

566
To Mr Lahee

12 Jan 1834

Combe Florey, Taunton, January 12th 1834.

It seems to be standing out about trifles, but the real truth is I am going to have a marriage in my family, and therefore the period I have mentioned is the very earliest time I can leave London; had the object of my coming to London been merely amusement I would readily have accomodated myself to Lady Caroline's Wishes, butt, under such imperious circumstances, I have no alternative. I should, of course, were I your tenant, keep the housemaid, and shall be glad to have so respectable a servant.

I am, etc.

Text from Morrison Catalogue [cited 25 Feb 1820], VI, 145. Letter described as '1 page 4to., with Superscription and Seal'.

867
To Lady Grey

T
14 Jan 1834

Jany 14 1834

Combe Florey Taunton --

My dear Lady Grey. --

I am vexd to see ^{to} what Scenes of distress you & Lady Caroline must have been subjected -- and are still subject to -- My distress is of another nature the loss of my daughter she is going to be married to Dr Holland he has propos'd is accepted by us all -- and the marriage will take place in the Spring. --
[space] I shall be excessively obligd to you for the loan of Georgiana -- but as I am afraid she would soon be reclaimd -- I shall advertize -- perhaps as follows --

Wanted for adoption a daughter She must be good naturd cheerfuk Musical & not ill looking -- fit for Town or Country fond of Books & not Evangelical -- any person who may accord with this description will find all the necessary explanation by applying &c --
Howick is a very sensible man but he must make use of the Drag Chain -- & not be too quick for slow & humble men -- or too intolerant of Coxcombs -- If he turns his attention to manner & will remember the immense importance ~~the~~ Mass of Mankind attach to this in officⁱal men and of high birth, he will do well -- he has quite abilities enough for most situations -- I except the Church and think he would make a very bad Archbishop

/of.....

867.1

T

(14 Jan 1834)

of Canterbury — but dont tell him this, or he will be piqued —
[space] pray read Walpoles Letters to Sr Horace Mann — in spite
of Macaulays ill nature, and exaggerated Review — They are
extremely entertaining — You read on & forget yourself What a
blessing this is —

ever affectionately yrs

Sydney Smith —

Text from transcript of Hickleton (Garrowby) MS., A1.8.17.5.

Placed archivally with those to Lady Georgiana, whom he was
addressing as 'Dear G.' at the time.

Macaulay ref. sent to Tom Pinney 6.2.71

569

To Revd Mr. Sheppard

24 Jan 1834

Dear Sr. —

Many thanks — & if any thing occurs to me which I should wish to be spread in your part of the World — I will avail myself of your kindness.

I hardly see what mischief Bishops can do to me though I have a thorough confidence in their malignity. but if their power had been great to any degree I would have said what I have said.

I beleive they will be compelld to give us our patronage for our Lives — These brawls of the Establishment must be amusement to you — Apparet donus intus [?] &

Yours dr Sr very sincerely

Sydney Smith —

Combe Florey. Taunton —

Jany 24 — 1836 —

Somersetshire

[Addressed:] Revd. Mr. Sheppard / Gate Acre / near Liverpool [forwarded:] near Wotton.

Text from photograph of John Rylands Library, Eng. MS. 384/1869. Reported by Keeper of Manuscripts as being to 'the Rev. Mr Sheppard', in a letter of 11 April 1969

570
To Richard York

7 Feb 1834

My dear York. --

We are going to be married to Dr Holland We go to Town the 19th -- and I think shall be married by the end of March. Dr Holland is a very sensible man agreeable, and becoming ^{on a} very rich -- and important person. -- We shall want a daughter -- and as I cannot beget one -- I must advertise -- She must be musical, fond of reading -- cheerful, and sing correctly -- I hope you have had a good hunting Season -- I think it must have been a very extraordinary one -- If you have not been impeded by Water you certainly have not by Ice ----- Our good Archbishop of York is to ~~celebrate~~ perform the Ceremony.

How is our friend Caroline Thopson -- have you been there lately. I am turning more conservative every day -- and get severely abused ^{by} by the Democrats -- but when our accounts are settl'd I do not think I shall be a loser -- The Fairfaces of Gilling have been here (Fairfaces is the plural of Fairfax) What a mad & absurd Match Harriet is about to make -- she is going to espouse Mr Frederick Worsley a gentleman who is in possession of a clear income of 100 pr Annum -- the Lady having an income equally clear of the same amount -- & upon this they set down to farm -- and to procreate. ^a a young Lady who has ^s livd upon Cream & Sugar -- been wrapt up in Cotton -- who has taken Lessons of Singing from ^a Squallini -- and been taught the Italian Language by Conjugatelli -- wholly /ignorant

✓ 570.1

(7 Feb 1834)

ignorant of those distinctions ^{which} ~~which~~ Nature has made between Turneps and Carrots -- and believing perhaps in the Slenderness of her agricultural acquirements that the Ram suckles the ~~Y~~ Young ones -- and the Ewe begets them -- Alas -- Alas -- pray tell me how you are and re~~m~~ember me kindly to Edward & Stevenson --

ever my dear York sincerely Yrs

Sydney Smith --

Combe Florey

Taunton --

Feb 7 -- 1834. --

Addressed: Richard Yorke Esq / Wighill Park / Tadcaster / Yorkshire. --

Postmarked: TAUNT }
7 FE 18 } *obliterated by*
Py. POS } *horn*
repair tape

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

V.5a

To Richard York

11 Apr 1834

April 11 -- 1834

18 Stratford Place --

We leave London 28 April --

My dear York.--

We are extremely obligd to you for your congratulations. the match is one of which we entirely approve and as there are three ready made Children a deal of trouble may be sav'd -- It is like fitting yourself out in Monmouth Street -- instead of being measur'd -- Consider my situation I am 6 months of the year in London. what remains for my parish ? do not tempt me with such agreeable proposals --

Every thing is going on well & quietly here the Whiggs increasing in Strength and favor -- I put it to you as a man of the World whether you had not better turn, & buy a blue-- and Buff Coat. You have made a decent Resistance for three years, and you have now a right to give way -- All the world has been busy here in getting the Duke of York atop of his monument -- he weighs 8 Tun -- and was pulld up by the Waistband of his Breeches -- the Motto upon the Brazen Statue is

Ære Alieno

which is considerd as terse & classical they place him with his face to the Horse Guards (Mrs Clarkes House being in the same direction) & the Common people

/say

Stolen brass

✓ 573

573.1



(11 Apr 1834)

say it is because he cannot look his Creditors in the face -- I saw
 the Bielby Thompsons here they are good people but have lost that highest of all
 accomplishments the habit of giving dinners -- an art which I am sure (for the
 benefit of your friends) you will continue to excell in -- as long as you live:
 any falling off in this particular ^owould I am afraid impair our friendship.

Talk not of those who in the Senate Shine

Give me the man with whom the Jovial dine

& break the Lingring day with Wit & Wine.

S S. --

Addressed: Richard York Esq / Wighill Park/Tadcaster -

Forwarded: Thorpe / Sledmere

Postmarked: Various, but illegible.



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

To Longman 576

2 Aug 1834

My dear Cousin

I have been in the Country for these 3 Weeks. and am not yet by a great deal clear of my fit of the Gout. It has made a long stay for so recent an acquaintance

The Hibberts are here - We are all well & shall be very happy to see you if you come into the West - I think it almost time Longman should have the Gout -

The Review of Babbages Machinery is very good - The Review of Lady Morleys Novel very bad a mere partial puff of a very bad Novel - Was ever an accomplished Lover rejected because an old fool leaves a paper behind him desiring her not to marry a Bastard - and then was there ever such elaborate & complicated Machinery merely to prove that he was born in Wedlock and properly entered in the Parish Register? -

God Bless you

fs.

C Florey Taunton August 2 1834.

Reading U.K.

Longman papers

579

[Nov 1834]
N.D.

To Lady Holland

Dear Lady Holland --

I send the following Bon Mot of Rogers -- what
 his modesty would lead him to suppress
 S S. who had you at Ld Essexs
 R-- Mr A-- Mrs B-- Ld F & so forthe
 S S. you pass over Mrs Ford
 R. Fords are made to be past over --

I have mentiond your kind invitation for Monday to Mrs S who
 will be very happy to come if she goes on as well as today

Ever yrs.
 S S. --

3 Weymouth St
 Thursday

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

*Closely related to next (Rogers joke). He was at the Hibberts', Weymouth St. (frankly
 1827 x'35 are outside dates) in Nov. 1834 & Nov 1835: the reference to Melbourne's speech
 seems to put the pair of letters in 1834: his second ministry was back by (1835 Apr.)*

170
180
To Lady Holland

[NN 1834]

N.D.

My dear Lady Hd --

our meeting is at $\frac{1}{2}$ 6 -- I shall certainly not get home before $\frac{1}{2}$ 7 I have to dress and come out to H H If you had a regular London 8 o Clock dinner -- and were in London, I could come -- but how is it possible under these circumstances ? -- So scratch Mrs S and me out as to dine, and we will drive [?] down [?] in the Evening. to pass over a Ford is a common Phrase -- Lord Melbournes Speech^h is perfection and will bring back the Whigg Ministry -- Suppose Brougham who has tried all things was to take to Truth & honesty ? who knows ? he has had no practice but his Versatility is endless.

ever affectionately Yrs

S^r S.roy

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

Heppel

881

To Martha Davis

29 Nov 1834

Dear Martha, —

Strange times ! but what is life, but the valley of the shadow of death ? Lord Melbourne's speech at Melbourne is excellent, & I recommend it to thee & the Friends. Oh Martha ! what are talents without prudence & discretion ? Look at friend Brougham; — Nature has taken more pains with him than the best Dairyman with the best cheese in thy shop; & what is he now ? Martha, I hope the fall of Brougham will be a warning to Peter, & that he will not wax proud as he becomes wiser in cheese and butter, but keep his heart down as he rises before men. Martha — I am (in) better health, as I hope thou art: thy health is ruined by going from shop to cheese loft without a bonnet; & in this I see no signs of worldly wisdom.

Martha, mind & save me three beautiful cheeses. — I depend on thee & will write when & where they are to be sent; but they must be of the first quality. Martha, Sir Robert Peel is not arrived, but nevertheless put by the cheeses, & so farewell.

SYDNEY SMITH.

3, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London.

29th Novr, 1834.

[Pk.]

Text from E.A.Ball, 'Two Unpublished Letters of Sydney Smith', Notes and Queries, 6th ser. IV, 1881, p. 401. Editor remarks: 'These very characteristic letters [see also 27 Dec 1834], copied from the originals, furnish an illustration of the cheerful, genial spirit of the great wit, and may both interest and amuse the readers of "N. & Q." "Martha"[Davis] was a respected member of the Society of Friends, a woman of brightness and intelligence, who kept at Taunton, within a few miles of which is situated the picturesque village of Combe Florey, whereof Sydney Smith was rector, a cheese and bacon shop of local celebrity, and "Peter" was her shop-boy.'

111
582
To Samuel Rogers

[5 Dec 1834]

My dear Rogers

I shall have great pleasure in dining with you
tomorrow having dined a good deal lately with Tories
— but why should we think of politics in dining?
Tory & Whigg by turns shall be my host
I taste no politics in boiled or roast

Ever yrs.

SS.

Friday.

[End: (not by Rogers?) Rev^d Sidney Smith. December 5 1834

for the rhyme of NCS665

University
College
London

583

To Martha Davis

27 Dec 1834

To Lord Holland, 30 Old Burlington Street, London.

To the Lord Chancellor, 6, Hyde Park Terrace.

Charge pd, by the waggon.

Dear Martha, --

Pray send a cheese to each of these addresses on the 1st of January. The third cheese must wait till Lord Grey comes to town, of which I will inform you. You may send me the bill of the two cheeses sent; & let me know how long they had better be kept. I trust implicitly to you to make a good selection.

Oh Martha, Martha, we live in evil times. Satan is abroad in the earth. Look well to Peter~~y~~, he is a wild boy, I fear, without being Peter the wild boy.

Martha, I shall vote for Sanford, but not for Escott or Tynte; the one is too much of a Conservative for me, the other too little; -- for thou knowest, Martha, there is a fashion in these things as in cheese -- some like it strong -- some mild.

Martha, the weather is too mild. Martha, I hope my servants are behaving well, & taking good care of the house. I shall be there all of a sudden, & trust I shall find their lamps burning. Martha, I wish you a happy Xmas, & a happy new year; and I hope you have got a hat for Peter with a broad brim, & not one of small dimensions, savouring too much of things of this world.

Martha, I am thy friend,

SYDNEY SMITH.

3 Weymouth St. Portland Place, London.

Decr 27, 1834.

Text as 29 Nov 1834. [PA.]