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W

To William Vernon

[29 Mar 1818]

My dear Sr —

I perfectly agree with you in the importance of agricultural Experiments but in many or most cases they are very slow in their results, very expensive — and from the prodigious variety of circumstances very uncertain in their conclusions. — These causes explain only why they are not made so often as they ought to be — but shew more strongly the necessity that more persons should be engagd in them — You are aware perhaps that there are several Subscription Experimental farms in Ireland and England which publish the results of their Experiments — and the common practice of Agriculture involves of course a vast Mass of coarse unintentional Experiment — — — I never sow a crop without trying some experiment: for instance it is the practice of this Country to lime old ploughd Lands every fallow Year at the Expence of 48 Shillings p Acre — I always leave a part unlim'd and observe as carefully as I can the difference — — [space] When you talk of the facility with which Experiments may be tried with Manures — allow me to remind you that in the first place every such Experiment takes a Year — In the next place if you consider the Variety of ingredients in Soil and the Variety of proportions of those ingredients — The Variety of Soils may be pronounc'd to be almost infinite — a second infinity are the circumstances of that Soil — New or /old....

241.1

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(29 Mar 1818)

old ? What crops have preceded for 20 Years before ? — how often ploughd? — what Substratum ? — and so on — a third Infi~~g~~ity is the Weather — The same Gypsum may be poison ~~if~~ the weather is X the first 10 days in March — neutral if the Weather is Y — & a delicious pabulum if it is Z. — So that an experiment in farming is commonly a distant Approximation to the truth and proves only what was best for that place in that Year — not what will be for another place the next Year. — Still it is better than nothing — and these observations are not true of all Experiments which may be called Experiments in farming —

Your Experiments are very good — but should you not have weigh'd the cream or rather had it churnd ? — for possibly more Butter might have been made of less Bulk, or even of less Weight of cream — I wish too you had weighd the quantity of each food eaten by animals for the useful object in farming is as you well know to reduce everything to value — and an experimenter should fling various Sums of Money into a Cows mouth — and see what [✓]it comes out of the Teats — The farmers find that their Cows often dry upon Hay ~~alone~~ — an animal will I believe [✓]not eat half as many Swedish as common Turneps. — and about five times as great a Weight of Turneps as Hay. — E.G. an ox of 100 Stone will eat in a day ~~ei~~ther 4 Stone of Hay, or 20 Stone of Turneps — if fasted for the Experiment.

/I

241.2

(29 Mar 1818)

I shall be in Town about the 12th of May and hope to meet
you there — am very glad your Enclosure is going on — but
I wish you had more land —

Ever dear William very truly Yrs.

Sydney Smith —

Mrs Sydney and the Children beg to be kindly rememberd to You. —

[Addressed:] Rev^d William Vernon / Bishopthorpe. —

[Postmarked:] YORK / 29 MR / 18[?]8 / 196

[Watermarked:] R & T / 1813

Typed from my transcript of MS. Lord Harcourt.

To Francis Jeffrey 292

20 Jul 1878

My dear Jeffrey.

As I shall soon have done George I must look forward to something else - be so good as to say which I may have to choose out of from among the subjoin'd books -

EVL I. 251
Possibility of approaching the North Pole asserted by Daines Barrington - with an appendix by Col. Beaufoy -

EVL II. 1362
History of New South Wales by O'Hara -

?
Port Royal des Champs -

EVL II. 410
Three Trials of Hone. -

? EVL III. 616
Observations on the Impolicy of the poor Laws by Lord

Sheffield -

?
Bernet ^(N) on the Abuses in Newgate

?
Bradburys Travels in America -

?
Watsons Life

We shall [page turns] sincerely happy my dear Jeffrey

2) 242.2

(20 July 1878)

to see Mrs Jeffrey your child and yourself - for as long a
time as you can stay with us - You cannot come under
any roof I will be bold to say where you will meet with
more respect and affection - Shall I send my Reviews
to Constable as I finish them? - I am very much
obliged ~~to~~ ^{by} your arrangements They are perfectly
satisfactory You may depend upon one Sheet for every
Number - perhaps more - but I do not stipulate for the
publication of more than 5 Sheets in a Year - unless
you happen to be in want - and I happen to be redundant
- but beyond that is entirely at your option - God bless you
S.S.

July 20 - 1878 / Foston /

[Endorsed] (by CAS) "Copied" and date

MS & R. Bentham
May 1978

To Francis Jeffrey 244

2 Aug 1818

My dear Jeffrey.

I have now no book in hand - allow me to press you for an answer to my last books nam'd - and in addition to mention Dictionnaire des Etiquettes par Madame Genlis - and Memoires de Mlle ~~Espinass~~ Espinay - recommended to me by Allen - I send you Georget according to promise

Yrs ever my dear Jeffrey
very affectionately

Sydney Smith

Pray tell Murray the Colic is well and getting fat - the operation was over in 5 Minutes - and the man charged me 5s. and a pint of Beer - He said he never had done it for an advocate - but thought he could. - Scott's novel is admirable it made me cry 20 times over -

(2 Aug 1818)

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and laugh - 15 or 16 -

August 20 - 1818 ✓

[Addressed:] Francis Jeffrey Esq ✓

[Endorsed:] (By Mrs Sydney) "Aug^r 2 1818 / One line only
copied (as P.S. to July 20.)" The text is scored through
in pencil up to "could" in the postscript, leaving
only "Scotts ... 16 -" for inclusion elsewhere.

Ms. D. R. Bentham
May 1978