

To _____

[Early 1820s]

26) INCOMPLETE

Madam.

We must do good - so that our good is not found fault with and the cause of benevolence brought into discredit. You must remember that humanity is a modern invention, and came into fashion (at the same time with the improv'd Steam Engine) about the beginning of the last Kings reign - till then men had seen infants crawling up their Chimnies, - and negroes hoeing their Sugar Canes without the smallest Suspicion of the sufferings of one or the other of these miserable Wretches - In the mean time the inhumanity had taken root - vast property was embark'd upon the supposition of its continuation; and it would have been the height of rashness and injustice to have done any thing more than to have ameliorated the condition of the existing Slaves, and to have prevented the introduction of fresh ones - In the same manner I am entirely convinc'd by the Evidence that there are a vast Number of houses in the Metropolis and else where, that would be completely rendered useless if you were to
/abolish

2

261.1

(early 1820s)

abolish Chimney Sweepers^{nl} | all that can be done is to
prevent the increase of Chimney Sweepers by making laws
for the Construction of Chimnies, [rest missing]

MS. Mr D.R.
Bentham, bk by
him from John Wilson
in 1976 or 7 for £5

✓ 285

To William Smith

14 Feb 1820

My dear Sr. --

I hear that the dissenters are going to make an effort this year to be married
 legally out of our churches -- you know my unfortunate zeal for civil and religious
 Liberty I should like to discuss this question in the Edinburgh Review pray have
 the goodness to tell me if you know of anything worth reading upon the subject -- do
 not mention my intentions -- and tell me also that all your family and yorself are
 also well and prosperous -- As for me I am enjoying that Otium sine
 dignitate which is the ordinary lot of Country Clergymen -- by which you must not
 understand that my pursuits are low or my character dubious but that I am not a
 prebendary -- for I mean sine dignitate Ecclesiastica I entertain however for
 you the same sentiments of respect & regard with which my dr Sr I have always been
 very truly* yrs*

Sydney Smith --

Foston Feby 14. 1820

York. --

My best Compts if you please to Mrs. Smith & your family. --

^{At top}
~~Up~~ I am very much obligd to your Son for his kindness to my Son Douglas at
 Westminster. --

/Addressed:

✓ 265.1

(14 Feb 1820)

Addressed: William Smith Esq M P / Park Street / Westminster --

Postmarked: YORK and FREE (illeg.)

Endorsed: Sydney Smith / 1820

From xerox of MS. Rochester University Library, New York.

* and *: illegible.

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CH

To Lady Morpeth

16 Feb 1820

Feby 16. 1820. — Foston. —

Dear Lady Georgiana —

You will scarcely believe it that I have not written to Miss Berry yet — that is I have not sent my Letter for I have written it this Evening: and shall be oblig'd to you to tell me whether she is still at Paris — or where she is: & this will give you an opportunity (of which you are too kind to us not to avail yourself) to say that you are better, and that the blue Dæmons (like the Spanish insurrection) are got under.

Nobody has suffered ^{ed} more from low Spirits than I have done — so I feel for you — 1st Live as well and drink as much wine as you dare — 2d go into the Shower bath — ^{with} ~~use~~ a small quantity of water at a temperature low enough to give you a slight sensation of cold. — 75 — or 80. — 3d. amusing books. 4th. short views of human life not farther than dinner or Tea — 5th be as busy as you can — 6th. see as much as you can of these ^{ose} friends who respect, & like you — 7t. and of those acquaintances ^o who amuse you — 8th. — make no secret about Low Spirits to your friends but talk ^{of} them fully — they are always worse for dignified Concealment — 9. attend to the effects Tea and Coffee produce upon you — 10. Compare your Lot with that of other people. — 11. don't expect too much from human life, a sorry business at the best — 12 avoid poetry — dramatic representations (except Comedy) Music — serious novels melancholy sentimental people — and every thing likely to /excite

266.1

9

(16 Feb 1820)

feeling or emotion -- not ending in active benevolence
13 -- do good. & endeavor to please every body of every degree
14. be as much as you can in the open air without fatigue 15.
make the room where you commonly sit gay & pleasant. -- 16 Struggle
by little and little against idleness -- 17. dont be too severe
upon yourself. or underrate yourself -- but do yourself Justice --
18. keep good blazing fires 19-. be firm and constant in the
exercise of rational religion -- 20. beleive me dear Lady
Georgiana very truely Yrs

Sydney Smith --

I walk'd over to Castle H[oward to] day: nd ~~Lady~~ Carlisle ill
[with the] gout and could not see [me] [-----] Lady C. I cannot
help th[inking a good] deal better.

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH/142(23)

= NCS 356, to which it adds a few sentences.

[passage
blurred in
copy]

257

To T.R.Malthus

19 Feb 1820

"much", says my
note on seeing Mr. at York

Dear Malthus. --

I shall be most oblig'd to you to give me some sense about Ireland:

Is this
the 'Fragment'?

I am about to write an article for the Edinburgh Review upon Ireland -- in which I am desirous of pointing out the causes of the extreme misery of that Country. -- & I think they are as follows -- 1. The tyrannical and oppressive conduct of this Country by which their industry has been check'd and from which under the present improv'd System (though still bad) they are slowly recovering -- 2 The irritation constantly existing from the remembrance of past confiscations -- from the subjection of the Catholic many to the protestant few. the sedition turbulence and rebellion to which this gives birth, unfavourable to native industry -- and the introduction of foreign Capital -- 3. a lively ostentatious character more addicted to the gratification of Vanity than the promotion of what is useful -- and more remarkable for imagination than reflection -- 4. The Contiguity of a larger and richer country speaking the same language, & under the same government, & the consequent Emigration of rank -- talents Wisdom and Money -- 5 the introduction of cheap food while they were yet in a barbarous State -- and liv'd without the knowledge of any of the comforts of life -- the consequence of which has been a rapid multiplication of similar barbarians with no better formula of existence -- pray tell me if there is anything material to add to this ?

How are you going on at Hertford -- how does Mrs Malthus do and your children -- when do you mean to come with them all to see me and my cultivation of Land. I am beginning to gain reputation in the

/agriculture

267.1
'Mr Hunt' was Hy Hunt of Peterloo, who was committed at York
& sent to jail in Uxeter, W^{EST} reminds me.

(19 Feb 1820)

agriculture Line: and have (which you will scarcely beleive) kept myself
remarkably clear of Gentleman's farming nonsense

The radicals are subdued entirely in this part of the Country but there
is no trade —

No Barks for Fustian British ports explore

Still is that Loom that breech'd the World before

Pray remember me very kindly to Sr James. I wish Sr Archibald McDonald
had not been examin'd in his Committee, the other Ex Rhadamanthi seem
to have behav'd very ill. I hope to be in Town by the end of March — but
I shall go round by Bath to see my father. so that I shall not be able to
call at Hertford. I was sorry to see Hamilton when I was last in Town
estranging himself so entirely from his old friends. I suppose it is
ordered so in the Mahabarat. but you and I will always be under christian
dispensation. — I was terribly ala[rm'd] when the 2d King fellⁱⁿ, figuring
to myself a sort of Murrain among Kings — or morbus regius [.] I have
taken a Lodging in York for myself and family for the Assizes: & see we
are to have the pleasure of Mr Hunts company: an event of no mean consequence
in a provincial Town — Yours dear Malthus very truely —

Sydney Smith —

kind regards to Mrs M.

[Addressed:] Revd Mr Malthus / E. India College / Hertford. —

Text from microfilm of original in Beinecke collection, Yale U.L.

Seen at Yale X-76
Wm IVY MILL 1/18/16
Source Soltkoby 17 Dec 1956 no 143

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To Lady Morpeth

21 Feb 1820

Only to request you will write a line to me or Mrs Sydney when Lord and Lady Carlisle arrive safe in London. I send Blanche a picture of Foston with my Love to her -- -- I should like to see Lord Morpeth at a Cumberland Election singing a Jovial Song to the Electors after dinner -- all send their Love to you here -- & I remain dear Lady Georgiana [yrs] very truly.

Sydney Smith. --

I am truly glad you are better. I hope to see you in Town about the beginning of April. You compare me to Camphor -- I hope I shall be Camphor in Spirits which is the common method in which Camphor is taken. --

don't you think the Pun pretty good? --

Feby, 21 -- 1820. --

Transcribed from Castle Howard photostat. CH/142 (24)

289
To T.R. Malthus

25 Feb 1820

Foston, February 25th, 1820

I am a very diligent reader of your works, and undertake to give you at least a very honest opinion upon the difference between you and Ricardo - if I can comprehend it - and, if I cannot, I will as honestly avow my disability. The Coach that passes by Hertford College will leave your book for me if it is published before the 10th of March, at Mr. Metcalf's, Watergate, York; if after ~~that~~ period, at Hardcastle's, Pavement, York, to be forwarded from thence by the Thornton Carmen.

I shall certainly read the articles you refer to in the Edinburgh Review. The Irish set no value upon their time because their time is of no value, as you justly observe, because they are too numerous. There is another head I think, and that is the scarcity of fuel in Ireland. I mean of coals, for, in spite of all other objections, I believe if there had been ^{great} any/choice of good coal situations English manufacturing capital would have found its way into Ireland. I hope, when I come to read your articles in the Review, I shall find you an advocate for middlemen, there seems to me a great deal of nonsense talked upon this subject. You may just as well inveigh against Woollen Drapers who step in between the makers of cloth and the wearers of breeches. Equally absurd is the clamor against landowners for high rents. It is not a question of feeling any more than broad cloth is a question of feeling, nor am I bound as a landowner to sacrifice any part of my income to strengthen the political situation of the country. I let out land, and I will get the utmost farthing for it that I can continue to get for a term of years. If I chuse to sacrifice income to homage, that is a mere choice between luxuries, but
/if.....

269.1

(25 Feb 1820 cont.)

if I prefer income I will draw every shilling from my estate that my estate can afford me without being injured. I make every body pay as highly for my commodity as I can; how absurd a great landed proprietor would appear if he went about among his farmers, and gave £20 to one, £50 to another merely for the sake of popularity, and what is the difference between not receiving, and giving when you have received ?

I am glad to find you are going on so well at Hertford, and that Hamilton is not so bad as I had suppos'd him. There is no sort of moral perversion to which I am less indulgent than forgetfulness of old friends, [of which] I hope you will never find me guilty.

I am, etc.

Text from Catalogue of the Collection of Autograph Letters and Historical Documents formed between 1865 and 1882 by Alfred Morrison, VI (1892), pp. 144-5. Letter described as '3 pages 4to., with Superscription'.

To Josiah Wedgwood

21 May 1820

271

Foston + York - May 21 - 1820/

My dear Sr./

Your Letter followed me here and was recd to day -
I am a visiting Magistrate for York Jail have written
both to the Jailor and Mr Wedgwood to day - will go
over to York as soon as possible - and do all I can to
lessen the poor young mans suffering - I do not know
without looking at the Books whether the offence is
bailable believe it is - When I know more particulars
you shall hear from me again - yours ever very
truly.

Sydney Smith/

do not scruple to write to me as fully as you wish about
any thing which concerns this case - I will do whatever I can do.

[End:] Sydney Smith / 21 May 1820

Text from xerox of Ms. Keele VL: Wedgwood MSS. 1470 A-2.

272

To ~~(H.H.)~~ Robert Wilmot ~~Horton~~ *

[May 1820]

My dear Sr. —

I cannot say how much I am shock'd by the dreadful accident which has happend — I have been ^engagd to dine for these 3 Weeks with the Putney Hermit William Lyttleton, upon asking Chauntry the maker of moulten Images & my fellow Guest — respecting the hour he informd me it was next Tuesday & not to day — — I am in such a state that a note from Ld Liverpool with the gift of a deanery would do me little good — If I commit what the Newspapers call the rash act remember you know the cause of it —

ever yours very trueely

Sydney Smith —

20 S_avile Row —

[Endorsed:] Sidney Smith / May / 1820

[Addressed:] Robt. Wilmot Horton / Montague Square.

Text from xerox of original in Catton papers, Derby Public Library.

* Robert Wilmot, later Sir Robert Wilmot-Horton, took the additional name of Horton in May 1823 [DNB]: in 1866 he married Anne Beatrice, ed. & chss. of Eusebius Horton of Catton, Derbys. Kt. 1831.

183

To Josiah Wedgwood

1 Jun 1820

My dear Sr. /

The young man has a separate room - the Liberty
of walking in the Yard - and every convenience he wishes.
I roād over to call upon him - and he expressed himself
perfectly satisfied - I have desired him to write to me. if I can
be of any Service to him in my power - his offence is
brilable before a Judge not before a magistrate to be bailed
he must go to Town in custody of an officer of the Prison -
ever yours most truly

Sydney Smith /

kind regards from us all. /

Foston York - June 1 - 1820 /

North Pole

[Add:] Josiah Wedgewood Esq / Etruria / Staffordshire. /

[End:] Sydney Smith / 1 June 1820 / Sam^l Wedgwood

[Pmk:] YORK 2JU 2 1820 196

Text from Xerox of Ms. Keele U.L. Wedgwood MSS. 1471-2.

✓ 274
To William Smith

5 Jun 1820

My dear Sr. --

I stayd so long in London that I forgot the Dissenters marriages -- the Edinburgh Review and every thing but your obliging attention in forwarding publications relative to the heterodox Nuptials Still there wants some substantive work to notice as Magazines are not proper Subjects for reviews -- but I dare say I shall be able to find such a publication without giving you further trouble

I find every thing very quiet here satirical persons might say dull: but I have no such meaning -- I was heartily glad to see your return to parliament -- and yet I believe you are one of the most mischievous men there -- for a few bold honest men whose opinions and Speeches are publish'd make people beleive they are free, & [✓]make [✓]them forget that they are constantly outvoted.

ever yours my dear Sr most sincerely

Sydney Smith --

June 5. 1820.--

Foston: York. --

[Addressed:] William Smith Esq M P / House of Commons

[Endosred:] Sydney Smith / 1820

[Postmarked:] FREE 8 JU 8 1820

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CH

To Lady Morpeth

Friday. Foston. --

My dear Lady G. --

You should have began with the Subject of food in general, have descanted upon the wisdom of fixing on stated periods for eating, and then carelessly, and Episodically have ask'd who was expected to dinner that day. -- the way you took dear Lady G was more British and produc'd more speedily a termination of all doubt. --

I have never the least doubt of your kindness, & good will -- and I am sure the Lord and Lady of the Castle would have been glad to see me, but arrangements are arrangements & it is better not to break through them. On Monday Lord Carlisle will perhaps be convinc'd that nothing is gain'd by putting off a Country Parson -- .

I shall be truely ~~m~~^{is}tified ~~was~~ if Mrs Palmer will not give Leave but she will hardly be such a Tyrant.

There is a good deal of thought & observation in many of the papers of the book you sent me much that is falt, & ~~was~~ dull, some things that are mistaken, great failure in the Wit & humor --

re always yours dear Lady G with sincere respect & regard --

Sydney Smith --

Bad news from the Army -- all [illeg.] and revolutionary -- Guards and Horse Guards carrying about an emblem of the Queen Bee. don't imagine I invent this to frighten you, you know me better

June 1820
[+821-?]
for the ^{prevail} discontent in the Guards,
see Wellington's Despatch to Liverpool
in Despatches, series II, vol i (1867)
pp 127-9. Cf also 370.

Discover when the H. Guards did this, from Wellington's Supplementary Despatches
WEST comments: "This no doubt refers to Queen Caroline. She d. on 7 Aug 1821, but the enthusiasm for her can hardly have outlasted Nov 1820. It should be possible to

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH1/142(28) no ws; end S.S. 1821(?)

276

To Archibald Constable

3 Sep [1820]

Dear Sr. --

On my arrival at home I found your acceptable present the
Abbot from which I have no doubt that I and my family shall derive great
amusement -- It is the only thing which could have put the Queen out of
peoples heads.

very truely yrs.

Sydney Smith --

Foston York. --

September 3d. --

[Addressed:] Mr Archibald Constable / Bookseller / Edinburgh. --

[Endersed:] 1820 / Sydney Smith / Foston / Septr 3

Text from xerox copy of Brotherton Library, Leeds, Constable Letter Book S.
Date confirmed from postmarks.

✓ 277

NCS 374
with additions

To J. A. Murray

3 Sep 1820

Foston York -- September 3^d 1820 -- Sunday --

My dear Murray. --

Many thanks for your kindness in enquiring about your old friends. I am very well, -- doubling in Size every year, and becoming more and more fit for the Butcher. -- Mrs Sydney is much as she was -- [Saba grown up to Womans estate & a very commendable Girl -- Douglas doing well at Westminster and threatening to be 6 feet high, Emily a clever Girl of 13. -- Wyndham a lively dirty fac'd Boy. -- --] I seldom leave home^ε, except on my annual Visit to London -- & this principally because I cannot afford it -- my income remains the same; my family increase in expence. my ^{ituti} constitutional gaiety comes to my aid in all the difficulties of life, and the recollection that having embrac'd the character of an honest man, and a friend to rational Liberty I have no business to repine at that medioc^rity of fortune which I knew to be its consequence --

Mrs Kennedy [?; later heavily deleted] is a very amiable young Woman -- inferior in beauty to Lady Charlotte Campbell and not so remarkable as Madame de Staël for the vigor of her understanding --. Her husband appears to be every thing that is amiable and respectable. -- [If you have any opportunity of sending a Message to Mrs Kennedy pray say that I accept her Love thankfully, return it sincerely -- and shall

/be

✓
277.1

(3 Sep 1820)

be delighted to confer my benediction upon Mr Kennedy & herself -- if they will do me the honor of visiting me in Yorkshire --]

The Queen is a contemptible Strumpet. -- she will be found guilty and sent out of the Country with a small allowance and in 6 months be utterly forgotten: So it will I think end -- but still I think Lord Liverpool very blameable in not having put a complete negative upon the ^owhile thing -- It would have been better for the Country, and exposd his party to less Risque than they have been already expos'd to in this business -- The Whiggs certainly would have refus'd to meddle with the divorce --

[Space.] I am sorry to read in your Letter such an accout of Scotland. do you imagine the ^disaffection to proceed from any thing but want ^{of} employment ? -- or at least that full employment interspersd with a little hanging will not gradually extinguish the bad Spirit ? I have just read the Abbot it is far above common novels -- but of very inferior execution^u to his others -- and hardly worth reading: he has ^hexhausted the Subject of Scotland, and worn out the few characters that the early periods of Scottish history c[ould] supply him with. Meg ^εMerriless appears afresh in every no[vel.] [If the author can do no better -- he should leave off-- though ^usich has been his fame that he may gain 3 or 4 thousand ^{po}pounds in the act of descending fm public favor --] I ^wish you had told me something of yourself -- are you well ? - rich ? - happy ? - do you digest ? - have you any thoughts of ^rmarrying ? - my whole parish is to be sold for £50,000 pray buy it --

✓
277.2

(3 Sep 1820)

quit your profession and turn Yorkshire Esquire We should be ^a model for Squires
and Parsons. God bless you -- all the family unite in kind regards -- shall we
ever see you again ?

S S --

Addressed John Murray Esqr / Advocate / George Street / Edinburgh

Postmarks (illegible)

Text from xerox of MS. Haverford College Library.

NCS 374 with substantial additions *marked []*; and also various minor alterations.

281. From Josiah Wedgwood [11]

4 Dec 1820

London 4 Decr 1820

My dear Sir

Accept my most cordial thanks for your very great kindness to Samuel Wedgwood, and permit me to make another appeal to your goodnature.

My brothers eldest son brought up at Dr Burneys & Westminster school & since, four years in the Counting house, & almost a daily guest in the family, of one of the first merchants in Amsterdam, finds no opening in business and is besides unfit for commerce. He is with a clergyman qualifying himself to take orders to be ready for the Archbishop of Yorks summer ordination. He is 23, of excellent character & conduct, and having studious habits and a good memory I have no doubt of his passing the examination with credit — His difficulty I understand will be the obtaining of a curacy for a title, and if you

2)

(4 Dec 1820)

281.1 should have it in your power to assist him in that respect you would do him a very great favour.

Pray remember me kindly & respectfully to Mrs Smith & believe me

Your much obliged

Josiah Wedgwood

If you have occasion to write to me direct Etruria Staffordshire — I am again living at M[illegible] I wish it was a convenient [illegible] you.

The Revd S Smith

[End:] To Sydney Smith / 4 Decr 1820

Text from xerox of writer's own copy in Keele U.K.
Wedgwood MSS. 1472-2.

283

To Edward Davenport

13 Dec 1820

Lambton Hall Wednesday 13 —

Dear Davenport. —

I am just come from Edinburgh; and was staying with Jeffrey when your Letter arriv'd. he does not like to have his Editorial functions interferd with, and I do not like to interfere with them So I must leave you, and him to settle as to the Article itself — If you write it and send it to me I will play the part of Aristarchus to you — but remember do not accept me for an office of that nature, if you are afraid of truth -- and severity for upon such subjects I will flatter nobody — nor is it I am sure in your nature, or in your habits to require any such thing —

I shall be at Foston on Sunday and remain theⁿse for the rest of my life — Scotland is becoming Whiggish and radical — there is a great Meeting at Durham to day in which Lord Grey is to bear a part. I have been staying with him — the Alnwick people came over with an address and drank 44 Bottles of Sherry — 52 of old Port besides Ale. Lord Lauderdale was hunted out of Berwick by the Dogs of the Town — the Waiters said there could not be less than 200 Bull Dogs at his horses heels, besides Pugs and Lurchers — we will say nothing of dead Cats and Saliva. — If you send me your review leave very other side of the paper blank, — and write wide — Read Anastasius — and Walpoles Letters at my peril. there are parts and descriptions in Anastasius equal to any thing in Tacitus or Lord Byron — though I admit they are agglutinated together by a good deal of heavy matter

283.1

(13 Dec 1820, cont.)

This seems a fine place in a very ugly COUNTRY — the house
is full of every possible Luxury — and lighted with Gass one of
the greatest of all Luxuries — ^{space} The Itch is severe this year in
Edinburgh the Lord Provost & Town Council were all in Sulphur — &
the Professors in the University just sloughing their Scarf Skin —
the Scratching posts in the New College are all of Marble and
beautiful — with Tablets below to the God Scabies —

ever yours dear D_avenport very sincerely —

Sydney Smith —

December 13

1820 —

Text from photograph of John Rylands Library, Bromley-Davenport muniments,
Letters of Sydney Smith, 8.

= N.C.S. 382, to which it affords ~~substantial~~ additions.