

574
To J. A. Murray

T
24 Jan 1831

8 Gloucester place Clifton Bristol —

My dear Murray. —

pray tell me how you are all going on in Scotland —
Is Jeffrey much damag'd — they say he fought like a Lyon — and would
have been kill'd had he been more visible — but that several people
struck at him who could see nothing & so batterd infinite Space instead
of the Advocate ——— How did you find Brougham — he despatches
Causes quickly. but whether he satisfies the profession I do not know —
have some thoughts of going to Town the middle of February is there any
chance of seeing you there. — I think Lord Grey will give me some
preferment if he stays in long enough — but the Upper Parsons live
Vindictively — and evince their aversion to a ^Wigg Ministry by an improv'd
health — the Bishop of Ely has the rancor to recover after three paralytic
Strokes — and the Dean of Lichfield to be vigorous at 82 — and yet these
~~are~~ ^{are} the men who are calld Christians —

Things seem to be improving — I am afraid of Lord Angleseys
indiscretion — and still more of the indiscretion of his adviser Plunket —
We are all well, are here upon duty and remain here till the middle of
February — I think we shall be in Town. but that must depend upon the
state of my Exchequer

[Continued:]

This first half of N.C.S. 572 is from New College, Oxford, archives, bundle
4431: the second half is from J.R.L. Eng. MS. 700/87.

514.1

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(24 Jan 1831 contd.)

tell me about your little boy
 does he take his Porridge kindly — does he shew
 any taste for metaphysics — how is Mrs Murray
 when do you come and see us ? pray arrange
 to stay as long as you can — and remember
 that Ascanius [?] and his Nurse are indispensable
 to the party — do these political Changes make
 any difference in your business — You are so rich that
 it is of no consequence — but still it is pleasant to
progress give my kind regards to all my friends
 to your excellent Wife — & to Mrs Jeffrey a great favorite of
 mine — & belive me dear Murray ever most truely yrs

Sydney Smith —

Jany 24 1831 —

[Addressed:] J. A. Murray Esq / Advocate / George Street / Edinburgh / N B —

Second half of the letter from photograph of John Rylands Library, Eng. MS. 700/87, which has autograph collectors' endorsements.

Ascanius



✓ 517
To W. Ross

18 Feb 1831

Sr. —

I have forwarded your application to my Nephew & desired him to give it his best attention: I can not say I have any great influence with him — but I think he will attend to my request so far as to examine — but however this may be — I have done all I can do —

Of course the success of the application must depend upon the nature of the application itself when it comes to be unfolded.

— I hope you are going well — where you are but Scotland is not the best Country in the World for the arts. — I keep my health — am growing old & Stupid. have moderate preferment in the Church but of course ^{*} much less than I should have had if I had acted with meanness ^[sic] & baseness on the Catholic question —

I remain yours very truly

Sydney Smith —

[Addressed:] W. Ross Esq / West Bath St / 20 / Glasgow — / N.B.

[Postmarked:] BRISTOL 18 FEB 1831 [illeg.]

GLASGOW 20 FEB 1831

Text from photocopy of Texas U.L. manuscript ~~sent by Howard Mackey. Special permissions necessary.~~

* looks rather like cause

✓
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To Richard York

20 Jul 1831

Combe Florey Taunton July 20 1831 ~

Dear York. --

I am sure you know Mrs Sydney and me too well not to know that we felt
sincerely for your loss and were well aware how great it was -- Nobody valued
poor Lady Mary more than we did, or were better acquainted with her many ~~fine~~ *good*
& excellent Qualities. -- I think change of Scene will do you good --
come down -- and pay us a Visit we shall be delighted to see you and to shew
you our pretty place -- the best way of coming is to sleep at Bath and the Bath
Mail the next morning brings you -- close to our house -- pray say that you
agree to this arrangement -- and ^tmention your day. Mr & Mrs Hibber^t are here

Yrs my dr York ever^t most sincerely

Sydney Smith.

Text from xerox of MS. ^{Major} York.

To Lord Powchester [3rd Earl of Carnarvon.]

[Summer 1831]

523

I attributed your Silence my dear Lord Powchester to any thing but want of Courtesy — I was in Love in the Year 86 — and have recollection enough to extend every kind of indulgence to the Nergamist — indeed I think I owe you an apology for intruding upon you so early —

I am truly glad we are to be neighbors. — Six good London neighbors for one in the Country is a fair market price — You & I together shall liberalize a whole Wapentake. —

[new page = A] That there will be a general Slaughter of the Clergy in the course of the ensuing Summer I think can hardly be doubted — I have written to the Dean of Bristol to propose selling all we can of the Cathedral at Bristol — dividing the money, and absconding — Common prudence I think points out some step of this kind —

ideas of Separation are now becoming common in Ireland — that is to be expected after Belgium but what do you think of the Welch availing themselves of this opportunity to recover

(Summer 1831)

their Autocracy. - they are said to be arming about Plinlimmon, & that deputies have been sent to Sr Watkin: God save us from a Heptarchy.

It will give Mrs Sydney & me very great pleasure to cultivate the friendship of Lady Portchester and yourself - I beg my kind Compts and regards to that very pleasing & amiable Lady - & remain my dear Lord Portchester ever very truly Yrs

Sydney Smith //

Philips has built a truly noble house here - ✓

[Add:] Viscount Portchester. ✓

[Wmk:] J GREEN & SON / 1829

Portchester (who succ: as Earl of Carnarvon in 1833) m. 4 Aug 1830 Henrietta Anne, d. of Lord Henry Howard, brother of the Duke of Norfolk

Text Extracts from this, and the letters of 11 Nov 1831 and '11-21 Nov 1831' below, published in conflation in Sir Arthur Hardinge's The Life of the 4th Earl of Carnarvon (OUP/M. 2nd, 1925), i. 13-14.

BL Add MS. 60993

✓ 526
To Richard York

30 Aug 1831

My dear York. --

I think it a very odd thing that a Lieutenant Colonel should break his Shins [space]
I remember no instance of it -- Plutarch has nothing of the kind. -- We are
here till the last Week in September -- going from the 12th to the 19th to Lord
Morleys -- shall certainly be at home on the 1st Sunday in October -- and remain
there the rest of my life. Nothing can be so absurd as to go to Ireland --
it is only a bad and impoverishd England -- you will be drown'd in a Steam
Boat, and killd in a duel & perhaps converted to the Catholic Religion.

Mrs Hibbert^g leaves us on the 12th. I have also ^vbroken my Shin -- but
as I have a knowledge of medicine to which you do not pretend you will probably
be cur'd sooner than I shall. --

We shall be extremely glad to see you -- but my rule is the only fair one --
both free or both bound. -- The moment you write your day or about your day. --
if then disengagd I will keep myself so for you -- but till then you shall be
free to change -- and I to accept^{pt} Engagements if I please

Ever my dear York very truly Yrs

Sydney Smith --

August 30 1831

Sidmouth Devonshire --

/You

526.1 ✓

(30 Aug 1831)

You desire me to write to you here, without saying what you mean by here
but great allowance must be made for Gentlemen who have broken their Shins. --

Addressed: Lieutenant Colonel York / Wighill Park / Easingwold /
Yorkshire / if not at home to be forwarded.

Forwarded: Misdirected to Easing^d / Tadcaster

Then to: Gargrave / Skipton

Postmarked: SIDMOUTH AU 31 1831 // TADCASTER // (illeg.) 3 SE 1831

Text from xerox of MS. ^{Major} York.

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To Lord Grey

26 Sep 1831

My dear Lord Grey —

I condole with you — and Lady Grey very sincerely on what has happend — I have myself passd through the Misery by which poor Lord Durham is afflicted. —

One Word upon other topics — I think you are agitated — but remember you have up to this point done all in your power to bring about an **E**vent of the utmost importance to the Country, and therefore to the King — and up to this point your **E**fforts [space] / have been rewarded by the most unexampld Success — (try the bill in the Lords. It is not improbable it may pass — if not do not hesitate one moment to make 50 or 60 Peers if they are wanted. — I am as certain as I am of my **E**xistence that you will gain the Warmest thanks — and gratitude of the Country by such a measure — increase their confidence in public men — and confirm that high reputation which you have acquired by this measure If you hesitate to do this — you will retire with the sincere affection of all who know you — but your fair fame as a great Minister is at an end —

If the King will not do it — that is an event over which you have no controul. — You can only advise Kings not compell them — Your party & the Country will stand bye you — because they will see by such actions that providence had made you a Leader of men, and that you are worth supporting & ultimately you will prevail. —

(26 Sep 1831)

After conversing with many sensible men I am of opinion that it would be the Wisest course to wait till after the 2d reading -- for a batch of Peers. -- inclin'd I should say to that opinion -- for the question is a very difficult one -- but that the Bill should be forced through by a creation of Peers if necessary -- I do not in the least doubt, for your fame -- and happiness -- and for the public good --

You will I am sure attribute this Letter not to Impudence -- and folly but to sincere affection for you --

Sydney Smith --

I have taken the Liberty of putting your name on my card as presenting me at the Levee. --

September 26. 1831 --

Text from Durham University Dept. of Palæography & Diplomatic photostat.

533 From Josiah Wedgwood [11]

[Oct 1831]

I have heard of your preferment with great satisfaction & congratulate you upon it very sincerely. I hope however that it is only a stepping stone. I want to see you in Mrs Partingtons to teach her how to squeeze her mop & scrub her floors — Seriously the Rt Revd bench has just shown such a lack of knowledge of what is passing around them & of wisdom that they greatly need the infusion of strong sense & vigorous understanding among them. I believe however that it will be too late & that they have unsettled them selves if not soon yet surely.

My wife joins me heartily in congratulating Mrs Smith & I am / My dear Sir / very truly yours —

[End:] Oct 1831

Text from xerox of writer's copy in ~~Beete~~ U.L. Wedgwood
MSS. 1478-2.

To Lord Portchester [3rd Earl of Carnarvon]

11 NOV 1831

534

My dear Lord

It unfortunately happens that we have Company at home for the Week you mention - as we should have been very happy to have accepted ~~your~~ the kind invitation of Lady Portchester and Yourself -

Now let me try my fortune with you - and beg of Lady Portchester Lord Caernarvon - and yourself to pay us a Visit - ~~any~~ anytime between the 21st November - and the 3d of December - and pray let us detain you as long as you will be detain'd. - You will find our Parsonage not uncomfortable. I will abstain from Reform as carefully as Martin Luther would have done in the presence of the Pope, & I will not overwhelm you with Theology - lastly and to conclude we shall be very glad to see you

yours very truly

Sydney Smith

pray send me an answer as soon as you can -

November 11 1831

As this is the last year of Parsons & Parsonage Houses it will be something for Lady Portchester to tell her Grand Children 50

534.1

(11 NOV 1831)

Years hence that she has seen a Person in former times, seen
him eat & has been in the Place where he lived.

You have heard that Dr Philpots is going down to Exeter in an
Hamper disguised as 3 dozen of Wine.

[Endorsed with drafts of a regretful reply.][Lord Carnarvon, however,
accepts for 21st (only).]

[no wmn]

BLADDS60993

To Lord Portchester [3rd Earl of Carnarvon]

[11-21 Nov 1831]

535

My dear Lord

It will give us great pleasure to see Lord Caernarvon here on the 21st - greater if Lady Portchester and yourself had been able to accompany him. — but I hope your friends will disappoint you — and that you will be able to come — particularly as I wish to read to you my controversy with Philip Howard respecting the Existence of a Numidian Colony in Westmoreland. —

I am sorry you encourage Dame Partridge in such desperate Enterprises where she must wear out her Mops and Brooms without any Chance of Success — and where she may catch cold & bring on a premature dissolution —

pleasantry apart my dear Lord Portchester I take the State the very dangerous State of the Country deeply to heart — and so I am sure you do — & I assure you it is to me a subject of sincere regret not to find myself on the same side with such enlightened & upright men as your Father and Yourself — I wish I was Bishop of Durham or Winchester with a good house in London — I would

535.1

(U-21 Nov 1831)

get the Alkalis and the Acids together & see if something could
not be done in the Way of Neutralization —

I am so sorry Lady Porchester does not come because I like
her so much, and because I wanted her to hear the Glee of "Twas
Merry twas Merry in Greenwood Tree" by Walsh Porter quite
beautiful —

our route is Milverton Halse Ashcombe Flacey a good road all
the way — we dine at 7 o'clock

ever yours.

Sydney Smith

BLADON MS
60993

✓ 539

To R. W. Hay

[ca 1831]

Dear Hay --

(As the Hackney Coachman exclaims when he gives five Guineas a Load for your vegetable Synonim) I am much oblig'd by your letter -- will convey the purport of it to Mrs J -- and shall have great pleasure in dining with you on the 26th --

[space] Residentiary -- or Canon -- but Canon is the more correct --

May you never be cut downⁿ for dried up -- but rather flourish like Grass -- which all flesh is -- and which you must have been before you were Hay --

ever yrs.

Sydney Smith --

Addressed: R. W. Hay Esq / Queen Street / May Fair / 21

Text from microfilm of MS. UCLA

Their suggested date, but check directories for Hay in Queen Street.