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To Sir James McIntosh

Sep
[1804]

My dear Sr James --

May I never be a prebend if ever I spend the month of September again in this horrible city. -- Such detestable unpoetical noises, such red hot Stinks. -- I would rather quit London altogether. -- however all this is nothing to the purpose which is to say I hope you are all well -- and that you are happy at Bombay. -- I strongly recommend you to take bribes not small ones -- but those of the upper class -- calculated to promote your return -- you will be punished in another world for it -- but you will be highly respected in this if you employ your wealth in expensive equipage, and savory repasts. -- of myself I have little information to give you. I am called a good preacher & there the matter rests -- Mrs Smith and Saba are quite well. -- The Edinburgh review goes on, and as you will perceive Lord Lauderdale has been fool enough to write a pamphlet against the review of his book, of which Brougham is the author. -- this latter gentleman has ingratiated himself a good deal with the Saints here upon earth, by their common opposition to the Slave trade. Pitt pays them such court that I think they will be able to bring Brougham into parliament -- unless Bonaparte should have put him into the Workhouse at Amsterdam to hard labor for to Amsterdam he is gone in spite [sic] of the advice of all his friends. -- Nothing out of the way has happened to any of your friends they are all nearly in the state in which you left them. -- but this [they will ms. torn] probably say for themselves. -- poor Taste Allison keeps his bed & has kept it for 2 months past. he is I am afraid a dead man -- there perishes with him much feeling, goodness. and knowledge. -- he departs when in all probability he would have enjoyed 20 years of good life and he

/leaves.....

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 ([1804] cont.)

leaves behind him an admirable wife and 5 helpless children. --
 these are sorrowful things [...] may you live my dear McIntosh, prosper.
 & return to many years of laughing and controversy with your friends --
 our kind love to Lady M --
 God bless you.

S Smith --

[Addressed:] Sir James McIntosh / Recorder / Bombay

Text from my transcript of N.L.S. MS. 5319, ff. 193-4.

From Myers Cat. 384 Autumn 1955, no. 218

*Mackintosh spent his last evening in London
 at ^{Rogers's} ~~Sydney's~~ house in ~~Daughty~~ Street in company
 with Sydney, Sharp, Francis Horner & others. — 25*

Jan 1804 · Horner, Horner (1853), i. 256

To Maria Smith

1²/₇ Nov 1804

(2)

1804 -- November 16 --

(1)

Monday

I am Auditor Mr Garnault Treasurer November 12th. --

My dearest Maria --

I have rec'd a Lr from Cecil by an overland Despatch (I fancy) inclosing a copy of one sent to my father in which he states that £1600 has been transmitted to my father for the purpose of forwarding the suit, that nothing has been done -- and concludes with calling upon me in the strongest & most affecting manner to assisst [sic] him and to rescue him from his disgrace -- you know the language I have uniformly held respecting Cecils divorce -- that nothing could be more cruel ^[passage delete] -- and impolitic than not to carry it thro', if carried thro' it could be. -- you see what the plea of Mrs Cecils health has come to. -- the plea of her moderation is still more extraordinary -- would you trust her with £100 -- and if not would you trust her with Cecils whole fortune ? -- but however I waive the consideration of the past -- I will suppose my father beleives he has made all practical efforts -- and only abstains from prosecuting the suit because he beleives it to be impossible to succeed. -- I must here take the Liberty of differing from him -- Sufficient Evidence can only be procur'd by constant and unremitting efforts of a person living in London -- by a free expenditure of money, and

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100.1

(1²/₈ Nov 1804)

even by bribery. — in short by all the arts well known to an active Lawyer, and without the employment of which guilt would escape much more frequently than it does. — Such activity, and such resources I am sure my Father could not have employ'd in London — his time did not allow of it. — I therefore make this proposition — will he consent to put this money in the hands of Jasper Vaux and John Trower as Trustees for the purpose of which the money was sent — & will he devolve the activity of the prosecution upon me — empowering them to defray the Expences. — I will pledge myself before 6 months are over my head to carry the divorce thro the Ecclesiastical courts — and in a twelvemonth from that date to get it thro' the house — or by the complete history of the depositions of every evidence in England to convince Cecil it is impossible. — even if the first divorce a mensâ & thoro is obtaind — he is protected from her debts tho' he cannot marry again — I beg a clear and speedy answer to this business - ** [and I shall wait for your answer before I take any other step - passage deleted]**. — I hope my father *will not imagine that any disagreement* which exists between us has induc'd me to stir in this ^{us} business. **[He has treated me and mine with conceited [~~is~~?] cruelty and injustice but - passage deleted]** I heartily **[forgive him and - passage deleted]** wish him all happiness - I impute to him no blame - I only say I think him mistaken if [he] [seal] beleives

/cont.....

100.2

(1²/₆ Nov 1804)

he has us'd all the activity necessary to procure Evidence —
and that I think Such a cause cannot be undertaken by any man
out of London — — I consider the necessity Cecil has
laid me under of interfering in this business as a very serious
misfortune. by the proposal I make, his money is put out of my
power, and I am securing to myself nothing but trouble — if you
were to read his Letter to me your heart would bleed — It is my
absolute duty to assist him — I am sure his ruin is hatching by
those women and his misery certain if he is not divorced from his
infamous wife — nothing short of such conviction should induce
me to encounter the obloquy and anger to which I am exposing
myself —

G'd bless you —

Sydney.

[Addressed:] Miss Smith / Robert Smith Esqr / Berrow Court /
Ledbury / Herefordshire —

[Postmarked:] GRENVILLE STREET | and another, illegible.

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30733

deletions are in a darker ink, says Miss P. (ltr of 11. x. 69)

101

To Robert Smith

[late 1804]

Dr Sr. --

I think you only incapable of executing this business from the distance at which you live. and for no other reason whatever. I interfer'd only from receiving the most solemn and affecting injunction from Cecil so to do. -- if you doubt my having receivd such a Lr from Cecil -- I am ready to extract passages from it that will more than justify my assertion -- and to shew those passages in the original to John Trower. the whole Letter I will on no account give up ~~or~~ suffer to be read. --

Unless I am quite certain we meet to put an end to the most groundless and extraordinary difference that I beleive ever existed -- I beg leave to decline meeting at all -- when I know that it is to be a preliminary I am ready to attend you any where. -- I have nothing to trouble you with at the N.R. Company -- and I particularly request that we may conduct ourselves there as we have always done [-] no place could be more improper for such a purpose -- I am dr Sr --

Sydney Smith --

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esq.

says Miss Preston in Ltr of 11. xi. 69

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30434

To Robert Smith

[late 1804]

My reason for refusing to meet you — is that I think you have for these four years last past treated me, & mine with the greatest cruelty and injustice. & I never will meet you or speak to you voluntarily any where — till you have done me the strict justice of calling upon me and taking me by the hand. — for the same reason I decline acting under you — or being forc'd to apply to you for the money necessary to carry on the divorce. & this is the reason and no other why I ask'd that the money might be put in the hands of Messrs V. & T. — I have no new information to give you — I repeat again that I am as certain as I can be of anything that the divorce may be carried thro' the Commons with proper and active management — do you doubt it yourself — does Mr Bogg doubt it ? — I repeat again for the third time that I do accuse you of nothing, & have accus'd you of nothing. — I have said so in my first Lr. distinctly. — It is not true (tho' I am sure you think it so) that I have arraign'd your zeal your integrity your abilities or your honor — I arraign only your distance — I may be wrong but I am quite convinced as to that point. — I think the following paragraphs in Cecils Lr — dated June 7th 1803 — will justify me in the mind of any impartial man as to the Steps I have taken — and which if IF [sic] the gentlemen you allude to had read — they would perhaps have been of a different opinion. ——— "I do not know whether my father has shewn you the papers but I conjure you by all the ties which have ever united us to exert yourself in this business & to see my

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10.2.1

(late 1804)

father upon it — do not let any little quarrel which may exist between you & him deter you upon this occasion consider that the happiness nay the Salvation of a brother who tenderly loves you is at Stake — — — — — The power I sent is made also to you the Trowers or any body else you may chuse to appoint - for gods sake follow up the business and write me word exactly how it stands. — he then desires me to see his wife — and ends by saying in short my beloved Brother. try all means to releive me from my misery —

I think after this you will hardly call my interference impertinent. —
Suppose Mrs Topping dies in 6 years time — where is Cecils guarantie — and where are then his witnesses to carry on his cause ? — the guarantie only extends to £4000 Mrs Ramus spent £15000. for her husband Mrs Buller 20,000. — but I am almost confident the guarantie is not worth a farthing. — I wish in writing to me you would abstain from invective and incivility and confine yourself to business — but however you may chuse to indulge in this or to misrepresent me to others — I will go calmly on in what I think to be right — I saw what I should draw down on my head & I should think myself the basest of human beings if I declined it — If I find that this correspondence cannot be carried on with more temper and good manners — I must also beg leave to avoid that as well as our meeting — I have no

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102.2

(late 1804)

longer any thing to hope for//from you or any thing to fear —
you have long treated me as an outcast, & a stranger — merely
because I am poor — — & therefore I must at least request
that civility to which every Stranger is entitld. —

S S. —

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30435

To Robert Smith

[late 1804]

I tell you most distinctly & plainly I will do my duty in this business without irritating you if possible, but if not at all events. — you have long known that I am legally empower'd to interfere — you now see I am call'd upon to interfere in the most earnest manner — Will you send me all the evidence you have collected with the written opinion of Counsel — that such evidence is not sufficient ~~for~~ the commons. — if you will & if there appears to me to be no other evidence to be collected & if the opinion of Counsel is decisive I will give up the matter — & write any letter to Cecil expressive of the hopelessness of the case . . and there will be an end to you of all the trouble with me — If you will neither do this, nor prosecute the cause yourself — I shall then take such steps in advising Cecil — as the general opinion of the family & my own conscience tell me are right. —

S S.—

Whatever^{be} the state of Cecil's debts — and whatever be his imprudence — and whatever be the expence of divorce — if he furnishes you with money for that purpose — he has a right to his divorce. and no reflection upon the sum it will cost is lawfully and properly a consideration of yours —

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100

To Sir James Mackintosh

1 Dec 1804

My dear McIntosh. --

I have seen your Letter written to Sharp -- and should have read it with more pleasure -- had you written it with more -- however Lucian says that the Ghosts did not find the Elysian fields pleasant for the first two or three days -- their food was too light and airy -- their companions rather too wise and their existence a little too ^{rat} rational -- I do not say or suppose your complaints will be similar to these -- but whatever they are -- I have no doubt that by this time many of them are remov'd. -- Nothing has occur'd in the ^v Club we have been Lemonade ever since you left us -- we were punch before, and stringer in old Bobus's time whom God preserve and restore to his affectionate subjects at the Crown & Anchor -- Mr Ward son of Lord Dudley is admitted a Member worthily and properly. -- the austere and decorous Romilly sometimes appears among us -- but confines himself to his usual allowance of 8 words. of which half are yes and no -- I wish to god the prophets mantle had falln upon him, & that we could hear from him some of those interesting discussions, or enjoy ^{i?} on his company that free communication, which we all heard, and enjoy'd in the society of the great Oriental Recorder --

I am reading Lectures on moral philosophy at the Institution which I

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104.1
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(1 Dec 1804)

think is without any exception the most perfect example of impudence recorded
 in history. -- The Subjects of my first course are Introductory -- in praise
 of Metaphysics -- 2 antient Metaphysics -- 3 modern -- 4 Perception -- 5
Conception -- 6 -- Memory 7 [Abstraction and Association -- 8. Imagination --
 9. Judgement & Reason 10 -- Conduct of the understanding. -- let prayers be
 put up for me not only in Christian Churches at Bombay -- but in all the
 temples by all the Brahmins to the Persian Gulph Westward and as far North
 as Delhi.-- and let the God Christon^{*} be appeas'd with a foreign virgin.
 **
 Why not Miss Daubigny. God bless you & Lady M -- you will always be dear to
 me -- God bless and protect you -- and above all enrich you and bring you
 back ----

NB

Unsigned.

Addressed: Sr James M^cintosh / Recorder / Bombay. --

December 1st 1804. —

Endorsed: Unanswered / Letters from Sidney Smith / of September & December
1804 / Recd 20th June 1805 --

Watermarked: J. WHATMAN / 1801

* Just possibly Christon Lady Krishna?
 ** possibly Maria d'Aubigny - composer, singer, teacher.
 M.L.S. MS. Adv. 36.1.7b, ff.1-2.