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W

To Mrs Hicks Beach

4 Jan 1824

Foston - York - Jany 4th 1824

My dear Madam

My son is not yet gone to Oxford & will not go there till the month of May, nor have I been at Oxford these ten years - but it has been some fat man who has taken my name. I am however much obliged to him for the Imposture, as it has given me this proof on the part of Mr Beach & yourself of kind recollection & continued good Will.

I shall have very sincere pleasure in seeing you all again, & if I ^{possibly} can pay you a visit, I will. - Allow me to give you a short history of my family & myself. - My eldest daughter is a sensible amiable Girl, not bad looking of 22 years of age - my eldest Son is Captain of Westminster - a very sensible judicious young man - a quality this last which you will easily believe he does not derive from me - then comes Emily a remarkably clever girl of 16 - & then Wyndham, a lively Boy of 10, fond of ^{mud} wind, & noise. - Mrs Sydney keeps her health so do I - I have one moderate Living, & another good one to hold for nine years. My Parsonage is extremely comfortable, & I am full of Spirits & talk - in short happy enough. -

You used to make Tours - I wish you would come, you & Mr Beach & all of you, & make us a Visit - there is much worth seeing in Yorkshire. I think of you both with real regard - & I do not believe I should forget my early friends even if I was a Bishop - & yet Bishops commonly do. William is a nice young man to blow himself up - a Gentleman last week near us, shot his own Mule, & set fire to his shooting jacket. God bless you my dear Madam - health & happiness, & many years to you & yours

Sydney Smith

To Basil Hall

2 Mar 1824

My dear Sr. —

My opinion is not alterd but confirm'd that yr Book will be a lively agreeable Sensible accout of a Country with which all persons are desirous to become acquainted — Such is my opinion — but very probably my opinion may not be worth a farthing — I have no great opinion of my opinions — ever most truely Yrs. —

Sydney Smith —

Foston March 2d - 1824. —

[Addressed:] Captain ^aHall R N / George Street / Edinburgh / NB / 128. —

[Postmarked:] Various, but illegible.

"Extracts from a Journal written on the coasts of Chili, Peru and Mexico 1820, 1821, 1822"

MS. Gordon N. Ray.

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To Francis Wrangham

6 Mar 1824

My dear Sr. --

There is an hatter at the Corner of Ousegate be so good as to give him advice upon the important Question of an Hat for the Assizes for me -- It should I fancy be a mere manual hat -- I will not have a Shovel - so pray direct about the Instrument. I presume it is a Chapeau de Bras [?] -- Blanchard will call to consult you.

Yrs very truly

Sydney Smith --

Foston March 6 -- 1824. --

[Addressed:] Revd Mr Wrangham / Mr Hamleys Lodgings / Blake Street / York. --

Text from xerox copy lent by Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, Texas.

*On this assize preaching as chaplain
to Sir ^{John} Johnstone, see M. 248
NCS. 407n.*

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To Thomas Moore

5 Jun 1824

47. Hertford Street May Fair

My dear Sr. —

I have always thought the praise of honest, and enlightened men of more value than a Bishopric, and I shall keep ~~the~~ Captains Bock [?] and his critical commendation as a piece of moral preferment — I am afraid the business will be done at last rather by fear than by wit or reason; and that it will not be done at all for a Century. a period to which political abuses often survive after they are generally thought to be in a state of decay —

Ever most truly Yrs —

Sydney Smith —

June 5. 1824 —

[Addressed:] London June eighth 1824 / T. Moore Esq. / Sloperston /
(and franked) Devizes / Lansdowne

[Postmarked:] FREE 8 JU 8 1824

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From Mrs Sydney Smith to Archibald Constable

[17 Jun 1824]

Foston Rectory York

Dear Sir

In Mr. Smith's absence give me leave to return you our best thanks for your kind attention in sending us the new novel of Red Gauntlet; which much as I long to read, I have resolved not to touch till I have assured you how much we feel obliged by this, your kind recollection of us. It will serve to amuse my daughter & myself in Sydney's absence as every work must do, that proceeds *from* the brilliant & easy-flowing pen of the Author of Waverley.

If you ever cross our latitude I am sure it will give Mr. Smith as well as myself great pleasure to see you here. -- Between Edinbro & London this is an half-way House, that I wish our Scots friends found out more frequently. -- for the goodness of its accommodation I must refer you to Mr. Leonard Horner who has been so good as often to visit our "Hostellerie". --

Yours dear Sir very truly

Catherine Amelia Smith. --

[Addressed:] Archibald Constable Esqre | Edinburgh

Text from xerox copy of Brotherton Library, Leeds, Constable Letter Book S.
[Endorsed] 1824/Mrs Smith/Foston/June 17/Redgauntlet? Date confirmed by postmark & fact
that Redgauntlet was published in June 1824.

To Lady Copley

[9 Jul 1824]

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Dear Lady Copley.

pray send the enclos'd to Lady M ~~Sheppd~~^{Sheppard?}
and read it if you like — I do not mean

to make you the conductress of Letters
between the learned Pastorella and

myself as I conceive this will be the
finale of my Correspondence —

profound fame — I found everythg
& thriving in the Country — and ha

much of Turneps — and Beans

behaving myself as one who had ne
seen London — or civilised Life —

Copley — to whom health & hap

Sydney Sn

S

MS. D.R. Bentham
(bk from John Wilson
as frag: E3, 1976v7)

To Lady Mary Shepherd

(philosopher)

9 Jul 1824

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Madam.

'Essay upon the Relation of Cause and Effect'

I have read your book, & of course I think your position right, and those of your adversaries wrong - but whether you have arrived at right ~~argum-~~ conclusions by logical arguments I really cannot decide for I find the question above me with the moderate degree of attention I am able to bestow upon it. I have not the slightest alteration to propose. The book is written in very good style and taste, no invective, no appeal to the Mob as is so common in answering Sceptical writers - no arguments from the peril of the consequences, no female declamation - all close, candid, calm and business like - if the book is well reasoned it is a very good book - and whether it is well reasoned or not I honestly cannot tell but I see enough in it to make me believe you have considerable Abilities - I remain Madam your obed^t St

Sydney Smith

Foston York July 9 - 1824.

MS. Mr D.R.
Bentham, or by
him from John
Wilson in 1976 or 7 for
£12

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1824

To Richard Heber

20 Aug 18~~0~~4

August 20 1824

Foston York. —

My dear Heber —

When my merits are properly understood and rewarded in the Church, I will subscribe to the Athenaeum, or any other Club you please — but I have not risen at present (nor shall I ever rise) beyond Mutton Chops & the Grays Inn Coffee house —

Many thanks of the intended honor —

I have had no opportunity ^{of telling you} that the last time we met you help'd me very badly to Asparagus ^{no} toast — and only 3 heads of the Vegetable I dont suppose you meant any thing by it — but it had an unfriendly appearance

ever my dear Heber — very truly yours

Sydney Smith

I have sent you a Sermon [*the larger that temple?*]

only 200 printed — Roxburgh

From my transcript of Bodl. MS. Eng. lett. d. 215, ff. 163-4.

Printed by Cholmondeley, Heber Letters, p. 320

Heber was one of the founders of the Athenaeum Club, and many notabilities were asked ~~at~~ his instance to become members. [RHC]

To Sir Robert Peel

30 Aug 1824

Sr. —

I took up a man for poisoning Cattle — & sent the Constable to search the house of the suspected person for poison. Poison he found (Arsenic in a paper) — brought it to my house in his pocket, & to shelter the Prisoner denied that any had been found: I have his own confession of the fact — signed by himself — If I prosecute this man it will cost me 60 or 70 pounds — nor is there any power in the Quarter Sessions to allow me my Expences^o [.] The man therefore escapes with impunity — surely it would be a great improvement — If ~~two~~ 2 Magistrates concurring in the indictment of a constable could be allowed their Expences at the Q Sessions unless the Indictment was found to be frivolous and Vexatious — I am Sr very respectfully your obed^t Serv^t

Sydney Smith. —

Foston York —

August 30. — 1824. —

 Text from microfilm of B.M. Add. MS. 40368, f. 72.

[Endorsed:] Foston - York Aug. 30. 1824 / Revd. Sydney Smith / A. Oct. 5. / Imperfection of the law in throwing the expense of prosecuting a public officer for violation of duty on the individual Magistrate.

[Copy reply, 5 Oct 1824, at ff. 74-5: father's illness delayed reply, is obliged for raising question, which he will fully consider before the meeting of parliament.]

To Henry [Howard] 342

1 Sep 1824

Dear Henry. ✓

This is the person who painted Lady Ann Vernons picture
I do not join in the request feeling that I have no
right to do so - or to intrude upon Lord Carlisle for other
people merely because he is full of kindness to me - All
that I can say ~~th~~ is that the young man appears to
me clever - and of very civil demeanor - Lord Carlisle
(to whom if you please my kind regards) will deal with
his request as he thinks proper - yours &c Henry

very truly

Sydney Smith ff

September 1 -

Foston York

1824. ✓

MS. Bentham.

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To the 11th Duke of Somerset

17 Sep [1824]

September 17. Foston York —

My dear Lord —

Many thanks for your kind Letter It is a real pleasure to me to be rememberd, and thought well of by upright, and honorable men like yourself —

It will give me great pleasure to visit you when I come to Town — and I am sure it is not for want of many obliging invitations on your part that I have not done so. — but I am a very honest diner out — and never break an engagement I have accepted, for one later & more agreeable — & this I am sure you will allow to be the morality of Epulation — the good faith of banqueting — high & virtuous principle applied to Fish and Soup.

My situation in Life is that of decent mediocrity. I have built a very comfortable parsonage & the Duke of Devonshire has lately given me another Living to hold for one of Ld Morpeths Sons — which while it lasts will make me (accustomd to a little) rather a rich man — I have one Son who from the head of Westminster is just gone as a Student to X^h Church — another just going on the foundation at Charter House, & I have 2 daughters — — I am very happy & complain of nothing but an excess of animal Spirits which I cannot always find means to curb, & controul. — Mrs Sydney begs her Compts — and I remain my dear Lord your Graces much obligd & obt St —

Sydney Smith —

I beg to be rememberd to the Duchess. If you ever travel in the North and

/will.....

344.1

(17 Sep [1824] cont.)

will look at our parsonage — We will take great care of her Grace
and you — and shew you Castle Howard which we are reckond to do better
than the Housekeeper Mrs. Flinn: —

Text from xerox copy of original in Bucks. County Record Office. Dated
from early endorsement.

345 2 London

From the Bishop of London

18 Sep 1824

London Septr. 18. 1824

My dear Sir,

Your Sermon preached at the Assizes would not have lain so long on my table without a proper acknowledgement for your attention in ⁿsend~~ing~~ me a copy, if I had not been from home on a tour of some weeks. -- I have read it with great pleasure, and wish it were the ~~lost~~ of the Judges, and those who accompany them on such occasions, more frequently to hear such useful advice, propounded in so interesting a manner, and enforced with so much power --

I am a man of much business and therefore see little ~~of~~ you when you come to Town -- My occupations indeed will not allow me the time to look after any one -- I should nevertheless have pleasure in keeping up an acquaintance which began at school and college ----

I remain

My dear Sir

Very truly ~~Yours~~

W. London

Endorsed by S.S.: 7 1824 - Bp of London -----

New College Oxford, Archives 4429, no. 88. (Transcript in my NCO mls, pp 29-30).

To Lord Carlisle

20 Sep 1824

September 20. —

1824. —

Foston York. —

My dear Lord. —

The question between Mr Read and myself is whether certain Words taken down in writing by me from his report and yours. were spoken or not. I have written to several Gentlemen who were present and nothing can be stronger than their answers as you yourself know. since I saw you I have receiv'd an answer from the Secretary Mr Simson stating that he never heard such Words — and from the Rev'd Mr Day stating that he listend attentively to every Words I spoke and is confident no such Words were ever usd — and no words whatever of which Mr Read has any sort of right to complain — I have Dr Simsons verbal assurance he heard no such Words — Sr G Cayley the Chairman is in Ireland where my Letter has follow'd him. I have already written to many — and shall write to all the Gentlemen present — When all the answers are receiv'd I shall make copies of them in a book and you shall judge for yourself — This is surely the fair and manly way of proceeding — Colohel Chomley mentions no names — produces no Letters, and brings no testimonies of the words alledg'd when I should suppose he would do if he could after such an active enquiry — — he merely talks of general insult to Mr Read — I can safely

/and.....

(20 Sep 1824)

conscientiously say I have not the most distant recollection of any incivility to Mr Read — but on the contrary was through the whole as scrupulous of giving him offence as I possibly could be, consistently with attention to the course in which I was engag^d — I have not the most distant recollection of one unpleasant Word to him or from him — and I was the more cautious of this because of all men I ever saw in my Life at a public meeting he is the most touchy, & quarrelsome — but this is not the question at present the question is Whether the Words were spoken — Give me credit for not letting this matter alone till it is fairly probd to the bottom

I remain my ^dDr Lord very truly Yrs

Sydney Smith —

Turn over

I beg it to be dis^tinctly understood that I do not at present accuse Mr Read^e of any unintentional misrepresentation I merely say he is completely mistaken — the circumstances are so singular, that I scarcely know what to say about them —

There is in Mr Read's Letter to you a complete Specimen of his inaccuracy respecting Expressions — he says I swore that I had usd no such expressions — I said to him "upon my honor and upon my oath I usd no such words — I would willingly take my oath ~~no~~

^{no}
//such.....

346.2

CH

(20 Sep 1824)

no such words were us'd" — by his Statement it would seem I had come out with a great Oath — I pass over the Expressions of violent, and unmannerly abuse in Mr Reads Lr so common among quarrelling Clergymen — As I cannot risk my Life for this sort of language I never use it. —

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH 1/142(12)

346.3

Take this as a note
to 20 Sep 1824.

(20
[Sep 1824])

CH

[C. R. Read]

[A ^{par} ~~separate~~ sheet, with the following words:]

Sr

If you raise your voice & do not hold your noise I shall say something to you which you will not easily forget —

Words stated by Mr Read to Lord Carlisle to have been used by Mr Smith at a Justice meeting at Malton.—

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH/142 (7)

This refers to a minor and over-blown altercation between Sydney and the Rev. C. R. Read of Sand Hutton, at a Magistrates' meeting at Malton. Lord Carlisle was asked to act as a mediator, and collected opinions, including several letters from the irate Read, which survive at Castle Howard.

The original complaint which provoked the 'words' seems to have been the charge that Sydney had referred to nine of the Turnpike Trustees at 'The Nine Enemies of McAdam' in the public prints. 'There can be little doubt', Read wrote, 'but the intention was to exhibit in some ridiculous view or other - to effect which, and suit his own purposes, he spares no one'. When challenged by Read, Sydney was alleged to have replied as above, although the local bench differed in their recollections of the precise words used. There was some feeling that Sydney was exceeding his station: 'I think a clergyman residing in the county, without an acre of land in the county belonging to him, ought to know better than to attempt to be a leading character in county business', Colonel G. Cholmley had written to Read. The matter eventually died out, thanks to Lord Carlisle's (probably amused) intervention.

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CH

To Lord Carlisle

12 Oct 1824

Sedgely Manchester

G. Philips Esq M P. --

My dear Lord --

I take the Liberty to send you copies of Letters to, & from Mr Read. -- I beg to know if I am correct in the recollections of the following circumstances as stated by you to me --

Mr Read was on a Visit to Castle Howard: Having heard of such a Circumstance you lamented to Mr Read the misunderstanding which existed between him, and Me -- Mr Read Stated the cause of the misunderstanding to be certain Expressions (which you ~~had~~ have already stated to me in Writing) spoken before 11- or 12 Gentlemen ^{he/} at a public meeting. for these Words ~~the~~ requir'd some apology but would be contented with any apology however slight -- & as your Lordship kindly offerd your mediation he authorisd you to convey this message to me. I beg to know if this Statement is correct, -- and if any other cause of alienation and complaint & any other subject of apology was stated.

My reason for troubling you with this question is Mr Reads denial that the Words in question are the subject of dispute between us -- I only know from your Lordship that there was any complaint of any kind -- and I do not remember that any other was stated by you to me --

You will oblige me by stating whether these recollections of

/mine.....

348.1

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(12 Oct 1824)

mine are correct or not upon the opposite Side. and by
returning this Sheet to me

I remain my dr Lord yours very truly

Sydney Smith. —

October 12 1824. —

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH/142(9)

The tone of Carlisle's mediation may be judged from the following
postscript to a copy of his letter to Read of 23 Sep: "A sad
mistake prevails somewhere. Until the saddle is put upon the
right horse, I own I do not see my way towards successful mediation.
But I will not despair."

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To Lord Carlisle

(27 [Oct] 1824

Foston

Monday 27 --

1824. --

My dear Lord. --

I beg simply to state that my account at present stands thus -- the Chairman the Secretary the two persons next to Mr Reed [sic] the two persons next to me, and 14 other Trustees, decaler no such Words were used --

Currer did not hear the Words, but he believes Words of Similar import were used. None of the persons however whom he states to have been close to me, and Mr Reed [sic] heard them though according to him they were pronounced in a loud Imperious manner -- When my Evidence is completed I will then consider what is to be done -- I remain your Lordships obligd & obt Servant

Sydney Smith. --

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH/142 (11)

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CH

October
[Autumn 1824] At Sydney

From Lord Carlisle

Dear Sydney,

It will be a real satisfaction to your friends to find that the soft staple of your present Residence has suggested an idea powerfully subservient to the peaceful happiness of your future years, and has determined you to prefer for the wane of life a robe of ^{no} Manchester cotton to one of horse-hair.

Excuse the voice of friendship, too sincere to be melodramatic when it expresses a dread, that you seem about to make your election for the latter, when the former is within your reach.

A Friend alarmed at Pope's indulgence of severe satire, says to him

"When every Grace and every Muse is thine

Why choose the least attractive of the nine ["

When you are so capable of giving us both instruction and pleasure, why run a muck at every component part of society: Order, Class, Profession, the Bar, the Bench, rural residents, West Indian proprietors, youthful sports^mmen, brother Magistrates? These perhaps you think you are only tickling with a straw; but your friends too well know, by the writhings of the wounded, you have occasioned many an ulcer that is mining all within. Would it have ^x ~~been~~ much detracted from your excessive ^{u o} ~~e~~logy of America and every thing American, to have spared us, your unfortunate countrymen, and not fixed upon their foreheads the Cain-like brand of surliness, /sulkiness.....

850.1

CH

(Oct 1824)

sulkiness, selfishness ? Will it not be suspected that having made the Old World too hot to hold you, you are providing a sly and comfortable retreat in the New ?

| What is your present situation ? Well received wherever a kind reception can be made acceptable to you -- no hesitating acknowledgement of your talents -- as much indulgence from society as can be bestowed for vivacious sallies, hurrying you sometimes to a verge over which you would grieve to be carried. But these ebullitions of spirits, even should a tinge of gall be detected in them, immediately disappear under the Indian rubber of partiality, and a friendly leaning towards you and the House of Foston. What can you desire more ? | For God's sake consider that what often is forgiven from the tongue is not endured from the pen. The calm of the study banishes all excuse of indiscretion or precipitation and when you let slip your dogs of war upon the World, you yourself must admit you do so with the *and cold blooded intention* sobriety of premeditation. Now this World is a most tough old Lady, very like a whale, most difficult to harpoon, and often upsets the boat which attempts it.

Retire from the dangerous enterprize. Why prepare for your self a bed of thorns for that hour when one of down might hardly invite repose ?

Elevated spirits can only support themselves to a certain period of life; when these begin to fail, then comes the hour of vengeance for slaps and bruises which timid and patient

/sufferers.....

350.2

CH

(Ocr 1824)

sufferers have ~~bound~~nd, like corn, and let out of the storehouse upon the sick Lion, who may not then be a match for ~~the~~^{x a} Jackass.

A long experience in life, for I entered it at 17, serves to convince me, no-one ever undertook your voyage, who was not shipwrecked. You may stroke, but do not strike the World. All this, I know, will appear assuming and unpalatable, but if you take it as it is meant, you may turn it to use, and I risk it.

C

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CH/142 (109) from J. Whatman Turkey Mill, 1824.

WEST: "most interesting: What occasioned it?
The ER review referred to in 10 Jan 1825?
It is interesting too, to see from Sydney's
reply that Lord C's opinion that it is better
to attack individuals than classes, is not
shared by him"

351

CH

To Lord Carlisle

30 Oct 1824

[In C.A.S's hand:]

October 30. 1824

My dear Lord --

I have read your letter again this Morning. There are few men -- who would have written a better in point of style -- a wiser in substance, or one more kind in point of feeling.

The subjects to which you allude as having been discussed by me, are subjects of considerable importance. You do not doubt but that they contain my opinions.

I can have no motive of interest in maintaining such opinions -- but on the contrary must be sensible that they are injurious to my interests.

I rather believe your objection to be, not against the discussion of such subjects, but against the manner in which I have discussed them. --

If I had discussed the Game laws, the West Indian Int^{ts}. &c &c, respectfully, quietly, and without provocation, you would have seen nothing to blame in such a dedication of my time.

Presuming for a moment (which I do assure you I do not claim) that I have any powers of wit, & ridicule, you do not deny that they give force & popularity to the attack, -- but you contend that by multiplying Enemies they accumulate materials for unhappiness. -- There is no doubt of the truth of this; -- but the advantages on the other side of the question must not be overlook'd.

/continue.....

(30 Oct 1824)

Continue the same gracious & unfounded hypothesis, that those attacks are made with a mixture of argument & pleasantry which commands attention & produces a strong effect; — what are the advantages to the writer? The successful exercise of power in the promotion of truth & justice, — the advancement of good principles & destruction of bad ones. — Emersion from darkness & obscurity, — the sincere friendship of many good men, who agree with his opinions, honour his courage, respect his honesty, & are grateful to him for the triumphant statement of their own argument & the successful development of their own thoughts. Tomorrow I am going with Mrs. Sydney & my children to visit Lord Derby. — why? — He read my review perhaps of the Bp. of Peterbro', & said there is some fun & some sense in this man I shd like to know him —

— What am I doing at this moment? — I am writing familiarly to a Nobleman of the most cultivated talents & of the highest Rank, about myself & my own concerns. — How shd. I ever have become acquainted with you, if you had not known something ^{about} ~~of~~ me by reviews by Peter Plymley, falsely ascribed to me but really by Lord Morpeth?

I can not agree with you that it is more dangerous & more injurious to the character & peace of Mind of the Writer to attack classes than individuals. — I believe if ^B ~~Bope~~ had confined himself to classes & ^t ~~not~~ drawn portraits of individuals he would have been

/less.....

(30 Oct 1824)

abhorr'd. — but tho' I think it useful & creditable to attack what ought to be attacked, & expedient to use such weapons in attack, as God has given us, gravity or gaiety, sense, or sarcasm, — yet there is moderation to be used in the frequency of attacks, — & in the bitterness of attacks. — & in both these points I believe I have sinned. — I had sent a severe article upon the Catholic Question before your letter came. — but after that, I will seriously remember your useful & valuable advice, & tho' I attack & joke, I will attack less frequently, & joke less severely. —

[Concluded by S.S.:]

I thought you would prefer a legible answer so I have employ'd Mrs S — I remain my dr Ld most truly Yrs

Sydney Smith.✠

Text from Castle Howard photostat. CA/142(10)