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T

To Robert Smith

[5 May 1808]

after Saturday our direction will be Thames Ditton Surrey

My dear Sr. —

Before I receiv'd yr Letter I had written to Bengal stating that there were no more remittances in my hands for any purposes — a fact however of which my Brother <sup>u</sup> ~~m~~ist be as well aware as I am. —

There ~~was~~ paid into yr bankers I think 218 - 12 - 1. — & there was drawn upon my Brother Rupees to the amount of 218 - 18 - 1 — consequently Messrs Porcher & Co — paid themselves 6s for Stamps — I perceive however upon reading my brothers Letter over again that he says free of Stamps which I did not at first attend to — You will therefore have to receive when any remittances arrive — £31 - 7S - 11D/ — of the arrival of such remittances you shall have the earliest notice

I have not seen my uncle John for these 4 months — but I hear his understanding is nearly gone — I am going to call there very soon —

my little Girl is quite recover'd thanks to <sup>the kindness of</sup> Miss Vernon who lent us Holland House — for 10 days

I have let my own house & taken another for 5 months at Thames Ditton 22 miles from Town — I shall be very glad to hear you have taken any place where you can make yourself comfortable

cont.....

151.1

T

(5 May 1808)

, — and am much oblig'd to you for your intended hospitality to me — but as my family and your dislike to children are both more likely to increase, than diminish. I am afraid the chance of our meeting is very small — I remain dr Sr with sincere good wishes & with respect yr dutiful Son —

S. Smith. —

— You say in yr Letter to me that your ~~your~~ conduct respecting the Stamps has been call'd indecent . — if you mean That I have said so — I request to know to whom I have said it — when & where — if I do not hear from you on this topic I shall presume you allude to somebody else. —

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

[Postmarked:] B MA 5 808

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Huntington Library microfilm.

HM 30761

✓ 155  
To Archibald Alison

[Sep 1808]

Dear Allison --

I cannot tell you how much mortified I am at not finding you in Edinburgh. what could possible lead you into the inconceivable error of quitting it -- I have many things to say you -- first that I have taken a walk with Montague -- and that we have renew'd our friendship ----- but I principally wish<sup>s</sup> a long conversation with you about the English church -- and the prevalence of Semian<sup>f</sup> opinions, -- the truth is measures must be taken -- & Moorehead (an excellent fellow) must make a Stir -- guided by you in the more delicate parts of the controversy -- but giving vent to his own theological originality --

arr) -- Next, poor Moyes little did I think that I never should see him more -- but he is gone to the respectable angels. I am delighted you have tasted the Riddels -- I left them to you as a Legacy. -- they are the flowers of the World. -- Now I am come to your Legacy which gives me great pleasure -- as does all the prosper<sup>o</sup>ity which I hear of you or yours. -- -- Jeffrey says he has written a long critique upon the second Edition -- I suppose nothing will induce you to soften the rigor of your theory -- and to allow that there is more foundation in Nature than the first Edition admits -- the club goes on well -- but I never saw a more dreadful Spectacle than Bishop Sandford -- & his family --

Alas what boots it with incessant care

to ply the homely Sheppards trade -----

/I .....

✓ 155.1

(Sep 1808)

I am staying a day with the Stewarts -- Dugald fat & agricultural -- fond of  
indecent Stories as ever -- I wish you would lay your commands upon Campbell  
to publish his poem & not to consult the terrific Horner ---- ---- again I return to  
the English Church -- & say that something must be done -- or we are lost -- I  
write this to say how much I have enquir'd for you & how sorry I am to have missed  
you remaining with every Sentiment of respect & regard -- Yrs most truly --

Sydney Smith.

Addressed: Rev'd Mr Allison / Langley Park / Montrose

Postmarked: COWDENBURN S 410 and  $\frac{1}{3}$  SEP  $\frac{1}{3}$  R ... E 1808.

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Text from xerox of MS. W. Hugh Peal.

156  
To Lady Holland

[? Oct 1808]

My dear Lady Holland. --

I am very sorry to hear you have been unwell -- which proceeds from your not adhering Strictly to your plan of exercise -- but deceiving your mind in that low chaise -- and making yourself believe that you are not guilty of an act of perfidy to your constitution. -- I have written an account of the English government of Ireland down to Elizabeth -- & am going on briskly: it is done in a grave, quiet, decorous manner but without any particle of fear -- I cannot however suppress the melancholy truth that it is dull -- you will approve it -- but never read it. -- I do extremely well in the Country -- every now & then I have the blue devils -- but less and less -- I find however that I am getting much weaker in my understanding & tremble for the Symptoms of imbecility. which Wishaw and Brougham will discover next Week. -- ----- I think Budd is a nefarious man for not giving me my books -- & I am surpris'd the Attorney General should suffer such libels as emanate from his shop to remain unpunish'd -- If Mr Marsh is with you will you have the goodness to inform him that it is the opinion of a Clergyman in this neighbourhood who has paid me a visit -- that Nehemiah ~~was~~ not added to the canonical collection of Ezra by Simon the Just but full 30 Years after his decease by some inferior Rabbi -- I offer no opinion of my own, -- could you by any indirect means procure from Mr Marsh his sentiments upon this subject -- they would be peculiarly grateful at this Season of leisure -- I remain my dr Lady Holland yr ever grateful & affectionate

S S. --

continued

156.1

(?Oct 1808, cont.)

I hope to hear from Miss Fox or Miss Vernon that you are recovered --  
and set off --

[Addressed:] Right Honble Lady Holland --

[Endorsed:] Mr. Sidney Smith

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

Not apparently in N.C.S.

? Oct 1808: Foston, Brougham calling, estrangement ??

*The article is presumably Parnell's History of the Irish Popery Laws,  
Art 5 in ER XIII xxv, October 1808 : or the history of Ireland sent K Macaulay  
who reports on it in M*

✓ 157  
To Francis Cholmley

22 Oct 1808

My dear Sr. --

I have now made up my mind to build at Foston. -- If you hear of any place near ~~Wotton~~ to be let for two Years -- or 3 Years from March 25 1809. -- or Misdummer ditto -- I shall be very much oblig'd to you to let me know -- I bring my family and wish to hear of places either furnishd or unfurnish'd. --

I am sure you will have the goodness to excuse this intrusion. -- I meant to have come to have seen you while at York this Summer but could not make it out -- my Stay was so short. -- I wish you would inspire those Irish Catholic Bishops with a little of your understanding -- they have marr'd their own cause most miserably --

Ever Yrs my dr Sr

most truely

Sydney Smith /

October 22d 1808 --

Saturdy -- 18 Orchard St

Portman Square --

Addressed and franked: London October twenty five 1808. / Francis Cholmeley Esq /

Bransby / York / F. Horner

/Postmarked .....

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(22 Oct 1808)

Postmarked: FREE 25 OC 25 1808

Watermarked: J. JELLYMAN / 1807.

Endorsed: Octr. 22d 1808. / S.S.

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Text from xerox of North Riding of Yorkshire Record Office, ZQG.



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To Cadell and Davies

3 Nov [1808]

November 3d

Gentlemen. --

I am about to publish 2 Volumes of Sermons -- in 8vo. containing 25 Sermons each. -- -- The Sermons I have already publish'd have gone through 2 Editions. -- I shall incorporate about 8 -- or at most 10 of them into these new Volumes -- and omitt the rest -- and the preface. -- -- I beg to know if you are willing to become the purchasers of the first impression (any number you please) & upon what terms. -- They are all nearly ready for the press and can easily be out by Lady Day. -- If you wish for any farther explanations I shall be glad to afford it you & am Gentlemen yr obt humble St

Sydney Smith --

Orchard St Portman Square 18 --

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Text from xerox copy of original temporarily deposited in the archives department of Leeds Public Libraries, February 1968, from the papers of Sir Joslan Ingilby of Ripley Castle (see archivist's letter of 21 Jan 69, which gives date and addressee.)

The two volumes of sermons produced £200  
which covered the expenses of the move to  
Yorkshire -- "Narrative".

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To Cadell and Davies

11 Dec 1808

Two Volumes of Sermons by the Revd Sydney Smith -- A M. late fellow of New College, Oxford Rector of Foston near York -- and one of the Evening preachers of the Foundling Hpsital, & alternate Morning preacher at Berkley & Fitzroy Chapels -- Of these Sermons about ten are republish'd with considerable alterations from the last Edition of Mr Smiths Sermons -- the other 40 are new. --

Mr Smith thinks this will do for the announce. -- is ver<sup>y</sup> much obligd by the handsome manner in which Dr Aikin has spoken of him -- but after mature reflection at present begs leave to decline any interference with the Athenæum <sup>(Bum)</sup> -- if he should hereafter alter his intention -- he will immediately communicate his change of opinion to Messrs C. & D. --

December 11 -- 1808

18. Orchard St Portman Sqre --

Mr S requests the favor of Messrs C. & D. to urge on the printer -- as Mr S. may possibly be call'd out of Town & he therefor wishes to bring it on while he is here --

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Text from xerox of MS<sup>1</sup> W. Hugh Peal.

To Maria Smith

['Wmk 1807']

My dear Maria. —

When you could have come to see us in the Course of the Summer, without any expence to my father, and gave it up on his account; you repeatedly wrote to us that my father had given you Carte Blanche respecting our visit to Bath:— which expression if it means anything must I think imply full Liberty to arrange with us as to the duration, and time of our visit. — It meant I should presume that having depriv'd you for his own convenience of a very great pleasure, he meant to indemnify you by some sacrifices on ~~some~~ <sup>this</sup> subsequent occasion —. The Invitation comes; and the Substance of our answer is, that at this distance, and at so great an expence we should not come for less than two Months, and that we wish'd these two Months to be March & April — After ~~an~~ <sup>our</sup> answer was receiv'd comes an invitation from Miss Vernon to you, and Cecil — to pass a certain period of time which time fell in the very midst of ~~the~~ <sup>our</sup> propos'd Visit — I should have thought it would have occur'd to my father that Cecil had seen nothing of our Children for 2 or 3 Years, that his opportunities of seeing them were very rare; and that his other Cousins had been — and would be much more accessible to him — for these reasons I should have thought that such a visit would have been immediately given up — but if these reasons did not occur — I should at least think my father might have remember'd that he had already transmitted an invitation, that it had been

cont.....

160.1

accepted, and that before he alter'd the time we had selected, he might at least have had the Kindness to enquire whether his alterations suited us as well — this is what in common civility he would have been bound to do to a mere Stranger — and he would I should have thought been much more particular in doing any thing to destroy a meeting, which had been once before sacrificed to his convenience — however it [K] Miss Vernons offer [K] was accepted & the answer returns from us that it is impossible to return in February — was this Visit to Town of Cecil's so extremely important, that it could not be given up ? — whom was it to please ? — You dislike London — and have over and over again petition'd my father to relinquish it — Cecil has written to us to say that he entirely disapproves of his Sons Journey — and yet Cecils desire to have his Son in Town was stated to be the great motive — Young Cecils holidays are I understand but 7 days, and four of these are to be spent ingoing, and coming — My fathers Journey to London cannot depend upon Cecils — it will be more expensive without him, but I am sure that can have nothing to do with it. — Miss Vernon will be so far from being pleas'd with the acceptance of the invitation — that she will be beyond measure hurt at being the mean [sic] (however innocent) of preventing our meeting. — and I observe by her Letters that the real cause of our not coming has never been stated to her, or my father knows very well she would instantly propose some new arrangement so that for what purpose this Journey is adher'd to. I cannot conceive —

cont.....

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T

I am loath to suppose it is for the mere purpose of excluding us — yet I must say it has entirely the air of it.

I direct this Letter to my father for fear that any false delicacy or timidity should prevent you from shewing it to him — I wish to conduct myself towards him with propriety, and respect — but when I think myself treated with unkindness and inhospitality — I must be allow'd the Liberty of saying so — I think my Wife and Children have been treated with great want of kindness — and I feel it very deeply — You my dear Maria I beleive to have had no free agency at all in this business, or I am sure our Journey would long ago have been settl'd — We accept very thankfully your explanations, and are very much oblig'd to you for altering that rough and harsh tone which at first gave offence —

[Unsigned.]

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Huntington Library microfilm. HM 30764

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From Bobus Smith

[1808]

COPY EXTRACT ONLY

[Endorsed by Robert Smith I:] Courtneys character recd from Robert 1808

[Annotated by transcriber:] Extracted from a letter of Roberts to Sydney  
from Calcutta. 1808 --

With some remains of oddity and perverseness he has qualities that I revere,  
no word short of that will do, for I have tried them all. He is most deeply  
& most practically skilled in the two useful native languages Persian and  
Hindoostanie of any man in the country -- as those say who are best judges, for  
I am none: and of these he has made himself master not with any view to  
literature, but that he might understand the concerns of the natives placed  
under his charge -- He is patient of labour & solitude to a wonderful degree,  
unremitting in the discharge of his duty, above all suspicion of corruption,  
plain in his ideas of right & wrong useful & useless. Bold in attacking  
malversations where he finds them without regard to consequences, and nothing  
to set off against all this but a want of measure in his language and a  
disposition to treat his superiors as few people would think it right to  
treat their footmen. In short in point of utility to mankind his life has  
already been worth a hundred such as you or I put together shall ever lead,  
for in a large & populous districk which he found the most turbulent in the  
country, he has established perfect order by his own energy & purity & has

161.1  
✓

(1808)

just now left it with the universal respect of the natives -- What chance  
have we of doing anything like this.

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MS. A.S.B. (Huntington).