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To James Mackintosh

13 Jan 1802

46. George Street — Edinburgh. — Wednesday 1802

Janry. — 13. —

Dear McIntosh. —

Allen, Thomson, Horner Murray — Jeffry — Hamilton
 & myself intend to undertake a review. — The 2 first confine themselves to
 chemical — & medical subjects. — Hamilton is strong in oriental languages —
 & has already review'd a good deal in the Asiatic register. Jeffry is an
 extremely clever little man who will write de omni Scribili — Brown will
 assist — I mean if possible to persuade Maltby to give us some classical
 articles, and we shall have aid from many other literary men, more obscure
 than they deserve to be — It is our intention to comprehend foreign as
 well as domestic publications — to put out a 5s volume every quarter day —
 selecting the works of some merit — & passing over all the refuse of the
 press. — . The rocks & shoals to be avoided are religion politics,
 excessive severity, & irritable Scotchmen. — If nothing else — the common
 sense of every man concern'd will of course teach him the necessity of the
 utmost decency upon the two first points — in the 3d point I do not
 think we shall offend ever much — & in the last the danger of a broken
 head will make us wise —

You will do me & my associates a very great favor if you will point out to
 us what bookseller in London is most likely to be active in pushing forward
 the publication. — we wish to derive no pecuniary Emolument from it for
 the first year. — & have chosen Constable for our Edinburgh bookseller. — [9]
 What do you think of the form of the publication ? & of the probability of

/sale.....

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Critics' Room presumably "a dingy room off Willison's printing office, in Craig's Close, where the proofs of our own articles were read over and remarked upon, and attempts made also to sit in judgement on the few manuscripts which were then offered by strangers" — Cockburn, Jeffrey i. 136. (13 Jan 1802 cont.)

Sale — we wish to weigh the matter well — & if your literary experience can suggest any thing for the improvement of the plan. — we shall be extremely thankful to you for your counsel. —

I have less scruple in troubling you — because I have observ'd you are very demotic to poor authors, & that you often make use of your eminence to give others a helping hand. — If any of the members of the King of Clubs have a mind to barbique a poet or two or strangle a metaphysician or do any other act of cruelty to the dull men of the Earth we are in hopes they will make our journal the receptacle of their exploits — we shall make it a point of honor neither to mutilate contributions, or to reveal the names of contributors

We are rather sanguine as to the success of the scheme. — indeed so much so that we talk of hiring a critics room in the old town at fifty Shillings pr Annum. — tho' to this the more prudent part of the confederates object as a rash anticipation of ideal funds — & imaginary prosperity. —

Whatever good may result from the scheme, or whatever evil it will at least have the effect of imparting some degree of animation to this metaphysical monastery. —
Your friend Gillies is^s married — the only things he wants are softness, & sobriety — & these he is likely enough to gain from his wife. We do not intend to publish our first Vol before Midsummer — & ~~are~~ ^{our} ~~planning~~ ^{is} that the price after the manner of some foreign journals should vary from 5s to 7s according to the quantity of matter. — Tytler has been long in expectation of ~~a~~ ^{the} judges gown — & is so totally ~~ly~~ disqualified in every respect for the

/office....

69.2

(13 Jan 1802 cont.)

office, that I am rather surpris'd his appointment should be so long
delay'd -- I beg my best Compts -- & those of Mrs S. to Mrs McIntosh. --
& remain yrs very sincerely

Sydney Smith. --

We shall certainly have Dugald Stewart, Parr & *Rennel* in the first Number --
& I hope you will give us an opportunity of including another celebrated
name. --

Text from xerox copy of Wedgwood Museum, MS. 31795.

Published TLS 9 April 1970, p 388

68
W
To Mrs Hicks Beach

25 Jan 1802

1802 Jany 25 - 46 George St

My dear Madam

B
Mr Beach need give himself no trouble in arranging Williams journey, as there will be no sort of difficulty in finding a proper party for him here, but if Mr B. has any ~~objection~~ particular mode in which he wishes him to come, he will of course give his directions. - Mr Dugald [P] Stewarts book you should certainly buy - you may be confident (whatever he suppresses) that he asserts nothing which is not true - the price of the book is only 5s. [P] Mr Powlett run away, & behaved in so extraordinary a manner, that I was forced to desire Lord Bolton to remove him immediately - the melancholy particulars, you will learn from William. - I pity the father extremely, who appears from his letters to be a very amiable feeling man. [P] Mrs Smith not yet brought to bed, but expecting it every day. - We pray for a little girl.

[P] Mr Gordon continues to behave extremely well, & has every appearance of turning out a very mild, amiable young man. - It is a great advantage to William to have such a companion. - As to the latter, I can only say that we shall be most sorry to part ~~with~~ ^{with} him, & most happy to receive him again - he is a great favorite with every body who knows him.

[P] I hope Henrietta is going on well - she is a very nice girl, with a very good understanding; & a very feeling heart - remember me very kindly to her, to all the family, & above all, to my friend Mr Beach, to whom, & to yourself I wish all prosperity - S. + S

Mrs S. begs kind remembrance. -

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, p. 142.

TS at
Williamship.
#noted.

69
Mrs Hamilton on Education
Moral Phil., 130.

W

To Mrs Hicks Beach

[Feb] 1802

TS Wednesday

46 George Street 1802

My dear Madam

Contrary to what I had every reason to expect, we would not find a party for William, at least not such a party as I chose he should go with, he therefore set off in the mail yesterday - he will sleep at York tonight, & stay there tomorrow - then stop & sleep at Bugden Friday night - take a Post Chaise from thence to Cambridge Saturday mornng, stay Sunday with his friend ~~General~~ Gerard Noel, & be in London Monday to dinner. He has letters of recommendation to Dr Cappe of York - Mr Maltby of Bugden, & Dr Davy of Cambridge - a good great Coat, a travelling Cap - plenty of money, & a box (you will laugh) of pills in case he is heated with travelling - so that I doubt not you will receive him safe & sound. - Something of course must be left to the discretion of a boy of his age - but he is as safe, or safer by himself, than he would have been with a party of young men, tho' it is wrong to speak of him as in danger any where, for I never saw a more trustworthy young person. [9] - I will write to Mr Beach on the 1st of June every thing respecting William & his accounts. [9] Mrs Smith I have the pleasure of informing you is going on well, tho' her recovery is far from complete. [9] - I called my daughter Saba, merely because she must have some name, & I thought that a pretty one. [9] - I think you will be a good deal pleased with Mrs Hamilton on education; a valuable, tho' somewhat a heavy book - however you will excuse her want of vivacity which you benefit by her good sense. [9] God bless you dear Madam & believe me with best regards to Mr Beach sincerely yours

Sydney Smith

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MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, p. 143.

TS at
Williamship
[9] note.

71
To Michael Hicks Beach

W
31 May 1802

4?

26 George St May 31st 1802 Monday

My dear Sir

On the opposite side you will see Williams account which I hope you will find as correct as I have done his conduct. He is an excellent young man, & has behaved himself entirely to the approbation of Mrs Smith & myself.

^{ts} [not] I have been endeavouring ^{ur} to push him in Mathematics, in which he has made some progress. - Of French I think he has laid such a foundation, as will easily enable him to speak it with elegance after a short residence abroad. He seems desirous of learning German, & I have not discouraged him in it. - I propose the next Session he should attend Professor Robinsons Natural Philosophy - Mr Stewarts 2d class of Moral Philosophy, & perhaps Dr Hope's Chemistry.

You hinted to me that his disposition was more reserved than you wished - the remark is certainly just - but the habit of mind is I am afraid too strong for correction - he will probably remain a cautious deliberate man as long as he lives - a character not certainly exactly the ^{very} model we should select, but which contains many advantages if it ^{has} ~~has~~ ^(not) some unpleasant traits - but on the whole my dear Sir you must allow me to say, you have not only no cause to complain, but much to be proud.

Mrs Smiths health is extremely precarious - all the week she has been hardly out of bed. - As I found nothing else would do, I have by the advice, or rather I should say the command of physicians taken a house for her by the Sea side, at Burnt Island, on the other side of the Frith, so that after the 10th of June our direction will be, at Mr Ballantines, Burnt Island, Fifeshire -

(31 May 1802)

71.1

where there will be good Bathing very for William when he returns in the Autumn, as the house is large and roomy. -

The heavy expences I have been put to by my Wifes long illness, will I am sure be an excuse to you for my having over drawn my account. The anxiety of mind & body, to which Mrs Smiths health subjects me, is a good deal compensated for by the perfect health of my little Child.

We all join in kindest regards to you & Mrs B. & in sincere wishes for your happiness

Sydney Smith

Mr Beach Creditor

	£	s	d
Balance in your favor last Year	56	10	4
Paid to Michael for me		10	
By draft September 1801		90	
November 9 1801		100	
December 22 1801		100	
April 30th 1802		200	
May 31st 1802		100	
	656 10 4		

Mr Beach Debtor

Salary	400
Advanced to William	135
Journey to Edinburgh Sep 1801	38
	573

Balance in your favor £83. 10s. 4d.

72
To Lord Holland

[June 1802]

46. George Street. --

Dear Ld Holland. --

The bearer of this note is Mr Allen of whom I have said so much already that it is superfluous to say any more --

That he is a very sensible man you cannot long be ignorant -- tho' I sincerely hope you may that he is a very skilful physician. --

You will speedily perceive that my friend Mr Allen (who has pass'd his Life in this monastery of Infidels) has not acquir'd that species of politeness which consists in attitudes, & flexibilities but he is civil unaffected & good natur'd. --

What to compare his french to, I know not -- I never heard a sound so dreadful -- I beg best Compts to Lady Holland -- & wish you a very pleasant journey -- & remain dr Ld Holland with great respect --

Yrs &c &c.

Sydney Smith. --

[Addressed:] Right Honble / Lord Holland / Holland House / Kensington. --
by favor of Mr Allen. --

Text from microfilm of B.M. Add. MS. 51645.

Watermarked 1798 [note by B.M.].

= N.C.S. ~~from~~ from The Home of the Hollands, p. 177. Annotate from p. 176

p. 70n.

To Mrs Hicks Beach

Jul 180~~2~~²

July 1802 Burnt Island

My dear Madam

I cannot remain a single day without thanking you for your kind Letter. The interpretation you put on Mrs Smiths illness originated I am sure in your goodness of heart, & in that spirit of kindness with which I have always been treated by you - but I can assure you most sincerely, it is not just. -

Mrs Smith is as cheerful & as happy, as it is possible for a woman to be who is suffering from bodily weakness - & even this cause of her suffering thank God is considerably diminished since I wrote to you last, as she has already derived great advantage from her short residence in this delightful & healthy situation. - The fact is, her constitution has received a very ^{serious} severe shock, & it will require a very quiet Summer to restore it, with all the aid she can derive from Sea bathing. By these means, we all expect to see her perfectly well in the beginning of Winter. -

Nothing can be more delightful than the situation in which we are placed, & you would laugh to see the various contrivances to which we have had recourse to make our Cabin comfortable. - Our meat Larder is a hamper ^{and is MS} slung to a beam - Mrs Smiths dressing table, a herring barrel - her bell, a pair of tongs tied ^{corner MS} to a rope passed through the door - the books are kept in the same cupboard with the yellow pickles - & all sorts of articles, for the brains, & the Stomach, hard & soft - sweet & sour - corruptible & incorruptible, are huddled together.

There is a very ^{snug} ~~strong~~ corner left for William, & he will be extremely

93.1

W

(Jul 1802)

pleased with the place.

I am extremely glad to hear a good account of your family - I heard a very good account of Henrietta & her improvement, from a Lady in whose judgment I have great confidence.

Little Saba is really a charming child, & I have discovered in her all the virtues you suppose me to have done - the only defect I have yet found in her character is, that when I take her in my arms, she is apt to express her gratitude in a manner ^tthat makes it necessary she should be restored to the arms of her nurse; this little imperfection I am assured will disappear as she comes to years of discretion.

Mrs Smith begs her kind regards to William, to you, to Mr Beach, & all the family. To the first mentioned personage she is about to write immediately. - I am much pleased with what you say of William, he is really a very good fellow, & we have all a very sincere regard for him.

God bless you dear Madam - my best regards to Mr Beach & believe me
yours ever

Sydney Smith

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, pp. 146-7. NCS 64, to which it adds.

TS or Williamsnip.

✓ 74
To Sir William Forbes

[Aug 1802]

46 George St. -- Tuesday. --

Dear Sr. William. --

In saying that I am extremely pleas'd & flatter'd with your request I do not speak the language of Courtesy but express my real feelings -- because (I must take the Liberty of saying) I know no more unequivocal proof of my doing my duty well, than that my efforts should meet with the approbation of such men as yourself --

In begging to be excus'd from sending you my Sermon, I am afraid I must expose myself to the imputation of presumption in order to avoid the appearance of being unfeeling & impolite: -- but the fact is I have uniformly begg'd to be allow'd permission to decline similar invitations which have been made to me by persons for whom I have entertain'd the highest respect. --

Will you allow me to call upon you any hour of the day to read my Sermon to you ? -- I will merely stay to read it -- & shall be sincerely happy so to do ? --

I have not troubl'd your family with messages, & Enquiries, but I have felt for them & for yourself the very severe blow which has falln upon you all -- that God may give you strength of mind to support it well, I sincerely pray -- & I remain dr Sr William with the truest respect yr obedient humble Servant --

Sydney Smith --

Mrs S is just recovering from a fever of some consequence -- I shall return to Edinburgh tomorrow night -- & hope you will not scruple after that ~~to~~ lay yr

/comands

✓ 74.1

(Aug 1802)

lay ~~y~~ commands upon me --

Text from xerox of National Library of Scotland, Forbes MSS. (Durham accession).

Watermarked: BUTTANSHAW / 1798

A bit earlier, perhaps

76

TS Saturday 1802

To Mrs Hicks Beach

[1803?] she was there in Aug 1801 Before [Jan 1803] [Aug 1802]

My dear Madam

I thank you very kindly for your good wishes, & your friendly letter. Mrs Smith thank God is very well, so is my darling little Girl of whom Mr Beach has been so good as to make ^{such} a favorable report. Let me request Mr Beach & you to reflect upon the bad consequences of keeping Michael so many years at home - I am sure you will repent it when too late - pray send him into the Militia. I meant to have given Mr Beach a lecture upon it - but had no opportunity. You can send him abroad with Mr Astley after the War - at present, you are preventing him from taking the air & exercise of life for fear of his taking cold. I have been so long in the habit of taking this sort of liberty with Mr Beach & yourself, that I trust you will excuse the present instance of it. -

[no 9]

Give our love to Henrietta - the Miss Oliers speak in high terms of the goodness of her understanding, & the integrity of her nature; tell her so - & it will make her happy. Our best wishes my dear Madam await Mr Beach, yourself, & all your household.

sincerely & respectfully yours

Sydney Smith

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, pp. 162-3.

TS at Williamsip dated Saturday 1802

More work needed on date

Mrs Hicks-Beach is one of those mentioned by Lady Stollery [exhaust in file] as being of the Miss Oliers?

77

To Mrs Hicks Beach

Autumn 1802

TS
Saturday

26 George St, Edinburgh 1802

My dear Madam

Did I not tell you, you would spoil your Son William ^f if you took him home this year? You promised moderation, but of moderation on this point I knew you were not capable. - I am now expecting him every day, as the term will soon begin.

[9]
Gordon

- Mrs ^S Smith I am sure you will be delighted to hear is perfectly well, & my little girl noisy, healthy, & beautiful. - She is just weaned. There is a letter lying here from William to Mr Gordon, who is gone to Aberdeen to meet his Guardians, & returns in a few days. We have been making a tour of a few days to Loch Lomond, Glasgow, Falls of the Clyde &c. - Nothing amused me so much on the tour, as the severe censure Mrs Smith received from the Landlady at Luss for asking for a clean Towel in preference to a ^r dirty one - a preference the good hostess seemed to attribute entirely to caprice. - I am very sorry Mr Beach did not visit (when on the same Tour,) Blair Drummond Moss - one of the most spirited scenes of agricultural improvement I have ever yet seen. You will read a most interesting account of it in the Encyclopedia Britannica under the ^a Article Moss.

Pray give me an account of Michaels conversation with Bonaparte - which latter personage will unquestionably receive from Mithoffer some very valuable hints on the subject of Government.

God bless you dear Madam - may you enjoy all happiness, & in the midst of your engagements do not forget to remember me very kindly to Mr Beach

S S.

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, pp. 148-9.

TS at Williamsburg

78

To Mrs Hicks Beach

8 Nov 1802

46 George St Novembr 8th 1802

My dear Madam

I have not written to you because I know the folly & absurdity of attempting to palliate such losses - a truth well inforced just now from the situation of Mrs Smith who has just received the intelligence of Mrs Pybus's death this morning. - I hope it may not have happened that William has sent in, passing through London, to know if she has any commands - because such an answer as he ³ must receive ¹ would shock him. - We shall be glad to see him here as soon as you can spare him, as the Lectures are begun. ² ^[9] Mrs Pybus' death will probably take me to London for a few days, but not just now: best regards to Mr Beach

?note

yours dear Madam ever

Sydney Smith

MS. Gordon N. Ray, St John transcript, p. 150.

/ inferred better no

TS at Williamsip. Additional thing noted.

✓