

121
To Lewis

8 Jan 1807

18 Orchard St
Portman Square

Dear Lewis

Divine Service begins at $\frac{1}{2}$ past eleven -- therefore if you will be so good as to be here a quarter before ten you will be in very good time for breakfast. To admire my discourse you must have faith but faith not as a grain of mustard seed -- rather less bitter --

Yours always with respect & regard

Sydney Smith

Jany 8 1807

Text from Mrs Zall's transcript of Huntington MS 131334/1883, a grangerized copy of The Life, Letters and Literary Remains of Edward Bulwer, Lord Lytton, by his Son, Lond., 1893, inserted after II.309. No address or postmark.

123

33

T

To Maria Smith

[? 11 Jan 1807]

[All except signature is in hand of C.A.S.]

Saturday night

My dear Maria

I am sorry, not surprised that I have offended my Father respecting the transmission of this money; because previous experience has shewn me how difficult it is, either from my want of skill, or from the nature of the arrangements to avoid giving offence. I must be excused for still maintaining my opinion that under your proposed arrangement, & in case of the non payment of the bill, I should have been the person call^d upon. Nothing could be further from my intentions than to insinuate the slightest want of confidence in Mr. Cazalet whom I respect for his honourable & regard for his amiable qualities; I merely meant to say, according to the regular, & received practice on these occasions, that if money is to be deposited it had better be deposited at Banking Houses. — ^{para} You mention that the delay of this money would occasion my Father "incredible inconvenience", to this statement I yield, really against my better judgement, & against the spirit of the instructions I have received from my brother. The bill is enclosed endorsed to my Father, & it is at his disposal to do what he pleases with. I shall be much obliged to you to let me know that it is received.

You cannot I am sure seriously suppose what the Clerk of the India house said about the payment of the bill, to be of the

cont.....

123.1

T

(11 Jan 1807)

slightest importance or authority

I cannot conclude without lamenting that with every disposition to conduct myself respectfully & dutifully towards my Father I should be placed without my own consent in a situation that cannot fail to leave on his mind very disagreeable impressions towards me.

I remain my dear Maria

with great affection yours

Sydney Smith

I have published a Sermon which I would send you but that the carriage wd. cost a great deal more than the Sermon itself --

[Continues on next leaf:]

My dearest Maria I have only time to repeat my request that you wd have the goodness to send a pattern of the cotton & needles to Mrs. Olier as soon as you can as I cannot proceed with my work for want of them. -- I had a letter from Mrs. O. yesterday & she told me she had long delayd [seal] she might be able to say my com~~m~~is[sion] was executed, but that she had not heard a word from you [on] the subject. -- They are at^{*} present at No. 5 Dirweston Street Portman Square -- Poor little Boy has had a sharp fever for 4 or 5 days, which I thought would terminate in measles but it has gone off,

cont.....

123.2

(*) & I hope I shall be able to tell you
it is quite subdued,

(11 Jan 1807)

leaving him very thin & still very languid a little fever
still lurks about him for his animation & his appetite are
gone tho' he no longer complains - we watch it closely, but
the poor little fellow kept his bed for 3 days. - Good night
dearest Maria - kindest love to F_ather. -

Yours ever my dear Sister

C A S.

Syd has reopened th^e letter & upon 2d thoughts sent the bill
to Mr. Cazalet endorsed to my F_ather, as your post is so irreg-
ular the letters sometimes coming by a boy sometimes not at all,
& the chance of your having left Lydiard as you talk of doing
tomorrow week or sooner if the India fleet arrives, that he
thought it safest & best to do so My F_ather can have it sent
to him from town is he like it more easily to Bath -

[Addressed:] Miss Smith / Lydiard / Taunton / Somersetshire - /

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30743

124

34
T

To Maria Smith

13 Jan [1807]

My dear Maria —

I am afraid Cecil has been playing the fool in India most egregiously a whole host of accusations is come over against him upon the subject of accounts — and he is certainly suspended. — I would advise my father to come to Town about it directly. as thro' the means of Mr Roberts he may be able to do some good. — I am happy however to tell you that Lord W. Bentinck is entirely with him — the accusation is conjointly against Mr Buchan and Cecil — We have a bed for my father in case he thinks it right to come up and chuses to lodge here — when^{re} of course we shall be very glad to see him —

NCS
136.181

Yrs ever my dearest Sister

Sydney Smith —

January 13th 1806. [sic]

18 Orchard St Portman Square —

I dare say my father has already heard the news from Mr Roberts if not my information is from a quarter that leaves not the smallest doubt of its authenticity —

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30444

125
To Robert Smith

35
T
14 Jan [1807]

January — 14th. —

My dear father: —

The person who communicated the intelligence to me — was a Gentleman in the city a friend of Cecil — who charg'd me in the strongest manner not to mention his name, & who is himself I beleive implicated in the business. — I have call'd upon him again to day. — and find out that his notion rather is from the Madras Letters that Cecil is likely to be superseded. than that he is actually so. — You had better therefore not come to Town directly. and in the meantime I will eandeavour by means of Lord Holland to learn from Mr Tierney the true State of the case —

Yrs my dr Father er

S Smith —

Wednesday. —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esq / Pulteney St 7.— / Bath —

[Postmarked:] 14 JA 807

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30445

127

37
T

To Robert Smith

17 Jan 1807

My dear Father. —

I saw Mr Roberts this morning he was at the India House Yesterday — it appears that the accusations against Cecil arriv'd 3 months ago were notified to the directors — and unknown to Mr R. from his absence in the country. — they are now under consideration by the Bd of Controul — Chair & Depy — and will probably soon be reported upon to the court of Directors. — It will be of consequence when the report is made to have some friends present who will look into the business — and see that he has not been made a sacrifice to party — Lord William Bentinck is entirely with him — who is very unpopular with the directors — and whom *the government* ~~is~~ ~~is~~ would be happy to ~~ingult~~^{ingult} on account [sic] of the D of Portland. — the accusation against Cecil is that he accepted for payments in the S_ales — bank notes of the New Bank at Madras. instead of Cash. without any order from government — the company have never been favorable to this bank — which Cecil has always advocated — It is thought he will certainly be suspended. — I think you will do well if you can get at Sr Francis Baring at Bath — and after You have seen him to come to town directly where we hope to have the pleasure of being your hosts —

I remain my dear Father ever Yrs very affectionately

Sydney Smith

cont.....

128

32
T

To Maria Smith *See note on separate sheet.* [19 Jan 1807]

between Hungerford and Newbury there is Woodbury belonging to Mr ~~/ Orby /~~ Sloper — Park — furnished house and small farm — lease for 21 years — comfortable house — my father may see it if he pleases, taking great care he does not let the farmer living in the house know wherefore he is come — or that the place is ^{to be} let if he does he will never get it. —

My dear Sister —

It is very unusual and hardly ever done to reverse the decision of the Chair and Deputy chair that decision I ~~return~~ ^{[fancy] may} soon ~~be~~ ^{to} be expected — all that can be done is for his friends ^[sent smeared] to speak as well of his general character — and his conduct in this particular instance as they can --

If he is to be suspended it may make his Suspension shorter — and cause his defence to be heard with more favorable Ears — Mr. ~~Tirney~~ ^e is bound by oath not to reveal such sort of communications as are now passing between the Company & himself — but will put as mild a construction upon Cecils conduct as is consistent with thr duties he owes to his Situation. — You may be sure he will have Justice and some little favor. — . I have called upon Mr Cazalet 3 times. — and will see John Trower — You may depend upon it that every exertion I can make — I will make — but they will be of little use — | The message my father has sent about the Stamps that he positively refuses to allow it and

[9]

cont.....

128.1

T

(19 Jan 1807)

insists upon your settling it with me — would be ungracious enough if I was an attorney changing a bill — he must surely forget that I am a mere uninterested agent fulfilling a very unpleasant task — and that I have paid the money out of my own pocket. — If these considerations have no weight with my father I beg leave as positively to say that I refuse to pay one single halfpenny [sic] of this charge — not that the money is any object — but that nothing shall induce me to submit to such indecent, and unjust violence —

The explanation I will send when I can obtain it from Messrs Porcher and Redhead. — All that I know is I paid them what I chargd my father — If my father chuses it I will write to my brother to know if he chuses to allow th[e][Stam]ps — at present — I am ^{what I am} going/told [to do] [seal] in not exceeding 500 — for every [] [seal] expence — I am sorry my father was [given] any inconvenience — but really I must say he had only his own imprudence to blame — could anything be more probable that I might be prevented by a thousand circumstances which happen in a London Life from going 4 Miles — from my own house on a particular day — and ought not my father to have ascertain'd that the money was paid before he drew for it. — I have merely a Lr of credit upon P. & R — which they may at

cont.....

MS. 2

T

(19 Jan 1807)

any time refuse to act upon — suppose that had been the case —
I strongly recommend my father another time to be sure the money
is paid before he draws for it — as for Franks — I will get
them when I can — but messages in London are a Shilling pr
Mile — & it is quite impossible to send half over London to get
a frank — whenever I have occasion to write —

Yrs ever very truly

Sydney Smith —

[Addressed:] Robert Smith Esq [sic] / Pulteney Street / 7.— /
Bath — /

[Postmarked:] JA 19 1807 C.

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30748

VCH doesn't help with Sloper Woodbury is mentioned very briefly as 'a modern
house', district of Sarrecomficed

'fancy' is Miss Preston's suggestion in her letter of 11. xi. 69: the tail of the 'y'
is visible.

129

39
T

To Maria Smith

20 Jan 1807

My dear Maria —

I have now ascertain'd that as much will be done for Cecil as can be done with any propriety — and that no corrupt motive is imputed to him — Upon the whole I am of opinion that it will be as well if my father does not come up — he can do nothing more than we ~~could~~^{can} do without him —

Yrs ever very truly

Sydney Smith —

January 20th — 1807. —

I will write again when I hear any thing of consequence. —

18. Orchard St. Portman Square —

[Addressed:] Miss Smith / Pulteney Street / 7.— / Bath — /

[Postmarked:] 20 JA 807 A

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30449

131

To Maria Smith

23 Jan 1807

My dear Maria --

Cecils situation will be chang'd, he will be put into some other office -- the Committee came to the resolution yesterday -- contrary to Mr Roberts's[#] expectation who thought they would not do so before Wednesday next -- Lamentations are in vain -- I am most heartily vext and chagrind at this business -- but we must make the best of it we can -- & contrive if possible that he be appointed to as good a situation as he held before as was the case with Mr Webb 3 or 4 Years ago. -- in the mean time it is a great consolation that the Governor-General of Madras is entirely with him -- & that Nobody accuses him of corruption -- I call'd upon Mr Roberts today -- but miss'd him. -- I shall see him tomorrow. -- & if there is any thing worth your hearing -- you shall hear it -- my love to my father & I remain my dear Maria ever yrs most affectionately

Sydney Smith --

ⁱMinistry think the French are really in a Scrape in Poland. --

Janry 23d 1807 -- 18 Orchard St

[Addressed:] Miss Smith / Pulteney Street / 7. -- / Bath --

[Postmarked:] JA 23 807 B

132
To Maria Smith

27 Jan 1807

My dear Maria.—

a Loan was open'd at Madras — the order was to receive dollars — Cecil caus'd the Notes of a private bank to be receiv'd upon the same footing as dollars — his enemies contend that this was a very pernicious measure — his friends say the Loss was very small — but it is admitted on all hands that he had no authority to do so — now the company are not agitating at present the financial question — but they say no offence can be greater than for our offices to originate questions of finance without orders. — for this reason he will be dismiss'd from his office — remaining eligible to any other Which the Governor entirely with him upon this question may chuse to give him — & if he can by the court of enquiry which he has a right to demand at Madras prove to the Satisfaction of the directors — that he has not assum'd this authority with regard to the notes — but has any order of Government to shew for it — he will be restor'd with all his arrears — I am satisfied & I have taken great pains to find out that his case has met with fair conscientious accurate examination here — he has sent home a long very long minute of his own conduct 30 or 40 pages — but has done himself no good. — Mr Cockburns observations only go to the merits of the Scheme — the investigation of the directors to the authority for it — but as to the merits they completely differ from Mr C. — Lord Minto

cont.....

132.1

(27 Jan 1807)

who touches at Madras has a great impression in his favor —
it is a very unpleasant business but you may depend upon it he
will either be restord — or get something as good as what he
loses — — I could have procur'd a Weeks delay of the Sent-
ence — but after infinite pains I am convinc'd the Court have
past as mild a Sentence as they possibly could. — If any thing
occurs of consequence you shall hear from me again — in the
mean time my dr Maria I remain ever your affectionate Brother —

Sydney Smith —

Jany 27th 1807. — 18 Orchard St —

[Addressed:] Miss Smith/Pulteney Street / 7.— / Bath —

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30452

133

43
T

To Maria Smith

11 Feb [1807]

My dear Maria —

Last Year I paid the Stamps out of my own pocket.— my father is entirely mistaken in saying the duplicate does not pay the same stamp as the original bill — I am very glad you were in Joke — but your Letter had as little the air of it as any thing I ever saw — ——— I am very much surpriz'd to have heard nothing from you on the subject of that place near Newbury. — I have taken great pains in making enquiries, the parties have been anxiously waiting, and you have not written me a single line upon the Subject —

Cecil is dismissd from his office — it will be in his power to set on foot an enquiry if he pleases and if he can prove his innocence he will be restord — if he does not enter into this investigation he is still eligible to another office — . Every thing has been done in the best manner with Lord Minto — Sr Francis Baring has behav'd extremely well — Mr Roberts is worse than nobody. — I beg my Love to my father & remain yrs ever very truely

Sydney Smith —

Feby 11th 1806 [sic] London — . —

I met Mrs Cecil yesterday in the Strand drest in a Style much too gay & expensive for any wife of mine you may depend upon it that is a rotten business — that Mrs Topping is deceiving

cont.....

133.1

T

(11 Feb 1807)

my father — or Mrs C. S deceiving Mrs Topping — and that
they will run Cecil largely into debt.

[Addressed:] Miss Smith / Pulteney St / 7.— / Bath —

[Postmarked:] FE 11 1807 A

Huntington Library microfilm. HM30453

134

44
T

To Maria Smith

14 Feb 1807

My dear Maria —

To an attorney acting for pay — you say "if you have got particulars or if you had particulars why did you not send them when you wrote ? —

To a Gentleman volunteering a business ^{for} ~~to~~ your advantage it is the custom to say I regret you did not send them, or it would have been more convenient or something to that effect — but tho the best Girl in the World I have often regretted that to your many excellent qualities there were not added a few grains of courtesy and conciliating manner —

My answer if ^(S) I could not get any — inexplicable as such caution is — if you do not attend to it — you wont get the place — so do as you please — ——— there are about 220 Acres of Land & 70 of Wood land 290. — the rent of the Land will be about 270. — the rent of the house about 120. — S. Aspect. Warm — & dry — very retir'd — old fashion'd furniture plenty of good Water Taxes parliamentary, and parochial & paid by tenant, about £60 — ^{para?} After all it is not quite certain as yet whether the place can be had — about a Year ago it might have been had extremely cheap — but Mr# S has been making preparations to live there himself — and is now doubtful about letting it it would be easier however to induce him to let a few acres of Land with the house than the whole farm. — he remains in Town for about 3 Weeks — then goes down

cont.....

134.1

7

(14 Feb 1807)

to his place — — My father had better not write to Sr F Baring —
I will explain ~~what~~ what I mean by my expression when my father comes
to Town I mean that Mr Roberts is quite an indolent inefficient
man — and of no sort of use in such a case — — tho with the
best & most friendly intentions — — about Ld Minto I mean that
I have neglected nothing — what I have done I wish to keep
Secret. — I am extremely sorry to hear of my father's ill health.—
I daresay he has been heartily vex'd by this business of Cecil —
I am sure I have — Towns ~~do~~ do not agree with Young Cecil — My
father I hope understands generally that our house is at his
Service — for meals or permanent residence during his Stay. —
& having said this often — and really meaning it — I shall say
nothing about it in future but conceive it to be a matter under-
stood —

You need not make apologies to me about ~~trouble~~ trouble — I am always
most willing to take any trouble ~~whatever~~ whatever for my father or you —
when the object is reasonable — & the manner civil. — & I remain
my dr Sister yr affectionate Br

Sydney Smith —

Feby 14th 1807. — 18 Orchard St —

I will send you Cockburns memorial —

[Addressed:] Miss Smith / Pulteney St / 7.— / Bath —

[Postmarked:] FE 14. 807. A

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM30454

✓ 135
To William Wilberforce

[(Feb) 1807]

Dear Sr. --

If Mrs S remains in her present state of health -- I hardly know how I can go down to Yorkshire at all -- It is 8 Weeks since her lying in -- & she cannot yet stand upon her feet --. If I do come I will certainly vote for Lord Milton & for you ---- I hope now you ^{have} ~~are~~ done with Africa you will do something for Ireland. -- which is surely the greatest question and interest connected with this Empire. -- there is no man in England who from activity, Understanding, character & neutrality could do it so effectually as Mr Wilberforce -- and when this Country conceded a century ago an establishment to the Presbyterian Church -- it is horrible to see ^{four} Millions of Christians of another persuasion instructed by ragged priests & praising their creator in Wet Ditches -- I hope ^{to God} you will ^{strive} in this ^{great} ^{matter} business -- & then we will vote for the Consulship for Life: and you shall be perpetual Member for Yorkshire -- In the mean time I remain Sr with great respect

Yr obedt St

Sydney Smith --

18 Orchard St. Portman Square --

Endorsed: Revd Sydney Smith / Charact^c / 1807

135.1

(Feb 1807)

Note

Ⓐ-Ⓐ printed with variations noted in R. I. & S.
Wilberforce, The Life of William Wilberforce (Lond.
1838), iii. 309, and thence by other biographers

138

45

T

To Maria Smith

25 Apr 1807

Dear Maria --

Courtney means to pay my father 2,000 Sicca Rupees -- every Year -- and has transmitted the money to Robert who has empower'd me to draw for the amount [sic] upon Porcher Redhead & Co -- & to pay it to my father -- in consequence I drew a Set of Bills Yesterday and lodgd them with Hammersly. -- who will get the money for them of Porcher -- the Exchange Porcher informs me is 2s - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d pr Sicca Rupee which produces 229 - 3 - 4 -- & deducting 9s for Stamps 228 - 14 - 4. the Sum for which Hammersly has given me the receipt -- this payment is for 1807. -- & Robert says he will make arrangements with Cortenay [sic] for 1808. -- Janry 1st -- Mrs Sydney quitted her bed yesterday for the first time and is recovering fast. -- I am not likely to procure any intelligence from the Bp of E. or C. -- Why is a Bishop a better judge than any body else -- he would probably think of the mans Greek -- and of his high Church notions -- not of his Sense -- which in a master is worth every thing else -- but if I have any means of enquiring I will use them. I beg my duty to my father -- and remain my dear Maria ever Yrs

S Smith --

Saturday April 25th -- 1807 --

[Endorsed with short financial calculations.][Addressed:] Miss Smith / Pulteney St / Bath. Postmark (Illegible).

Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30455

139

[+20 May 1807]

~~6 Jun 1812~~

To Thomas Creevey

June 6th, 1812. [sic]

Your letter followed me here, where I had come after ^ovisiting for Lord Milton, one of the most ungainly looking young men I ever saw. I gave my other vote for Wilberforce, on account of his good conduct in Africa, a place returning no members to parliament, but still, from the extraordinary resemblance its inhabitants bear to human creatures, of some consequence. An election out of Westminster is sad work — at the moment of the greatest ferment, York was, in the two great points of ebriety and pugnacity, as quiet as average London at about 3 o'clock in the morning.

From Sir Herbert Maxwell's text in The Creevey Papers (1903), i. 166-7. [T.139.c]

Headnote reads 'to Mr Creevey, who had written at Lord Grey's request to desire him to vote for Lord Milton'. The Milton referred to is the eldest son of the 4th Earl Fitzwilliam.

Just after 20 May 1807,
the date of Wilberforce's
last York County election

140
To Henry Brougham

12 Jun 1807

Dear Brougham. —

You were so good as to say you would superintend the publication of Peter Plymley — — will you have the goodness [to] tell me by what fatality it has been delay'd I expected to have receiv'd the second proof the Evening I left London, — & that this important Publication would have appear'd the Monday following I wait for the solution of this Mystery — which I will beg the favor of you to send me by return of Post to Foston Spittle Bridge York —

Yrs ever truly

Sydney Smith —

June 12th. 1807 —

Text from U.C.L., Brougham MS. 31,292 (xerox copy).

[Addressed:] Henry Brougham, Esq / Albany / Piccadilly / London.

143

To Maria Smith

24 Dec 1807

I cannot get a frank. —

Thursday December 24. —

1807 —

My dearest Maria —

The Letter in which Bobus mentions that It was Cortenays intention to make an annual payment of 2,000 S. Rupees to my father was dated September 14 - 1806. — I have this day receiv'd another dated November 5 - 1806. — Stating that the payment of 2,000 S. Rupees for 1808. — Janry - was not to take place unless I receiv'd advices that the money had been transmitted by Cortenay to Robert. — I have receiv'd no such advices - & therefore the sum I shall have to pay my father on the first of January - will be £500 instead of £700. — I ^a am extremely sorry for this but my father will I am sure have the candor to recollect that I am merely a passive agent - and was employ'd contrary to my wishes - & without my consent being first ask'd — as soon as ever I get Letters to the abovemention'd purpose, the money shall be paid — the Letter I have just quoted was deliver'd to me by young Mr Mckenzie it contains a Letter of introduction to me ^{for} ~~fr~~ him - & he was chargd to deliver it to me himself - which he forgot to do in the Summer and has kept it for 6 or 8 Months.

The order for the investigation of Cecils business. - left this Country about the end of April — it would arrive therefore about the middle or end of August — if he does come home ^{therefore} in consequence he will not be here till the Spring — — the order suspends Buchan & him orders an investigation by Fallowfield. & 2 other Gentlemen whose names I forget. — when they have made their report it is to be sent to the Governor General. — As I have no doubt of his honorable acquittal he will be restord therefore with arrears about

143.1

(24 Dec 1807)

W

August 1808, + & the whole business will amount to a years Suspension - which tho' unpleasant will teach him to confine himself to the Letter of his instructions & not to attempt to benefit the honorable Company -

Mr Ommaney had agreed to purchase Mr. Moffats share for 10,000 Gs. - Mr M. could not make a title - - It is impossible, and quite a mistake to negotiate this matter without Mr Rowe - 12,000 Gs is entirely out of the question. - I wish an answer to two questions - will my father sell his Share for 11,000 Gs - 2d will he give Mr Rowe 20 Gs for selling it - I wish my father to make up his mind upon these two points - & to let me know it - I am pretty clear he will do neither the one nor the other [- I] am very sorry for it - at that price he would put money into his pocket by the whole transaction considering the price of Stocks now - and when he purchas'd - & he would be able to buy a small place - ^w With a farm - 3 parts made to his hands - with just enough to do to amuse him - We are all well - are much oblig'd by your offer of house [?] Lamb ~~to~~ - which we accept for the 15th - the day on which Mrs Trower dines here - I have not yet found Uncle John at home - but he is much better - God bless you Yrs ever love to my father merry Xmas. #

Sydney Smith

Mr Goldenham thinks Cecil has quite cleared himself ^f from debt - he is not living expensively Mr G thinks he will come home - I hope not -

[Addressed:] Miss Maria Smith / Pulteney Street / Bath. - / 7. -

[Postmarked:] DE 1807 [illegible]

144

To Richard Heber

[? 1807]

Dear Heber. —

It occurs to me upon more mature deliberation, & it did not occur to me at the time our rapid compact was form'd, that to rush thus, upon Stodart & Co. in consequence of the well meant & injudicious invitation of the former will not be quite the thing. — & I believe you will think so too. it must have been a Bacchanal expansion of the heart. — & it is no bad rule in general, to forget every invitation made after 10 o'clock — as they are most commonly forgot by the inviter. —

Yrs sincerely

Sydney Smith

my transcript of
Text from/Bodl. MS. Eng. lett. d. 215, f. 152: partly printed by
Cholmondeley, Heber Letters, p. 216: given there as 'n.d.', but placed after
letter of 9 Mar 1807.