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To Francis Jeffrey

[3 Apr 1806]

Thursday

My dear Jeffrey

I am truly sorry to perceive that we are not to see you this Spring -- The accomplished Timotheus is arrived and by his arrival put an end to my hopes of seeing you -- a gratification difficult enough at all times God knows -- for this Spring impossible

I met Timothy by accident at a Club but he has not yet found his way here, at which I very much rejoice as it is a proof he is rising in the World -- nothing affords me such genuine satisfaction as to be deserted by old friends because I love their prosperity much better than their company -- Mrs S & Saba and Douglas are perfectly well & beg to be kindly remembered -- I am afraid you do not advance with the Riddels -- what is the reason are you quite discreet in Spirituals I am afraid not -- these are important points with all Women with them essential

Remember me very kindly to John Murray I have receiv'd his Letter from Burnt Island and will answer it soon -- I hope we shall get a sight of him somehow or another this year Your last Review of Hallam is not at all liked I am sure you will be the last person to say any thing in its defence -- but the credit of the review is too firmly established to be so shaken albeit and nevertheless do not imagine as you have rashly written to the

(3 Apr 1806)

active Brougham & the obscure Druifond that a blunder about Pindar does not agitate this Town for the public passions here go in this Sequence -- The King -- Greek -- Invasion -- The Edinburgh Review -- The lay of the last Minstrel Heaven -- &c &c &c -- So that I as[sure] you ~~it~~ will require three or 4 of your masterly ~~criticisms~~ criticisms to wash away this Stultification of Pindar. -- Horner is now a placeman & Pensioner -- Brougham I dare say will soon become so -- I only remain -- but the sooner I divest myself of this Irregularity the better -- remember me kindly to Dugald Stewart & Allison -- Lord Minto praises him to the Skies -- I think he will be a Canon -- God bless you my d<sup>r</sup> Jeffrey ever your most sincere and affectionate friend

Sydney Smith

Why has not man a microscopic Eye  
That he might better learn to see Jeffrey

[Addressed:] Francis Jeffrey Esq / Queen St / Edinburgh

[Postmarked:] 4 Apr 1806

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Text from transcript by the owner, Dr J.C. Corson.

Thursday was 3 Apr in that year.



118.2  
Payne] Knight's Inquiry  
into the Principles of Taste

ER 7 January 1806

H. reviewed & condemned  
certain Greek verses,  
not knowing they were  
taken from Pindar.

Hence Byron's sneer at  
& 'classic Hallam,  
much renowned for Greek'  
in English Bard & Soldier  
Reviews.

GM 18307.389

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From Lord Erskine

6 Oct 1806

Dear Sir

I am favored with your obliging letter, & I should be guilty of insincerity, & be taking a merit to which I have no claim, if I were not to say that I should have given the living to the nominee of Lord & Lady Holland without any personal consideration; at the same time I can add very truly that I thought myself most fortunate indeed that the friend they selected was so deserving, & one that I should have been happy to have been useful to on his own & his Brothers account.

I shall feel great pleasure in cultivating your kind acquaintance,

I have the Honor to be Dear Sir

Your faithful Humble Sert

Erskine

Hampstead

Octr. 6th 1806.

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New College Oxford, Archives 4429, no. 69. *[Transcript in my NCO notes, pp 256.]*

*Reid<sup>4</sup> pp. 130-1, which this corrects.*