



**E-Book**

Mary Shelley  
**Frankenstein**  
*or The Modern Prometheus*

Klett English Editions



**Klett**

**Mary Shelley**

# **Frankenstein *or* The Modern Prometheus**

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Stuttgart

**Bildquellennachweis:**

**11** akg-images (akg-images, UIG, Universal History Archive), Berlin

1. Auflage 1 <sup>Version 1</sup> | 2020

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Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, unabridged text version of the 1831 edition.

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Titelbild: Getty Images (nicoolay), München; Getty Images (Olga\_Z), München

eISBN 978-3-12-909102-9

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## Alphabetical word lists

Words / emotions with positive meanings

Words / emotions with negative meanings

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Words describing the monster

# Abbreviations

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| esp    | especially    |
| fml    | formal        |
| inf    | informal      |
| lit    | literary      |
| old    | old-fashioned |
| opp of | opposite of   |
| os     | oneself       |
| pl     | plural        |
| ref    | referring to  |
| sb     | somebody      |
| sg     | singular      |
| sth    | something     |

Words that you should know, have been marked by • in the annotations.

# How to survive without a dictionary

The following techniques will in many cases help you to find out the meaning of unknown words, without having to consult a dictionary. Especially in this text, which was written in rather formal language over 200 years ago, some of these techniques will help you a lot.

## 1. Word families

The meaning of many unknown words can often be determined by identifying the root word and then finding out how the prefix (*Vorsilbe*) and/or suffix (*Endsilbe*) changes its use and meaning. Therefore, it is useful to know the meaning of certain prefixes and suffixes (your grammar will have a more complete list).

### Prefixes

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • <i>dis-</i> as in <i>distaste</i>   | negation or opposite: <i>not liking sth. / hating sth.</i> |
| • <i>un-</i> as in <i>unfailing</i>   | negation: <i>not failing, unending</i>                     |
| • <i>in-</i> as in <i>ingratitude</i> | negation: <i>not being grateful (Undankbarkeit)</i>        |
| • <i>im-</i> as in <i>immortal</i>    | negation or opposite: <i>not able to die (unsterblich)</i> |

### Suffixes

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| • <i>-less</i> as in <i>boundless</i> | without sth ( <i>here: without borders</i> ) |
|---------------------------------------|--|



|  |  |
|--|--|
| • <i>-er</i> (and <i>-or</i> ) as in <i>comforter</i>                    | forms nouns to describe people who do things               |
| • <i>-en</i> and <i>-ify</i> as in <i>to weaken</i> or <i>to gratify</i> | to form verbs from adjectives                              |
| • <i>-ful</i> as in <i>sorrowful</i>                                     | to turn verbs into adjectives (full of sth)                |
| • <i>-able</i> (and <i>-ible</i> ) as in <i>resistable</i>               | to turn verbs into adjectives (sth can be done)            |
| • <i>-ion</i> as in <i>application</i>                                   | to turn adjectives and verbs into nouns (act of doing sth) |
| • <i>-ment</i> as in <i>concealment</i>                                  | often turns a verb into a noun (the result of doing sth)   |
| • <i>-ness</i> as in <i>inquisitiveness</i>                              | turns adjectives into nouns                                |
| • <i>-ence</i> ( <i>-ance</i> ) as in <i>repentance</i>                  | turns a verb into a noun                                   |
| • <i>-ity</i> as in <i>affability</i>                                    | turns an adjective into a noun                             |
| • <i>-ant</i> as in <i>luxuriant</i>                                     | often turns a noun into an adjective                       |

A word whose prefix *and* suffix must *both* be known in order to understand it is: *intolerable* → *not* (in-) *able* *to* (-able) *tolerate*. You'll find other examples as you go along.

## 2. Similar words in other languages

Your own language, or words that you know from other languages (Latin, French, Spanish, etc.), may help you discover the meanings of unknown English words. For



example *benevolent* (from Latin *bene* + *volent* → *well wishing*) or *mien* (from the French *mine* = *expression*, or German *Miene*). Another example is: to suffer from *fatigue* or *to be fatigued* from the French: *fatigue*.

### **3. Context**

By looking carefully at the words or sentences before and after an unknown word or expression, you can often discover its meaning. Examining the context in which a word appears, is by far the most important technique. Take the word *crevice*, for example: it is used in connection with window panes that have been covered in wood. One of these has a *crevice* through which the neighbouring room can be observed. *Crevice* then is likely to be a small hole or a narrow opening.

However, finding the meaning of a word is not always as simple as that. Sometimes you have to dare to make an intelligent guess after examining the context. The further you are into the novel, the easier this becomes. It helps too if you read the book in large chunks and not little by little. You sort of 'groove into' it, and can imagine a scene or part of the story more vividly.

### **4. Sound**

Sometimes saying a word out loud will suggest its meaning, because you will hear what it describes. When the rain *patters*, you may guess from hearing the word that this is the noise that the rain makes on a window.

Finally, it is important to accept and remember that you will not understand every word you read. This happens in your own language and certainly happens in a foreign

language. Don't let that frustrate you. You do not need to know every single word to understand the general sense of a sentence or paragraph. Take the sentence "She procured plain work; she plaited straw ..." Even if you don't know what the word *plait* means or if you do not understand our explanation at the bottom of the page, you will still understand the main idea. So be courageous and ignore certain words that you don't understand. If they keep coming back and start annoying you, then you should definitely look them up in a dictionary.

### **Alphabetical list of most frequently used words**

To help you further, we have added four topic-based lists at the end of the book, each arranged in alphabetical order. These lists contain the most frequently used words from the following wordfields:

- Words and emotions with positive meanings
- Words and emotions with negative meanings
- Words related to horror
- Words describing the monster

## About the author and this text edition



Mary Shelley was born in London on August 30<sup>th</sup> 1797. Her parents were Mary Wollstonecraft, a feminist, writer and philosopher, and William Godwin, a philosopher and political radical. Her mother died eleven days after giving birth to Mary.

In contrast to her contemporaries, Mary received a profound education and used her father's extensive library. The family often welcomed famous visitors, e.g. Romantic poets like [Wordsworth](#) or Coleridge.

When she was sixteen, Mary Shelley met the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was 22 at the time and married. They

both fell in love and [eloped](#) in 1814, leaving Percy's pregnant wife behind. In 1815, Mary gave birth to a daughter, who died soon afterwards.

In 1816, she gave birth to a son, William. The couple spent the summer on Lake Geneva with the poet [Byron](#). The idea for *Frankenstein* was first conceived during a ghost story competition that also [yielded](#) the novel *Dracula*.

On their return to England, the Shelleys had to endure the loss of Mary's half-sister and Percy's first wife, who both committed suicide. Mary and Percy got married in 1816.

The novel *Frankenstein* (that had first been conceived as a short story) was published anonymously in 1818 with a preface by her husband. The same year, the Shelleys left Britain for Italy, where their second and third children died before Shelley gave birth to her last and only surviving child, Percy Florence Shelley.

In 1822, Mary's husband Percy drowned in a boating accident. Mary continued to write and publish novels, she also edited other writers' work.

In 1831 a slightly revised edition of *Frankenstein* was published, which is the version presented here. In her preface to the 1831 edition, Mary Shelley said: "I will add but one word as to the [alterations](#) I have made. They are principally those of style. I have changed no portion of the story, nor introduced any new ideas or circumstances. I have mended the language where it was so bald as to interfere with the interest of the narrative; [...] leaving the core and substance of it [*the story*] untouched."

However, this is not strictly true. She changed the structure of the book – the 1818 edition had three volumes, the 1831 edition appeared in one volume with an ongoing chapter count. Also, in the later edition, destiny plays a larger role in the characters' behaviour. One of the main

differences to the original edition is that Elizabeth is described as an orphan and not as Victor's cousin (even though they "called each other familiarly by the name of cousin", see p. 42 l. 7).

Mary Shelley died of brain cancer on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1851 in London, aged 53.

**William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge** 18<sup>th</sup> century English poets

**to elope** to leave home in secret to get married or live together

**Lord Byron** 18<sup>th</sup> century English poet

**to yield** to produce sth positive

**alteration** change

# Frankenstein

*or*

## The Modern Prometheus

Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay  
To mould me man? Did I solicit thee  
From darkness to promote me? –  
Paradise Lost.

**Prometheus** [prə'mi:θiəs] in Greek mythology, a Titan chained and tortured by Zeus for stealing fire from heaven and giving it to humankind  
**to mould** to shape  
**to solicit** to ask  
**to promote** *here:* to advance, to upgrade

# Letter I

To Mrs. Saville, England.

St. Petersburg,  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, 17—.

You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. I arrived here yesterday, and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare and increasing confidence in the success of my undertaking.

I am already far north of London, and as I walk in the streets of Petersburg, I feel a cold northern breeze play upon my cheeks, which braces my nerves and fills me with delight. Do you understand this feeling? This breeze, which has travelled from the regions towards which I am advancing, gives me a foretaste of those icy climes. Inspirited by this wind of promise, my daydreams become more fervent and vivid. I try in vain to be persuaded that the pole is the seat of frost and desolation; it ever presents itself to my imagination as the region of beauty and delight. There, Margaret, the sun is for ever visible, its broad disk just skirting the horizon and diffusing a perpetual splendour. There—for with your leave, my sister, I will put some trust in preceding navigators—there snow and frost are banished; and, sailing over a calm sea, we may be wafted to a land surpassing in wonders and in beauty every region hitherto discovered on the habitable globe. Its productions and features may be without example, as the



phenomena of the heavenly bodies undoubtedly are in those undiscovered [solitudes](#). What may not be expected in a country of [eternal](#) light? I may there discover the [wondrous](#) power which attracts the [needle](#) and may regulate a thousand [celestial](#) observations that require only this voyage [to render](#) their seeming [eccentricities consistent](#) for ever. I shall [satisfy](#) my [ardent curiosity](#) with the sight of a part of the world never before visited, and may [tread](#) a land never before imprinted by the foot of man. These are my [enticements](#), and they are [sufficient to conquer](#) all fear of danger or death and [to induce](#) me [to commence](#) this [laborious](#) voyage with the joy a child feels when he embarks in a little boat, with his holiday mates, on an expedition of discovery up his native river. But supposing all these [conjectures](#) to be false, you cannot [contest](#) the [inestimable](#) benefit which I shall confer on all mankind, to the last generation, by discovering a passage near the pole to those countries, to reach which at present so many months are [requisite](#); or by [ascertaining](#) the secret of the magnet, which, if at all possible, can only be effected by an undertaking such as mine.

These [reflections](#) have [dispelled](#) the [agitation](#) with which I began my letter, and I feel my heart glow with an enthusiasm which [elevates](#) me to heaven, for nothing [contributes](#) so much [to tranquillise](#) the mind as a [steady](#) purpose—a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye. This expedition has been the favourite dream of my early years. I have read with [ardour](#) the accounts of the various voyages which have been made in the [prospect](#) of arriving at the North Pacific Ocean through the seas which surround the pole. You may remember that a history of all the voyages made for purposes of discovery composed the whole of our good Uncle Thomas' library. My education was neglected, yet I was passionately fond of reading. These

volumes were my study day and night, and my [familiarity](#) with them increased that [regret](#) which I had felt, as a child, on learning that my father's dying [injunction](#) had forbidden my uncle to allow me [to embark](#) in a seafaring life.

These visions faded when I [perused](#), for the first time, those poets whose [effusions entranced](#) my soul and lifted it to heaven. I also became a poet and for one year lived in a paradise of my own creation; I imagined that I also might obtain a niche in the temple where the names of Homer and Shakespeare are [consecrated](#). You are well acquainted with my failure and how heavily I bore the disappointment. But just at that time I inherited the [fortune](#) of my cousin, and my thoughts were turned into [the channel of their earlier bent](#).

Six years have passed since I [resolved](#) on my present undertaking. I can, even now, remember the hour from which I [dedicated](#) myself to this great enterprise. I commenced by [inuring](#) my body to hardship. I accompanied the whale-fishers on several expeditions to the North Sea; I voluntarily endured cold, [famine](#), thirst, and [want](#) of sleep; I often worked harder than the common sailors during the day and [devoted](#) my nights to the study of mathematics, the theory of medicine, and those branches of physical science from which a [naval](#) adventurer might [derive](#) the greatest practical advantage. Twice I actually hired myself as an under-mate in a Greenland whaler, and [acquitted](#) myself to admiration. I must own I felt a little proud when my captain offered me the second [dignity](#) in the [vessel](#) and entreated me to remain with the greatest earnestness, so valuable did he consider my services.

And now, dear Margaret, do I not deserve to accomplish some great purpose? My life might have been passed in ease and luxury, but I preferred glory to every [enticement](#) that wealth placed in my path. Oh, that some encouraging

voice would [answer in the affirmative](#)! My courage and my [resolution](#) is firm; but my hopes [fluctuate](#), and my spirits are often depressed. I am about [to proceed](#) on a long and difficult voyage, the emergencies of which will demand all my [fortitude](#): I am required not only to raise the spirits of others, but sometimes [to sustain](#) my own, when theirs are failing.

This is the most favourable period for travelling in Russia. They fly quickly over the snow in their sledges; the motion is pleasant, and, in my opinion, far more agreeable than that of an English [stagecoach](#). The cold is not [excessive](#), if you are [wrapped](#) in [furs](#)—a dress which I have already adopted, for there is a great difference between walking the deck and remaining seated motionless for hours, when no exercise prevents the blood from actually freezing in your veins. I have no ambition to lose my life on the post-road between St. Petersburg and Archangel.

I shall [depart](#) for [the latter](#) town in a fortnight or three weeks; and my intention is to hire a ship there, which can easily be done by paying the insurance for the owner, and to engage as many sailors as I think necessary among those who are accustomed to the whale-fishing. I do not intend to sail until the month of June; and when shall I return? Ah, dear sister, how can I answer this question? If I succeed, many, many months, perhaps years, will pass before you and I may meet. If I fail, you will see me again soon, or never.

Farewell, my dear, excellent Margaret. Heaven shower down [blessings](#) on you, and save me, that I may again and again [testify](#) my [gratitude](#) for all your love and kindness.

Your [affectionate](#) brother,  
R. Walton.

**commencement** beginning  
**enterprise** project  
**forebodings** (*p/l*) a feeling that sth bad is going to happen  
**to assure** • to make sure, to convince  
**to brace** *here:* to prepare, to strengthen  
**delight** • joy, happiness  
**to advance** • to move forward  
**fervent** emotional and passionate, intense  
**vivid** • lively, intense  
**desolation** • extreme sadness and loneliness  
**to skirt** to run along the edge of sth  
**to diffuse** (*of light*) to be soft and spread out  
**perpetual** • continuing forever, everlasting  
**splendour** great beauty  
**leave** (*old*) permission  
**to precede** • to go before  
**to waft** to move lightly through air or water  
**to surpass** to be better or greater than  
**hitherto** (*lit*) until now  
**habitable** ['hæb.ɪ.tə.bəl] suitable to live in  
**solitude** • (*lit*) a lonely place; loneliness  
**eternal** • lasting forever, permanent  
**wondrous** (*old*) extraordinary  
**needle** *here:* of a compass  
**celestial** relating to the sky  
**to render** to cause to become, to make  
**eccentricity** odd or unusual behaviour, deviation (*Abweichung*)  
**consistent** • constant, reliable  
**to satiate** ['seɪ.ji.ət] to completely satisfy (*etw. stillen*)  
**ardent** passionate, with strong feelings (*leidenschaftlich*)  
**curiosity** the desire to learn or know more  
**to tread** (treaded/trod, trodden/trod) [tred] to walk on  
**enticement** attraction, temptation (*Verlockung*)  
**sufficient** • enough  
**to conquer** • to gain control over (*überwinden, besiegen*)  
**to induce** to persuade sb to do sth  
**to commence** to start, to begin  
**laborious** difficult, requiring a lot of time and effort  
**conjecture** guess, assumption  
**to contest** [kən'test] to disagree (about)  
**inestimable** [ɪ'nes.tɪ.mə.bəl] too great to be measured  
**requisite** essential, necessary  
**to ascertain** [ˌæ.ə'teɪn] to find out

**reflection** • thought, idea  
**to dispel** to drive away  
**agitation** excitement, disturbance  
**to elevate** to lift  
**to contribute** • to play a part in (*beitragen*)  
**to tranquilise** to calm down  
**steady** • stable, constant  
**ardour** passion, enthusiasm  
**prospect** • ['prɒs.pekt] possibility, chance  
**familiarity** acquaintance, knowledge (*Vertrautheit*)  
**regret** • disappointment  
**injunction** *here*: last will; order  
**to embark** to start, to choose as a career  
**to peruse** [pə'ru:z] to examine, to read  
**effusions** sth said with a lot of emotion (*Ergüsse*)  
**to entrance** [ɪn'tra:ns] to fill with joy  
**consecrated** holy  
**fortune** • *Vermögen*  
**the channel of their earlier bent** *here*: I remembered my earlier plans  
**to resolve** to decide  
**to dedicate os to sth** to start working towards a goal  
**to inure sb/sth to sth** [ɪn'juə] to cause to be less affected (*abhärten*)  
**famine** • feeling of hunger  
**want** *here*: lack, absence  
**to devote os to sth** to give time or effort to sth  
**naval** (*old*) relating to ships or shipping  
**to derive** to take or get from  
**to acquit** (*old*) to behave well, *esp* under stress (*sich bewähren*)  
**dignity** *here*: rank, position  
**vessel** ship or large boat  
**to answer in the affirmative** to say yes  
**resolution** decision, determination (*Entschlossenheit*)  
**to fluctuate** to change frequently  
**to proceed** *here*: to go  
**fortitude** courage, mental strength  
**to sustain** • to support  
**stagecoach** a horse-drawn carriage used in the past to carry passengers  
**excessive** • [ek'ses.ɪv] extreme, too much  
**wrapped** covered  
**fur** • hairy coat of an animal  
**to depart** • to leave  
**the latter** • the last of several things referred to  
**blessing** • help or happiness from God (*Segen*)  
**to testify** to give proof of

gratitude • thankfulness

affectionate • loving, caring

## Letter II

To Mrs. Saville, *England*.

Archangel, 28<sup>th</sup>  
March, 17—.

How slowly the time passes here, encompassed as I am by frost and snow! Yet a second step is taken towards my enterprise. I have hired a vessel and am occupied in collecting my sailors; those whom I have already engaged appear to be men on whom I can depend and are certainly possessed of dauntless courage.

But I have one want which I have never yet been able to satisfy, and the absence of the object of which I now feel as a most severe evil, I have no friend, Margaret: when I am glowing with the enthusiasm of success, there will be none to participate my joy; if I am assailed by disappointment, no one will endeavour to sustain me in dejection. I shall commit my thoughts to paper, it is true; but that is a poor medium for the communication of feeling. I desire the company of a man who could sympathise with me, whose eyes would reply to mine. You may deem me romantic, my dear sister, but I bitterly feel the want of a friend. I have no one near me, gentle yet courageous, possessed of a cultivated as well as of a capacious mind, whose tastes are like my own, to approve or amend my plans. How would such a friend repair the faults of your poor brother! I am too ardent in execution and too impatient of difficulties. But it is a still greater evil to me that I am self-educated: for the first fourteen years of my life I ran wild on a common and



read nothing but our Uncle Thomas' books of voyages. At that age I became acquainted with the celebrated poets of our own country; but it was only when it had [ceased](#) to be in my power to derive its most important benefits from such a [conviction](#) that I [perceived](#) the necessity of becoming acquainted with more languages than that of my native country. Now I am twenty-eight and am in reality more [illiterate](#) than many schoolboys of fifteen. It is true that I have thought more and that my daydreams are more [extended](#) and [magnificent](#), but they want (as the painters call it) *keeping*; and I greatly need a friend who would have sense enough not [to despise](#) me as romantic, and affection enough for me to endeavour to regulate my mind.

Well, these are useless complaints; I shall certainly find no friend on the wide ocean, nor even here in Archangel, among merchants and seamen. Yet some feelings, [unallied](#) to the [dross](#) of human nature, beat even in these [rugged bosoms](#). My lieutenant, for instance, is a man of wonderful courage and enterprise; he is madly [desirous](#) of glory; or rather, to word my phrase more characteristically, of [advancement](#) in his profession. He is an Englishman, and in the midst of national and professional [prejudices](#), unsoftened by cultivation, [retains](#) some of the noblest [endowments](#) of humanity. I first became acquainted with him on board a whale vessel; finding that he was unemployed in this city, I easily engaged him to assist in my enterprise.

The master is a person of an excellent [disposition](#) and is remarkable in the ship for his gentleness and the mildness of his discipline. This circumstance, added to his well-known integrity and [dauntless](#) courage, made me very desirous to engage him. A youth passed in solitude, my best years spent under your gentle and feminine [fosterage](#), has so refined the groundwork of my character that I cannot

overcome an intense distaste to the usual brutality exercised on board ship: I have never believed it to be necessary, and when I heard of a mariner equally noted for his kindliness of heart and the respect and obedience paid to him by his crew, I felt myself peculiarly fortunate in being able to secure his services. I heard of him first in rather a romantic manner, from a lady who owes to him the happiness of her life. This, briefly, is his story. Some years ago he loved a young Russian lady of moderate fortune, and having amassed a considerable sum in prize-money, the father of the girl consented to the match. He saw his mistress once before the destined ceremony; but she was bathed in tears, and throwing herself at his feet, entreated him to spare her, confessing at the same time that she loved another, but that he was poor, and that her father would never consent to the union. My generous friend reassured the suppliant, and on being informed of the name of her lover, instantly abandoned his pursuit. He had already bought a farm with his money, on which he had designed to pass the remainder of his life; but he bestowed the whole on his rival, together with the remains of his prize-money to purchase stock, and then himself solicited the young woman's father to consent to her marriage with her lover. But the old man decidedly refused, thinking himself bound in honour to my friend, who, when he found the father inexorable, quitted his country, nor returned until he heard that his former mistress was married according to her inclinations. "What a noble fellow!" you will exclaim. He is so; but then he is wholly uneducated: he is as silent as a Turk, and a kind of ignorant carelessness attends him, which, while it renders his conduct the more astonishing, detracts from the interest and sympathy which otherwise he would command.

Yet do not suppose, because I complain a little or because I can [conceive](#) a [consolation](#) for my [toils](#) which I may never know, that I am [wavering](#) in my [resolutions](#). Those are as fixed as fate, and my voyage is only now delayed until the weather shall permit my [embarkation](#). The winter has been dreadfully severe, but the spring promises well, and it is considered as a remarkably early season, so that perhaps I may sail sooner than I expected. I shall do nothing [rashly](#): you know me sufficiently [to](#) confide in my [prudence](#) and [considerateness](#) whenever the safety of others is committed to my care.

I cannot describe to you my sensations on the near prospect of my undertaking. It is impossible to communicate to you a [conception](#) of the [trembling](#) sensation, half pleasurable and half fearful, with which I am preparing to depart. I am going to unexplored regions, to “the land of mist and snow,” but I shall kill no albatross; therefore do not be alarmed for my safety or if I should come back to you as worn and [woeful](#) as the “[Ancient Mariner](#).” You will smile at my [allusion](#), but I will [disclose](#) a secret. I have often [attributed](#) my [attachment](#) to, my passionate enthusiasm for, the dangerous mysteries of ocean to that production of the most imaginative of modern poets. There is something at work in my soul which I do not understand. I am practically [industrious](#)—[painstaking](#), a workman to execute with [perseverance](#) and [labour](#)—but besides this there is a love for [the marvellous](#), a belief in the marvellous, [intertwined](#) in all my projects, which hurries me out of the common pathways of men, even to the wild sea and unvisited regions I am about to explore.

But to return to dearer [considerations](#). Shall I meet you again, after having [traversed](#) immense seas, and returned by the most southern cape of Africa or America? I dare not expect such success, yet I cannot bear to look on the

reverse of the picture. Continue for the present to write to me by every opportunity: I may receive your letters on some occasions when I need them most to support my spirits. I love you very tenderly. Remember me with affection, should you never hear from me again.

Your affectionate brother,  
Robert Walton.

to encompass [ɪn'kʌm.pəs] to surround

dauntless very brave

want need or desire

severe• very bad, serious

to assail to attack violently

to endeavour [en'dev.əʃ] to try, to attempt

dejection sadness caused by failure or loss (*Niedergeschlagenheit*)

to deem to consider, to believe

capacious large

to amend to improve, to correct

execution the act of doing sth (*Ausführung, Durchführung*)

impatient• unwilling to wait

to cease to stop, to end

conviction• a strong belief or opinion

to perceive to become aware of

illiterate [ɪ'lɪt.ə.ət] unable to read or write

extended long and intensive

magnificent• wonderful

to despise to dislike very much, to hate

unallied not related or connected

dross sth of low quality or value

rugged rough, coarse

bosom ['bʊzəm] a person's chest, *here*: the place of feelings or secret thoughts, heart

desirous wanting or wishing for sth very much

advancement being raised to a higher rank or position

prejudice• preconceived judgment or opinion, unreasonable feeling of dislike

to retain to keep

endowment [ɪn'dəʊ.mənt] a person's natural ability, talent or quality

disposition attitude or mood of a person

dauntless fearless

fosterage care

distaste dislike, aversion

**kindliness** friendliness

**obedience** • (*opp of*) rebellion, respect for authority (*Gehorsam*)

**peculiarly** • strangely

**to owe** to be indebted to (*jmd. verdanken*)

**brief** • short

**moderate** • average in amount, neither too big nor too small

**to amass** to gather or collect

**to consent** to agree

**destined** • designated beforehand, planned

**to entreat** to ask in a serious and emotional way

**to spare** *verschonen*

**suppliant** a person who asks for sth in a respectful way; petitioner

**to abandon** • to leave alone, to stop

**pursuit** the act of chasing, hunt

**remainder** rest

**to bestow** to convey as a gift

**stock** funds for investment

**to solicit** to ask

**inexorable** [ɪˈnek.sə.r.ə.bəl] not to be persuaded, relentless

**to quit** • to leave

**inclination** tendency (*Neigung*)

**to attend** to stay with, to surround

**conduct** [ˈkɒn.dʌkt] behaviour

**to detract** to take away

**to conceive** to see or imagine

**consolation** sth that makes a person feel less disappointment, comfort

**toil** hard work

**to waver** to be uncertain, to fluctuate in opinion

**resolution** decision

**embarkation** beginning of a journey by ship or plane

**rash** done quickly without thinking about the consequences

**to confide** to believe, to have confidence in

**prudence** good judgment

**considerateness** quality of being thoughtful of the rights and feelings of others

**conception** understanding, idea

**to tremble** to shake for fear or nervousness – 24 *ref* to the poem **The Rime of**

**the Ancient Mariner** by **Coleridge**, a long poem in which a sailor kills an albatross and brings down terribly bad luck on himself and the rest of the crew

**woeful** very sad

**allusion** reference (*Anspielung*)

**to disclose** to make known

**to attribute** [əˈtrɪbjʊt] to explain by giving a cause (*zuschreiben*)

**attachment** a strong feeling of affection

**industrious** constantly active

**painstaking** diligent care and effort

**perseverance** [ˌpɜːsɪˈviə.rəns] continued effort

**labour**• work

**the marvellous** miraculous or supernatural

**to intertwine** to twist together

**dear** noble, precious

**consideration** careful thought

**to traverse** to cross

**reverse**• opposite side, back

**spirit** soul, mood

**tender**• full of affection

## Letter III

*To Mrs. Saville, England.*

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 17—.

My dear Sister,

I write a few lines in haste to say that I am safe—and well [advanced](#) on my voyage. This letter will reach England by a merchantman now on its homeward voyage from Archangel; more fortunate than I, who may not see my native land, perhaps, for many years. I am, however, in good spirits: my men are [bold](#) and apparently [firm of purpose](#), nor do the floating sheets of ice that continually pass us, indicating the dangers of the region towards which we are advancing, appear [to dismay](#) them. We have already reached a very high [latitude](#); but it is the height of summer, and although not so warm as in England, the southern [gales](#), which blow us speedily towards those shores which I so ardently desire to attain, breathe a degree of [renovating](#) warmth which I had not expected.

No incidents have hitherto [befallen](#) us that would make a figure in a letter. One or two stiff gales and the springing of a [leak](#) are accidents which experienced navigators [scarcely](#) remember to record, and I shall be well content if nothing worse happen to us during our voyage.

Adieu, my dear Margaret. Be assured that for my own sake, as well as yours, I will not rashly encounter danger. I will be cool, [persevering](#), and [prudent](#).

But success *shall* crown my endeavours. Wherefore not? Thus far I have gone, [tracing](#) a secure way over the



pathless seas, the very stars themselves being witnesses and testimonies of my triumph. Why not still proceed over the untamed yet obedient element? What can stop the determined heart and resolved will of man?

My swelling heart involuntarily pours itself out thus. But I must finish. Heaven bless my beloved sister!

R.W.

advanced • *fortgeschritten*

bold fearless

firm of purpose very determined

to dismay to upset

latitude distance north or south of the equator

gale storm, very strong wind

to renovate to renew

to befall to happen as if by accident

leak a hole that lets water in

scarcely • hardly, rarely

persevering persisting

prudent having good judgment

to trace to follow a path

witness • a person who sees sth serious happen

testimony proof, evidence

untamed wild

obedient • willing to obey (*gehorsam*)

resolved firm, determined