

Collection: The Alexander John Gaspard Marcet fonds**Names:** Marcet, Alexander John Gaspard, 1770-1822**Description:** This collection consists of 17 autograph letters written to Alexander John Gaspard Marcet (1770-1822). One was written by William Prout (1785-1850) and the remainder by William Charles Wells (1757-1817). Acquired from Hugh M. Sinclair. Marcet was a physician and chemist.**Dates:** 1811 to 1817**Location:** Misc box, Memorial Room Rare Cabinet 27**Items:** One file folder of textual fonds.**Inventory:**

- I. Jan. 26, 1815
From Wm. Prout, 8 Southampton St. To Dr. Marcet, Russel (!) Square. Prout has sent "a few crystals of urea, also a small portion of nitrate of potash." Discusses his work on various chemical processes. "I have observed many singular phenomena respecting the crystallization of urea and the compounds it forms. I flatter myself also that an investigation of its properties will throw some new light on the physiology and pathology of the urine...."
A.L.S. 2p.
- II. Dec. 5, 1811
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Wells discusses a paper sent to him by Marcet and goes on discussing serum/albumin in the urine and the theories of various people about it. Mentions Brande, Davey and Thompson
A.L.S. 3p.
- III. Dec. 21, 1811
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Discusses removal of a young man about whom Marcet had written to him to a private room at St. Thomas's Hospital. "I could not have effected it myself by any command I might have issued."
A.L.S. 1p.

- IV. Nov. 1, 1812
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square, Thanks Marcet for sending Prevost on Radiant Heat. Is not of the opinion that Prevost has anticipated anything he himself had planned to say.
A.L.S. 1p.
- V. Mar. 12, 1813
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Speaks of meeting Marcet at the Royal Society that evening and of his impression that Dr. Woolcombe intends to publish a paper which Marcet gave him to read. Says that if Dr. Woolcombe did publish he would publish a reply. He feels that conclusions drawn by Dr. Willan as reported in the paper as to the frequency of deaths from pulmonary consumption in London are erroneous. His twenty-eight years of experience are the basis of his observations.
A.L.S. 2p.
- VI. Mar. 15, 1813
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Further discussion of Dr. Woolcombe and Dr. Willan, Is not prepared at this point to expend "what I should regard a day or two's hard labour...until some stronger reason for it shall occur than at present exists" in refuting Dr. Willan's estimates of deaths in London from pulmonary consumption.
A.L.S. 2p.
Names: Willan (Robert, 1757-1812)
- VII. Nov. 25, 1814
From Will Chas Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Thanks Marcet for extract of Mr. Prevost's letter. Discusses failure of "your relation" to explain the phenomena described by Mr. B. Prevost. Has no time "to treat this subject properly" however. Note attached from Marcet saying "I have received both yr. notes respecting Mr. P's remarks." Discusses Geneva philosophers and what might have happened had he sent Wells' first note to Geneva. Offers Wells the use of his copy of Mr. P's book until such time as he can procure one of his own.
A.L.S. 2p. (and A.L.S. 1p. in reply)
Names: Prevost, Pierre, 1751-1839.
- VIII. Nov. 27, 1814
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. "Your Geneva philosophers, I believe, quickly feel sore." Speaks again of Prof. Prevost's explanation of the experiments of Mr. B. Prevost and believes still that it is inadequate. Wants to obtain Prevost's book on Radiant Heat.
A.L.S. 1p.

- IX. Nov. 30, 1814
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Still talking of Prevost and says he would have said nothing different even if he had been an Englishman. In any case he cannot at present afford the time to "treat the subject of Mr. B. Prevost's experiments in the manner I wish." Still wants Prevost's book and asks how it may be obtained (a free copy from Prevost not wanted).
A.L.S. 2p.
- X. Dec. 7, 1814
From Will Chas. Wells. To Dr. Marrcet (I). Thanks Marcet for book lent to him. Says Mr. A. Prevost need no longer bring from Geneva a copy of his father's book. Is now accusing a Dr. Young who seems to believe that he (Wells) learned of Prevost's theory of radiant heat only in 1809 from Young's book. Wells now says he read Prevost's paper in Phil. Trans, when it was published in 1802. He may even have read of Prevost's theory in Thompson's Chemistry. Again asks Marcet to communicate with an adversary (in this case Dr. Young) "if you know him better ."
A.L.S. 3p.
- XI. Dec. 11, 1814
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Thanks Marcet for "connmunicating to Dr. Young what I wrote to you respecting him. I reserve to myself the right of offering remarks hereafter, in some public way, on Dr. Young's criticism, should such a step appear to me proper."
A.L.S. 1p.
- XII. Nov. 8, 1815
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street. To Dr . Marcet, Russell Square. Has published an answer to Dr. Young in the April number of *Annals of Philosophy*. Sends back Prevost's first publication on heat.
A.L.S. 1p.
- XIII. July 25, 1816
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn, FleetStreet . To Dr . Marcet (presumably). Thanks him for note and sends compliments to Mr. Prevost whom he could not see during his London visit. Hopes to have that honour next year.
A.L.S. 1p.

- XIV. Nov. 11, 1816
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Thanks Marcet for the copy of his paper on *Stramonium*. Has sent Mrs. Marcet's book on Political Economy to Miss Tunno "and have requested her to furnish me with remarks upon it."
A.L.S. 1p.
- Names:** Mrs. Jane Marcet, 1769-1858; Miss Tunno
- XV. July 24, 1817
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, 23 Russell Square. Sends thanks to Mrs. Marcet for a copy of the second edition of her work on Political Economy. Has sent Miss Tunno's copy to "her father's Counting House." Of his health says "I still regard myself in a state of great ultimate danger" but Dr. Baillie is more optimistic,
A.L.S. 2p.
- XVI. July 28, 1817
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Does not expect to be able to leave his house "even to take an airing in a carriage, in less than three or four weeks."
A.L.S. 1p.
- XVII. Aug. 4, 1817
From Will Chas. Wells, Serjeants' Inn. To Dr. Marcet, Russell Square. Miss Tunno has asked him to convey her thanks to Mrs. Marcet for the book. No change in his health although "Dr. Baillie was still sanguine."
A.L.S. 2p.