

# Sir Walter Scott to Mary Leadbeater, 1811

---

SIR WALTER SCOTT (1771-1832), novelist and poet, was a descendant of Friends. There was a Walter Scott, of Lessudwyn, near Kelso, Scotland, a prominent Friend in the seventeenth century.

MARY LEADBEATER (1758-1826), née Shackleton of Ballitore, Ireland, was a writer of repute on Quaker and other subjects.

Madam

I am honoured by your beautiful verses and by your acceptance of my most respectful thanks. You do me great honour in supposing me able to celebrate a nation in which I am so much interested as Ireland. Whether I shall ever strike the harp again my graver occupations render very doubtful, but should it so happen I will not fail to consider carefully the hint you have favoured me with, especially should it ever be in my power to visit Ireland.

From the mode of dating your letter I conclude I am addressing a Lady of a religious profession for whose simplicity of manners and purity of morals I have had from infancy the most deep respect & which adds to the sense of obligation with which I subscribe myself your honour

& very humble servant

WALTER SCOTT

Edinburgh

12 March, 1811.

[Addressed]

Miss Mary Leadbetter

Ballitore

Ireland

*Copied from the original in the possession of Edward B. Fennell, M.D., Southbourne-on-Sea, Hants, 1921.*