

105  
To Robert Smith

[Early 1805]

Sr. —

I call'd this morning upon Mrs W. Smith who with her usual frankness of character, and with the same friendliness towards us all which she has always exhibited tax'd me with having conducted myself in a disrespectful manner towards you — — The impression your conversation had made upon her was that the main obstacle to our meeting had been an etiquette insisted ~~on~~ upon by me, that you should call upon me before I call'd upon you. — Now I beleive that in my Letter To John Trower — or in my Letter left for you at John Trowers I have distinctly said — I will meet you any where if you will [be][sic] reconcil'd to me — and I think the whole spirit of my late correspondence with you is contain'd in the 2 following propositions —

1st If you are resolv'd not to be reconcild with me I beg leave to decline meeting you any where upon any subject —

2d. If you agree to be reconcil'd with me I will meet you any where — for that purpose or any other. —

Such are the ideas I intended my Letters to convey, and if they have convey'd any other it is the fault either of your interpretation or my expression — If I have mention'd calling upon me I only meant it as a sign of reconciliation if the thing is done. & it will give you any pleasure I will come an hundred miles for the purpose — as willingly as one yard — nothing could be more absurd than that I should stand out as a matter of Etiquette upon

cont.....

65.2

T

your calling upon me. — I am quite above any such thing — I only mean to say let us live as father & Son, or not at all I wish for the former very sincerely, you have constantly rejected my repeated offers for that purpose. — I write this Letter merely to correct the mistake into which you have fallen —

*I am &c. &c.*

Sydney Smith —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esqr / John Roberts Esq / John Street /  
2.— / Bedford Row

[Endorsed:] In Mrs Smith's Letter

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Huntington Library microfilm. HM 30438

✓ 107  
To Sir James Mackintosh

20 Feb 1805

My dear McIntosh. --

I am fond of London, but when I read yr Lr I almost wish to be Primate of Bumbay because I think that I could make a noise -- and kick up that sort of riot which is necessary as a stimulus to yr relaxed nervous system. -- I am so amazingly taken up by Sermons and Lectures that I cannot write you long Journals -- but I will write you every month a condensed Epitome of Londinensia -- not quite so sensibly as Tacitus would do it -- but as briefly -- I am getting on in the popular line as a preacher -- and I think my first course of Lectures has answered in the completest manner -- I speak of an undertaking of a frivolous nature as Lectures on Moral philosophy before a mixt audience of Men & Women must necessarily be -- I have 10 more Lectures to read this year upon Wit and humor 2 -- upon Taste 3 -- and upon the other Subjects I have not yet fixd -- my acquaintance with Sloperilla goes on always -- we are very good friends -- I think Sense is her fort not Talent -- and affectation her defect -- the old man gains upon me a good deal. -- and so does age upon him --

NB/ poor Sr Thomas Rivers is dead -- he died of dropsy ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> consequence of old age -- at 33 -- Nature had only given him a Stamina for such a period. -- I saw a good deal of him in Town & lik'd him very much -- he has left all

/his .....

107.1  
✓

(20 Feb 1805)

NBS]

his fortune to his Mother -- Maltby is in Town has completely quarrell'd with  
his Bishop-- gets nearly a thousand pr Annum from pupils -- is happier  
richer as more gay -- and the latter end of Job is better than his beginning --  
Hall your friend at Cambridge is mad and never likely to recover -- the  
general reception of the doctrine of utility overturn'd him -- we go on  
vigorously at the King of Clubs -- and tho' we have lost two such vigorous  
limbs as Bobus the Priapist, and yourself we are a very merry torso & are  
resolved to live it out to the last. Butler came one day attempted his  
Stories again -- found it would not do & retir'd. Kate just about to be  
brought to bed begs to be very affectionately rememberd. God ever bless you  
my dear philosopher -- we will have a good deal of laughing and nonsense  
and sense yet before we die -- ever Yrs

NBS] NO

[G]\*

S Smith --

Addressed: Sr James McIntosh / Bombay / Feby 20 1805 //

Postmarked: C 21 FE 1805 (and) Theobalds Road

Watermarked: CURTEIS & SON / 1803

Decided yes

\* On other end of letter flap, not indented, but legitimately to be taken as a ¶

N.L.S. Adv. MS. 36.1.7b, ff.3-4.

✓ 108  
To Sir James Mackintosh

[March 1805]

My dear Mcintosh. --

We all take great interest in your Lrs -- & they make the general subject of conversation whenever they arrive. -- they are certainly not of a very sanguine complexion. -- but I have no doubt will put on the appearance of health as you become more habituated to the place. -- or if time does not produce any reconciliation in the Recorders mind toward Bombay it will at least convince him that the quantity of his disgust is diminish'd and the period of his Liberation is nearer at hand. ----- I have made no new acquaintance worth mentioning since I saw you but live with the old Set. -- Brougham cuts up exceedingly well. -- he is not crazy -- which at one time I thought would certainly be the case -- but rational -- and abounding in a variety of talent. --

NB c/ I have got a little boy by the ordinary means -- he is doing very well as is his mother. -- The King of Clubs flourishes -- and is pronounc'd to be the pleasantest Club in London. -- Sloperilla is well but still continues impenetrably cold to the advances of her numerous Lovers. -- If I had been unmarried, I should certainly have made her an offer of marriage -- not from any particular affection -- but because every body does. -- I should not be surpriz'd if our friend in Mark Lane was renewing the attack --

/at ....

108.1



(March 1805)

at least he has been employ'd in getting a house for them at Mickleham --  
 I should be truly glad to hear it was the case -- she is a very respectable  
 good girl at bottom, morally I mean, for physical bottom she has none -- &  
 [Sharp] [heavily deleted] <sup>to S.</sup> is the best of men tho' ugly beyond forgiveness.  
 he is as wise and ugly as the Serpent, and as innocent & <sup>as</sup> amorous as the dove.  
 John Allen is just come to London & was pull'd out of the boxes by a  
 constable and turn'd into the pilt with the loss of half a snuff color'd coat --  
 with which he had figur'd at the Pembroke Sessions -- It was at young Roscius  
 who has made the fortunes of all the young Surgeons near the Theatres by  
 the enormous quantity of contusions, & fractures his celebrity has occasion'd  
 -- God bless you my dr McIntosh I am very sincerely and affectionately Yrs

NB]

Cressly

Sydney Smith //

Love from both to Lady M. --

Addressed: Sr James McIntosh / Recorder / Bombay. --

Endorsed: Sidney Smith / Received 12th. August / Ansd. 24th Septr.

Watermarked: CURTEIS & SON / 1803

109

7  
T

To Robert Smith

[25 Mar 1805]

Sr. —

I have receiv'd today from my Sister a request to transact some business for you with Mr Rowe respecting the allowance of the Land Tax — I shall be very sorry to offend you, but I must absolutely decline that, and every other commission, while we still remain upon our present terms. — It is now four Years since you have abjur'd all intercourse with me, my wife, and my children, and only last Summer you refus'd me leave to remain under your roof for a single night — Whenever you think fit to acknowledge me and mine and to live with us as your nearest relations, **I**t will give me pleasure to execute any commission for you however little or however great. — till then I sincerely request that every species of intercourse may cease between us — I have made up my mind to the unjust and unmerited treatment I have experienc'd — I have forgiven it, and wish to forget it — such little commissions can only be of trifling importance to you — but they awaken a thousand remembrances in my mind — and undo all I have been doing —

I am Sr yr obedient humble Servant

Sydney Smith —

8 Doughty St

Brunswick Square —

Friday. —

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Huntington Library microfilm.

*HM 30437*  
*Friday was the 29th in this year*  
*? 22nd & dated from a pm of receipt*

110  
To Maria Smith

This comes after the '25 Mar]'<sup>29</sup>  
letter [Feb. 1805] and should  
be replaced.

My dearest Maria —

I of course cannot have the smallest objection to your sending my Lr to Mr Roberts or to any body else to whom you or my father may wish to send it — I sincerely hope all difference of opinion is at an end between my father & me — & that I shall not give him cause to repent of this reconciliation for which I now sincerely thank him. — I sincerely wish that any Law suit my father engages in with Mr Yate — (which I have no doubt will be at least necessary, unless Mr Donovan turns out to be a very worthy sensible man — ) might be conducted by Mr Pitt of Cirencester who is a ~~very~~ worthy, active, & sensible man and would do as much good by his authority and personal knowledge of the parties, as he would be his abilities as a Lawyer — but the propriety of employing him I have no doubt my father has consider'd — as the name of Mr Pitt is very well known to him —

It would certainly be a very desireable thing if Mr Yate were to take the place again — it may suit you in some respects — but it surely cannot suit you in others. — it is too large & too distant — you are inaccessible to yr friends — as they are to you — — my sincere hope is my father will either buy or rent some place about 15 or 20 miles from London — & run backwards & forwards to my house in Town exactly as he finds it convenient or amusing — this would be most agreeable to me and so far the idea looks selfish — but I am sure it would all circumstances

cont.....



consider'd suit my father the best. — my little boy is out  
 of danger — <sup>para?</sup> Mrs Jasper Vaux — must go — I should think I  
 cannot imagine she can be sav'd — It is very probable I may  
 have been misled by the very energetic — affecting Lr of Cecil  
 into a conduct disrespectful to my father — if so I request him  
 to include this in my apology also and he will add to the  
 obligation he has already conferr'd upon me — God bless  
 you my dearest Maria — I was forc'd to Xn my little boy — 10  
 days ago — I did not expect he would live — his name is Douglas —  
 You must send me frequent accounts of how my father is going on —  
 I hope his health will be quite restor'd against the return of  
 warm weather —

S S. —

There has been p'd to my Frs banker

|           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Dividend. | 199. 13. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Land Tax  | <u>25</u>                |
| Total     | — 224. 13. 4 —           |

If he had not redemm'd L. Tax he would have received only the  
 first Sum. 199.13—4— $\frac{1}{4}$  it seems to be thought Mr Pitt must go  
 out —

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30439

'Wm. 1803'

112

To Josiah [2] Wedgwood

6 Jul 1805

8. Doughty St  
Brunswick Square --  
July 6th 1805 --

My dear Sr. --

When the Lease of yr chapel in York St is expir'd will you give me the refusal of it -- I shall not be quite as enthusiastic a tenant as its present occupiers are -- but I hope as good an one to you -- I am very sorry our rambles this Summer will take a direction so contrary to Dorsetshire or we should have had the greatest pleasure in paying our respects to Mrs Wedgewood & yourself. -- This Lr will be brought to you by a Mr Allen of Wales -- a very promising young Gentleman whom I beg to introduce to your acquaintance, he is totally free from the vices of his Countrymen and neither addicted to genealogy or cheese -- he has to be sure fallen into some wicked courses in London by keeping company with Mr Phillimore -- a gay deceiver of this place -- but from these habits he will I have no doubt be gradually estrang'd by the regularity of yr family -- with best regards to yr amiable Lady from Mrs S. ++ and myself I remain dr Sr with real esteem & regard -- Yrs very truly.

Sydney Smith --

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Text from Wedgwood Museum, MS. 16094-89. Endorsed Sydney Smith July 6 1805

Mrs Sydney's "Recollections" give some details.

Cresselly

✓ 116  
From Dr Gerrard Andrews

17 Dec 1805

Piccadilly, 17 December 1805.

Dear Sir,

The receipt of your very obliging and important letter has given me some anxiety, because I am fearful that my reply may not seem to indicate <sup>S</sup> such a wish to promote your comfort as I in reality possess. But the truth is that many applications similar to yours have at different times been made to my Predecessors, who have always thought it adviseable not to admit any additional Chapels into the Parish of St James, which unlike the neighbouring ones of St George and Marylebone is now incapable of increase; and our present Chapels' being by no means full affords a reason in itself sufficient, for not adding to their numbers, without mentioning that I should be highly blameable in allowing any innovations in the Parish which might have even the possibility of being disagreeable to my Successors -- for tho' to me a connection with you must be highly flattering, they who follow us may not have so good an opinion of each other. It is no compliment for me to say, Sir, that your superior talents and abilities, with the happy gift you so eminently possess of rendering them useful, must ever make you regarded as a great treasure by those who have the happiness to receive your instructions; and fortunate would it have been for my parish if so able a man as yourself had been placed at the head of it -- for

/believe .....

116 ✓

(17 Dec 1805)

believe me, Sir, when I was called from my obscurity to the Station I now fill, I had no merits to plead, nor do I consider myself as placed in it through any deserts of my own, but solely by the partiality of my Diocesan, by whom I had not the smallest expectation of being thus noticed: and I trust, Sir, that I shall ever retain an humble remembrance of what I was, as well as a desire to promote (as far as may be in my power) the good of those who may, tho' more deserving, be less fortunate than myself, whenever it is consistent with my duty.

I am, Sir, with very great respect your obliged and faithfully Servant,

Gerr: Andrews.

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Text from my transcript of Mrs Sydney's copy in MS. D.C.L.Holland; see note to my fair copy (foolscap) of NCS 108.

117  
To Robert Smith

30  
7  
31 Dec [1805]

Tuesday. — 31st December 8. Doughty St —

My dear Sr —

I am happy to inform you that my brother Robert has sent over to me £500. to pay to you which I shall do to yr banker tomorrow — and the same every first of January — all the observation he makes upon it is — "say to my father that it will give Caroline and me pleasure if out of this Sum he can contrive to let Maria see London once a year — ——— I am sorry he has made me the instrument of his offer to you — because I am afraid it will be unpleasant to you — but remember I only do so as I am instructed and that if any thing displeases you — the fault is not mine — ——— the date of my Lrs are of the 29th of June — from Cecil & Cortenay I have heard nothing

On public news I am silent because there is nothing to say — that is pleasant. — <sup>space</sup> Miss Vernon writes rather despondingly of her neice — it is really a melancholy thing. — Miss Vernon offer'd to keep a carriage for Maria while she was in Town — in consequence of the disappointment she would feel — at not having the use of hers Miss Vernons carriage — I said I would not even mention it to Maria as it was wholly out of the question — tho' I thanked her very much for her goodness — There is not one Syllable of news in Mrs Robert Smith's Lrs — tho' they are filld with complaints of Servants & climate. & such like nonsense however they are very kind — which is better than if they were

cent.....

117.1

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(31 Dec 1805)

very witty — I cannot get a frank — but I thought I would  
not delay writing — as the receipt of money is always pleasant. —  
Mrs S begs her love — and I am my dr Sr yrs very affectionately  
& respectfully

Sydney Smith —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esq / Berrow Court / Ledbury /  
Herefordshire — // Sydney Smith —

[Postmarked:] JA 1 1806 A

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Huntington Library microfilm. HM 30740