and has been invited by Thompson to visit Dublin to experience Irish University life. Thompson's father has also promised to use his influence with Mr. Crow the Secretary of the Irish Education Board to aid him, however Boole is unsure 'I cannot leave a certain for an uncertain duty'. Inquires if the Institute would like him

to give some lectures on Natural Moral Philosophy. Closes by thanking him profusely for the testimonial he gave him.

BP/1/223/3

26 Jan 1847

Boole in London, (where he is posted as an examiner) to Larken, detailing his stay. He visited Mr. Gill of the People's College who received him well even though Boole had lost Larken's letter of introduction. He was very impressed by the college and would have applied for the vacant post of principal there 'if it were not for my Irish prospects'. He complains about the conditions under which he is examining and declares 'Had I surmised that there would have been so entire a want of system and forethought I should not have come up' He promises also to do 'your little commissions'.

BP/1/223/4

[Jan 1847]

From Boole in London to Larken sending the receipt for the twenty-two sovereigns Larken entrusted to him and telling of the people he has met, including Mr. De Vericour whom he liked, and who sends advice to Larken to send his boy to school. He also met Mr. Lantham and Mr. De Morgan who is ill, and also many young men who would make fine teachers. He is thinking of letting his school and instead taking in about 12 pupils at £50 per annum and wonders if Larken would act as a referee to him. He is not happy with his present situation 'I can hardly see how I am turning to account the little learning or talent that I have ... on the whole I am in a painfully unsettled form of mind'. He closes with a discussion on different news of the Purgatory [a poem].

BP/1/223/5

15 Jan 1847

Boole in London to Larken describing his stay and replying to comments Larken made about Cooper. Boole has a higher opinion of him than Larken 'He is vain and perhaps pedantic, but after all he has a great deal that might justify vanity if anything could in such creatures as we are'. He also mentions Cooper's honesty and sincerity and hopes Larken has not formed an overly bad impression of him. He visited Mr. Chapman who lent him a volume of Emerson's poetry, and Mr. De. Morgan who gave him a reader's ticket for the British Museum valid for six months and declares 'It will scarcely be possible to feel dull in London after this'. He mentions De Vericour bought Larken a very fine copy of 'Lamiennons Evangiles' which is a more expensive illustrated copy than the one Larken had previously.

BP/1/223/6

23 Jan 1847

Boole in Sleaford to Larken thanking him sincerely for the recommendation from Boole which he gave to a gentleman applying to be his assistant. Mentions he has a speech prepared to give any day the following week for the young men of Lincoln. Adds he is reading Whately on the Errors of Romanism and says 'It deserves not only to be read but to be studied'.

BP/1/223/7

29 Apr 1847

Boole in Lincoln to Larken inviting him to meet E.J. Willson and Rev. James Simhiss at his home that evening. He jokingly remarks that as his two guests are Roman Catholic Larken should join him in the 'Protestant interest'. Of Simhiss he remarks 'he has as much of the Catholic and as

little of the Roman about him as any man that I ever met within whom the two terms were united'. Mentions he hopes to get to the Mechanics Institute meeting also that evening.

BP/1/223/8

31 May 1847

Boole in Lincoln to Larken discussing Rules for the conversion and general transformation of propositions in which Larken had voiced interest. Mentions he invited Dickson on a walk to Burton and adds 'I hope this will redeem me from the stigma of unfaithfulness'.

BP/1/223/9

12 Aug 1847

Boole in Lincoln to Larken discussing a poem 'Purgatorial' written by a Mr. Cooper (a Chartist) whose wife is a relative of Boole's. Boole suggested to Mrs. Cooper that some units in the dialogue should be made, but he wishes first to discuss the proposed changes with Larken. He is not overly fond of the poem as it 'is an unhealthy one' but 'there is stuff and matter in it'.

BP/1/223/10

13 Sept 1847

Boole to Larken discussing the forthcoming publication of his manuscript. It is ready for printing in Cambridge and both Prof. Graves and Charles Kirk 'a very competent judge so far as the mathematics are concerned' feel it should sell well. He requests Larken to inquire if Bishop Thayer would mind him dedicating the book to him. He wishes to do so because Thayer is a mathematician and a scholar and also 'because his character is such as behoves his station and attainments'. Mentions he encloses his friend Cheriman's letter (not in collection) and that he also hopes to publish a small volume of poems and translations which he would like to dedicate to Larken.

BP/1/223/11

7 Oct 1847

Boole in Lincoln to Larken. He was induced by an old "friend" to buy two copies of George Rose's Journal, and inquires if Larken would like one. His friend has sold many to the clergy and had intended calling on Larken and the bishop but had not the time.

BP/1/223/12

15 Dec 1847

Boole in Lincoln to Larken requesting Larken to enquire at the Athenaeum in 'Babylon' [London] if they stock copies of his book as he's heard they don't. Mentions he went with William Brooke to a meeting of 'Seely's friends' in Newmarket but the crush of the crowds 'that wild beast - the people' was too much for him and he left early. He has had a letter from Prof. Graves (who is ill) setting up a meeting with Whately to discuss Boole's system [of logic]. Graves 'writes with a mixture of gloom and hope about Ireland that is to me very touching' and he quotes lengthily from the letter describing the gloom and despondency caused by the famine.

BP/1/223/13

14 Jan 1848

Boole in Lincoln to Larken, he is sending him his mathematical book to keep for two years and gives strict instructions that Larken is not to give them back to him before that time. If he repeatedly asks for their

return Larken is to 'ban them even as the books of those which used magical arts were burned' .

BP/1/223/14

7 July 1848

From Boole in Bamsgate to Larken, informing him he will be back in Lincoln in time to attend the meeting Larken spoke of. He remarks on the political situation in Europe stating 'it is sad that it takes trouble abroad to make Christians do their duty,' but he doesn't think things are likely to change: 'I suppose that we are not to look for this before the millennium'. He describes in rapturous tones his visits to the British Museum and the cliffs of Dover. He is reading Montfarcois 'Antiquities of Italy' and Carlyle's Letters and speeches of Oliver Cromwell, which has 'a certain massive and rugged grandeur whatever one may think of its philosophy'. Closes as Maryann has returned to accompany him on a walk.

BP/1/223/15

24 Sept 1849

Boole in Lincoln to Larken discussing the arrangements for the presentation of public gifts to him to celebrate his appointment at Q.C.C. He is conferring with William Brooke as to what books he will choose and says he would be delighted to receive a silver inkstand as proposed: 'To this I should have no objection and as it would gratify my mother and sister and others. I should be glad if it could be so arranged'. He also agrees to a public presentation at which he could thank everyone for their kindness. Also sends sympathy to Larken who is ill.

BP/1/223/16

May 1851

Boole in Cork to Larken. Friends of his in Cork wish to improve the Penitents Home there and he inquires if Larken who is involved with the Lincoln home could send him some details about it. He also promises to ensure all arrears of subscriptions are dealt with on his return to Lincoln.

BP/1/223/17

27 Feb 1861

Handwritten plus typed copy from Boole in Cork to John Larken thanking him for his letter containing news of Lincoln, and expressing his happiness to hear Larken's family are getting on well, adding 'I believe that among young ladies getting married may be considered as a kind of success in life'. He hopes Larken will do well but cautions him against working too hard and prospering too much. He is fine and hoping to build a house. He adds 'If I had my present lot in England I think I should have no earthly wish ungratified'. Also thanks him for the unusually neat way in which he returned a book.

BP/1/223/18

13 Apr 1861

Handwritten plus typed copy from Boole in Cork to John Larken, thanking him for his house design and promising that if he is ever going to build a house he will hire him as architect. Mentions he likes Gothic Architecture but finds 'convenience and utility are not sufficiently thought of by Gothic designers generally', and mentions Q.C.C. as a case in point. He invites him to visit as soon as renovations to his house finish; at the moment stars are visible through the roof in the attic.



BP/1/223/19

22 May 1862

Boole to John Larken telling him about the fire at Q.C.C.. The damage was calculated at £6,000 with £2,000 worth of equipment lost. He also discusses the building of a Cathedral in Cork, to be constructed of limestone and bathstone. He remarks in Ireland labourers work for 6d. a day less than they do in England where they receive 1s.6d or 1s.8d. per day. However they get less work done in a day than an English labourer. If Larken wishes to tender for the contract he advises him to come and view the site but warns he may have problems: 'I should think Irish workmen very difficult from an Englishman to deal with. They are very much given to striking'. He adds if he has room he would be glad to put Larken up.

BP/1/223/20

[ n.d. ]

Scrap of a letter from Edmund Larken to Boole giving news of Fanny Bullen's health.

#### **ix. letter from George Boole to his pupils**

BP/1/224

6 Nov 1849

From Boole in Cork to his old pupils telling them about his new situation. He mentions he often thinks of them and their welfare and happiness. He describes the countryside around Cork and the college, he mentions the steady rainfall and that he has heard Cork referred to as the rain basin of Ireland. He refers to a report on the opening of the college which is to be featured in the next edition of the Illustrated London News. He adds he would be delighted to find on his return that they all had been good boys 'steady to your labours faithful and obedient to your teachers, kind and courteous to each other, obliging to all with whom you have to do', and states he would be proud to hear from any of them.

4pp

#### **x. letters from George Boole to M.C. Taylor**

BP/1/225

(See Also BP/1/337)

27 May 1840

Boole to Taylor in Leeds, opens with a friendly reprimand to Taylor for not writing and goes on to discuss his work. He tells him he has moved to Pottergate in Lincoln, and is so busy teaching and writing maths papers he has neglected general literature. He reveals he has some ideas for discussion which would make their correspondence 'useful' but he wishes to develop them further before airing them. He was upset to hear Leeds Cathedral burnt down and hopes Taylor was not one of those who dismissed its monuments as archaic, as they were, Boole feels, symbols of medieval faith that have only recently come to look out of place.

3pp

BP/1/226

(See Also BP/1/230)

Apr 1840

Letter from Boole to Taylor plus typed copy discussing studies and religious matters. He recommends lectures on physical science by Roget

published in the library of Useful Knowledge, mentions he finds writing a great aid to study, and he has done away with slates in his school and is using pens instead. He then discusses various academic matters, the works of Brown, the study of mental philosophy and how it leads to a growth of genuine poetry and the reception of religious belief. On this last subject he states 'I hesitate not to avow myself in belief a Christian', although he places his 'hopes of future happiness on the great propitiatory sacrifice and atonements of the Saviour'. On other issues such as the freedom of human will (which he sees as minor point) he has ceased to think and adds 'I doubt whether I am a Christian at all except in mere speculation'. He says he has expressed his feelings more fully than ever before but he does not want Taylor to enter into correspondence on personal religion as he feels this would lead to hypocrisy on his part. Rather he hopes their correspondence will continue to stimulate them both.

2 items

BP/1/227

8 June 1840

Boole in Lincoln to Taylor, he apologises for not having enough time to write a long letter but instead resolves to 'offer a few remarks on a subject alluded to in your last and briefly propose a plan of correspondence from which you may probably derive much benefit'. The discussion revolves around Brown's thoughts on will and ideas, with which Boole disagrees. He suggests Taylor should study mental and natural philosophy, and draw up at intervals an abstract of such principles and theories of a particular issue and send this to Boole with his own thoughts. Boole then might be able to add some helpful comments, but he states the writing of the work alone would be most useful. Mentions he had advertised in the Leeds 'Mercury' for an assistant.

4pp

BP/1/228

22 Sept/8 Oct 1840

Boole to Taylor, opening with profuse apologies for not writing earlier. Also he has lost Taylor's last letter so his responses to the questions might not be too comprehensive. As Taylor requested he discussed the identity of memory, conception and imagination, he sees the main difference between memory and imagination as being conception. He then switches to address a second letter from Taylor asking for his advice. He is seemingly depressed but Boole assures him all students become apathetic and despondent at some time, as all humans have periods of low energy, and he gives him study advice. Mentions he has also had a letter from Dyson whom he feels is an enterprising student.

4pp

BP/1/229

17 July 1844

Boole in Hornsea to Taylor apologising profusely for letting their correspondence lapse. He declares he cannot hope Taylor would resume their correspondence, but he would write if only to let him know that he has not been forgotten and adds 'Although I have said that I would not attempt to apologise for my long silence the fear of losing altogether your good opinion compels me to say it has not been the result of idleness'. He then fills Taylor in briefly on his situation, saying school work takes up most of his time with the rest going to preparing a manuscript for publication. He mentions Dyson has settled at [Guinsboro] and is doing well and asks for Taylor's news.

4pp

BP/1/230  
(See Also BP/1/226)

28 Feb 1845

Boole in Lincoln to Taylor explaining he doesn't have a spare copy of his recent lecture to send him, and he hopes Taylor understands. If he wants to read the paper he can find it in Philosophical Transactions 1844 PLII, but doesn't think it would interest him. He recommends Dr. Arnold's Life and Correspondence which he read and enjoyed, and mentions again his religious affiliations 'I should not hesitate to avow myself in principle and in profession a churchman. More than this I can scarcely say'. He also is determined to avoid taking sides on religious questions which divide Christians.

4pp

BP/1/231

20 June 1846

Boole in Lincoln to Taylor inviting him to visit if he is ever in Lincoln; he presumes someone in Taylor's business must travel a lot and assures him there is always welcome for him in Lincoln. Adds he is off to the seaside at Hornsea soon for a short break.

4pp

## **xi. letters from George Boole to A. T. Turner**

BP/1/232

26 Jan 1860

Copy of a letter from Boole in Cork to Turner discussing general and political news. He apologises for not writing earlier, but he has just had one book printed and another still in the press and finds letter-writing a continuation of work, so he avoids it. He gives some family news; Maryann, recently returned from Germany, is now living in Cork as governess to the bishop's children, and is very happy with her position. As for himself although he is happy in Cork he is 'looking forward to settling in England in some way before long', he gives a brief description of his children and concludes 'on the whole life passes pleasantly on though in a country in which I can never feel at home'. He then turns to discuss the prospects of peace between England and France saying he has heard many conflicting statements about the French. He recognises the Commercial Treaty as fact and presumes Free Trade will be the future. He mentions no volunteer rifle corps formed in Ireland as 'The Roman Catholic Priesthood seem to have been doing all they can to preach disloyalty' and declares 'This is a country which does not on the whole present the most favourable picture of Christianity'.

4pp

## **IV Letters to George Boole**

### **i. from Mrs. Mary Everest to George Boole**

BP/1/233

2 Sept 1852

Incomplete letter from Mrs. Mary Everest to Boole telling him how well her daughter Mary [Boole's future wife] is getting on with her Trigonometry. She's not getting through it however as quickly as when Boole is there and she wonders if she has to do all the difficult examples as they take her so long. She hopes to begin Analytical Geometry the next day and will send Boole some papers to show her progress.

2pp

BP/1/234

[ n.d. ]

Mrs. Everest to Boole explaining she is unsure whether or not she will be able to visit Cork or Ireland as planned due to renovations having begun on her brother's house. She adds she is sorry to bother him with her problems as he has great troubles of his own. She also speaks of Mary [Everest]'s great love of maths, and how they missed him at a recent musical evening.

6pp

## **ii. from Isaac Todhunter to George Boole**

BP/1/235

23 May 1863

Typed copy of a letter from Todhunter, St. John's College, Cambridge to Boole giving details of the position of Sadlerics Professor of Pure Mathematics now vacant at St. John's, and urging him to go forward for the post. He presumes Mr. Cayley (whom he says cannot teach) is most likely to be elected, but he feels Boole ought to offer his name to bring it to the notice of the College and adds that is what he plans to do. Closes with some local news.

2pp

BP/1/236

10 June 1863

Typed copy of a letter from Todhunter to Boole informing him Cayley was elected to the vacant position of Professor of Maths (see BP/1/233 above). He thanks him for the testimonial he sent and expresses his regret Boole did not go forward for the position, reminding him 'Mathematical appointments are unfortunately neither numerous nor valuable'. He thanks him also for his invitation to visit, but regrets he could not travel to Ireland that year.

1p

## **iii. letters from others to George Boole**

BP/1/237

2 Sept [1853 - 54]

John [N] of Victoria Road Cork to Boole,' explaining that a German woman who does not speak English has been admitted to the North Infirmary Hospital, and he wonders if Boole could come and translate for the staff.

3pp

## **B. Letters of Maryann Boole**

### **I. Letters to Maryann Boole**

#### **i. from W. Atkin of Lincoln**

BP/1/238

(See Also BP/1/331)

1 Apr 1865

W. Atkin to Maryann Boole thanking her profusely for the expressions of friendship she used when referring to him in a letter to Miss Chaloner. He would be delighted to send her his recollections of Boole which he will compile, and expresses his sympathy over her loss. He adds apologetically that he lost a book in which he had put some of Boole's poetry and translations.

4pp

BP/1/239

16 Jan 1866

W. Atkin to Maryann enclosing [letters from Boole] not in collection. He apologises for his delay in sending them, and asks her to visit him if she comes to Lincoln, and to tell him how George died. Promises to send her any material he has relating to George's early life.

2pp

BP/1/240

28 Jan 1866

W. Atkin to Maryann sending his recollections of Boole as requested. He can remember the dispute between Boole's father and the Mechanics Institute but does not go into details. He also remembers Boole and his father exhibiting an eclipse of the sun in a dark room, and Boole's lecture on Sir Isaac Newton which was very well received although his mother was nervous that it wouldn't be. Of Mrs. Boole (his mother) he says 'she was always when in health very cheerful and good company'; she and Boole used often read to each other. He also mentions Boole used to bring a bell belonging to the town clerk with him to the local theatre for the manager's use, and so thus gained free admission.

5pp

#### **ii. letters from Thomas Bainbridge of Bainbridge's Commercial Academy**

BP/1/241

(See Also BP/1/244)

2 Dec 1852

Original plus typed copy from Bainbridge to Morgan giving his recollections of Boole. He began teaching him in 1828, when he already knew some arithmetic and base Latin. By 1830 he could read with little difficulty any Latin or Greek author and was familiar with the greater part of Euclid. Bainbridge remarks 'he was very diligent, seemed thoughtful beyond his years'. He also recollects that Boole was a rather solitary child 'he never played with his school-fellows but had one to two friends of congenial minds'. He adds that Boole's father was a

self-educated man who taught himself accountancy and maths and who understood Euclid easily.

2 items

### iii letters from her brother William Boole

BP/1/242

2 Mar 1865

Incomplete letter from William to Maryann discussing his reminiscences of their brother George. He speaks of George's aversion to fishing 'he like myself could not bear the idea of hanging a live worm upon a hook as a bait for fishes'. He declares Boole was the champion of the underdog and would often 'run across a street in the greatest excitement and indignation on seeing a brutal fellow strike a woman, to prevent a repetition of the cowardly act', he was also against slavery. Closes by hoping Maryann will soon recover her spirits.

2pp

### iv. letters from William Brooke of Lincoln

BP/1/243

[1864 / 1865]

Brooke in Lincoln to Maryann, sending her his sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of George. He gives comfort to her and himself by saying in George's death 'I see the wise hand of Providence'; also he recognises her loss is greater than others as she and George were so close. He has informed the Perrys and the Chalonders of Boole's death as he was keeping them up to date during the illness. He is relieved to hear Mary Boole is recovering - she had sent him a letter stating all was over. The letter was calm in tone although 'The agony was in it - but not as it works in common minds'. He welcomes the tributes the press are giving Boole but adds 'I wish I might hope that the Catholic Press also did him justice'. He then turns to speak of his memories of Boole - 'He was made up of an exquisite reality and simplicity' - and mentions the commotion caused by Boole when he was ill and sent his translations of Melagers 'Ode to Spring' (which he wrongly ascribes to Horace), to a local newspaper and some people refused to believe that the work was that of a young boy. He adds Hutchin had broken the news of the death to him before Mrs. Gibson's letter reached him, and he at once assisted in the compilation and correction at local authorities. One incident though is preying on his mind. Before he learned Boole was ill he had sent Mary Boole a hymn containing the lines

'And thou, beloved Mary,  
Long partner of my cares,  
In this dark path are torn away  
In agony of tears'

and he hopes it did not unduly upset her. In a postscript he muses on how much harder it is to cope with the loss of a sibling than a parent whom one accepts will predecease one.

20pp

BP/1/244

2 Jan 1864

Typed copy of a letter from W. Brooke to Maryann giving recollections of Boole's early tuitions. He states he had forgotten he had ever helped Boole with Latin until Boole himself reminded him, adding 'But he must soon have shot far beyond his teacher'. He remarks that given his few educational opportunities Boole had a remarkable knowledge of the Classics. He believes though that Thomas Bainbridge did little to shape Boole's career, describing him as 'puzzle headed' and relates an incident when he misinterpreted a reading by Boole to illustrate this.

1p

BP/1/245

2 Mar 1865

Incomplete letter from Brooke to Maryann mainly giving more reminiscences of Boole. He is glad to hear she is coming home and thanks her for being so kind to Boole's widow and children and also for sending him a lecture of Boole's. He mentions another lecture on polytheism which he hopes will be found. She had requested him to send any memories he has of Boole's early life and family which he now does. He mentions the controversy over her father's post as curator of the Mechanics Institute but he cannot remember why he resigned apart from some dissension with a Mr. Hunt as her father's 'high spirit would not submit to be dictated to by a man whose principal feature was a blustering and unfeeling interference'. In connection with Boole's school at Waddington he remembers the rent was very high and Boole had not enough boarders and the failure of a Mr. Hall to canvass for them. Boole's despondency over the matter he says is clearly evidenced in his correspondence with Mr. Moor Hamilton, Hall's Lawyer. He adds Boole was bailed out by Mr. Newton (the butcher). Closes with expressions of goodwill.

4pp

BP/1/246

[ n.d. ]

Brooke in Lincoln to Maryann congratulating her on her new appointment but cautioning her 'Those single darlings are often spoilt pets and I had rather you had the schooling than myself'. He strongly urges her to excite her pupil's interest in nature and the great wonders and sights of the world (he suggests describing the Coliseum by night), and to convince 'Maw and Paw' to send their daughter on a European tour on which Maryann could accompany her. He has been journalising his tour of Europe for her but remarks one story is so ugly he will not let her or George read it saying 'ugly maidens should be avoided for ladies'. He then turns to local news, telling her about his sister's health. He also remarks he finds Victorian families have nicer children than any others. His thoughts turn to Mary Boole and he hopes she will be alright during the coming winter as her house is very exposed, but adds the landlord might add a porch, and her new child should be a joy to her. He reminisces on the beauty of Dublin Bay which on first sight reminded him of Roger's description of Columbus' first night in the new world. Closes by requesting her to inquire about Ann Lloyd, his old master's daughter who is now aged about 70 and is living in Dublin. Her father had been a Professor at Carmarthen University.

8pp

BP/1/247

[ n.d. ]

Brooke to Maryann giving her general news. He opens good humourly with a wry tale of how children are trying to steal his apples, one of which he

plans to present to his next door neighbour 'The fair Widow Sutton'. He exclaims 'oh the delights of the suburbs, with an aggressive population and never a constable'. Mentions his sister-in-law is home. His thoughts then turn to religion and 'How one sometimes (thoughtfully) is inclined to envy the poor Catholic their pious ejaculations of "God rest his soul"'. He feels it must be a great comfort to know one's prayers are helping those in purgatory, and adds in his old age he finds his thoughts turning more and more to theology. He also brings up an article he read about a 150ft. long sea serpent living in a Scotch lake. He has never heard any more about it and half believes he probably dreamt the article up and adds jokingly 'who knows but he might turn up in Killarney'.

4pp

BP/1/248

[ n.d. ]

Brooke to Maryann. In a letter covering many subjects he mentions the religious troubles in Ireland which he feels are caused by the Roman Catholic priesthood, and mentions Clarke in Canada (See Also BP/1/255) must also be troubled by rebels. Also mentions he is under the care of Dr. Banks. He would have loved her to visit but all his spare rooms are filled with books in preparation for a sale. Mentions there was 'a remarkable display of sheet light last night' which he gleefully remarks caused great confusion in Churches and Chapels. He also makes some obscure references to Gladstone 'and Mr. Gladstone pray let him go and remonstrate'.

3pp

BP/1/249

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete letter from Brooke to Maryann. In an unusually morbid tone he discusses his health and his belief he has reached 'the beginning of the end', but adds he only tells her this to excuse his delay in sorting papers for Mrs. B. [Mary Boole]. He is looking through Boole's 'Cambridge letters' and can reassure her no confidential conversation between herself and Boole was mentioned in them. In Lincoln the streets are snowed up 'like nothing in Ireland as I believe'.

4pp

BP/1/250

28 July [ n.d. ]

Brooke to Maryann thanking her for her kind letter. He cannot remember if he replied to it, but will do so now anyway. He was delighted to hear of her visit to Cork. He has 'sweet recollections' of his own visit, and would enjoy seeing little Alice. His nephew's son is doing very well at school and his nephew wrote to say his son would be a second Boole 'didn't I make a wry face at reading it'. His delay in writing has been due to his upset over 'an humiliating and disgusting affair'. The pastor at the local Church was convicted of 'trying to corrupt the minds of some innocent little girls for the most detestable purposes'; he was sentenced to six months hard labour. He adds a postscript referring to his sister-in-law as being his only comfort beyond poignant memories of dead friends.

4pp

BP/1/251

5 Sept [ n.d. ]

Brooke to Maryann, explaining he only sent half a letter the last time to her. This present letter has a rambling tone and he opens by telling how much he is looking forward to the return of his sister-in-law. He then



speaks of his tardiness in reading Wordsworth, a poet he has too long neglected; 'this is not matter to be glibly run over like Scott or Moore'. He complains about the lack of powerful preaching in Lincoln and marvels at how strong the lungs of medieval monks who had to preach in the open air must have been. Following from this he gives a brief history of the Asylum grounds formerly owned by the Duke of Lancaster. He ends with some comments on a brief for the Bishop, a Latin Epistle to 'The old Catholics' in Cologne calling up 'vain regrets for the lov'd and lost. My dear father and your dear brother would have looked on with great interest'. The article also calls for retribution rather than peace. Adds he encloses 'all the scraps, intended for you.

4pp

#### **v. letters from Dr. J. Bury to Maryann Boole**

BP/1/252

(See Also BP/1/335)

27 Nov 1865

Typescript copy of a letter from Bing to Maryann, giving his recollections of Boole. He discusses Boole's love of knowledge and his belief that only reading of a subject can make one proficient in it. But he believed too much reading had strained his left eye, and he was convinced he would eventually go blind. So he began to practice playing music which he felt would be a comfort to him if he lost his sight, but he played only sacred music.

1p

BP/1/253

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete biographical letter from Dr. Bury to Maryann in which he tells her that although Boole was charitable to men's failings, he could also be withering in his contempt. Also he hated to be praised, and always spoke modestly about the value of his work. He adds Boole was a great admirer of Dr. Thomas Brown.

1p

#### **vi. letters from Charles Clarke to Maryann Boole**

BP/1/254

17 Dec. 1865

Original plus typed copy of a letter from Charles Clarke in Canada to Maryann, thanking her profusely for writing, and discussing his requested recollections of Boole. He opens however with a long passage on the different types of weather experienced in Canada 'because you Englishmen who stay at home at ease underrate our Canadian climate'. He has heard English people believe Canadians never see the sun and feed on blubber to survive the cold. He then turns to his recollections of Boole. Boole's mother was the midwife who delivered him, and later he attended Boole's school in Grammar School Lane. His mother had sent him there as she wanted him to be educated as an usher (assistant teacher), but he had other plans and became an assistant draper. He makes the premise that all his recollections are therefore those of a schoolboy. He remembers Boole taking the class on walks on which he would become so lost in thought the walk would last an hour more. Of Boole's character he says 'when he did

unbend he must have been a genial companion, rich in almost childlike love of fun and frolic'. In his school he rejected learning by rote, and tried to impart to the boys ideas rather than words. Every Friday he would give a special lecture on a subject picked by the boys on the preceding Friday. He taught a variety of subjects including astronomy and geology, and often spoke in awe of electricity 'the one natural agent by which the Creator performed his great work in the universe'. He had however some faults as a teacher - his handwriting was bad due to faulty sight and he was useless at cricket. Clarke mentions an incident where one day Boole set his pupils a problem which had been puzzling the scholars of Lincoln but which he had solved as a boy. This situation reminded Clarke 'of the boy Christ confounding the doctors'. To encourage his pupils Boole would tell them how he loved to spend his Saturday half-holiday translating Virgil and says Helen [of Troy] was his first love. He was fond of both music and poetry, especially Milton. He was also strong and agile and used exhort his pupils to emulate Greek athletes. He hated cruelty and fighting in the school was a punishable offence. If a boy broke the school rules a mock trial was held to ascertain the punishment, and also to teach the boys how to conduct public meetings. He felt Boole was very religious and inclined towards Unitarianism, and he also believed nature was a Church built by God. The severest beating Clarke can remember him giving was to a boy called Rogers who was repeatedly caught stealing birds eggs, Boole flew into a rage with the boy, smashed the eggs and thrashed him. Despite this Clarke believes not a single ex-pupil disliked him. As an incentive to work Boole operated a ticket system by which tickets would be given for good work and could then be saved to buy privileges; 20 tickets equalled a half holiday. Clarke feels this method was a greater incentive to work than all the gilt-edged books given out on prize-giving day. Boole preferred to teach using visual aids and once took his pupils to a hill to view an approaching thunderstorm to explain the difference in speed of light and sound. He recalls that in Waddington Boole had fallen into debt, but that he was comfortably off in Lincoln. Mentions he never saw a notice for The laws of Thought appear in a Canadian newspaper. He again reiterates that all his memories are boyish ones but hopes they can be of help. Adds Boole had a strong interest in astronomy, telescopes and cameras. Closes by telling her it only takes 13 days for a letter from Lincoln to reach Canada.

2 items

## **vii. letters from Miss M. Davis to Maryann Boole**

BP/1/255

29 Mar 1865

To Maryann from M. Davis, 3 Albert Terrace, Antaly Road [Lincoln], sympathising on her bereavement and recounting her memories of Boole in a glowing tribute. Unfortunately she destroyed when ill all letters from friends which she did not want others to read, and so has none from Boole. She declares she was glad Boole never attended a university as it would have left him very 'strait'. She feels also that Boole might have had a premonition of early death as he said on their last meeting that that could be the last time that she would see him on this earth. She recollects he went to Waddington about 1832. She didn't see him then until 1847 and last saw him on 8 September 1860. Boole never made her feel intellectually inferior but gave her inner confidence. He was beloved in Waddington and regarded as a great teacher. She was shy of seeking his company

as she was in awe of his 'mental greatness' so she did not know him very well but remarks Boole and Mr. Hall [her uncle] held each other in high mutual esteem. Boole could also be very absent-minded, and would sprinkle his food with an empty salt spoon, and then eat not noticing the food was unseasoned. Mr. Hall had always regretted the fact that Boole never went to college. She adds she never heard or saw an act of violence or severity performed by Boole against his pupils (see BP/1/225 above).

12pp

#### **viii. letters from J. Dyson to Maryann Boole**

BP/1/256

[ n.d. ]

Incomplete letter from [J. Dyson] to Maryann discussing his recollections of Boole, especially his love of poetry and his work as a poet. He also mentions Boole's love of architecture. He mentions Mr. Heighan's Methodist school at which Boole taught and where the local Methodists began to pray for his conversion, to which Boole took exception. Mentions he devoted a lot of his time to the study of Lucroix and Calcul.

3pp

#### **ix. letters from Mrs. Anne Gisbon to Maryann Boole**

BP/1/257

22 Jan 1865

To Maryann from Anne Gibson. She was present by Boole's bedside during his final illness and writes to chronicle for Maryann the events leading up to his death. On Tuesday 22 November he had a cough and felt very tired, but was lucid and discussed shareholder moves in the local gas company. The cold lasted a week so on the Sunday a doctor was called. Then Mrs. Gibson moved in at Mrs. Everest's request to look after Mary and ensure the children did not bother Boole. She tells Maryann he felt little pain, but was very peaceful with a clear mind. She mentions one of his last acts was to send money to the Dispensary doctor for the poor, and offers her sympathy to Maryann for her loss.

12pp

#### **x. letters to Maryann from Joseph Hill**

BP/1/258

4 Dec 1865

To Maryann from Joseph Hill, 7 Parliament Street, Hull. He is writing in response to Maryann's request to send her any letters or reminiscences of Boole. He mentions Waddington School which he has a faint memory of Boole sustaining a loss on when he surrendered the lease although he does not know why Boole had to leave, and he would prefer not to speculate. He does not feel though that he has much information useful for a biography but promises to write what he can, to aid her biographical work he divides Boole's life into 2 periods (early life, classical period). In relation to Boole's academic life he recollects a time when Boole felt he was

indulging too much in his favourite studies and resolved to explore other areas of study which would benefit him. One such area was Ethics of which Hill says 'How far he would found his system of ethics on the law of nature and how far the divine laws contained in the Bible, I do not know'. Adds Boole disapproved of [Paley]. Hill believes Boole loved maths because he could expand what others taught 'and become one of the mathematical instructors of the world', and that was the reason he choose maths over ethics. He also reveals that Boole first began to form a system for writing mathematical symbols for ideas not of a mathematical nature while he was travelling on a steamboat. He can't however remember the date. He ends by promising to write all his letters on similar paper with hinges so that they could be fastened together.

8pp

BP/1/259

20 Mar 1866

Joseph Hill in Hull to Maryann continuing his reminiscences which he calls 'Memorabilia Booliana'. In this letter he discusses 'the fluctuations of his (Boole's) classical taste'. Boole was from an early age fond of the classics, and Hill remembers an open day at school when Boole recited his translation of Meleager's 'Ode to Spring'. While an assistant at Doncaster he continued his classical studies but later his taste changed to more modern literature. He spoke French, Italian and German and as his interest in these grew his interest in the Classics faded (Hill gives some examples of this change). At one point he had wished to learn Hebrew but he didn't want to overtask his weak eyesight with Hebrew characters.

12pp

BP/1/260

24 May 1866

Joseph Hill to Maryann continuing his remembrances of Boole. In this letter he concentrates on Boole's love of maths and his health. As schoolboys they used to amuse themselves with algebra and later Boole enjoyed solving the maths problems posed in the 'Ladies Diary' (see BP/1/222(3)). In 1861 they went together to the International Exhibition in London where they viewed Babbage's calculating machine. Boole stated he did not understand the machine so Hill found a gentleman explaining its works to a lady and asked him to explain it to Boole also. While they were talking Mr. Babbage arrived and entered into a long conversation with Boole: 'the two great men together seemed to have taken steps towards the construction of that great prodigy a thinking machine'. He also remembers Boole once folding some paper to an angle of 450 and using it to measure distance and height. He also recalls that Boole liked to express mathematical ideas in a visible form. In relation to Boole's health he remembers him once walking from Lincoln to Doncaster, although he would never do so again. He was a sturdy walker of hills, but his sight was poor and he often had trouble deciphering Greek characters because of it. Hill himself believed diet altered a persons character and recalls that Boole ate a great deal of salt, even on bread and butter.

16pp

BP/1/261

12 July 1866

Letter from Hill to Maryann plus partial typed copy, continuing his reminisces with the provisio 'I can only supply raw material to be cooked by his biographer'. He apologizes also for the irregular order of his

recollections. He speaks here of Boole's attitude to people and to God. He could form a lasting attachment to people one such being Matthew Lilly who died a year before Boole did, and Hill's aunt whom Boole referred to 'as a very interesting old lady' and whom he introduced to Elihu Berritt. Boole despised those who after climbing the social ladder ignored their old friends. Also if he was criticising a friend he never mentioned their name so as not to damage their characters. He refers to a philosophical discussion he had with Boole over whether nature follows laws, or if it is used by God as he wishes. He recalls Boole stating everything that happens is affected by the power of God and that life would cease to exist if God's power was removed.

1 item

BP/1/262

23 May 1867

Hill to Maryann enclosing some of Boole's ('my most learned and illustrious friend') papers which he found in an old portfolio and continuing his reminiscences of Boole. He requested the wife of one of his clerks, Mrs. Carlyon, and a Mrs. Moulton of Lincoln to compose some poems in Boole's memory, copies of which he will send to her. He also offers her the services of his clerks to copy material for the biography. He remembers once suggesting to Boole that instruments should be made to imitate the sound of nature. Boole remonstrated with him and declared music is not an imitative act. He generally treated Hill's contempt of music as a matter for humour.

4pp

BP/1/263

25 June 1868

Hill to Maryann again expressing his grief over Boole's death and enclosing the poems by Mrs. Moulton and Mrs. Carlyon (see BP/1/262, above) (not in collection). He has been having difficulty compiling biographical material as he wishes to avoid repetition. Also he lost a book into which he had copied Boole's letters but he also blames his delay on his own 'procrastinating habits'. He parallels Boole's life and all men's with that of a river 'in some of which there are many turns and in some comparatively few' and mentions a turn in Boole's life when he moved from classical study to concentrate on modern languages, and appeared to develop a disrelish towards the former. He suggests that in her biography (see BP/1/306) she should try and separate the different periods of Boole's life 'the classical period, the ethical period, the literary period'. Mathematics however were always a part of his life to the extent that 'he was engaged in laying the formulation of a new science having some relation to mathematical logic and mental philosophy but not identical with any of them.

4pp

## **xi letters to Maryann Boole from M.A. Hill**

BP/1/264

29 Dec 1865

To Maryann from M.A. Hill of Cottingham relating his remembrances of Boole. He has no more of Boole's poetry to send her beyond that which he already gave to Mrs. Boole. He speaks of Boole's desire to always remain humble and relates an anecdote that a newspaper man covering a speech of

Boole's commented he never talks nonsense.

4pp

## **xii Unidentified letters to Maryann Boole**

BP/1/265

2 Jan 1864

To Maryann from [T]. A rather morose letter opening with an apology for her delay in replying even though writing gives her pleasure 'in my lonely life' but hopes her tardiness won't deter Maryann from writing frequently as 'I begin to realise the bitter loneliness of old age'. She refers to a very pleasant visit to Sleaford she took with Maryann's sister-in-law and Miss Cronin. She is growing increasingly deaf, having difficulty especially hearing weak female voices and resolves to try her mother's ear trumpet. She mentions Richard [Andrew], a friend of Boole's who was 'like many other tradesmens' sons at college was sadly damaged by association with jovial fellows above him in rank'. She promises to seek out people's recollections of Boole but she will be hampered by the fact she rarely leaves her house. She herself remembers his wide range of knowledge and modesty and adds she hopes Mary Ellen is bearing up well; 'Feebler minds would fall into a torpid grief. Mentions Bernard who sent three or four letters to her which she forwarded to EB as they had 'some Cambridge features which Bernard has racily sketched especially of Prof. Lea'.

8pp

BP/1/266

[ n.d. ]

To Maryann from [T]. A general letter opening with the writer's belief that Maryann should easily obtain a position as governess in Ireland 'on account of the brogue which more or less sticks to all native damsels'. While she does not like that accent on women she feels it suits men. Hopefully Maryann will get a position that would allow her to see the continent. She also mentions her sympathy with Boole over Q.C.C. opening with such small numbers, and asks her to thank 'him for the trouble he took over a translation for her. She remarks she found the Wicklow coastline very shingly and invaluable. She is reading Lord Dutteren's work and remarks on the pleasure her imagination gets from the phrase 'the girls have got hold of the four ropes'. She also refers to her concern for Boole living in Blackrock as that area is very stormy during winter. She mentions reports of panic in Wolverhampton and 'disgusting riots' at Nottingham where bread and meal were plundered and thrown about and windows were smashed, and also the 'disgusting expenditure' of the recent mayoral elections, and the popularity of Clayton as mayor. Thanks Boole for news of 'Pussy' (Mary Ellen Boole) and closes by telling her Bernard is dead.

8pp

BP/1/267

18 Mar 1853

To Maryann from [ ] in Gainsborough recording his memories of Boole his old teacher. Boole first came to Doncaster in 1831 where 'his advice and example gave the first impulse to Prose literacy pursuits that have been my chief solace and happiness through life' and adds Boole was devoted to his pupils. He regarded Milton's 'Paradise Lost' as an example of fine poetry. For recreation he studied French so he could read Lacroix's Differential and Integral Calculus. He remembers Boole sitting at his desk mechanically intoning 'Hush Hush' to the pupils when there was no noise. This the class found very amusing. He relates a number of anecdotes about Boole's childhood. As a young boy his father would give him some Euclid to study and reward him with a cake or toast if he did it well. He also remembers him rescuing a boy named Clegg who was out of his depth one day in a river in Lincoln. He also quotes some verses Boole wrote for him to send as a response to a Valentine. He also mentions the controversy caused by the publication of his translation of 'Ode to Spring'. He recollects Boole was very fond of music especially plaintive airs, and that he played the flute and the violin. He remembers Boole as having high regard for his parents.

6pp

BP/1/268

15 Jan 1865

To Maryann in Lincoln from [ ] giving the writer's requested recollections of Boole, but adding 'I feel myself quite inadequate for the task to do justice where it is so deservedly due'. He begins by speaking of Boole's excellence as a young scholar; they met first in Lincoln aged 15 or 16 and often took long walks together in the countryside where he says 'I often forgot I was weary so valuable was all the thought and all he said'. He mentions Boole's love of study, and his interest in poetry especially Lord Byron and quotes passages from Boole's favourite poems including some by John Milton and Mrs. Herner. He remembers Boole used to write poetry, but he has lost any copies he had. He (Boole) had only a few close friends with similar tastes as he 'could not endure trifling company'. Towards his friends 'his affections were strong, his professions sincere, he was free from guile', and didn't like to flaunt his intelligence. He was also devoted to his family 'He honoured his father and mother, loved with enduring affection his brothers and sister'. He helped the writer get out of some dilemmas 'which are in recollection too painful to relate' by a loan. They only met twice in later years, both times by . accident in the National Gallery in London where Boole was looking at the same picture each time. On their last meeting Boole mentioned he had problems caused by the Roman Catholic priesthood, but he does not remember the particulars. The last time they met was in Lincoln where once again the writer was in poor circumstances and felt like a stranger after living in London for 20 years. Closes by hoping his recollections will be of use.

24pp

## II. Letters from Maryann Boole

### i. to Miss Davis

BP/1/269

[ n.d. ]

From Maryann in Linburgh in Germany writing to Miss Davis in the form of a journal recording her stay in Germany. She requests that her 'Travellers

Journal' may be passed on to her family and kept for her as a memento.

**Part I** 6 Nov [ ], she left for Germany in the Heles McGregor. The passage was rough and she reports every lady on board was ill until they reached the Elbe 'a broad noble river'. She was then met by a friend of a friend, Mr Ehlers De Hembing, whose English sister-in-law was the sister of Sir Thomas Tobin of Ballincollig, Cork. She comments 'my first impressions of the German character are most favourable. Their hospitality appears to equal that of the Irish'. She then travelled to Henburg where she was met by a Mr. Weusthoff, and from there to Hamburg where Dr. Blennenthal's (her employer) son met her. She was a little dismayed by the Blennenthals house, as it was full of tobacco smoke and she found the sittingroom comfortless 'but I reflected that I had not come here to look for comfort and a day's familiarity with the place has made it look better'. Dr. Blennenthal himself is an invalid, crippled with a spinal or paralytic affliction, and she is to look after his five children. She finds Lineburg 'an exceedingly curious town', full of narrow streets with houses leaning towards each other. She also finds German cooking very different to what she is used to, 'I doubt whether I shall ever like very tough meat nor [ ] and herrings and mixtures of apples and potatoes'.

**Part II** Nov - 27 Dec [ ], in which she details some of the historical and political background of Lineberg. Dr. Blennenthal is himself a senator although too ill to take any active part in government. Salt manufacture is an important industry in Lineberg, with enough manufactured there to supply all Germany. Lime trees border all public roads. She is getting to know the suburbs well as she goes daily for a long walk. It is bitterly cold, but she, prefers this to the moistness of Cork. 'Shooting and smoking' she says are the chief pastimes taught to both boys and girls from a very young age, and she adds 'Master Fritz Blennenthal although only eight years old is already an adept smoker. Music is played outdoors everyday by the military band, but ladies are not meant to stop and listen to it'. She was at a musical evening of Mendelhossen and Weber, one of eight similar concerts to be staged over the winter and costing 4s.6d.; her employers the Blennenthals are not musical. Her tastes have adapted themselves to German Cookery, and so far she has found no meat so tough as the first joint she tasted. She mentions soups are made from all sorts of material, some better than others. The vegetables come 'dressed in very strange fashions', with a favourite being a mixture of apples and potatoes, which she doesn't like at all. Pimpernichil rye bread which is made only at Osnabugh is considered a great delicacy but she finds it close, heavy and sour. She describes a normal day in the house: the family breakfast at 7.30, and then the boys go to school at 8.00, they dine at one, have coffee at 4.00 and then dine at 8.00 again. Coffee parties are very common, with Sunday being the favourite day for going visiting. Once a week they have an English evening when lady friends of the Blennenthals come to tea, after which Dr. Blennenthal begins reading from some English book which the ladies then continue. Maryann by request corrects their mispronunciations and reads last and longest. She feels Germans seem to associate gatherings with the attainment of a pursuit. Once a week they gather to read poetry also. She went also to a practise session of the local young people's choir and exclaims 'It was almost worthwhile to come to Germany for the music alone'. On Sundays there are three services during which the shops close, but reopen for the rest of the day, and ladies spend the day visiting each other. She remarks the churches are made of stone and are very large and very cold. However the service is much simpler and shorter than in England. Christmas is a very important festival in Germany, with secret preparations being made leading up to Christmas Eve when the Christmas trees are lit, the decorations which



mothers prepare in secret. On Christmas Day presents are exchanged. In the Blennenthal's house after church on Christmas Eve at 7.30 p.m. the folding doors of the drawing room were thrown open to reveal a huge Christmas tree. She found the sight so impressive and beautiful she wonders why it is not more widely adopted in England. So far she has found Germans to be very kind and friendly, and much less 'slaves of fashion' and conventions of society than the English. At first she felt lost amongst such different people and customs, but now she sometimes feels so at home she forgets she is in a foreign country. She mentions her happiness that the rights of women are so well upheld in Germany, as a wife gains her husband's title e.g. Frau Doctor. She is making good progress with her German, and is getting three lessons a week from a German lady at a cost of 16 lessons for 12 shillings. English is cultivated in Germany and takes the place French does in England. However she still finds it hard work to sustain a conversation in German. To meet people, she says, you must first calion them before they will calion you. She mentions each German state has its own coinage, and she finds this very confusing. In Hanover the currency has been changed to that of Prussia, but the old currency is still in circulation as well so things are very confusing.

**Part III** She describes the New Year celebrations which are second only to Christmas. At the parties children throw pieces of [bread] into cold water, the shape it takes will then reveal their future. She remarks Germans dance remarkably well and very fast. It is considered improper for a lady over 25 to dance, and for any woman over 30 to dance is scandalous. She remarks she doesn't enjoy the German balls. She also finds the all female parties rather slow. Schools in Lineberg are considered very good, and some English and Scots families settle there for a few years while their children are being educated. She mentions the peasantry of the area speak low German, and remarks they seem quite well off, but can never rise to another rank. The peasant women wear a peculiar lace cap and lots of jewellery. At the age of 21 all men must enter their names for conscription, and are then chosen by a lottery to join the army. Their pay is very low, three shillings per week and two loaves, so many soldiers work as servants while off duty. No officer is allowed to marry without having 16,000 thalers. She remarks German young ladies seem to have the same weakness for officers as their English counterparts. She also is quite puzzled by the fact German girls take no exercise but yet can dance for seven hours consecutively and describes the betrothal and wedding ceremonies of one young lady. She feels German ladies are not as grave and refined as the English ones and are given to swearing.

**Part IV** She states Easter is even more highly thought of than Christmas, and it is seen as the beginning of the new school year and also as the correct time to change classes. The promotion of children to higher classes takes place in a large public ceremony, and confirmation, which is taken more seriously in Germany than England, is also performed at Easter. Mentions drunkenness amongst the lower classes is much less common there than England. One of Dr. Blennenthal's sons had scarlet fever and part of his treatment consisted of rubbing his body three times daily with bacon-fat.

**Part V** 2 June [ ] She remarks on how industriously all German ladies knit. One woman she knows has over 70 pairs of stockings all which she made herself. The girls leave home for one year after their confirmation to go to another family to learn housekeeping and to be weaned away from home. She remarks housekeeping is the main business of a woman's life. The journal then finishes in the form of a letter to George Boole, with an added unfinished journal of a trip to the [Hanz] mountains she took with some friends detailing the stops the train took, and the scenery she viewed on the way.

92pp

## **C. Academic material**

### **I. Unpublished lectures by George Boole**

BP/1/270

[ n. d. ]

First part of a lecture on Ancient Mythologies by George Boole (marked copy).

32pp

BP/1/271

[ n.d. ]

Second part of a lecture on Ancient Mythologies by George Boole.

30pp

BP/1/272

[n.d. ]

Copy of a lecture entitled 'Are the Planets Inhabited' by George Boole, inscribed Master B.J.B. Boole, L & N Parcels Offices, 21 Queen St., Wolverhampton. Copied by William Boole.

48pp

BP/1/273

[ n.d. ]

Lecture on Astronomy by George Boole.

40pp

BP/1/274

[ n.d. ]

Lecture entitled 'Lecture on Education' presumably by George Boole (copy).

60pp

BP/1/275

[ n.d. ]

Typed copy of 'Rules and Instructions addressed to his pupils and more particularly to those who are under his immediate care as members of his household' by George Boole, also copybook entitled 'School Rules and Arrangements' in George Boole's writing - 'not important'.

2 items

### **II. Copies of published works by George Boole**

BP/1/276

1835

Two copies of 'Address on The Genius and Discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton', delivered in February 1835 at the Lincoln and Lincolnshire Mechanics Institute.

2 items

BP/1/277

|          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| 1844     | 'On a General Method of Analysis', <u>Transactions of the Royal Society</u> , Vol. 134, pp 225-282, inscribed 'Mr. Charles Boole from his affectionate brother the Author' (winner of the Gold Medal at the Royal Society).   | 58pp    |
| BP/1/278 | [ n.d. ]<br>'Researches in The Integral Calculus', <u>Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy</u> , Vol. XXI, Part 1.   | 26pp    |
| BP/1/279 | 1847<br>Two copies of 'The Right Use of Leisure' an address delivered on 9 February to the members of the Lincoln Early Closing Association.  | 2 items |
| BP/1/280 | 1849<br>On a 'General Theorem of Definite Integration', <u>Cambridge and Dublin Mathematical Journal</u> , Vol. 6, pp 87-106.   | 9pp     |
| BP/1/281 | 1851<br>An account of the late John Walsh of Cork in a letter from Boole to de Morgan, <u>Philosophical Magazine</u> , Vol. 2, No.4, pp 348-358.  | 10pp    |
| BP/1/282 | 1854<br>Two articles, 'Reply to some observations' published by Mr. Wilbraham on the theory of Chances developed in Professor Boole's Laws of Thought, <u>Philosophical Magazine</u> , Vol. 8, No.4, pp 91-98, also 'On the Conditions by which the Solutions of Question in the Theory of Probabilities are Limited' <u>Philosophical Magazine</u> , Vol. 8, No.4, pp 91-98. | 13pp    |
| BP/1/283 | 1858<br>'On the Comparison of Transcendents, with certain applications to the Theory of Definite Integrals', <u>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</u> , Vol. 147, pp 745-804.   | 59pp    |
| BP/1/284 | 1862<br>'On Simultaneous Differential Equations of the first order in which the number of variables exceeds by more than one the number of the equations', <u>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</u> , Vol. 152, pp 437-454.   | 18pp    |
| BP/1/285 | 1862<br>'On the Theory of Probabilities', <u>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society</u> , Vol. 152, pp 225-252.  | 28pp    |

BP/1/286  
1863  
'On the Differential Equations of Dynamics' , Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Cambridge, Part 2, P 3.

17pp

BP/1/287  
1864  
'On the Differential Equations which determine the form of the Roots of an Algebraic Equation', Proceedings of the Royal Society, Vol. 154, pp 733-755.

23pp

BP/1/288  
1864  
'Of Propositions numerically definite, published posthumously' ,  
Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, Vol. 11, pp 394-411.

16pp

### III. Mathematical Exercises

BP/1/289  
[ n.d. ]  
Copybook inscribed J. Boole Lincoln, March 1st 1840, and W. J. Boole No.3 Pottergate Lincoln 7 July 1841, filled with mathematical equations taken from Gregory's Examples of the Diff. Calculus.

90pp

BP/1/290  
[ n.d. ]  
Loose sheets of mathematical calculations and problems.

24pp

### IV. Testimonials

BP/1/291  
(See Also BP/1/243)  
[1849]  
Printed copy of Boole's Testimonials presented to Boole by [the Lincoln Mechanics Institute] to commemorate his appointment as Professor of Mathematics at Q.C.C .. Includes testimonials from Prof. Augustus de Morgan, University College London; Professor P. Kelland, Professor of Maths, University of Edinburgh; Charles Graves, Professor of Maths, Trinity College Dublin; A. Layley, Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge; Robert Leslie Ellis, Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge; William Thompson, Professor of Natural Philosophy, University of Glasgow; Rev. George S. Dickson, Perpetual Curate Parish of St. Swithun, Lincoln; Edmund R. Larken, Rector of Burton by Lincoln; The Mayor and other inhabitants of the City of Lincoln; Charles Kirk, Student of St. John's College Cambridge. Also includes a list of his published works.

12pp

BP/1/292

[1849]

'Lincoln Public Testimonial to Professor Boole'. Record of a public supper held in Lincoln to honour Boole on his appointment. Records toasts given in honour of Boole by the Mayor of Lincoln and Rev. E. R. Larken and Boole's replies.

19pp

BP/1/293

(See Also 291)

22 Aug 1849

Letter from Boole 'To the Members of the Mechanics Institute who took a part in the meeting on Monday evening August 20th 1849', thanking them for voting to subscribe £5 towards a 'testimonial on the occasion of my appointment to the professorship of mathematics in Queens College Cork'. He appreciates the gesture but feels there is no need for it 'You will agree with me that upon an occasion such as this, the sentiment and the regard for which the act emanates are everything and the act itself nothing'. He would prefer the money to go to establishing a fund for buying an astronomical telescope. If they insist on a token, he feels a small uninscribed inkstand would be appropriate.

4pp

## **D. Poetry**

### **I. Poems and Translations by George Boole**

BP/1/294

1848

'The Fellowship of the Dead'

4pp

BP/1/295

1849

'Sonnet No.3', plus an untitled poem beginning 'The song of happy birds is all around', with a note stating Boole wrote those poems when he believed himself to be dying.

3pp

BP/1/296

1849

'Sonnet No. 10'.

1p

BP/1/297

1849

'Sonnet 14'.

1p

BP/1/298

1849

'Divine Providence' 'Lo Providenza Divinse'.

2pp

|   |      |
|---|------|
| BP/1/299<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Dialogue 'An Isle of Night'.  | 8pp  |
| BP/1/300<br>[ n.d. ]<br>To William Brooke from Shankill Isle of Wight.  | 5pp  |
| BP/1/301<br>[n.d ]<br>Notebook labelled 'Verse translations from the Latin and Greek - made by George Boole during 1829 and 1830', with a note written in 1832 by Boole detailing the lines and passages which his father helped him with. <u>Also</u> jottings on back cover 'of the muses and I'm lacking; and when ere I attempt to write Poetry, I find I'm only Blacking, The paper that once was white'. <u>Also</u> N.B. 'Now Mr. G.B. you plainly see I cannot write poetry'. | 18pp |
| BP/1/302<br>[n.d.]<br>Handwritten volume of poetry containing 28 poems titled and untitled and not always in the order they are listed on the cover. Poems written between 1833 and 1850.   | 93pp |
| BP/1/303<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Jotter entitled 'Some of George Boole's Poems, Copies', also [originals] on loose sheets, c.31 poems titled and untitled, written between [1846 - 1850].  | 50pp |
| BP/1/304<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Copybook entitled 'Poems and letters by George Boole (copies)' inscribed 'Miss Boole' on inside cover, 13 poems written between [1832 - 1849].  | 46pp |
| BP/1/305<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Jotter containing seven poems and translations, also written addition transcribing editorial notices and correspondence published in <u>The Lincoln Herald</u> relating to 'Ode to Spring', and explaining the controversy the poem caused.   | 13pp |

## **E. Biographical material**

### **I. Unpublished Material compiled by members of the Boole Family**

BP/1/306  
[ n.d.]

A biography of Boole's life including the rough drafts compiled by Maryann Boole. It tends to be somewhat over romanticised. She concentrates on examining Boole's qualities - his generous personality; studious nature 'He told me that from boyhood he had had the conviction that logic could be reduced to a mathematical science, and that he had often made himself ill on the attempt to prove it, but that it was not until 1849 that the true method flashed upon him' (P56); magnificent intellect; love of England 'On removing to Ireland he was at once painfully struck by the absence of field walks, a want which he never ceased to deplore, and which of itself suffered to make him feel himself not at home in the country of his adoption' (P74); kindness of heart; nobility of spirit and his popularity '... and with ladies almost universally he was a favourite. The awe with which he first commonly inspired them at first invariably wore away as they discovered how gentle and unpretending and utterly free from pedantry he was ... how entirely in their presence the philosopher was lost in the friend' (P74). There is little or no mention of his marriage to Mary Everest or of his family life in Cork. She does not delve too deeply into his academic work, but concentrates on his development as a person rather than as a mathematician. She gives a good deal of background information about his parents. Includes extracts from some of Boole's poetry and letters he wrote to friends, also some annotations by MEH [Mary Ellen Hinton - Boole's eldest daughter].

4 items

BP/1/307

[ n.d. ]

Notebook containing rough notes and jottings of biographical material relating to the Boole family of Lincoln, including several family trees drawn by Mary Ellen Hinton from information provided by Maryann Boole. Also contains a reference suggesting Boole's mother, Maryann Joyce was illegitimate.

40pp

BP/1/308

[ n.d. ]

Boole family tree covering six generations. The names are all numbered and there is an inscription 'The numbers here given are referred to in the notebook in order that no difficulty in identification may be felt. (Notebook not in collection).

1p

BP/1/309

[ n.d. ]

Search of biographical entries relating to the Boole/Chaloner family of Lincoln sent to Mrs C Howard-Hinton of Appingham, Co. Rutland, taken from a register of 1881.

2pp

BP/1/310

1878

Photocopy of 'Home Side of a Scientific Mind' by Mary Everest-Boole, a biography of her husband's life published in the Trinity University Magazine. She makes the proviso 'I would prefer them (her memories) to be regarded rather as fragmentary studies of inner history in this nineteenth century, than as constituting a personal memoir'.

14pp

## II. Published works on Boole's life and work

BP/1/311

1962

Copy of Algebre et logique de G. Boole et W.S. Jerons par Frederic Gillot, autographed by Prof. Georges Bouligand (also wrote the preface) and inscribed to Sir Geoffrey Ingram Taylor (Boole's great-grandson).

131pp

## III. Obituaries of George Boole

BP/1/312

21 Jan. 1865

Copy of the Illustrated London News Vol. XII, July-December 1864, containing an obituary of George Boole P 59-61.

2pp

BP/1/313

1865

Paper containing a handwritten transcription of Boole's Obituary published in The Times of 26 January 1865, and also a transcription of Dr Ryall's letter to The Times published 1 February 1865, refuting the paper's claim that the Boole family has been left destitute. 'These statements were inserted without the sanction or knowledge of Mrs. Boole or any member of her family and are exaggerated and untrue'. He claims the reporter involved twisted words.

6pp

BP/1/314

1865

Two copies of The British Controversialist and Literary Magazine for Aug-Sept 1865 containing an obituary of Boole entitled 'Modem Logicians - The late George Boole, LL.D, DCC'.

2 items

BP/1/315

1866

Two copies of an Obituary by R.R. Harley taken from Proceedings of The Royal Society Vol. 15.

2 items

BP/1/316

[ n.d. ]

Handwritten obituary of Boole transcribed from Macmillan magazine.

4pp

BP/1/317

[n.d. ]

Three copies of an obituary by M.A. MacConaill.

3 items  
4

BP/1/318

[n.d. ]



|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Obituary by T.A.A. Broadbent, of the Royal Naval College Greenwich.  | 6pp   |
| BP/1/319<br>[n.d. ]<br>Reprint of the obituary published in the <u>Lincolnshire Chronicle</u> .  | 8pp   |
| <b>IV. Memorabilia</b>   |       |
| BP/1/320<br>1855<br>Obituary of Edward James Willson, a Lincoln architect taken from 'Gentlemans Magazine' for March 1855, with annotation 'address to Dr. Boole Queen's College Cork 1849'  | 7pp   |
| BP/1/321<br>(See Also BP/1/325)<br>1859<br>Volume of <u>A Treatise on Problems of Maxima and Minima solved by algebra by Ramchindra</u> and inscribed 'Presented by The Secretary of State for India to Professor Boole'.  | 200pp |
| BP/1/322<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Handwritten card 'Prof. Boole Queens Coll. Cork, Ballintemple.   | 1p    |
| BP/1/323<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Card of Joseph Joachim, 25 Phillemars Gardens [Keasiaston] in an envelope marked 'various autographs K. Reynolds, French, Macmillian, F. Minton, J. Newman, Rensen'.   | 2pp   |
| BP/1/324<br>[ n. d. ]<br>Small notebook used for various purposes, containing addresses, accounts ('muslin lid., ribbon 2s.8d., stamps Is.Od. ') shopping lists and word games.  | 20pp  |
| BP/1/325<br>(See Also BP/1/321)<br>[n.d.]<br>Page found in BP/1/322 containing a word game called Threes. The page is divided into 10 sections and the object is to put three things or names of people which are similar into each, e.g. Box 7 Drake, Nelson and Blake. | 1p    |
| BP/1/326<br>[ n.d. ]<br>Dialogue in rough verse between Cousin George and Cousin Susan referring   |       |

to a pair of antique gloves bought by Susan 'Says the man with the yardwand what sort and how big Says I to the fellow I don't care a fig If they be such an elegan pair [I] ask my wig', with rough jottings on reverse.

3pp

BP/1/327

1872

Incomplete obituary notice of William Brooke (d. Dec 1872) taken from the Stanford Mercury.

1p

## **Section 2        Material Relating to George Boole's Family**

### **A. Material Relating his family**

#### **I.        Letters to his children from George Boole**

BP/1/328

13 Sept 1863

Typescript copy of a letter from Boole in Lincoln to his daughter Mary Ellen, telling her of his visit there. He is staying with Joseph Hill whom she met in Cork, and tells her Hill often invites children to his house. They met in school and Boole states they still learn from one another. He describes Lincoln for her and its history, adding Mr. Brooke who used and still does teach him is very interested in history; 'some people care more about old things than new ones and Mr. William Brooke is one of such people'. But adds he cares for new things when 'they are good and worth caring about'. He also looks at the world to see if it is going the way God want it to. Boole remarks 'I think the best way for us to mend the world is to try to do our own duty in it as well as we can'. He inquires if she and her sisters are being good girls and he hopes they are minding their mother. He himself is feeling very well 'I suppose because I am breathing my native air'.

3pp

BP/1/329

11 June 1864

Brief letter from Boole in London to his daughter Mary Ellen, sending her all his love and asking her to 'Give each of the little ones a kiss for me'.

1p

#### **II.        Letters of Mary Boole**

##### **i. from her children**

BP/1/330

13 Dec 1863

From Mary Ellen Boole to her mother (dictated to her father). She inquires cordially after her mother's health and that of her Uncle Robert. She

tells of a trip to Queenstown where she bought a ball and an orange, and of how their father surprised them one day 'You know very well that father never goes up to Cork without bringing us something down .... Father took out of his pocket a large yellow orange!!!' She also tells of her plans for the day, and inquires after the health of Mr. Porsche. She closes by saying 'I was very happy when I heard that you were coming here soon'.

3pp

## **ii. to and from Maryann Boole**

BP/1/331

[ n.d. ]

From Mary Boole in Cork to Maryann, thanking her for the gift of flowers she sent over, and commenting that the local flowers are not so nice to keep. Discusses her favourite varieties using their Latin names. She tells her Puss (Mary Ellen) is fond of her new sister 'to a distressing degree and keeps me in a constant fidget for fear its eyes will be put out by one of her caresses'. The baby is very quiet and very like her father. Adds that she is glad to hear Maryann is going abroad for the winter.

4pp

BP/1/332

1864

From Maryann to Mary Boole inquiring anxiously for news of George's health. Mary's uncle John Everest has been keeping her informed of any developments and she expresses her anger at Dr. Baxter's leaving his patient once Dr. Bullen was called in. She is eager for more news but does not want to trouble Mary. She offers to mind the children while George is convalescing. Adds Mrs. Stoney is also eager for news.

4pp

## **iii. to Mary Boole from Various**

BP/1/333

30 Nov 1864

From J.W. Newman, 10 Circus Road, London NW, expressing his sympathy over her husband's illness, and assuring her that Boole 'should not trouble himself over a [scientific] question he sent to him, as there is no urgency involved in its answering.

2pp

BP/1/334

(See Also BP/1/312)

3 Feb 1865

From [Isaac] Todhunter, St. John's College Cambridge, explaining subscriptions and donations had been made to a fund for her use after a report in The Times said Boole had left his family unprovided for. He apologises for any upset caused and states the subscriptions were refunded.

3pp

BP/1/335

(See Also BP/1/252)

18 Nov 1869

From Dr. Bury to Mary, giving his recollections of Boole's early life. They first met in Lincoln in 1844 and Bury was immediately impressed 'by the greatness of his intellect .... for the first time I had found indications of Genius'. He also possessed 'noble moral characteristics' and Bury feels he would have been too modest to wish for a biography. He seemed 'to know everything and be able to do anything'. He also played various musical instruments and could converse about medicine, anatomy, physiology, Greek, Latin, maths, French and Italian literature. At the age of 12 he understood the first six and 11th and 12th books of Euclid. Bury mentions Boole always felt very grateful to Mr. Gregory for introducing him to the scientific world when he was editor of the Cambridge Maths Journal. He adds Boole found the lives of scientists more interesting than that of kings and emperors. He had spoken of going to Cambridge but preferred studying at home with his father and mother. He could spend three days and nights with no sleep while working on his maths and snatch a few minutes of sleep during a walk or a party. He worked best at night, often writing under the bedclothes only to be unable to decipher his writing in the morning. However he constructed a wooden frame to keep his writing straight in the dark.

7pp

BP/1/336

18 May 1878

From [E] Benan, 16 Rue St. Guillaume written in French.

1p

BP/1/337

25 Apr. 1885

From C. Mansford, Wesleyan Training College Westminster, enclosing letters from Boole to M.C. Taylor (a former pupil of his at Doncaster) which had been kept by his wife. He heard from Mr. Murr that she would like to read them.

2pp

BP/1/338

[ n.d. ]

From Harry Bendorf, written in unusually large handwriting, thanking her for her letter and postcard and telling her about his feelings towards Boole's Laws of Thought .It took him four years to understand the work when 'it came clear to me when I was crossing the lines and I saw what the Old Testament meant by writing laws on people's hearts. I thought you would like to know this .... I don't know how to say "Thank You" to you for all your kindness to me. I have felt so stupid perhaps I shall be better able to Thank You in the next forty years'.

5pp

### **III. Letters of Mary Ellen Hinton**

#### **i. to her sister Lucy Everest Boole, a diary of her stay in Japan**

BP/1/339

[1888 - 1891]

From Mary Ellen Hinton to her sister Lucy Everest Boole, a letterbook, detailing her stay in Japan with her family. She writes in the form of the

journal describing the places she has been, and all the new and strange sights she has seen. She begins 7 Sept 1888, describing her visit to Haneoake Bay. Mentions she enjoys reading 'Scientific Views' for its natural history articles, while her husband (Charles Howard Hinton) likes it for its articles on electricity. She refers also to her surprise in finding fly larvae and pupae in a salt water pool in Joshima. She then describes a visit to Kaneola Bay where they stayed in a Temple and made friends with the priests 'such gentle refined simple people' and described the ceremonies which took place there to protect fishermen from the perils of the sea. Mentions there were earthquakes in Yokohama.

The next section [8 Jan 1889] describes her visit to Kojinoko/Homatsuya (little hill) to the hot springs there and declares 'It was very dangerous to be near there. Perhaps that was some of the fascination'. The house they hired was made of paper and was quite cold, but it had a bathhouse for hot baths. However the sulphurous odour from the water was very unpleasant. She inquires does Lucy know the reason why when the ground and road were covered with ice, there was no frost on the grass or bamboo. She remarks she also found the total absence of wind very strange. She also mentions a plant she saw whose leaves resemble a butterfly and she wonders why a plant should imitate an insect. They travelled then to Ikao, a beautiful spot on a mountainside with many hot springs in the area. Unfortunately, the weather was cold and it rained all day, and stinging insects which bury themselves in peoples flesh thrive in the area. Mentions she is having an iron bath three times a day. They let their house in Yokohama to the Portuguese who are proving to be unsatisfactory tenants.

1 Sept [1889] They have now been at Ikao for seven weeks and plan to stay for four more days. It rained almost continually during the stay, sometimes for days on end without a break. In the house they are staying in, the bath is in the garden, and you sit in the hot water with the rain falling on your face. Wet skin is however never exposed to air, so colds are avoided. Where hot springs are found like in Yokohama, swimming pools are used to accommodate large numbers of people. The locals in Ikao dye all their cloth yellow from the iron springs, and all wear yellow clothing. Beads are also sometimes made from the iron deposits but it is a slow process. She mentions the looks of admiration she got from the local women for an old battered hat simply because it was yellow.

11 Dec [1889] She relates a discussion she had with Droku Enoye on the origin of the Japanese people. She argued that the Emperor Tenimco colonised Japan from China and Korea, while Enoye believed he came from heaven as did Jesus Christ 'Ikoku said this with a gentle smile which meant "Our absurdities are not more absurd than those of Feveergine's" and he objected to his race being spoken of as a curiosity'.

18 July 1890, describing a visit to a Nikko Temple, where a bell is rung to summon God each time an offering is made. She feels that is a good idea as 'I remember as a child being troubled by doubts as to whether Providence was paying attention'. The colours of the temples deeply impressed her. She remarks Buddhism is a growing religion with plenty of room for more people and she asks Lucy 'Don't you find your dislike of xtianity grows stronger every year of your life? Selection of only a few for salvation and at even that few unfairly'. In Buddhism she remarks you can always be saved.

18 Aug 1890, she is now in Nikko and advises Lucy to read up on its history which is very interesting. Historical relics are consciously preserved in the area. She mentions visiting the Torii an emblem of the Shinto religion, built for the temple pigeons to rest on. She remarks on the beautifully covered gateways and wonders 'Will any place in the world

seem worth seeing after Japan? In fact I am perfectly infatuated by the country'. Her son George however prefers living works of nature to the most magnificent creations of man and preferred playing with the temple pony rather than admiring the architecture.

[ ] Describing a barge trip they were forced to take from Nikko as heavy rains had flooded the roads. The trip took 12 hours but was not too uncomfortable. They stayed overnight in the bishop's house before returning to Yokohama where the weather was very hot and they found their house covered in a type of blue mould. They then returned to Nikko where they plan to stay until the end of September. In response to Lucy's enquiries about Japanese customs, she says she can't say much as Yokohama isn't like the rest of Japan, as it is very westernised. She gets her pupils to write essays on their nature customs and that is how she finds out what little she knows. One pupil explained that women wrap a blue cloth around their face when they go outdoors because "women are not nice in face". Remarks she finds Tokoyo very beautiful and solemn.

[ ] Mentions their garden is now being used as a workshop for the building of a new classroom. They visited Professor Fenolossus (Professor of Philosophy in Tokoyo Naval College), as part of a 'duty call' to parents. He told them a story about a Japanese family of fire-fighters. The young men of the family would undergo vigorous training for months, and when ready, a large fire would be kindled around them which they would stand in the middle of and handle the live coals. However the family has been performing the ritual for so long that they have forgotten its purpose.

[ ] She remarks that Sir Edwin Arnold in his letters to 'The Telegraph' does not exaggerate the beauty of Japan, but he does not mention enough its other side where disease and illness can be seen 'walking openly in the streets. It is most pain full to a new-comer'. She also describes a teashop decorated with plum blossom and cabbage 'being a European vegetable it was deemed worthy of use for artistic purposes'. She attended a Lenten exhibition by the Photographic Society where Professor Milne showed slides of the effects of earthquakes and gave advice on choosing a sturdy building. Her husband intends to get a sensitometer to warn them about approaching earthquakes and she states to feel the ground shake is a frightening thing. There are also some separate sheets containing Mary Ellen's letters to Lucy.

[ ] She is glad to hear their mother's health has improved, and she explains the origins of the gifts she sent and to whom each one was for. They are moving to a half Japanese, half European house, she would have preferred a totally Japanese one but none was vacant. They are thinking of hiring a cow, as milk is often hard to get and is very expensive. Mentions a Japanese woman remarked that her son Sebastian's red hair was ugly. She remarks she finds Japanese homes very attractive 'The maximum amount of beauty and comfort with the minimum amount of trouble' and extols about their spaciousness and cleanliness.

6 Nov 1891 She details the effects of the last earthquake to hit Japan. Its effects were mild in Kanazana, where she lives, while other towns were almost destroyed. The earthquake itself was a terrifying experience, worse than any other type of natural calamity 'In the Wakayana floods thousands of people perished but nobody seemed to mind particularly whereas Bandaisan will remain a word of terror'. Aftershocks are still being felt. She then speaks of the Madra, a tapestry on brown silk depicting a series of scenes of the Buddhist paradise embroidered from hair donated by 84,000 women; it is being taken on a tour allover Japan. She feels the Japanese people have been touched by the values of Buddhism. 'Here you may give a stranger a \$10 note when you owe him 50 cents and feel quite sure that he will bring back the change', but she feels that religion 'has not the

power to take hold of a nation and hold it. Let it then give place to some religion which can'. She feels England has not yet found its religion. The recent earthquake made her think more about religion and she states 'Only think till you have no more religious feeling left - and you arrive at no result. It is aimless groping. If these were to be the last words I should ever write I wouldn't add to them.' She then moves on to describe her children for Lucy and their different personalities and behaviour. She inquires after her own family adding 'You are such a soothing little person when I write to you I go straight ahead my pen runs along fast and ideas flow'.

54pp

## ii. to her son George Hinton

BP/1/340

[ n.d.]

[To George Hinton from his mother Mary Ellen Boole]. Describing a holiday she took in an area of Parne where the flowers and grasses reached up to her waist. She is quite amazed at the fact the long stems never seem to tangle as they grow. She says as she writes she is looking at his photograph, and inquires if Nelly read him the bible on Sunday and if he has learned to swim. Mentions she is reading 'Divine Love and Wisdom', which she hopes he will read. Adds there are children where she is staying to play with.

4pp

## IV. Letters from Ethel Lilian Boole Voynich to Sir Geoffrey Taylor

BP/1/341

23 Mar 1954

Discussing recent family news and also their researches about her father. Her health is bad, her arteries are hardening and she is weakening, and adds [her daughter] Anne will not be able to combine looking after her and having a job. She discusses her father's poetry which she feels is overall not worth publishing, but she finds their spirit delightful. 'His Irish poems show a deep feeling for Irish troubles and a tragic incapacity to understand them'. His finest poem she feels is 'Sonnet on the number 3' (see BP/1/295) which she equates with Goethe's Hymn of the Three Archangels. Relates anecdotes she heard from her mother 'the missus' about his strength of character and states although she never knew him she is proud to be his daughter.

4pp

BP/1/342

30 Apr-9 May 1954

Photocopy of a letter in which she discusses many of her father's papers. She thanks him for sending her a copy of 'Sonnet to The Number 3', and mentions John Walsh as a 'crank' who went to see her father about 'squaring the circle' (term used in alchemy). She also agrees to give the papers to The Royal Irish Academy. She mentions the Parry family of Lincoln, a daughter of which Boole is reputed to have fallen in love with in his youth, and never got over until he met Mary Everest. She refused to marry him as he would not sign the 39 Articles of the Church of England.

She also states a bitter rivalry existed between her mother and her aunt Maryann Boole, as Maryann believed Mary Boole hastened her husband's death by following the recommendations of a doctor who advocated cold water cures, and making Boole lie shivering between the sheets. Ethel remarks 'The Everests do seem to have been a family of crooks and cranks'. She ends with some more up-to-date family news, she is working on a cantata 'Jerusalem' but feels at the rate she is going, she will be over by the time the entire cantata is published.

4pp

## **V. Printed works by Boole's Children and their Descendants**

### **i. by Alicia Boole Stott**

BP/1/343

1900

'On Certain Series of Sections of the Regular Four dimensional Hypersolids'. Printed in Amsterdam by Johannes Muller. 'Maggie & Eddeid' is written on the front.

22pp

BP/1/344

1910

'Geometrical deduction of semiregular from regular polytopes and space fillings'. Printed in Amsterdam by Johannes Muller. Inscribed 'Mary Boole Stott with the writers compliments'.

30pp

BP/1/345

1910

'Reciprocity in connexion with semiregular polytopes and nets' by Alicia Boole and Prof. P.M. Schoute. Printed in Amsterdam. Inscribed M. Taylor with love.

3pp

### **ii. by Lucy Everest Boole**

BP/1/346

1896

'An enquiry into the nature of the vesicating constituent of Croton Oil' by L.E. Boole and Wyndham R. Dunsten, Proceedings of the Royal Society of London 1896.

15pp

### **iii. by Sir Geoffrey Ingram Taylor**

BP/1/347

[n.d.]

Article by Taylor describing the work of Alice Boole. Reprint from Man,



## **VI. Printed works about Boole's family**

BP/1/348

[ n.d.]

R.M. Fox ' A forgotten Irish writer', about Ethel Lilian Voynich.

1p

## **VII. Will of Mary Everest Boole**

BP/1/349

[n.d ]

Includes covering note from [ ] Hart , 23 Surney Street, London to Mrs. Taylor, 30 Clifton Hill, St. John's Wood, London, dated 27 June 1910. The will appoints Arthur Sommerwell and Alfred Wing Everest trustees. To Mary Boole Stott of Cheshire (her granddaughter) she leaves any money in her post office savings bank. To her trustees she gives the copyrights of her published work, to be held for the benefit of her daughters Mary Ellen, Margaret, Alicia and Ethel or their heirs. The trustees are also to sell and hold in trust for her daughters and 'my devoted and faithful friend Agnes Marsh' 16 Ladbroke Road, Notting Hill, all residue of property, and divide the proceeds in equal shares. Witnesses were Edith Lance Somerwell, 1 Albert Place, Kensington, London and Matthew Lambert, Holme Cottage, Northrepps, schoolteacher. There is a codicil dated 1905, since Mary Ellen Hinton died her name and issue is to be omitted and the estate to be divided between her remaining three daughters and Agnes Marsh and also to the effect if any other daughter should predecease her their name is to be omitted. Witnesses Edward M. Hart, Solicitor and Edith Maria Walsham, 7 Cavendish Place, London (widow).

5pp

## **VIII. Family trees compiled by Boole's descendants**

BP/1/350

[n.d. ]

Schematic family tree of George Boole Hinton, son of Charles Howard Hinton and Mary Ellen Boole.

1p

BP/1/351

1954

Table of Boole's descendants compiled by Sir Geoffrey Taylor, and given to The Royal Irish Academy.

1p

## Section 3 Photographs

### I. of George Boole

BP/1/352

14cm x 11cm 1865

Photograph of an illustration of Boole taken from The Illustrated London News 21 Jan. 1865. Mounted.

BP/1/353

16cm x 12cm [ n.d. ]

Photograph of a painting of Boole as a young man owned by Rev. R.H.P. Boole.

BP/1/354

16 x 12cm 1832

Two photographs of a pencil sketch of Boole aged 35 by A. Etatin June '32. One is annotated 'This drawing is now in The National Portrait Gallery'.

BP/1/355

9cm x 6cm [n.d. ]

Mounted black and white, head and shoulders, portrait of Boole taken by Artistiv Photographic Company, 72 Oxford Street, London.

BP/1/356

(See Also BP/1/357)

9cm x 6cm [ n.d. ]

Mounted monochrome full-length, portrait of Boole from The London School of Photography, 174 Regent Street.

BP/1/357

(See Also BP/1/356)

3 items [n.d.]

Possible enlargement of 357, but also with note by G.B. Batchelor July 1977 'stating there are significant differences between this enlargement and the small old photograph which suggest some 'touching-up' of the enlarged version'. Also note from 1. Gratten Guinness 5 December [19]86 stating the two photographs are not the same.

BP/1/358

16cm x 20cm [n.d. ]

Composite photograph of George Everest and George Boole.

### II. of Mary Everest and her children

BP/1/359

9 x 11 cm [n.d. ]

Black and white photograph of Mary Everest Boole standing in a garden with a nurse/servant.

BP/1/360

14cm x 10cm [ n.d. ]

Mounted monochrome photograph of Mary Boole from 'H. Mansell, The Studio, Saffron Waldon'.

BP/1/361

14cm x 10cm [ n.d. ]

Monochrome photograph of Mary Boole seated outdoors in a garden.

BP/1/362

19cm x 24cm [n.d. ]

Black and white copy of an earlier photograph of the Boole family showing Mary Boole, her five daughters and grandchildren, Julian and Geoffrey Taylor, Mary Leonard Stott and George Hinton, grouped in a studio portrait. Names annotated.

BP/1/363

11cm x 15.5cm [ n.d. ]

Monochrome photograph taken outdoors of Professor Schoute, Alice Stott and her daughter Mary, Margaret Taylor and her son Geoffrey.

### **III. of Alicia Boole's polytopes**

BP/1/364

17cm x 24cm [ n.d. ]

Black and white photograph of Alicia Boole's third representation of Polytopes.

BP/1/365

10cm x 15cm [ n.d. ]

Mounted smaller version of the above in monochrome annotated 'Photograph taken by Alice Boole'.

BP/1/366

11cm x 14cm [ n.d. ]

Mounted monochrome of Alicia Boole's Polytopes in a covered case. Annotated photograph taken by Alice Boole.

### **IV. George Boole's Lincoln School**

BP/1/367

9cm x 12cm 1964

Black and white photograph of Boole's School No.3 Pottergate, Lincoln, taken by Miss Gabrielle Boole.

### **V. Boole Memorial Window in Lincoln**

BP/1/368

15cm x 6cm [ n.d. ]

Black and white photograph of Boole Memorial Window in Lincoln Cathedral. Copyright Lincolnshire Echo.

## Section 4 Associated Documents

### I. Letters to Dr. John Ryall, Registrar, Q.C.C

BP/1/369

27 Sep [1852]

From Harriet Martineau to Dr. Ryall, She is touring Ireland and wonders if she could have her mail, and that of her niece Susan addressed c/o Dr. Ryall. She will reclaim it on her return to Cork where she hopes to hire lodgings from William Martin in Patrick Street. She adds that they have had a very pleasant two months in Ireland, and are looking forward to meeting him.

3pp

BP/1/370

1 Oct 1852

From Robert Martineau, Birmingham to Dr. Ryall, apologising for the confusion over his sister's letters . which are to be forwarded c/o Dr. Ryall at the College. He admonishes her for not addressing them c/o a Post Office. His sister would have enjoyed meeting him but she is leaving Cork very soon. He inquires after Mrs. Ryall's health and invites them to visit 'nothing would gratify us more than that you would volunteer to spend any spare time you may have under our roof.'

3pp

BP/1/371

25 Aug 1855

Covering letter from James Sheridan, Knowles, Rolliesay, Bute, to Dr. Ryall enclosing 'my little work'.

1p

### II. Letter to Rev Robert Everest

BP/1/372

31 Aug 1864

To Rev. Everest, Brownings Patterdale, Hotel Ullswater Westmoreland, from Mr. [John] Bright, expressing his annoyance that he will be away from home during the coming week when Everest will be in the area. He would have liked to discuss American affairs with Everest 'they are critical, but not such as to make us desponding' and 'The great matter now is the Presidential Election'.

4pp

### III. Drawing of Sligo Abbey

BP/1/373

[1868]

Pencil drawing of Sligo Abbey by C.A.E.

1p

## IV. Miscellaneous Items

BP/1/374

(See Also BP/1/375)

11 Apr 1899

Letter from James A. Wood, 1 Langhan Place to Metcalfe, telling him he is missing sheet music for a second violin part of 'Elijah', and instructing him if he does not find it to write to all his second violins and also 'Be a Good boy and send P.H. a cheque for his organ work'. Adds he will write a later letter about Metcalfe's Elijah performance as he was very "struck" on it.

2pp

BP/1/375

(See Also BP/1/374)

[n.d. ]

Circular advertising Mr. and Mrs. Henry Woods 'vocal recital', to be held at the Town Hall Eastbourne on Saturday June 2. Stalls five shillings, Reserved Seats two shillings six pence, and giving the programme.

2pp

BP/1/376

[ n.d.]

Scrap of paper with 'We the undersigned beg to nominate the Rev. W. Giles of [Netherlyl] House, Chester as a fit and proper person to be a fellow of the College of Preceptors' written on it.

1p

BP/1/377

[ n.d. ]

Part of a letter discussing the rapturous reception given to a poem by Bishop Heber of Oxford. Also a rough copy of a poem beginning 'The land the land I love the land, Far from the shore and barren strand'.

2pp