

29
To Mrs Hicks Beach

2 Feb 1801

February 2nd.1801

My dear Madam

I have nothing new to tell you of William - he continues to give me that perfect satisfaction which his conduct has done since the first day of his acquaintance. His shyness ~~is~~^{is} a good deal worn off, & I think he will still improve very much in that respect. - I have taken the Liberty to send my second Volume of Sermons to you - it is directed to be left at Kirby's - by an order sent to Messrs Longman & Rees Pater Noster Row, my publishers. I have the pleasure to inform you that there will be a vacancy for William at Mr Sandfords in the Autumn - but he cannot have ~~more~~^m more than half a room, till he becomes 5th on the list - i.e. till he has 4 Juniors, & Mr Sandford has raised his terms since I wrote, to 200 per Annum from 150£. - There is no other situation in the town that I could by any means recommend to you. - Nothing is concluded with Mr Sandford - I specified that you were perfectly at liberty to adopt or not as you pleased his offer - that I was not at liberty to accept any new terms for you, but would write immediately, & report your answer. I have told you the good & evil of Mr Sandfords situation, as far as I am acquainted with it - consider it well - If you feel yourself uneasy at leaving your son there, I will return here with pleasure & resume his education upon your own terms - or any others ~~wh~~^a whatever that you chuse to dictate - & believe me my dear Madam I do not say so to make myself of importance, or from the weak notion of laying you under obligation - I despise most heartily both the one, & the other motive. I consider myself & always shall do so as the obliged person - say to me, I do not consider my Son as securely & advantageously placed, & I will not only resume my functions, but will even ask, & intreat that I may do so. If on the contrary you are

(2 Feb 1801)

satisfied, all is well. I will leave him here what few recommendations are in my power, & will by Letter, if he will permit me, give him every good counsel that my sincere anxiety for his welfare can suggest. I beg my best respects to Mr Beach as does Mrs Smith including yourself. & remain my dear Madam with great respect

your obedient humble Servant

Sydney Smith

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, pp. 123⁴.

39a

From Robert Smith, snr

To Mrs Hicks Beach

7 Feb 1801

25 Circus, Bath, Februry 7th 1801

My dear Madam

I am sure you will have the goodness to allow my freedom on a subject so very near my heart, & I will flatter myself not quite indifferent to you - the happiness & honor of my misguided Boy. -

I have been favored with a very kind answer from Mr Beach to a letter I wrote him - ⁱin the hasty reply to which on my return from BeauChamp, I find it was sent to Reddish's Hotel Jermyrn Street, when he directs to be written to Williamstrip Park.

My letter will be in London ^{on} ~~at~~ this day, before which should Mr Beach have left it, & not given orders to forward letters, it may remain neglected - should he ~~yet~~ be in London, it will in course reach him.

To prevent accident I make free to trouble you Madam with the explanation to Mr Beach should he not have received my ~~last~~ letter, & will have the goodness to write for it, & in doing this, it is impossible for me not to avail myself of the opportunity of begging your intercession with Mr Beach, offended as he has the justest reason to be with Sydneys conduct - & for my opinion of which allow me Madam to refer you to the letter now in London.

I had not the most distant information of the business from Sydney, till last week - he too will know my sentiments of your past goodness, & the eternal gratitude it so truly merited - & it is ~~with~~ with grief I confess myself very much hurt from this pointed neglect, so recent after his marriage of which & all its arrangements I was equally an utter stranger.

(7 Feb 1801)

Yet I am convinced he is a good Man, holding you & Mr Beach in the highest esteem & attached to your Son William warmly - nor do I believe there^r exists another who would more honorably devote his time & faculties to the trust you have reposed in him.

He has mistaken the point of honor, of which he thinks improperly, & fearful of sinking in your opinion, had not courage to recede from a point to which he should never have committed himself.

Mr Beach's offer was of a piece with his former friendship^{sh}, & ought not to be increased - but Madam it will be shewing such superiority over this false pride of Sydney's to indulge me in the proposal I have taken the liberty of making to him, as must have most beneficial effect in future added to which, that I am convinced ^hhis coming ^{ei}either to London or to Bath will be followed with the consequence I dread of all others.

You will thus save the young man you have hitherto not found insensible of your kindness - you will secure a sincere, sensible, affectionate tutor to your dear Boy, who I believe is not discontented with his situation. -

You will relieve me Madam too from a weight of shame I never expected to have met you with, & I will yet hope for a favorable turn at the earnest intercession of Dear Madam ^your ever faithful obliged humble Servant

Robert Smith

It quite escaped me to thank Mr B. for Mr Messiter having given business last Sept^r to my Son Robert, whose character expands^d every day, & business increases. - Any opportunities Mr Beach may have of mentioning him to his stewards, will be doing me great kindness. - The leading passion & object of my life having

39a.2

(7 Feb 1801)

been to establish my Boys, whose exertions & conduct have hitherto justified my most sanguine hopes. -

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, pp. 125-6.

40
Address O.K. This is surely
dated post 2 Feb when \$5 was
sent considering Sandford

[Feb 1801]
[Autumn 1800]

To Robert Smith

79 Queen Street — Edinburgh. —

My dear Father. —

As I am convinc'd by long experience of that latitude of interpretation with which your warm expressions are to be understood. — I feel less hurt at your severity than I otherwise should do. — The only excuse I can offer for not consulting you with respect to my marriage Settlements is — that I did not feel the smallest doubt — with regard to the conduct I was to pursue -- & I cannot help thinking my dear father that you yourself would have been the first to have discover'd mockery & insult — in this pretended reference to your council. As to the Settlements themselves — I am very sorry that I can still find no reason to alter my opinion — without any fortune myself — despis'd, rejected & accus'd of the most mercenary motives by a great part of her family. I could act no otherwise. — allow me to say you ~~mistake~~ the matter of fact in the severe observations upon my wifes conduct — She objecte'd to any Settlement & wish'd to place in me that confidence which I have plac'd in her. — I plann'd the settlement myself & positively refus'd to deviate from it in the smallest degree. — — After all what disposition of the property is made — which ought not to have been made — if we have Children it goes to them ^{if} not to me — She has the power of confining me only to a life interest. if she please — a

is this after 28 Dec 1800
 when Sydney departed
 (Autumn 1800)
 (Feb 1801)

circumstance from which I feel no degradation or fear whatever —
 as a general practice even in marriage Settlements I highly
 approve of it. — I love my family very sincerely. If I have
 no children they will of course be my heirs. — this you know
 as well as I do. — as to my expression in the gravel walk. —
 God forbid that your expressions should ever be preserv'd in so
 retentive a memory — & subject to so rigid an interpretation. —

I think Mr B. if ^s ~~offring~~ offering me too little for his Son — I
 think I am injuring myself by staying here. — but I think after
 his friendship to us both — it would not have been proper in me
 to have quitted his Son unless I could have settl'd him advant-
 ageously ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ this place — I have therefore obey'd my sense
 of duty & am here for two Yrs longer — Mr B is a man of warm
 feelings — but I confess I have no implicit confidence in
 the permanence of his attachments or intention^s. — A man who
 means to subject himself to the performance of what his temporary
 feelings suggest — ought to say so in plain language [sic] —

Add You complain of my impertinence incivility &c &c — the
 plain truth of the matter is this — you cannot be complimented
 upon the facility of your general disposition — nor can I,
 upon the success with which I have manag'd it. — I have had
 rather a difficult game to play — & have play'd it badly. —
 perseverance in doing wrong is a very bad way of avoiding self-
 conviction, tho the usual one by which men attempt to avoid it, —

~~(Autumn 1800)~~

(Feb 1801)

neither are the errors of any other human being a justification for mine — I am always upon the lookout for my faults. — & however small/my Success I never to my dying moment will give out the contest. — may the time speedily come when you perceive — & allow my improvement. adieu my dear father — & beleive me very sincerely] & affectionately yours.

Sydney. —

I beg my best love to my dear Mother Maria Cecil &c &c —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Circus. / Bath. — / 25. —

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM30426

I

[1801]

To the Anti Jacobin reviewer.-

Sr

On matters of opinion I should never think of calling in question the decisions of a reviewer. When the case is fairly stated, the public are to decide between the opposite judgements of an author & his critic: On matters of fact I think myself entitl'd to a little more latitude, & expect from your known facility of recantation, the correction of a few mistatements which have crept into your review of my sermons.-

You say that I object in general to the introduction of scripture language into Sermons & and that I consider such language as capable of inspiring no other sentiments but those of ridicule & disgust.-The passage of my preface to which you allude, & which you partly quote is this "There is bad taste in the language of Sermons evinc'd by a constant repetition of the same scriptural phrases, which perhaps were us'd with great judgment 200 years ago- but are now become so trite that they may without great inconvenience be exchang'd for others - Putting off the old man -& putting on the new man- The one thing needful- The Lord hath set up his Candlestick- the armor of righteousness etc etc- The sacred scriptures are surely abundant enough, to afford the same idea with some novelty of language; one can never be driven from the penury of these sacred writings to wear & fritter their holy language into a perfect cant, -which passes thro' the ear

41.1

2

without leaving any sensations but those of ridicule and disgust."- Now is this passage a satire upon the introduction of scriptural language in general, or is it a satire upon the lazy introduction of the same scriptural language?- does it deny there is any charm in antient, holy words- or does it guard against the destruction of that charm by the tedious severity of eternal repetition? - I think you should have been more cautious than usual in such an accusation, because it is of a very serious nature, & if true affects my character as a Clergyman-

I was surpris'd to learn from yr review that there is scarcely a single expression borrow'd from the sacred writings in my whole book.- In the very first Sermon- there happen to be 13 or 14 Scriptural phrases.- In my 6th Sermon there are 11- the two first pages of my 3rd Sermon- consist wholly of Scripture. I have not taken the trouble of looking at any others in my first volume- and of my second I have no copy at hand- I am not I hope an ill natur'd man & am willing to beleive that the press of business in a review is so great that a critic cannot be expected to ~~measure~~ proportion his assertions, ~~by an examination~~ to facts.- I am convinc'd however these exaggerated statements are mere mistakes.- I respect every man of character too much to tell him that he intentionally perverts the truth.- Such imputations are reserv'd for the very out casts of society - for those unhappy men who have publickly confess'd themselves wilful & corrupt liars.- Your observation upon my little slips of language & my inaccurate

3

punctuation is perfectly just, I am oblig'd to you for publickly shaming me into a more strict ~~obser~~ attention to these necessary trifles.- but at the same time that I acknowledge my inaccuracy- I am at a loss to know how you discover'd it: As the majority of instances adduc'd in support of the assertion are very unfortunately selected- consider again If it be wrong to use a plural very with World a noun of number?- If ~~Euclid would ha~~ we say the compound ratio of B & C or to B & C.- If amongst be not sometimes more harmonious than among. - but after all I submit to yr superior intelligence on these points.- from your private knowledge of the town of Edinburgh- you are probably a Scotchman- If so- English is to you a foreign language which you neither speak nor write - you therefore have in all probability, studied its minutiae more critically than I have done - [page turns]

If I have written presumptuous, petulant preface tell me so fairly, nothing more probable- nothing I should read with more tranquillity than your rebuke- with tranquillity if it were dull, - delight if it were witty, respect if it were dignified & temperate, - but whether the Rev'd Daniel Sandford serve his chapel gratuitously, or whether as is usual in private chapels the Clerk take the measure of every sinner, & charge according to latitude; whether I live in fashionable circles, whether the pastor of Charlotte Chapel has long edified the metropolis of Scotland by his learning, what has all this to do with the proverbial dulness of English Sermons- Mr Sandford I believe to be

4

a very worthy, honorable, & religious man & I am sure he has too much good sense, & too much of the spirit of a gentleman not to spurn this attempt to set at variance two Clergymen who have always liv'd together on the best of terms, & without the smallest dispute, public or private- May I be allowed in the words of the beautiful plaintive & anonymous writer in the monthly magazine¹ to express my surprise "that you are not deeply & intimately penetrated with compunction for having been thus hurried on by unmerited resentment against a single individual, to prostitute y'r pen & misapply y'r talents to the unworthy purpose of exciting prejudices amongst the innocent living (& to wonder that you do not see) the complicated mischief of such conduct in colors as strong as those in which it can be view'd by the parties themselves"

Do you mean to say because Mr Sandford is extremely attentive to his duties,- that the whole body of the English Clergy are so?- to shew the fallacy of such reasoning- allow me to put a case-, which tho' purely fictitious may serve to illustrate my argument- would it be a fair refutation of a panegyric upon the Scotch Episcopalian Clergy to say that there is one man among them of the most degraded & immoral character, who has ungratefully calumniated his benefactor and freind, whose personal infamy is only screen'd by his political violence, & who if he were not the tool of faction, would be the object of universal contempt?- I am

¹ See *Monthly Magazine* May 1800. Letter concerning the Royal clan Alpine Regiment- or McGregor fencibles

5

sure you have candor enough to admit the force of this argument.-
 & to allow that the exception rather proves than falsifies the
 rule.-As for criticism and Satire I expect them as a matter of
 course. I did not write that preface, without knowing it was too
 true to be forgiven & being well aware that I should make every
 common place thinker my foe.- my cheek is prepared for the
 scratches of irascible anility- my back for the rod of wrathful
 dulness. - I perfectly agree with you- that a young man detected
 in the act of thinking for himself is a fair object for
 punishment, Lash me well- I know I deserve it.- but review my
works not me.- for it may perhaps be good policy in you not to
 provoke me to review you-

I remain Sr with the respect that all respectable men feel
 for you - Yrs etc

Sydney Smith

[Endorsed (by Mrs S.):] Original letter to the Reviewer in the
 Anti Jacobin.- 1801./ Copied into Vol C Page 75

[Wm:1796]

MS. D.R. Bentham

To Mrs Hicks Beach

21 Feb 1801

79 Queen St Feby 21st 1801

My dear Madam

I do not like to do that which will afterwards make me uneasy & unhappy, as I should have been if William had been left here in a situation with which yourself & Mr Beach were not entirely satisfied - however this is all over. - I shall take a house here till the Spring of 1803 - & I am faltered with the confidence in me ⁱ ~~with~~ ^{which} Mr B. & you both express, & which I hope you will not find misplaced. - I have arranged matters with Mr Sanford. - Will you allow me to recommend to you the works of Burns in 4 volumes, including his ^l Life, & a valuable account of the Scotch peasantry, which I think if you still continue to collect books you will find worth attention. - Farewell my dear Madam - my best regards to Mr Beach. I hope now when we meet, we shall be as good friends as we used to be. I remain with great regard & respect

your obedient humble Servant

Sydney Smith

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript^p, f. 127.

43

W

To Mrs Hicks Beach

2 Mar 1801

79 Queen St March 2d 1801

My dear Madam

I have nothing new to tell you of William, & nothing can be more pleasant than what I have always told you - that the propriety of his behaviour cannot be exceeded. Will you have the goodness to let us know at what time you expect us in London - the lease of this house expires on the 15th of May, & it will be an accomodation to Mrs Smith & myself to know beforehand the time of our departure. - What dread^{ful} ~~ful~~ news [#] ~~this~~ madness of the Kings - & if he recovers speedily, we shall hereafter be kept in a constant state of alarm; however I have lived along to wait for misfortunes till they come without anticipating them. My poor father will I am sure lose several ounces of flesh per diem - he grows heavier [&] ~~and~~ lighter with every post - & rises & falls with the Stocks. You do not say whether you have received the second volume of my Lethargies which I desired to be left at Kirbys in the Strand for you. I wish I could persuade you to favor me with your criticisms, but that I am afraid is almost impossible. With my preface, I can hardly flatter myself you can agree. - I have some thoughts of pursuing the same subject in a much longer essay. - William has been dancing a good deal. On Friday last, he was dancing till 6 in the morning - at a private ball, & most thoroughly knocked up he was - but a good nights sleep quite restored him. I have had a very friendly letter from Michael, as far as I can judge from such a document he is going on very well. My best regards to Mr Beach. I remain my dear Madam with great respect your obedient humble

Servant

Sydney Smith

ics in
M. NCS 60

48
To Richard Heber

[8 Jun 1801]

Cheam Epsom Surrey -- Mrs Pybus -- Saturday

My dear Heber. --

I am very sorry that our mutual efforts have not produc'd a meeting. -- but this we will endeavor to accomplish after the 20th. of this month -- when I return to Town & shall be for a month with my wife's Aunt Mrs Rous -- 32 Gloucester Place -- Portman Square -- previous to that day we will interchange a billet doux -- & have a meeting -- by appointment. -- I am charg'd with all sort of affections for you -- from longing Widows -- from chlorotic Virgins -- from ponderous professors [--] from tottering Senility -- from airy vigorous youth -- from every stage & vicissitude of human life -- such as it is found North of the Tweed -- farewell my dear Heber -- yr's very affectionately & with great regard --

Sydney Smith . --

[Addressed:] Richard Heber Esqr / Mrs Heber / Westminster

Text from my transcript of Bodl. MS. Eng. lett d. 215, f. 145: date from postmark; part printed in Cholmondeley, Heber Letters, p. 176, as ~~1801~~ 6 Jan 1801.

The Sonnet on the Sabbath Morning
is quoted in Sketches of Moral Poetry

Mrs Sydney Smith to Mrs Beach

203-f

[8 Jul 1801]

My dear Madam,

I hope Mr Beach does not think me very unconscionable in the frequent application I & my correspondents make to him for the forwarding of my letters; if I have been troublesome which I am sometimes inclined to think, he should at least be just in his condemnations; & lay the blame (where [^{is} sic] it really ^{is} right to rest) on the kindness & sincerity with which he gave his permission; —

I believe Sydney gives you constant details respecting William's health, & assiduity; both of which are as unshaken as you could wish; I think you will be astonished at his growth; I fancy I perceive a difference every month; he endears himself to us, & to every one who knows him by his very amiable disposition. — The purport of my Letter however was to apologise for my constant encroachments on Mr B's kindness; & as I believe you are fond of collecting little elegant compositions in verse to enclose you two Sonnets, written by Mr. Leyden (of whom I dare say your Son & Sydney talk) which Mr. Smith thinks he did not send you, altho he had intended it; I wish you could have seen the Author; he is really a curiosity.

Sonnet on the Sabbath Morning.

With silent awe I hail the sacred morn
That slowly wakes while all the fields are still
A soothing calm on ev'ry breeze is borne
A graver murmur gurgles from the rill;
And Echo answers softer from the hill
And softer sings the Linnet from the thorn
The sky-lark warbles in a tone less shrill,
Hail light serene! hail sacred Sabbath morn
The rocks float silent by in airy drove
The sun a placid yellow lustre throws
The gales that lately sighed along the grave
Have hush'd their downy wings in dead repose
The hovering mass of clouds forget to move:
So smiled the day when the first morn arose.

Have hush'd their downy wings in
dead repose

✓

(8 Jul 1801)

SONNET.

Sweet power of Love ! no idle flutt'ring boy
 Art thou, to falunt with brilliant purple wing
 And from thy bow in merry mischief, fling
 The tiny shafts which mortal peace destroy;
 'Tis thine the sickness of the soul to heal
 Where pines the lonely bosom, doom'd to know
 No dear associate of its joy or woe,
 Till warmed by thee, it learns again to feel:
 As the bright sunbeams bid the rose unroll
 Her scented leaves, that sleep in many a fold
 Thou wak'st the heart from selfish slumbers cold
 To all the generous softness of the Soul.
 Ah ! doubly blest the heart that wakes to prove
 From some congenial breast, the dear return of Love.

This last I think has unusual merit from the subject's being so cruelly hackneyed.
 I understand my Father has been at Netheravon; I need not enquire whether you were
 pleased with him; ——— Pray give my kind regards to Mr. & the Miss Beaches,
 accept the same yourself, & believe me to be my dear Mrs^s. Beach, yours very
 sincerely Catharine Amelia Smith.

Will Mr. Beach have the goodness to forward the inclosed to my father if he is
 at Bath, No. 25. Circus ? I shall trouble him in a few days with a letter for
 Maria

[Addressed:] Michael Hicks Beach Esqre M P / Netheravon House / Amesbury /
 England. —

[Postmarked:] FREE 1801 ; JY 8 ; B #2 JY 12 1801 etc.

MS. Gordon N. Ray. From xerox of original.

58

W

Michael
To ~~Mr~~ Hicks Beach

Annotated by
Memoir of Sandford
under SANDFORD in
extracts file.

8 Oct 1801

October 8th 1801 - 46 George St.

My dear Sir

There lives in this Town, as you well know, a Clergyman by the name of Sandford, a sensible, religious, learned man, with 7 children who from small beginnings has gained by good sense, good conduct, & good preaching, many friends, & much merited reputation. -

Mr Sandford received a letter lately from a Mr Ledyard, Attorney at Law, Cirencester, making on the behalf of a gentleman whom he did not name, the most minute enquiries respecting his pedigree - his connection with the Shropshire family of Sandford of Sandford, the number of his children, their names, ages, &c &c. - This letter Mr Sandford answered, understanding from another quarter that the enquirer was old Sandford of Cirencester. It is plain from this, that the old gentleman is making his will, & an old infirm gentleman about to make his will, & in the hands of an obscure roguish attorney, is much like a Cherry between the teeth of a Schoolboy.

[9] My object ^s is this - by every measure of caution & by some discreet exertion, to increase the chance that a very worthy Clergyman has of being set at ease for the rest of his life, & I am sure your good sense & your goodness of heart will induce you to aid & abet. The actions of an old rich humourist are always suspended on a pivot - a small judicious push may direct them favorably. - [9] In the first place, tell me in confidence what you know of Ledyard, & whether you think there is any risque of his acting dishonorably. - In the next place, would it not be possible for you to call upon Sandford, who you know will soon be your septennial Lord & master, or at least one

(8 Oct 1801)

of them; you might turn the conversation upon William - upon Edinburgh & then he might probably himself mention the name of Mr Sandford, to whom you might most conscientiously from report give a very high character - you have been at Edinburgh, & your testimony might be of the most salutary importance. - [9] You will easily see my dear Sir that this is a very delicate business, which if not touched with a very light hand, will do more harm than good. - Nothing is more likely to be mischievous to our cause, than his suspicion of what you were about - above all, it would be destructive if he were to hear from any quarter that his application were known, & talked of in Cirencester - let me therefore beg of you not to mention the subject of this letter to any human being - but to act from your own judgement without consulting any body. Our peccating female is I fancy becoming very fast a ^{va} Servant of the public, & I have reason to suspect was possessed of these patriotic triumphs, long before she left my service.

[9] God bless you my dear Sir & your good Lady, & all your family, & believe me your very sincere friend

Sydney Smith

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, pp. 138-9.

*TS at Wmskip, with
all the [9] noted above*

To Robert Smith ~~Widdow~~

25 Oct [1801]

October 25th 46. George St. Edinburgh. —

My dear Father. —

If I did not inform you in particular of my negotiation with Lord Bolton — it was because I have always consider'd a Letter address'd to Maria or to any other branch of the family residing in your house as address'd to all — & always imagin'd that you view'd it in such a light, after having abandon'd the fatigue of correspondence to younger hands. — [Space] His Lordship was prevented from coming to Edinburgh — by a wound in his shoulder. — & sent with his son a relation of the name of Powlett. — a Clergyman — Young Powlett — is about 19 — Awkward & reserv'd. — & not of interesting appearance. — but he appears to be mild & ductile. — [Space] With his Father I have had some correspondence, he writes like a gentleman & a man of Sense —

Every parson & every relation of the said parson imagine that ^{the moment} ~~once~~ he is connected with a Lord, that he has nothing to do but to Study Tythe Law —, to amuse himself in planning Barns of different Constructions, & to order a Buggy of the very best sacerdotal Shape. — As for me I confess my ideas are rather lower & more practical — a few dinners — my Salary well pay'd — the power of applying for a frank. — a bow in the public Streets — and a good deal of commendation behind my back — these are the limits of my expectations. — & the probable limits of my good fortune. —

Pray let me know in your own or ⁱⁿ a deputed hand where you met Lord Bolton [seal] & how much you saw of him — All people that know him concur in speaking of him in terms of the greatest respect. — pray give my kindest Love to my ever dear Mother to Maria — to Mrs Cecil & to

recoverable
from fragment

89.1

T

(25 Oct 1801)

all & beleive me my dr Father most affectionately & dutifully yrs. —

Sydney. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr^r / Keevil House —

New College, Oxford, archives, bundle 4432 [gift of Simon Nowell-Smith].

60
To Robert Smith

[29 Oct 1801]

My dearest Father. —

What can I say or do — on such
a dreadful occasion as this what nonsense & folly are all
the common topics of consolation — We have here a house
full of affliction — my poor wife is quite overpain'd in
a state very little capable of bearing any bad news — God
Almighty bless & defend you all — I would give a thousand
worlds if I were within reach — I did not like to say a
word — but I cannot write any more to day. —

Sydney —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Keevil / Troubridge / Wilts /
England.

[Endorsed:] 29. x-1801. (by Huntington)

[Postmarked:] B OC 29 1801

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30427

To Robert Smith

7 Nov [1801]

My dear Father. —

I am afraid that my Last Letter the half of which was address'd to you — & the other to Maria never reach'd you — as she must have receiv'd it in Town. — I am afraid that the proposal of yr coming here would be too difficult to execute. but if you deem it otherwise Such an event would give to Kate & myself the highest pleasure. ~~at~~ at all events if Maria does not in due time recover her health, & Spirits — No Change of Scene can be ~~no~~^s complete as a visit to Scotland, & she will I am sure no where meet with more affectionate care — We are all extremely indebted to Mrs Cecil for her fortitude & her tenderness — When you have inform'd yr plans my dr Father (for I suppose our melancholy loss will of course make some alteration in yr Schemes of Life, —) pray communicate them to me — The only rational topic of consolation to all of us — is that a life harrass'd by constant sickness of body. & threaten'd with a total imbecillity of mind is better cloas'd — after the feelings of nature are a little subsided there can be no doubt of such an opinion. I will not however renew a set of feelings in yr mind calculated only to inflict pain — & I will conclude for ever this subject, by saying that it will always be a great happiness to me to lighten the loss you have sustain'd by every act of duty & affection in my power. — Kate is

611

(7 Nov 1801)

extremely well or at least as well as her situation will permit
her to be — of which she begins more and more to feel the incon-
veniences. — Ld Bolton gives me at the rate of £400 pr Annum
for his Son — but only £300 this Year as 6 months had elaps'd
before he plac'd him with me — The young man is a very eccentric
being — but I am in hopes I shall make something of him — I
have already discover'd 3 Clergymen his relations who are hang-
ing upon him — So that you see my chance of any advantage beyond
my Salary is not very brilliant. ho[wever] [seal] this will make
no difference in my exertions [.] They are all due to him for
the ample Salary I receive — God bless you my dear Father &
beleive me ever affectionately & dutifully yrs

Sydney. —

46 George St —

November 7th — Saturday. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Keevil / Troubridge / Wilts /
England.

[Endorsed:] 7 xi. 1801

(by Huntington)

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30428

To Robert Smith

24 Nov 1801

46. George Street 1801 -- Wednesday -- November 24th --

My dear Father --

Immediately upon the death of my poor mother I wrote to beg M^rria & yourself would come to Scotland by way of changing the Scene -- & I should have been very happy by every hospitable assiduity & [sic] in my power to have lessen'd the sense of our common misfortune. -- I have receiv'd an answer to my invitation in which you call me Rascal Villain Fool. Scoundrel -- Pedant -- &c &c. -- All these opprobrious Epithets -- as well as your animadversions upon my wife I do now as I have often done before very sincerely forgive. -- any condemnation of my conduct by you founded upon facts -- and express'd with moderation -- & dignity -- I should very seriously regret. -- but after an experience of 15 Years -- this very energetic Language -- produces no other effect upon me than to make me regret the unhappy state of mind which must have given birth to it --

My conduct with regard to my marriage settlement I have so often discuss'd with you -- that I hope you will excuse me from discussing it again -- I sincerely regret that we differ -- tho' I must say -- that I see little or nothing in my conduct thro' that difficult Situation -- which I wish in the smallest degree to have been different from what it was. --

(24 Nov 1801)

Your remark upon Mr Slades conversation — I very much regret — because I see in such a sensibility to idle & impertinent conversation a source of eternal unhappiness. — What does Mr Slade mean by adventurers — does he mean poor, if so I believe his remark is true — — & I for one am not ashamed of it. — does he mean that I married my wife for her money. — If he does the terms on which we live are the only & the gradual refutation of the assertion — does he mean that we commit base actions — if he does — let us live down the Calumny. — the honorable life of a man of plain manners & simple enjoyments is a buckler against which ten thousands [sic] such shafts fall harmless — You are a much older & a much wiser man than I am, you have liv'd amongst men I amongst books — & I am astonish'd you have not discover'd such an obvious & valuable truth — I remain my dr Father yr respectful & dutiful Son —

Sydney Smith —

My Wife begs her love & duty.

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr. / Circus / Bath / England. / 25.--

[Postmarks:] B NOV 30 1801 | NO 26

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HM 30429

64

7
c 24 Nov (death of mother) W

To Mrs Hicks Beach

Handwritten notes: ~~Handwritten~~
7 Nov

[Late 1801]

Should precede
22 Dec. (114)

My dear Madam

Though it is very long since I have written to you, I hope you have attributed my silence to its proper motive - that I was unwilling to intrude upon your time when I had little to communicate to you - for to tell you that William is really the best disposed young man I know - that he will be a very accomplished gentleman, & a very sensible tho' neither a very profound, or a very learned man, is what I have repeatedly told you before.

[91]

As for Powlett, the most material thing for you to learn is, that he cannot do William the smallest harm, for he has no harm in him, & if he had, it would be the same thing. - I will not pretend to give a complete judgment of him, for I confess as yet, I have not satisfactorily decyphered him - when I have, you shall know as much as I do. - I hope Henrietta is going on well - she requires considerable address in the management of her feelings & disposition. Anne requires nothing but to be inspired with confidence. The little Baby plenty of Pap, which I hope she has, as constantly as my best wishes. -

[91]

Many thanks my dear Madam for your friendly message. [91] Every one must go to his grave with his heart scarred like a Soldiers body - sometimes a Parent - sometimes a child - a friend - a husband or a ~~husband~~^{wife} - thus the bonds of this life are gradually loosened - & death at last is more welcome than the comfortless solitude of the world. [91] Farewell my dear Madam - I remain with the most respectful regards yr obedient humble Servant

Sydney Smith.

TS at Williams
9 next

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcripts, pp. 135-6. A small portion quoted by NCS from M. in NCS 60.

✓

65
To Robert Smith

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[2⁵ Dec 1801]

My dear Sr. —

Wister
Your last letter like your two former ones is I am sorry to say fill'd with the most unjust accusations against myself & my wife. — I shall put an end to a painful correspondence which can possibly have no other effect — than that of irritating you — & afflic^ting my wife now become the object of my most compassionate attention. — As to the possibility of working ~~you~~ any effect upon you — by facts, by arguments — or by reverting to the Sober~~d~~ adjustment of parental power & filial Submission I confess I think it hopeless. — I can only wish/that by moderating yr anger — expunging from your mind ancient Injuries real or supposd, by respecting the feelings even of your children & by putting the most favorable interpretation on their actions you may experience that increase of happiness which always results from the exercise of benevolent affections — & if it is not disrespectful to give that example which I ought to receive — I forgive you most sincerely for the numberless, & most injurious invectives. — that my well meant invitation to the family has drawn down on myself — & my poor wife —

[Unsigned.]

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / Circus / Bath / England. / 25. —

[Postmarked:] DE 1801 25 [&] B DEC 28 1801

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